

# Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

C 41-50

## Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Jesse

I could sense a fight coming on. The guys were all rigid in their seats, trying to pretend that the sound of Lia lying there, squirming in her seat wasn't getting to us. For myself, I was throbbing, trying to ignore the blood rushing to my groin.

Something had to be done and if I was going to be the first person to say it, then so be it. Someone had too.

"We need to figure out what we are going to do," I muttered, voice gruff.

The rain cleared his throat. "I assumed we were all going to... you know... help her through her heat."

"Yes, but who will go first?" Matt muttered.

"I mean, there's no reason we have to go one at a time..." Colby said, causing me to sigh.

I rolled my eyes. "Do you realize how complicated you are all making this be? We'll take turns helping us through her heat. Right now she is going through the thick of it so she is going to need more than one of us-if not all of us."

"I think you guys are all handsome, but I don't swing that way."

Everyone turned to Rain, glaring at him.

"Rain, shut up."

I smiled at Matt who grinned back at me.

"Let's just focus on getting her home."

Rain, who was the closest to Lia picked her up in his arms. He brought her inside, trying his best to ignore her whines. I was doing the same, but it wasn't easy.

"Fuck, she smells really good," Rain whimpered.

I slapped him hard on the back.

“Don’t let yourself get distracted by it. We are on suppressants ourselves so it won’t trigger a rut for us.”

“Yeah, but it’s still causing us to react!”

I shrugged. “We are full-blooded alphas, Rain. What else do you expect?”

“Why don’t you two take care of her and we’ll go out to get some supplies?” Colby muttered, gesturing to him and Matt.

Matt scowled. “Hey, why are you volunteering me?”

“Matt, do you want to tend to Lia?” I asked, dryly. “Because if you want to be my guest.”

He shook his head, his guilt or whatever tended to hold him back when it came to Lia, coming back in full force. “No, I’ll go with Colby.”

I nodded before turning back to Rain. “Let’s go.”

\*\*\*

Lia

It felt like my body was on fire. I could barely think let alone move. The guys were murmuring something, but I wasn’t paying attention. Discover more novels at [FindN\(\)vel.net](http://FindN()vel.net)

When I felt my body being put in cool water, I sighed in relief. It helped center me, making the fog temporarily lift. I looked around, noticing I was in my bathroom at home with Rain and Jesse occupying parts of the bathroom.

“Why am I lying in my tub with my clothes on?”

“Because we wanted to get you lucid enough to get consent,” Rain said, voice shaky. “Uh, you’re going through heat-“

I flushed. “I... I’ll admit that this is not how I wanted this to happen. It was supposed to be in a few years, but I can’t go on feeling like this. If there is a way to stop it, then so be it.”

“We won’t bite,” Jesse assured me. “There is no need for us to bite you as of yet.

What Jesse wasn’t saying was that I needed a knot. If there was a knot in me then I would be able to get through the majority of my heat.

“Can the two of you... leave for a moment? I’ll meet you in my bedroom.”

They gave me some worried looks but eventually left. I was able to muster up the energy to strip myself of my wet clothes, dry myself off, and then hurry into my bedroom. The warmth started to hit me again, making me whimper.

By the time I was lying on the bed, the heat was taking over again. The pleasure was pooling in my lower belly, wetness forming between my legs. My heart was preparing me for a knot. Just thinking it made me let out a high-pitched whine.

Before I knew it, Rain and Jesse were at my side. Rain lifted me, shifting so I was behind him. He picked me up so effortlessly that it was like I weighed nothing. Feeling his bare skin against my back made me gasp. He chuckled, cupping my breasts in his large hands and giving them a firm squeeze.

Jesse was a man on a mission. He waited for Rain to spread my legs, exposing my wet sex to his view. The look on Jesse's face was like he was starving. When he delved into my folds, tasting my wetness, I threw my head back and cried out. I nearly smacked Rain in the back of the head, but luckily I just hit his shoulder.

Embarrassingly enough, it didn't take me long to reach orgasm. I stiffened, starbursts flashing in my vision as I rode out the orgasm. But as soon as it passed, I realized that I needed more... wanted more.

I opened my mouth to speak but all that came out was a loud, unintelligible whimper. Jesse murmured something in a soothing tone, something I didn't know he was capable of.

"Calm down. You'll get my knot soon enough.

My heat made it so there was no resistance when Jesse pushed into me. Rain made a noise, peppering kisses up and down my neck. Jesse thrust into me like a man possessed, hitting that spot inside me every time.

I cried out as he started to swell inside me, my vision blurring.

Shit, he was knotting me.

Briefly, I thought about a pup scare, but I remembered that I was still on birth control so right now there was no chance of that happening.

That's good because I wasn't ready to deal with pups yet!

## **Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates**

Rain

Listening to Lia take Jesse's knot was one thing, but having her squirming around in my lap as he fucked her without abandon was another thing entirely. I stifled a groan, my erection throbbing by this point. My manhood was so hard it was almost painful.

The minutes ticked by after Jesse knotted Lia. She calmed down, becoming a little more lucid. But she was quiet, perhaps embarrassed by what was happening.

I wish she wasn't because honestly, she had never been more beautiful.

"Rain," Jesse muttered after his knot had swelled down.

I glanced at Lia who had that glazed-over look in her eyes again. Swallowing, I lifted her effortlessly again and turned her around so we were face to face.

"Hi," I said, grinning despite the need to plow into her.

She blinked slowly, a drunken giggle escaping her.

"Hi, Rain."

The way she said my name just now was enough to make me come right then and there. Not that I was going to because that would be embarrassing.

"Rain," Jesse snapped, making me blink. "You think too much. Just go with what you're feeling."

Realizing that he was right, I leaned down and kissed Lia, slowly inching my length inside her. She gasped, twining her arms around my neck and moaning. Once I was fully inside her I threw my head back, wincing when it connected with the headboard.

"Ow."

Lia blinked and burst out laughing.

"Rain don't make me laugh at a time like this."

Grinning, I kissed her again but this time it was deeper. At times, I would lift her all the way up before slamming back down inside her. It wasn't long before I realized my knot was starting to swell, but it hadn't swelled completely.

It wasn't going to take long with the way Lia was squirming on my lap. I groaned, slamming into her two more times before my knot started to swell.

Lia fell forward, her limp body resting against my chest.

"Let's clean her up afterward," Jesse murmured.

About thirty minutes later, Lia had passed out temporarily. I watched her chest rise and fall, wanting to confirm with myself that she was all right.

She was just tired from taking two knots one right after the other.

“She’ll be asleep for a bit. Let’s wash up ourselves.”

Colby and Matt were going to come back soon. This would give them a chance to spend time with Lia, letting Jesse and I gather our bearings.

Shit, I can’t believe I had knotted Lia.

I cast one last glance at her before we left the room, wanting to lock away the memory and never forget it.

\*\*\*

Lia

When I woke up, I felt better. There was a sheet thrown over my body, making me feel warm enough but not overly so. I looked around, not seeing anyone around me. My attempt to climb out of bed ended with me feeling a surge of pain overcome me followed by warmth.

“Seriously, again?” I whined, throwing myself back onto the bed with a resounding moan.

I heard the door open, smelling two familiar scents. My eyes spotted Colby coming into the room followed by Matt. They looked to be going through it themselves, obviously feeling affected by my scent.

“I need you,” I whimpered. “Both of you.”

Without an ounce of shame, I rolled onto my knees and spread my knees to reveal that innermost part of myself. Colby muttered something under his breath while Matt’s breath hitched.

“Well, what are the two of you going to do?” I whined, trying to bait them. “Are you just going to stare at me or make me feel good?”

Strong hands gripped my hips while another touched my dripping sex. I wiggled my hips, trying to get more but they kept teasing. Fingers pressed inside and it did offer a small burst of pleasure, but it wasn’t enough. What I needed was more.

“Go on Matt,” I heard Colby say, taking a position so he was kneeling beside me.

His erection was close so I reached out, wrapping my hand around the base and stroking him. Colby let out a choked gasp of surprise while Matt pushed inside.

Feeling Matt's throbbing erection inside me and Colby's in my hand was beyond anything I had experienced. I thought about taking them at once, but the mere thought made my flushed cheeks turn even redder. I... don't know if I was ready for such a thing, but perhaps one day I would be.

Just not now.

Matt was muttering something, gripping my hips tight enough to bruise. Every so often he would snap his hips, hitting that spot inside me. I gripped Colby's erection a little bit more tightly, moving my hand faster.

But then Colby pushed my hand away, making me whimper.

"I want to come inside you, Lia," he told me, his voice coming out in a bit of a snarl.

The snarl washed over me, making pleasure coil in my lower belly. Matt was thrusting inside me faster, soon filling me with his knot. I was barely aware when Colby took his place, only aware when I felt his length push inside me.

All of my mates had been inside me now and soon they would have all knotted me, filling me with their seed.

It was unlike anything I ever expected to happen. When I came too, I was going to freak out and ask myself what the hell I had done but right now I didn't care. All that mattered was feeling the pleasure they were giving me.

\*\*\* The source of this content is

Colby

The next few hours were a blur. It was filled with Lia's gaspy little whines of pleasure, her walls closing around us and squeezing every seed from our manhood. I lost track of time for a bit, even though I wasn't close to any rut of my own. None of us were.

At one point all of us were in there, pleasuring ourselves to the sounds of her moans and sinking into her wet heat when it was our turn. I don't know if this was ever something we'd talk about again, but it was sure a memory to never forget.

By the second day, Lia's heat was starting to wane. She was resting now after having managed to eat and drink some. Lia didn't want to but we kept pushing, wanting to make sure she filled her belly with something other than us.

I snickered at my joke, earning a look from Matt.

"Why are you staring at me like that?"

"You just laughed randomly."

“Well, I thought something funny.”

Matt rolled his eyes. “I’ll be the judge of that. Tell me what you thought was so funny.”

So I repeated what I thought to myself, causing Rain to burst out laughing.

“Colby, my dude, that was hilarious.

“

Jesse blinked slowly. “That is one of the least clever things you have ever said, Colby.”

“Thank you, Jesse.”

Later on the second day, we all turn our side by Lia again. She was still going through heat, but it wasn’t so bad that she was physically uncomfortable. A part of me found that seeing her so wanton was one of the sexiest things I had ever seen, but I also didn’t want to see her suffer as well.

She was uncomfortable. This wasn’t even a controlled heat that occurred after slowly tapering off her meds. It was the effect of her meds being ripped from her body all at once, leaving chaos in its wake.

On the third day, it was getting ready to fade. We had made sure to contact the school to let them know that she wasn’t going to be there for a few days, but colleges had sick days for situations like this. A wolf would sometimes have to take a day off if their heat came on suddenly. It just depended on the wolf in question.

“What three days this had been,” Rain said late that night after Lia’s heat had finally broken. “I hope Lia will be okay.” “I hope we didn’t put any pups in her yet.”

I looked at Matt. “She’s on the pill so there is no worry about that.”

“Thank god. None of us are ready to be a father.”

The one who was the most quiet, to no one’s surprise, was Jesse, but he was always quiet. He was just the type of guy who preferred to listen rather than speak.

But I still wanted to get his perspective on things.

“How is everything, Jesse?”

“Fine,” he said, tilting his head to the side. “I’m just taking in the past few days. As Rain said, it’s been quite a few days and we all got through it. I just hope once Lia is of sane mind and body she doesn’t freak out too much.”

That had crossed my mind once or twice. But there was no going back.

All we could do was deal with the fallout and hope that she was willing to be understanding of what happened between the five of us.

## Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

On the fourth day, my mind had cleared. I stared at the ceiling, my face bright red. How had this happened to me? How had I done this?

Not that it wasn't a lovely memory.

I thought back to every second of the five of us together somehow. They were attentive, making sure that I was taken care of. The feel of their hands on my body and them inside me was something I don't think I could ever forget.

This was never supposed to happen. I wasn't supposed to go into heat and nor was I supposed to have sex with them. But we had.

When an omega went into heat or an alpha into a rut, there was only one way to solve it. This was what my mates had done. In the future, I would make sure that I was not off my suppressants.

However, it wasn't like I intended to be off them! It was a series of circumstances that had led to me trying to scramble around to get suppressants at the last minute. Thank god it didn't end with me getting pregnant!

After I woke up, I texted Simone asking if she was around. She got back to me, wanting to know if I was okay before getting into the more serious questions. I was ready for it.

Okay, I'm ready. Spill. What happened? How are you feeling? -S

I don't even know where to start. I'm completely losing it right now. -L

Deep breaths, girl. Start from the beginning. Did they- -S

No bites. But... everything else happened. Everything, Simone. And now I don't know how to feel. -L Follow current novels on [FindN\(ovel\).net](http://FindN(ovel).net)

Oh. Ohhh. So, you're saying... you and all four of them? -S

Yes! All four of them. Together. It was like... like I couldn't stop myself. Like my body had a mind of its own. -L

That's the heat, Lia. It's intense. And with four alphas drawn to you? I'm surprised you didn't combust. -S

I feel like I did. And now that it's over, I'm freaking out. What does this even mean? They didn't claim me, but it's like... I'm tied to them now. -L

Okay, first of all, not being bitten means you still have control. It's not official until you decide it is. You've got time to figure this out. -S

Do I, though? It feels like they're everywhere. Their scents are all over me. I can still feel their hands, their... everything. -L

Yeah, that'll stick for a while. Part of the bond forming. But you don't have to rush this. You have the right to set boundaries. -

S

Boundaries? How do I set boundaries with the guys? They're being so... different now. Sweet, almost. It's confusing. -L

Of course, they're sweet. They're your mates. They're feeling the bond too, and they're going to be protective and attentive. That's how it works. -S

It's too much. How do I deal with this? -L

One day at a time. Start by talking to them. Lay out how you're feeling and what you need. If they care about you-and they should-they'll respect that. -S

I can't even look at them right now. Every time I see them, I feel like I'm going to crawl out of my skin. -L

Then don't rush it. Take a step back if you need to. They'll understand. And if they don't, I'll personally come over and knock some sense into them. -S

You always know how to make me laugh, even when I feel like my life is spiraling out of control. -L

That's what I'm here for. And Lia? You've got this. It's overwhelming now, but you're stronger than you think. You'll figure it

out. -S

I hope so because right now, I just feel lost. -L

That's normal. But you're not alone. You've got me. And whether you want to punch them or accept them, I'll be here every step of the way. -S

I dropped my phone on the bed, deciding I needed to clean up. It took more effort than I wanted to admit to climb out of bed, but I did. When I got downstairs, I saw all four of my future mates sitting around with breakfast ready. They looked like a bunch of eager puppies, ready to please.

"Hey guys," I greeted, feeling a blush rise to my cheeks. "I think we need to talk about what happened."

"It was awesome," Rain blurted out, whimpering when Matt elbowed him roughly in the ribs. "I mean, yeah let's talk."

I laughed. "Okay, let's eat first. Then we can talk."

The smell of bacon and eggs filled the room. I ate at least three helpings, but in my defense, I hadn't eaten much throughout the past few days. All that was in my mind was trying to get knotted. It was beyond maddening and I now knew what people went through when they experienced heat.

What would I have done without them? They were all so great-proving to me that they did care. At no point did they ever tease or bully me. It proved to me that they had Sunday changed for the better.

"First of all, I want to thank you guys for being there for me," I said after eating.

The four of them looked at each other and then at me.

"Yes, we did what was expected of your future mates," Jesse said, smirking slightly. 2

It was easier when he smirked and didn't smile. Everyone was terrified when Jesse smirked. At least he had accepted this by now.

The rest of the breakfast wasn't that bad. I returned to my bedroom, wanting to sleep some more. School was the last thing on my mind right now, but I'd be going back in a day or two.

God knows how much homework I missed. It was going to take a lot of work for me to catch up, but I was going to do what was needed for me to get all my schoolwork back on course. The only good thing about this was that it was still the start of my semester so I had plenty of time to get back on track.

Simone had been texting me all along, saying that she was going to do her best to help me get back on track. Speaking of which ... I had gone into heat at school.

I... had gone into heat at school.

Mortified, I buried my face in my hands, unable to believe I had made such a fool of myself! But what else could I do? What was done was done and I could only move forward.

By now I was convinced that the worst was behind me. Everything was going to be okay. I'd go to school tomorrow, making sure to act as if nothing had happened. If I played it cool then no one was likely to call out something strange about my behavior.

But if I needed anyone, the guys, Simone, and the entire rest of my pack were going to be there for me.

\*\*\*

Soon it became time for me to go back to school.

“You ready?”

Simone's voice was gentle but firm as she stood by the door, watching me.

“As ready as I'll ever be,” I whispered.

She stepped closer, searching my face. “You sure? After everything...”

I nodded, swallowing hard. “I know. It's time to go back. I can't hide forever.”

Simone's hand brushed my shoulder gently. “Okay. If you need to talk, or leave early-I'm right there. You're not doing this alone.”

I exhaled shakily. “Thanks. Really.”

“Do you want Music? Something chill?”

“Yeah. Soft, please.”

I stared out the window, my voice barely above a whisper. “It just feels... weird. Like everyone's going to stare.”

Simone gave me a sideways glance. “Let them. You're stronger than they are. They don't know your story. You don't owe anyone anything.”

I nodded slowly, pressing my palms together to keep them from trembling. “Yeah. You're right. Still scared though.” Simone smiled softly, reaching over to squeeze my hand. “Scared but showing up? That's brave, Lia.”

The school building loomed ahead and normally I wouldn't be scared by it, but this time I was. My stomach twisted tighter.

"Together?" My voice was small, hopeful.

Simone's grip tightened gently. "Always."

We sat there a moment longer, the music playing softly as the morning light spilled across the dashboard. Finally, I took a deep breath and opened the car door, ready to face whatever came next.

## Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

Slowly, but surely I got back into the swing of things. Before I knew it, two weeks had passed since my unexpected heat. I was getting back to my normal life, going to school, and dealing with my four mates who weren't hovering as much as they were before.

But they still hovered to quite an extent, much to my amusement and dismay.

I headed home that day with Simone. She dropped me off at an empty house which wasn't surprising. The guys were officially starting on the rugby team today. It was exciting for them and, although I wouldn't admit it, I was going to miss having them around all the time.

Once I was inside the house and settled, I headed upstairs to get some homework done, but thirty minutes later I heard a rap knocking at the door.

Sighing, I headed downstairs and peered out the window. This strange older woman was standing on the porch with long raven hair streaked with splotches of purple. Her wild, yellow eyes locked with mine, making me jerk away from the window.

I felt this powerful aura around her. It was unlike anything I had ever felt before.

"Lia, it'll be easier to talk if we aren't doing so through a door."

I lifted the curtain again, glaring at the woman.

"Who are you?"

"Excellent question," she cooed, smiling softly. "I would love to tell you but let's speak in person. Open the door."

“If you think I am about to open a door to a stranger then you must be mad.”

She sighed softly. “Fine, then I guess we have to do it the hard way.”

With a flick of the wrist, the door unlocked. I moved out of the way just as she flung the door open, stepping inside. “I never invited you in!” I shouted.

The woman laughed. “What do you think I am, a vampire? I don’t need to be invited inside to enter a house.”

“Who and what the fuck are you?” I hissed, not caring about the vulgarity that slipped into my language.

“A witch, honey.”

“And why is a witch breaking?”

“Because I have a bone to pick with you.”

I blinked. “Lady, I’ve never met you! How can you have a bone to pick with me if I’ve never met you?”

“It’s the blood that runs through you and your brother’s veins,” she said, her smile widening. “It was a blood feud started by your grandmother. She fled the coven, taking her unborn child with her. The child that was to become a part of our sisterhood. Yet, because she fell in love with a filthy beast she broke that blood oath.”

Having all of this knowledge thrust upon me was a lot. I didn’t know what to think or feel.

“And why are you here speaking to me about this?” I asked, taking a step back. “Are you here to make good on your blood feud?”

She laughed. “Oh, this is more of a warning Lia. As the last in your family, you and Michael must pay the price. It’s taken many years for us to track your bloodline down but now that we have, we will need one of you to come back with us to the coven. This is the only way to make it right.”

“I... no!”

The woman sighed and snapped her fingers, a card appearing out of nowhere.

“My name is Sinead and I belong to the Rosewater Coven. When you and your brother have come to a decision, reach out to us. But let me warn you that the longer you delay the more impatient we will become. We are not going to let this blood oath be unfulfilled for any longer.”

Tentatively I took the card, but before I could say anything she turned and left, vanishing in a puff of smoke!

Could she be any more stereotypical of a witch?

For a while, I sat there. Then I grabbed my phone to text Simone.

Simone, you're not going to believe what just happened. -L

Okay, now you have to tell me. What's going on? -S

Someone came to the house today. She said she's from a coven. -L

A coven? Like witches? -S

Yeah. My mom was half-witch. -L

WHAT?! Lia, that's huge. Are you sure? -S

That's what she said. Mom's dad was a wolf, but her mom was a witch. And here's the kicker- Mom never told us because her mom was banished from the coven. -L

Banished? Why? -S

Just because she fell in love with a wolf! -L

Okay, so why show up now? What does this have to do with you? -S

That's what I asked her. And you know what she said? -L

What? -S

My brother and I have to pay for Mom's crimes. -L

Wait, WHAT?! Pay now? What does she even mean? -S

She wouldn't explain. Just said the coven hasn't forgotten what my mom did and now it's "our burden to bear." -L.

This is insane. Did she threaten you? -S

Not directly, but the way she said it made my blood run cold. Like she wasn't here to negotiate- just to deliver the message. -L Lia, this is bad. What are you going to do? -S

I have no idea. My brother's already furious that Mom kept this from us. He's pacing like a caged wolf downstairs. -L

He has every right to be upset, but this isn't your fault. You didn't ask for this. -S

Doesn't matter, Simone. The coven thinks it's our responsibility. What if they try to hurt us? -L

They won't. Not if I have anything to say about it. -S

Simone, I appreciate the loyalty, but you're not exactly a match for a coven of witches. -L

Maybe not alone, but you have four alphas at your disposal now, remember? -S

...I didn't want to drag them into this. -L

Too late, Lia. If this is as serious as it sounds, you're going to need backup. -S

I hate that you're right. -L

You can hate it all you want, but you know I am. We'll figure this out. Together. -S

I hope so. I've never felt so lost, Simone. -L

You're not lost, Lia. You've just found out something huge. Take a breath. One step at a time. We've got this. -S

My mates were going to have my back but the fact that this was happening at all was upsetting me! Things were finally getting back to normal after my sudden heat and now this!

\*\*\*

The guys sensed something was wrong when they got back. I was sitting at the table, the card placed in the middle. Jesse spotted it first, a frown appearing on his face.

“What the hell is that?”

Rain blinked. “It's a business card.” Fresh chapters posted on [findnovel.net](http://findnovel.net)

“It's a coven card,” I corrected.

Colby stared at me as if I had three heads. “What do you mean a coven card?”

“Oh come on, Colby. She means a witch's coven is printing out cards!” Matt exclaimed, but I could tell he was being sarcastic. The thing was, I was completely serious. It was a business card for a coven... or a coven card for a witches coven. This was one of the strange things that happened to me over the past few months. Even stranger than finding out that I was going to have four mates!

“Matt, the thing is, it is a coven card.”

He gave me a strange look. “Lia, what the hell happened when we were gone?”

Slowly, I explained what happened while they were gone. I recounted everything that had happened and suddenly realized I had yet to talk to my brother. Michael had a right to know what was going on with our bloodline because it involved him!

To think that they had come after us after all this time. I mean, they hadn’t even stopped looking for us which was what terrified me the most.

What were Michael and I even going to do about this? I wracked my brain, trying to figure out how we could handle the fact that we were both witches.

“We’ll figure this out,” Colby said after a while, giving me a nervous look. “I don’t understand much about it, but like I said we’ll figure it out.”

At least I didn’t have to go through this alone.

## Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Matt

Strangely, Lia and Michael never knew they were witches. Hell, I don’t even know if their mother knew anything. I don’t know what the hell I would’ve done if I found out that I was suddenly I was a witch.

I could see the toll it was taking on Lia. She was stressed, wondering what to do about this blood oath. The four of us wanted to help Lia, but I didn’t know what to do.

We kept asking Lia if she needed anything-needed any help. One morning, Lia took me up on that offer. She looked resolute, determined to find out the information she needed.

“Matt, are you up to driving me about an hour away to Havenbrook?”

I blinked. “What do you want in the small town of Havenbrook?”

It was a small town an hour from our city. I had no idea why she wanted to go there.

“I need answers.”

I sighed. “Yes, I get that you need answers Lia but what are you talking about? Just explain.”

“Havenbrook has an extensive coven and witchcraft library that I want to get my hands on,” she explained. “I’ll be able to research the blood oath and find out more about the Rosewater Coven.”

“Let’s go,” I said, grabbing my keys.

The other guys were at practice. I had pulled a muscle so I was forced to rest for a few days. But there was no need I had to stay and rest at home.

“Wait, you’re supposed to be resting, aren’t you?” Lia asked, frowning as she looked me up and down.

I smirked. “I’ll be resting. Technically, I’ll be sitting down during most of this trip.”

“I’m a bad influence.”

But despite her protests, she climbed into the car with me.

I glanced over at Lia, noting how her brows were furrowed and the corners of her mouth tugging downwards in the beginnings of a frown.

“Are you okay?”

“Why do you ask?”

I huffed. “Lia, you’ve had a perpetual frown on your face since you had that confrontation with the witch.”

“Wouldn’t you have a perpetual frown on your face if someone came to your house and dropped a bomb that shattered everything you knew to be true?” she snapped.

“Okay, when you put it that way, yes.”

Lia sunk back into the seat, sighing with frustration.

“I just get over my head and then I have to deal with this. Why can’t things be nice and simple?”

I shrugged. “That is how life works. It’s one shit storm after shit storm, but there are good things if you know where to look.”

Lia looked over at me, her cheeks heating up. I smirked, enjoying the sight of her blushing. It was a sight I never got sick of.

“Stop smirking at me.”

“What? It’s an innocent smirk I swear.”

“Sure,” she snapped.

I laughed.

\*\*\*

Lia

Havenbrook was your typical small town. It was full of charming and cozy little houses but one thing that set it apart was the fact that it leaned heavily into its backstory. This town was known for being the hub of witchcraft in the area. From what I read online, plenty of witches and wizards from all over came to visit this town.

I didn't even know I had magic up until a week ago. Well, that was assuming I did have magic. Technically, I was 1/4 witch and 3/4 werewolf. Was there even enough witch in me to make any difference?

When I spotted the Witchcraft Historical Society, I motioned for Matt to pull over.

“Thanks for coming with me, Matt,” I whispered, slipping my hand into his. “I appreciate it.”

“Any of the guys would've done the same.”

“Yes, but you happened to be there and I asked you so just take the damn compliment.”

He smirked. “Fine. Thank you for the compliment then.”

Together we walked into the building, hand in hand. I looked around, the business card weighing heavy in my pocket. “Excuse me, can I help you two?”

I whirled around to see this older woman approaching, a warm smile on her face.

“I think so?” I asked nervously.

She laughed. “Did you just come into your powers?” NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON Find\_Novel(.)net

“Not really.”

“Oh?”

I fished out the card and handed it to her, hoping she could offer some clarity on the situation.

“Ma'am, do you know anything about the Rosewater clan?”

“Hold on a minute.”

Matt and I shared a look, watching as she turned to her computer and started typing furiously. Thirty seconds later, she nodded to herself.

“The Rosewater Clan is a storied coven founded in the American South during the early 1700s. Steeped in rich tradition and ancestral power, they trace their roots to a group of European settlers who brought ancient folk magic practices with them across the Atlantic. Over generations, the Rosewater Clan became known for their unwavering adherence to old-world customs, emphasizing ceremonial spell work, seasonal rites, and strict hierarchical leadership.

Their founding matriarch, Elspeth Rosewater, was said to have established the coven’s core doctrines, which emphasize loyalty to bloodlines, the sacred balance of nature, and the importance of preserving ancient magical texts and practices. This reverence for the past has shaped the coven’s identity for centuries, making them both respected and feared in occult circles.

By 2025, the Rosewater Clan will remain deeply rooted in its historical ways, rejecting many modern interpretations of witchcraft. The current High Priestess, Reverie Rosewater, has publicly criticized the rise of eclectic and solitary practices, claiming that “modern covens have lost their way, diluting the power of true craft with convenience and social trends.”

While their secrecy has kept much of their practice shrouded from outsiders, it is known that they continue to host elaborate seasonal ceremonies and guard a private collection of heirloom grimoires believed to date back to the 1600s. Despite modern shifts in spiritual practice, the Rosewater Clan persists as a symbol of old-world witchcraft, defiantly holding the line against the passage of time.”

I paled. “What can you tell me about blood oaths?”

Once again she started typing, but twenty seconds later the woman had an answer for me.

“In witch covens, a blood oath is a powerful, binding pact often used to signify deep commitment, loyalty, or secrecy among members. It involves the symbolic use of blood—either a small drop or a symbolic gesture—to seal the oath, representing a spiritual and personal bond that goes beyond verbal promises.

Blood oaths are typically associated with:

1. **Coven Loyalty:** Members may take a blood oath to demonstrate unwavering loyalty to the coven and its principles, binding themselves to the group’s traditions and leadership.
2. **Secrecy:** Blood oaths can be used to ensure the protection of mystical knowledge, spells, or the coven’s existence, with consequences for breaking the vow.
3. **Magical Binding:** Some blood oaths are believed to create a metaphysical link between those involved, connecting their energy or life force in ritual work.

4. Tradition and Ritual: In more traditional or ancient covens, blood oaths may be part of initiation ceremonies, symbolizing a spiritual rebirth into the coven's magical lineage.

Though blood oaths are considered powerful, they are controversial due to their permanent nature and the belief in karmic consequences if broken. Many modern covens avoid such practices, preferring symbolic alternatives to emphasize consent and personal freedom."

"So would leaving a coven be considered breaking a blood oath?" I asked, trying not to tremble.

The woman nodded. "For some covens, like the Rosewater Coven, they would view that as breaking a blood oath. May I ask the situation?"

"A... friend of mine had some relatives who were once a part of the Rosewater Coven. Her grandmother fled the coven to marry someone they didn't approve of and went into hiding. But recently the coven in question discovered my friend," I explained, trying to make it sound like I wasn't the friend in question.

"And what did the coven member say?"

"They claimed that my friend had to settle the blood oath. If she doesn't present herself to the coven in due time then she will face consequences."

The woman frowned. "This is very troubling. You should tell your friend to be careful-and to appeal to the Witchcraft and Wizardry Oversight Committee. They will look into this but don't expect miracles."

I finally had answers, but I was left feeling worse than I did before.

## Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

The next morning I sat across from my brother. He had come over to visit and I explained everything to him, watching as his face shifted into anger.

"Why didn't you tell me sooner?"

"I didn't want to worry you," I whispered. "Look she came here to talk with me so I wanted to try to handle it myself. It's not like I didn't tell the guys."

Michael scowled. "So you told everyone in the pack except me?"

"I... didn't mean to not tell you."

“For one, I’m your brother, Lia, and two... I’m a part of the Moonveil pack! Don’t you think I have a right to know if some crazy coven is after us?”

Colby cleared his throat. “Michael, she was pretty shaken up by what happened but even after that she went to Havenbrook to get some answers. That was all her.”

“Hey, I was there too!” Matt shouted.

Rain nodded. “Yeah, Matt did the driving. Never ignore the one who does the driving. It’s a very important part of the journey. “Rain, shut up.”

He whimpered and gave Matt a wounded look.

“Hey, I’m just trying to help.

“All of you shut the fuck up and let them talk,” Jesse barked, slamming his hands down on the table to get his point across.

I flashed Jesse a thankful smile.

“Michael, I should’ve told you but I also had to get answers. Next time I promise I will reach out to you right away.” UPDATE FROM [find♦novel.net](http://findnovel.net)

He sighed. “Fine. But what are we going to do about this coven?”

“I... was thinking of sending them an email.”

“What...?”

“They have a business email on the card, Michael. Let me reach out to them and then see what they say.”

Michael scowled. “And after they reach out to us... what are we going to do?”

“See what they have to say. I want to see if we can try to talk some sense into them.”

I had no idea what to think when it came to them. Witches were not something I had ever dealt with. While I knew they existed, I had no experience with them at all. For me, witches were something that you read about in books. Perhaps there were some witches around here, but this was mostly a werewolf state.

Some states in our country were full of mixed species. This just happened to be a state where mostly wolves settled.

But it got me thinking about my grandmother. How had she been able to leave her coven and run off with my grandfather, the man she was in love with? It was truly inspiring when you thought about it.

I don't know if I would've had the guts to do such a thing.

It would've been helpful if my grandma had mentioned it to us. Did she not think that at some point they were going to track us down?

They had been trying to track down our bloodline for decades. I was sick to my stomach to know that there was a bounty on our heads.

"Fine, but I'm going to the meeting if they agree to it," Michael said after a while.

Jesse laughed. "As if we would let her go on her own. Whether Lia liked it or not, the four of us would be there with her."

"I don't need your permission," I snapped, giving Jesse a look.

"Okay, no you don't but we still have every right to go," Rain pointed out with a sheepish grin.

My eyes shifted over to Rain. I glared at him causing him to duck his head.

If the guys wanted to go with me then that was fine but there was no way I was going to let them tell me if I could or couldn't go meet with Sinead. The only way I was going to get answers and make sure she understood that she couldn't do this was to confront her directly.

It wasn't something I wanted to do but rather something I needed to do.

\*\*\*

I spent longer than I wanted to admit trying to type up the email. It took me a long time to come up with something polite but also threatening to an extent. With a slight smile, I read it back before hitting send.

Subject: Demand for Neutral Meeting

Dear Rosewater Clan,

Your recent confrontation regarding the so-called blood oath you claim my brother and I are bound to fulfill due to our grandmother's departure from your coven was unnecessary and hostile. I acknowledge your obsession with outdated traditions, but your aggressive approach is unacceptable.

I am open to discussing this matter, but it will be on neutral ground where your theatrics can be kept in check. I will hear your grievances, but I expect you to acknowledge the complex reality surrounding my family's history instead of clinging to dogmatic beliefs.

Provide a date and location for this meeting. I expect professionalism and fairness, as anything less will not be tolerated. Sincerely,

Lia Brown

About an hour later I received an email back. The response from her had me rolling my eyes. She sounded as smug over email as she did the day we met in person.

Subject: Re: Demand for Neutral Meeting

Dear Lia Brown,

How brave of you to reach out after so gallantly dismissing generations of tradition. Your valiant attempt to assert dominance over a situation you clearly don't understand is, frankly, adorable.

That said, I suppose I can lower myself to this "neutral ground" you so adamantly demand. Saturday works fine-let's say noon. I'll send you the coordinates for a suitably dull and unremarkable location to match your insistence on neutrality.

Do bring your wits (assuming you've located them) and a willingness to listen for once. It might do you some good to grasp what your family has set in motion instead of burying yourself in self-righteous indignation.

Looking forward to seeing how far "professionalism and fairness" will carry you when faced with the truths you so desperately ignore.

With the utmost sincerity,

Sinead Rosewater

There was something wrong with this woman and this coven in general. Why were they so insistent on trying to get payment for this blood oath just because my grandmother left?

What she did was pretty badass. I looked back on it and realized that I did appreciate what she had done. If she didn't, I wouldn't be here!

Somewhere in the world there had to be more people that fell in love with others of different species. Humans were the most common. I know I went to school with a few human and wolf hybrids. But other species? Not that I was aware of. If they were there, they kept it quiet.

When I came downstairs, I bumped into Rain.

“Rain, where’s the hurry? You nearly knocked me over.”

He grinned. “Going to pick up some pizza for dinner. No one feels like cooking. I offered but Jesse gave me a look that told me I can’t cook ever again.”

“Every time you cook something bad happens,” I pointed out, giving him a look. “How many things have you burned, Rain? The other day you nearly burnt the house down.”

“I mean, I didn’t mean to,” he protested.”

Colby laughed from the other room. “No one means to set a fire.”

“Unless you’re an arsonist,” Matt quipped.

I smiled, finding the banter calmed me down a significant amount. It reminded me that things were okay right now. Things may get difficult, but I had my future mates by my side.

But there was this queasy feeling in the pit of my stomach. What if the witches try to cast a curse on us or something? I was going to be terrified if they tried to commit a curse. Perhaps I should reach out to the Magical Oversight Committee to see if there was anything they could do.

“Pizza sounds good,” I said after a while, noticing that they were all staring at me strangely.

I supposed I had dazed out there for a moment, causing all of them to look at me with great concern in their eyes. The truth was I was fine or I was trying to be fine. It was just difficult for me to get out of my head and not let my worries overwhelm me to the point where they drove me crazy.

“Do... you want to come with me to pick it up?” Rain offered.

I smiled. “That sounds nice. I think I need to get out of the house for a while.”

What better way to clear my head than to go out with Rain for some delicious pizza?

I couldn’t remember the last time I had a bite to eat honestly. It had been more than a few hours, meaning that I had unintentionally skipped a meal. Skipping a meal wasn’t good, but with everything on my mind I couldn’t help it.

Luckily Rain didn’t say anything when my stomach kept growling.

## **Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates**

Jesse

I glanced over at Colby who was tenser than I had ever seen him. Rain and Matt couldn't come, leaving me and Colby to join Lia and Michael.

They agreed to meet this witch in a park about a thirty-minute drive from our house. I kept glancing at my phone, growling when I realized only a minute or so had passed since I last looked at it.

"She's late," I announced, even if it were the most obvious thing in the world.

Michael gave me a look. "Jesse, you sound like Rain; stating the obvious just for the sake of saying it. What's gotten into you?"

"She's almost an hour late and I'm sick of standing here," I ground out.

Suddenly, in a puff of smoke, this woman who gave off a witchy aura appeared. She looked exactly like the woman Lia had described. I watched her carefully, not trusting her as far as I could trust her.

This woman meant nothing good. They were here to collect on a blood oath, none of which was anyone's fault. Certainly not Lia and Michael's fault.

"You must be the mates," she cooed, looking at me and Colby before her attention shifted to Michael. "Hello, Michael." He growled. "Say what you want and then we can be on our way. There is no reason to prolong this any further."

"We need one of you to submit yourselves to the coven in about thirty days so you can repay your grandmother's blood feud." Lia stared at her, glaring. "You must be crazy if you think that one of us is going to go back with you."

"It is the only way. If you don't then we will be forced to lay consequences upon you."

This woman was crazy. What was wrong with her? Something was going on with these witches. I had no idea how to deal with witches. Never before had I dealt with witches. But it was clear that I never wanted to deal with them again."

"What consequences?" Michael ground out."

She smiled. "A curse or a hex is what we usually go with. But this can all be avoided if one of you join our coven. "There must be another way!" Lia cried.

))

"Do you have a child? Or are you expecting a child?" Sinead asked, sounding completely serious. "A promise of a child to the coven will help end the blood oath. One of you will just have to stay in the meantime at the coven." The link to the origin of this information rests in [findnovel.net](http://findnovel.net)

Michael threw his head back and laughed. “Are you crazy? You witches must be crazy.”

“Hate witches all you want but you all have magic running through your blood,” she cooed to them.

Why did she keep talking in that creepy tone? It was weird and more than a little unnerving.

There wasn't much in my life that unnerved me. I could count on a list of things that did. This woman was one of them.

“Well, I've said what I had to say. You have a month.”

Then she was gone in a poof of smoke, leaving us alone.

Michael gazed at Lia, his gaze softening.

“Lia-“

“Don't you dare Michael!”

“What I didn't say anything!”

She glared. “You have that glint in your eye that you always get when you want to go on and do something stupidly protective.”

I could see it in his eyes too, but who was I to blame him if he wanted to go give himself to the coven to protect Lia? If I had the choice, I'd do it too.

“Michael, think of Gabi,” Colby reminded our friend.

Yeah, what the hell was wrong with me? Michael had Gabi to think about. Not that I expected him to go and give up his freedom for Lia's sake.

Neither one of them was going to give themselves up to the Rosewater Coven. They were going to figure out a way to come together and get them off their back.

Even if it meant resorting to violence.

We may live in a more modern and civilized world, but it doesn't mean we can't do things old school. I was not against this in the least.

“Yes, exactly Michael!” Lia cried. “Colby is right. You don't need to try to do something stupid to protect me when you need to think of Gabi, okay?”

“Fine, but what the hell are we going to do then?”

I shrugged. "Sitting here, going over everything again and again isn't going to help anything, Michael. We should get back to the house and try to discuss it then."

Lia's shoulders slumped. "I hoped that meeting with her could help but all it did was add to our worry."

"We now know how long we have so there is that," Michael pointed out gruffly. "We'll write to the Werewolf Council. They might be able to tell us what we can do regarding this situation. Surely they can talk with the Magical Society and try to come up with something?"

I wanted to believe they could, but this was a situation that I didn't even know the Werewolf Council had dealt with before. "Let's go," I encouraged, nodding to where we parked the car.

It was a long and tense drive, with no one really willing to speak or wanting to speak I should say. Being that I was someone who wasn't usually known for speaking, I kept quiet but it was weird for Colby. He was the second chatterbox in the group behind Rain. Lia also had her moments.

But one thing was for sure. I wasn't going to let them take Lia or Michael. We would have to sit down and do research, to try and figure out what we could do about these witches. Something could be done and something had to be done.

\*\*\*

Lia

I texted Simone, recounting the situation with Sinead once we drove home. She was sympathetic, listening to everything I had to say. It felt good to unload about the situation. But it still left me with so many questions.

What the hell were any of us going to do? I don't know what we were going to do. It seemed like the only way was to ignore them or try to get this magical committee involved.

One thing was for sure; Michael and I couldn't or wouldn't give our lives to this blood oath. I certainly wasn't going to have my brother do it either, which he tried to do after Sinead left us to reflect on her words.

This witch sounds completely deranged. Are you sure she's not bluffing about the curses? -S

I don't think she is. The way she said it, so calm and matter-of-fact, gave me chills. It's like she's used to getting her way and doesn't even consider us saying no as an option. -L

That's terrifying. I mean, who just casually threatens curses like it's a normal Tuesday? -S

Exactly. And the worst part? She keeps talking about magic in our blood like it's some obligation we have to her coven. I don't care what's in my blood. I'm not tying myself-or anyone else to her insanity. -L

And you shouldn't. This whole thing is outrageous. What does Colby think about all this? -S

He didn't say much during the meeting. I think he's trying to process it all. You should've seen his face when she brought up the idea of offering a future child to settle the blood feud. -L

That's beyond messed up. Did Michael have anything else to say? -S

He's furious, but he's trying to stay logical. He keeps saying we need to figure out what the blood oath entails before we decide how to handle it. But I'm just so angry that this is even happening. -L

Understandable. It's not like you signed up for any of this. Why is it your problem now? -S

Exactly! And the witch had this smug attitude like she knew she had the upper hand. She even called Michael by his first name, all casual, as if they were old friends or something. -L

That's so creepy. What's the plan now? -S

Michael wants to do more research, and maybe find out if there's a loophole. I just want this to be over. I don't trust her, and I don't want to be dealing with witches ever again. -L

I wouldn't trust her either. Just be careful, okay? These types always seem to have tricks up their sleeves. -S

Believe me, I'm not letting my guard down for a second. But thanks for listening. I needed to vent. -L

Anytime. Just promise me you'll call if things get worse. -S

You'll be the first to know. -L

I hated this. A part of me wanted to blame my grandmother, even though that was crazy for me to do. Why was it her fault when all she had done was fall in love? This would make me no better than the Rosewater Coven.

They were holding a grudge against my grandmother because she dared to go outside the coven and marry a werewolf. I bet they didn't like the fact that she had run off and had children with a werewolf. This had to have some negative effect on them.

Maybe if my grandmother had run off with someone who was still a wizard but simply from another coven they'd be more willing to accept it.

When Sinead was talking to us, I remember seeing this look of disgust in her eyes. She didn't like me Michael, thinking that we were beneath her for some reason.

It pissed me off, making me automatically want to stand against her. I wasn't going to join her coven and my brother wasn't going to do that either!

But when they realized we wouldn't work with them... just what were they going to do to us? I shuddered even thinking about it.

## Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Rain

The day started as normal. I mean, if you ignore the tense aura in the household. Everyone was on edge with the witches wanting to fulfill their blood oath and all. Honestly, I didn't know what to make of it for the most part.

These witches come out of nowhere, demanding payment for something that my future mate and my fellow pack member shouldn't even have to deal with. It's so stupid!

Jesse would call me silly but I didn't care. It was stupid, plain and simple. What other reaction could you have to it other than that?

But there was nothing silly about their intention to hurt us. I remembered thinking about the curses or hexes they could cast. Would they be the ones who called for our death?

Fuck I hoped not. I wasn't ready to die.

When I was reading about blood oaths, it became clear that they could also be fulfilled through death. It wasn't the most ideal way to do so, but this was what could be done if the persons refused to cooperate.

My stomach dropped at the thought of Lia or Michael dying. We all just became a pack with Lia finally accepting us as her future mates. I wished there was one thing I would be able to do to make this all go away with the snap of a finger, but there was no way to do that.

Unlike the witches, I didn't have any damn magic!

When the thirty days Sinead warned us about passed, I grew nervous. We were all on edge. But I fucked up one day. It was all my fault. Sometimes I could be absent-minded, not thinking as much as I should.

See, after we contacted the magical committee, they told us they wouldn't get involved because the Rosewater Coven was enacting a blood oath from before they signed a peace treaty. It wasn't grandfathered in so it meant that they were perfectly able to collect on it since it was before the treaty was signed.

It sounded like a lot of issues we werewolf packs had. But one thing we didn't have was amulets for protection. The magical committee had sent us a few. We were supposed to carry them around at all times and when I went outside that day... I forgot.

One moment I was walking and then the next I was knocked to the ground. When I looked up I saw this woman standing over me, sprinkling some stuff over me.

"Time to die."

I don't know how long I lay there but I remember hearing a bunch of shouting of my name, people wanting me to wake up. When I opened my eyes people were staring at me. Namely my pack.

Lia knelt next to me, looking beyond worried.

"Rain what happened?"

"Uh, I think one of those Rosewater witches tried to kill me because they thought I was you or Michael."

Matt stared. "You forgot the amulet didn't you?"

"Yes, but the curse didn't work!" I said, grinning up at them. "I mean, look at me. I'm alive and as fit as a fiddle."

At least I thought I was. I tried to sit up but felt this wave of dizziness.

Jesse frowned. "Rain, you look a little paler than usual."

"Do I?"

"Yes," Lia said firmly.

Together, they helped me back inside. I was forced to lie on the couch, much to my frustration. I'd rather be up and about, doing something. Laying here was making me bored.

But they wanted me to rest so I tried to rest.

I was resting when this sharp pain hit me. Not wanting to worry anyone, I hurried quietly to the bathroom and looked at my mouth where there was this pain.

“Wait, my fangs look sharper...”

All wolves had sharp teeth, but four of my teeth in particular were a lot sharper. I frowned, trying to figure this out but it made no sense!

Then later that night Matt accidentally cut himself when he was cutting something for dinner. The smell of blood hit me like a tidal wave. I was staring at Matt, licking my lips, and focused on the blood pouring from the cut on his finger.

“Rain, why the fuck are you staring at me like that?” he asked, giving me a strange look. “You’re looking at me like you want to eat me and it’s strange.”

“Uh, no reason.”

The fangs didn’t recede and the sudden need to consume blood was also there. I tried to ignore it but it became clear to me that something was going on.

Who was I going to talk to about this?

Wait, my mom. I could talk to my mom about this. Tomorrow I was going to call her. When you doubt you ask your mother or father about what is bothering you. A bit childish but I knew that she might have some answers for me.

Or I hoped she had some answers for me at least.

\*\*\*

I paced my bedroom, phone pressed to my ear, heart still racing from the strange events earlier the other day. Being out of school and working on the state rugby team, I wasn’t exactly used to strange magical incidents.

“Hey, Mom?”

“Rain, sweetie! How was your day? Training goes well?”

“Yeah great.

“How is the pack?”

“Good.”

“And Lia?”

“Even better.”

She sighed in relief. “And you?”

I hesitated, then forced a chuckle. “Uh, kind. So... a funny story. I got hit with a witch’s curse the other day.”

“What?! Rain you better start explaining this instant.”

I sat on the edge of my bed, rubbing my face. “Look, I was back home from practice when this witch—at least, I think she was a witch—threw some sparkly stuff at me, said something about it being time to die,’ and now I have fangs. And, uh, a weird craving for blood?”

Silence.

“Mom? Still there?”

“How did this even happen?”

“Well, Lia and Michael’s family has this blood feud with a witch. When they first time me I was shocked. They refused to listen to her demands so I guess they wanted to get revenge. But instead of getting Lia or Michael, they got me.”

A sharp inhale. “Rain, listen very carefully. You’re a quarter vampire. I think they may have tried to kill you with a curse and it awoke your vampiric blood within you.”

I blinked. “Wait, what? Since when?”

“Since always. Your father’s side. It usually stays dormant unless, well, provoked by something supernatural. The curse must have awakened your vampiric traits, which likely saved you.”

I leaned back against the wall. “So, you’re saying the fangs and blood cravings are... normal?”

“For a quarter vampire, yes. The cravings will settle, but you might notice... other changes.”

“Like what?”

She hesitated. “Stronger senses. Maybe heightened strength. And... some sensitivity to sunlight.”

I groaned. “So I am a cliché. Do I have to avoid garlic too? Sleep in a coffin?”

She chuckled. “No, sweetie. But we will need to adjust your diet.”

I flopped back onto my bed, exasperated. “Perfect. Just perfect.”

Wait, I was going to have to tell the rest of the pack this!

First, Lia discovers that she is part witch and I discover I am a vampire. It's not the most ideal thing to discover. How do I even digest this information? IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE CHAPTERS, PLEASE VISIT [findnovel.net](http://findnovel.net)

Groaning, I realize I am still on the phone with my mom and sigh.

"Rain, I'll let you go. It's clear you have a lot to think about so go ahead and think about what I said. When you're ready to talk, we are going to discuss everything. I do have a lot to tell you."

I hang up with my mom, suddenly realizing I need to tell the pack. Fuck, what would they even think? Sure, Lia was a witch but

a witch is one thing. Vampires and wolves are supposed to be mortal enemies. I mean, I've seen enough of the movies!

Shit, I hope they accepted me. I really did.

## Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

Now that all that curse business was temporarily out of the way, I was ready to get back to my regular life. But, of course, it could never be that easy.

My brother shot me a message over text that weekend, making me frown because of how strange he was being.

Hey, I need to talk to you and the guys about something. It's important. -M

Okay... what's it about? -L

You'll find out when I tell you. Can we meet at your place later? -M

Come on, just tell me now. -L NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON [findnovel.net](http://findnovel.net)

Nope. You'll have to wait. -M

Is this about the pack? Are we in trouble or something? -L

No, it's nothing like that. -M

Then what? Did you get a new job? Are you moving? -L

You're not going to guess. Just let me tell you in person. -M

Is Gabi okay? Are YOU okay? -L

We're both fine, I promise. You don't need to worry. It's good news. -M

Good news? Then why the suspense?! -L

Because I want to see your face when I tell you. -M

Ugh, you're so dramatic. Just text it to me. -L

Not happening. Be patient. -M

Fine, whatever. What time are you coming over? -L

Around seven. Tell the guys to be there too. -M

Oh great, now I have to wrangle them. You owe me for this. -L

I'll bring snacks. Deal? -M

Deal. But this better be worth all the buildup. -L

Trust me, it will be. -M

You're killing me here. It's like waiting for a cliffhanger. -L

Hey, patience is a virtue. Besides, this is something I want to share with all of you at the same time. -M

Well, now I'm curious. And a little bit annoyed. But I'll keep my cool...for now. -L

Good. Just get everyone together, and you'll understand why I had to do it this way. -M

You're so full of yourself, you know that? But fine, I'll do my best to wrangle the crew. They'll be there. -L

I know, I'm a little proud of it. But seriously, trust me. This is important. -M

I'll be expecting a big reveal then. No backing out. -L

Of course not. You're going to love it. -M

I'm starting to think you're hyping this up too much, but we'll see. -L

No hype, I promise. It's worth the wait. -M

I'm counting on you. If this is some kind of joke, you're going to regret it. -L

I'd never! I'm not that cruel. -M

We'll see. You better not be messing with me, Michael. -L

I wouldn't dream of it. I'm being serious here. -M

Alright, alright. Seven o'clock, right? -L

Yep, seven. I'll be there, snacks in hand. -M

Good. And make sure it's not a waste of my time, Michael. I've got a busy day. -L

You'll see. It's going to be worth it, I swear. -M

If you say so. -L

Trust me, this is going to be one for the books. -M

I don't know if I should be nervous or excited. -L

Maybe a little of both. But mostly excited. -M

You've got me on edge now. If I show up and it's a dud, I'm not letting you live it down. -L

Fair enough. You can hold it over my head all you want. But you won't be disappointed. -M  
Alright, I'll hold you to that. See you at seven, then. -L

I'll be there. And don't worry you'll be glad you waited. -M

I hope so. I'm getting my hopes up now. -L

Good! You should. I promise you won't regret it. -M

Fine, I'll trust you. But this better not be some elaborate prank. -L

No pranks. I'd never do that to you. -M

I guess we'll see. See you in a few hours. -L

See you soon. Just make sure everyone's there. -M

Got it. You better bring something really good. -L You'll see. It'll be worth it. -M

All I could wonder was what the hell was going on.

\*\*\*

While it was nice to see my brother, I was a little weirded out that he suddenly texted me earlier and wanted to show up out of the blue like this. It felt like something was wrong with him but I wasn't sure. For a while, all of us sat there, waiting for him to respond.

Michael cleared his throat, standing awkwardly in the center of the room. I raised an eyebrow from my spot on the couch. "What's with the dramatic buildup? You look like you're about to explode."

He grinned. "Gabi and I are having a pup."

The room went silent. My jaw dropped, but Colby was the first to break the quiet.

"Wait, what? You knocked her up before the mating ceremony?" He laughed, slapping his knee. "I knew you had it in you, but wow, Michael. Bold move."

Michael glared at him, though his grin didn't waver. "It's not like we planned it, okay? It just... happened."

"Sure, sure, 'it just happened.'"" Colby leaned back, smirking. "Translation: You couldn't wait. Admit it."

"Colby, knock it off," Michael warned.

Rain chimed in, snickering. "Nah, this is classic Michael. Couldn't keep it together, huh?"

Michael groaned, pinching the bridge of his nose. "I'm regretting this already."

Jesse's voice cut through the chaos, dry and steady as always. "You keep it up, Colby, and you'll be the first person banned from seeing the pup."

Colby gasped dramatically, clutching his chest. "Michael wouldn't dare!"

"Oh, I'd dare," Michael shot back, arms crossed.

I finally found my voice, though I was still in shock. "You're... having a pup? Michael, that's amazing. Congratulations."

His expression softened as he looked at me. "Thanks, Lia. That means a lot."

Rain leaned forward, grinning. "So, that's why you're rushing the mating ceremony, huh? Gotta make it official before the pup shows up."

Michael rolled his eyes. “We’re not rushing it for appearances, Rain. We just want everything settled before the pup arrives.” Colby snorted. “Right. You don’t want your kid to be labeled a ‘pre-ceremony’ baby for the rest of their life.”

Michael shot him another warning glare. “Colby, I swear, you’re on thin ice.”

I couldn’t help but laugh, shaking my head. “Michael, promise me you’re not going to let him babysit.”

“Not,” Michael said without hesitation.

“Hey!” Colby objected, throwing his hands in the air. “What’s wrong with me babysitting? I’m great with kids!” Rain snorted. “Yeah, great at teaching them rugby before they can even walk.”

“And what’s wrong with that?” Colby shot back.

Michael groaned, rubbing his temples like he already had a headache. “You guys are going to drive me insane.”

Jesse, with his usual deadpan delivery, smirked. “Welcome to fatherhood.”

I couldn’t help but laugh. As chaotic as they were, this was my family, and Michael was about to take on the most chaotic role of all.

Later, I texted Simeone. As someone who was part of the Moonveil pack, she had a right to know!

Hey, so... there’s something big happening with Michael and Gabi. -L

What? Tell me! -S

Gabi’s pregnant. -L

Wait... what?? Seriously? But... I thought they weren’t fully mated yet. -S

They’re not. That’s the thing. She’s pregnant, and now they’re having a sudden mating ceremony. -L

Oh wow. Are they okay? I mean, that’s a lot to happen all at once. -S

Yeah, I think they’re both happy about it. Michael’s been protective lately, and I think he wants to make sure everything feels right before the pup gets here. -L

That sounds like him. Always wanting to do the right thing. So, he’s not being pressured or anything, right? -s

No, not at all. This is their decision. Michael's the one who brought it up. I think he just feels like the pup deserves to be born after the ceremony, you know? He wants it to be special for Gabi too. -L

That's sweet. But wow... so sudden. When's the ceremony? -S

This weekend. -L

This weekend?? Oh my god, that's so soon! How are they pulling everything together that fast? -S

Michael's been handling most of it. I think he's just in full-on "get this done" mode right now. You know how he gets when he makes up his mind. -L

Yeah, definitely. But... how do you feel about all of this? I know you're close with Michael, and this is all kind of a lot. -S Honestly? I'm still processing it. I mean, I'm happy for them. But it's weird seeing my brother move into this whole other stage of life. Like, he's going to be a dad. It just feels like things are changing so fast. -L

Yeah, I get that. It's gotta feel strange seeing him go from "overprotective big brother" to... "overprotective soon-to-be dad." -S.

Exactly! And it's not like I'm not happy. It's just... a lot to take in all at once, you know? -L

Totally. I think it's normal to feel that way. You love your brother. This is a big shift for both of you. -S

Yeah. And I keep thinking about Gabi too. She's been calm, but I can tell she's nervous. Michael's so caught up in planning everything, and I don't think she wants to stress him out by saying anything. -L

That makes sense. She probably feels like she has to keep it together for him. You should check in with her, just the two of you. Maybe she needs someone to talk to who's not, you know, mating her. -S

Yeah, I was thinking the same thing. I'll talk to her tonight. -L

Good idea. Seriously, let me know if you need anything. I can help pick out ceremony outfits or deal with all the awkward "so when are you going to find a mate" questions. -S

Oh god, those questions are already starting! Someone asked me yesterday if it's any of their business. -L

People need to mind their own lives. You're not on some kind of timeline. -S

Exactly! Thank you. I needed to hear that. -L

Anytime. And hey, tell Michael and Gabi congrats from me, okay? -S

Will do. Thanks, Simone. Seriously. -L

I set down my phone but wondered why I suddenly had a knowing feeling in the pit of my stomach.

Everything was fine so why was I worried?

Well, I knew why I was worried. I was thinking of the situation. I brought it up when we were having breakfast the next day, feeling like I had to get it off my chest.

“Lia, just say it already,” Colby said, leaning against the wall with his arms crossed.

“Do you think the Rosewater coven will try to take Michael and Gaby’s baby?” I blurted out.

Matt straightened on the couch. “Take the baby? Why would they do that?”

“Because that witch said a child could settle the blood oath,” I snapped. “Now Michael and Gaby are having one. It’s exactly what they’d want.”

“Damn,” Jesse muttered, shaking his head. “That’s low, even for them.”

“Leverage,” I repeated bitterly. “They’re talking about a baby like it’s some kind of bargaining chip.”

“}

“They won’t get that chance,” Colby said firmly. “They’d have to get through us first.”

“Easier said than done,” I shot back. “They’re witches, Colby. If they want something, they’ll find a way.”

Matt frowned. “Then we find a way to stop them. They’re not taking Michael’s kid, end of story.”

“Do we even know how the blood oath works?” Jesse asked. “What exactly are they entitled to?”

“No clue,” I admitted. “But that which made it sound like it’s binding. If they think this baby satisfies their terms, they’ll come for it.”

“They’ll regret it,” Colby growled.

“Regret isn’t going to stop them,” Rain said. “We need a plan, not just a fight.”

“A plan?” I repeated. “Like what? They don’t exactly play fair, Rain.”

“Maybe not,” Rain replied, “but they can’t take what they can’t reach. We need to keep the baby- and Michael and Gaby- safe, no matter what.”

“We’re not running,” Colby said.

“Who said anything about running?” Rain asked. “I’m talking about making sure they never get close enough to try.”

Jesse huffed. “Great. So, what, we put them in a bubble? Witches aren’t exactly easy to avoid.”

“Better than sitting here doing nothing,” Rain shot back.

“Enough,” I said, cutting through their bickering. “We’re not letting them take that baby. But we need to be ready for whatever they try. Agreed?”

“Agreed,” Colby said immediately.

“Absolutely,” Matt added.

“Count me in,” Jesse said.

I let out a shaky breath. “Good. Because this isn’t just Michael and Gaby’s fight. It’s ours too.”

Rain nodded. “Always.”

## Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Rain

I felt like I was sneaking around, but it wasn’t like I needed an excuse to visit my mother. She was my mother! No one needed an excuse to visit their mother.

The two of us were sitting across from each other at a café across from where she lived. Dad couldn’t be with us so it was just the two of us. I squirmed in my seat, staring down at my coffee that was full of sugar. And when I say it was filled with a lot of sugar, I mean it was filled with a lot of sugar and cream.

Most of my coffee was half cream and sugar with just a bit of coffee. 1

“So, Mom, can you explain this whole vampire thing?”

She smiled softly. “Well, it comes from your dad’s side. He is half vampire from his grandfather.”

“A vampire and a werewolf had a baby?” I asked in disbelief. “It sounds like the beginning of a really bad joke.”

“Well, it’s the truth,” Mom said, giving me a look. “Don’t make jokes at a time like this, Rain. This is a serious situation. You are a vampire.”

I groaned. “What the hell does a vampire-werewolf even do?”

“You live your life. It doesn’t mean you can’t go out in the sunlight and you also won’t be driven to drink blood daily. You’ll get a craving so a little bit now and then should help.”

I sighed, looking down at my coffee. “I haven’t told the pack yet.”

“Rain, are you serious right now?”

“Nope,” I said, grinning.

Mom gave me a look. “Rain you need to tell them. They are your pack so they have a right to know what is going on with you. Trust that they will understand.”

“Lia is going to feel guilty because of the curse that hit me and I don’t want her to feel guilty.”

“So?” she asked, shaking her head. “That has nothing to do with you. If Lia feels guilty then let her feel guilty. She is your future mate and can handle yourself.”

Everything Mom was telling me was making sense. The two of us spoke for a while and while things weren’t perfect, I was feeling better about the situation. The vampiric blood that had simply been sleeping within me was now awoken, which was going to make me go through some changes.

It was like going through puberty again.

Yeah, I didn’t want to say that ever again.

“Call me if you need anything,” Mom told me, pulling me into a hug. “And make sure you tell them soon. The longer you wait the more difficult it’s going to be.”

So a few days later I gathered them around the living room, determined to tell them my truth. My new truth.

Yeah, I could do it.

I took a deep breath and started talking.

“Okay, I need to tell you guys something,” I said, standing awkwardly in the middle of the room, hands stuffed deep into my hoodie pockets.

Jesse muted the TV with a dramatic sigh. “Finally! Is this about why you’ve been acting like a total weirdo all week?”

“I haven’t been acting weird,” I protested, shifting my weight.

Lia arched an eyebrow. “You stared at Matt’s finger for, like, five full minutes during dinner the other day.”

“It was closer to ten,” Matt added, holding up the finger in question. “Seriously, you were giving it serial killer vibes. Or like, I don’t know, are you secretly a cannibal or something?”

I winced. “Not a cannibal. Not that. But... it is kind of related. Sort of.”

Colby finally looked up from his phone, frowning. “What do you mean, ‘sort of’? Rain, you’re being weird again.”

I rubbed the back of my neck. “Okay, so... I’m half vampire.”

Jesse snorted. “Good one. Seriously, though, what’s up?”

“I’m serious.” I pointed to my teeth, baring them just a little. “Look closer.”

Lia leaned forward, squinting. “They... they do look sharper. I thought you were just using that weird whitening kit.”

Matt tilted his head, peering closer. “Yeah, but that’s not like ‘good dental hygiene’ sharp. That’s, like, a horror movie sharp. Holy shit. You’re not lying, are you?”

“Nope.” I shook my head. “It’s real.”

Colby blinked slowly. “Okay, but... how? How does that even happen? People don’t just turn into vampires.”

“My mom says it’s from my dad’s side,” I explained quickly. “It’s been dormant or something. Until now.”

Jesse’s eyes narrowed. “Wait, wait, wait. So you’re saying the witch’s curse woke up your vampire DNA?” “Pretty much.”

“Shit.” Matt shook his head. “I knew that whole spell was bad news. So what now? Do you, like, crave blood or something?”

I hesitated, fidgeting. “I... yeah. A little.”

“Oh my god.” Colby looked horrified. “Are you gonna-are you gonna suck our blood?”

“No!” I said quickly. “It’s not like that! I think.” NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON findnovel.net

Matt crossed his arms. “You think?”

“I haven’t figured it all out yet!” I snapped. “But I’m pretty sure animal blood works. Or… maybe synthetic. Look, I’m not gonna bite anyone, okay? I’m still me.”

Matt squinted. “Still you, huh? What about you looking at my cut the other day? You were almost drooling.” “That was one time! And I didn’t drool!”

“It was kinda weird,” Colby muttered. “I just thought you were super into ketchup or something.”

“Not ketchup!” I groaned. “Look, I get it. This is… a lot. But I’m still me. I’m still part of the pack. Right?”

Lia nodded, her expression softening. “Of course, Rain. You’re still one of us. Right, guys?”

Colby shrugged. “Yeah, sure. Just… no biting, okay?”

Matt raised a hand. “Also, maybe don’t stare at our fingers. It’s weird.” “Agreed,” Jesse added. “And no Twilight jokes either.”

I rolled my eyes. “Oh my god, I wasn’t going to—”

“You were,” Jesse said smirking. “Admit it.”

Lia patted the seat beside her. “Come sit. We’ll figure this out together.”

I sank onto the couch, exhaling. Maybe this wouldn’t be so bad after all.

It was going to take a lot to get used to. This was one thing I was sure of, but at least no one was going to go running for the closest thing to holy water or a wooden stake!

\*\*\*

Lia

As someone who was in our pack, Simone had a right to know what was going on.

I need to talk to you. -L

Go ahead. What’s wrong? -S

Rain's a vampire now. It's my fault. The witches cursed her. It was meant for me and my family. -L

Lia, stop. This isn't your fault. Don't blame yourself. -S

But it IS. I led them right to us. Now Rain's life is ruined. -L

Listen to me. Use that anger. We'll find a way to get back at the Rosewater Coven. -S

How? They're so powerful. I don't even know where to begin. -L

We'll figure it out. Together. You're not alone in this. -S

I just feel so guilty. I should've seen this coming, noticed the signs or something. -L

You couldn't have known. None of us did. The important thing now is to focus on fixing it, not blaming yourself. -S

You're right. But where do we even start? What if there's no way to reverse this? -L

We'll do some research. There has to be a way. No curse is permanent. Remember, we're stronger together. -S

You're right. I'm just scared. I don't want to lose Rain completely. -L

You won't. We're going to save her. I'm with you every step of the way. -S

...Okay. I trust you. Thank you for being here, Simone. -L

Always, Lia. We've got this. -S

To think that Rain was now a vampire. It felt like it was partly my fault because he wouldn't have gotten hit with that if it weren't for me. The curse was meant for me or Michael. They were trying to send a message to us for not bowing to their whims or agreeing to go live the rest of our days with them.

I hated them. Why did they have to do this to us? All I wanted was to live my life with the mates I had finally accepted. Tomorrow I was going to have to look more into taking care of this coven. I needed to immerse myself in witchcraft and understand the magical world, a world I had never known before. But it was time for me to explore this side of myself.

Rain had expressed that he wanted to go ahead and learn more about his vampiric side. I found that admirable, to be honest. It was interesting for him to go ahead to try to discover everything there was to be about a vampire. However, unlike Rain, I had a coven after me for a debt I didn't want to pay.

The stakes were bigger now with Michael and Gabi having a baby. They would try to get their hands on the baby like this was some twisted fairy tale. But jokes on them because I wasn't going to let them lay one hand on my niece or nephew!

It was going to be difficult to figure out what we were going to do. I hoped that I would be able to figure it out sooner rather than later because who knows when they would attempt to throw another curse at us or attack the house.