

# Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

I barely had time to react before the wave of magic slammed into me, knocking me off my feet. Air whooshed from my lungs as I hit the ground hard, my vision swimming.

“Again,” my teacher snapped, her voice cold.

I groaned, pushing myself onto my elbows. “You could at least warn me before blasting me across the room.”

“If you need a warning, you’re not ready.”

I exhaled sharply, rubbing my ribs. “Maybe I’d be ready if you didn’t knock me down every five seconds.”

“Your enemies won’t wait for you to get up, Lia. They’ll keep you down.”

I clenched my fists. “I know that!”

“Do you?” Her voice was sharp. “Because from where I’m standing, you’re not focused.”

“I’m trying.”

“No. You’re hesitating. You’re distracted.”

I looked away. “Of course I am. Gabi was kidnapped. She just got back. I can’t just—”

“You can just know what? Move on? Focus? Fight?”

I swallowed hard.

She sighed, stepping closer. “And when do they come back? For her? For you?”

I clenched my jaw. “Then I’ll deal with it.”

She scoffed. “Like you just ‘dealt’ with that attack?”

I scowled. “That wasn’t fair. I wasn’t ready.”

“You think they’ll play fair?” Her voice rose. “You think they’ll wait until you’re ready?”

Silence.

“Lia, I don’t train you to be strong when things are easy. I train you to be strong when everything is falling apart.”

I took a deep breath, but the words caught in my throat.

“You’re not the only one who cares about Gabi,” she continued. “But sitting in your fear, your grief, your guilt-it won’t save her next time.”

I shook my head. “I just need time-“

“You don’t have time!” she snapped. “You think they’re resting? That they’re sitting around, waiting for you to get your emotions in check? They are planning their next move. Right now. While you’re lying on the ground, wallowing.”

I forced myself to my feet, my legs shaky. “I’m not wallowing.”

“Then prove it.”

I clenched my jaw. “Fine.”

“Fine?” Her brow arched. “Not good enough.”

I met her gaze, defiant. “I’ll do it.”

She nodded. “Better. Now-again.”

I braced myself, heart pounding, and reached for my magic. This time, I wouldn’t falter.

It was a long session. When I came out of it, my body was aching. My muscles were hurting so I didn’t even know I had!

But I also felt proud of myself for sticking through the difficult session, not giving up, and letting my fear overtake me. However, with every step I took a whimper of pain escaped me.

At least I was home.

I slowly took the steps, wincing when I reached the top step. My eyes locked with Michael who happened to be walking towards the bathroom. He looked at me, a smile halfway onto his face until he noticed how I was moving.

“What the fuck happened to you?” he asked, tensing up.

I waved him off. “I’m fine, Michael. Don’t get your overprotective senses in a twist.”

“Then what’s with the walk?”

“I’m training in magic remember?” I reminded him, shaking my head in disbelief.

How could he forget?

No, that was a lie. I knew how he could forget. My brother was going through hell right now with Gabi back. He hadn’t let her out of his sight and she hadn’t let him out of hers, afraid that the Rosewater coven, or whatever was left of them, would show up unexpectedly ready to attack.

I knew they were out there, biding their time. They would be fools to attack now, but they were desperate. Desperation led people to do foolish things.

“Ah, yes,” Michael muttered, guilt flashing across his face. “I forgot you were training to get a magical license. How is that going by the way?”

I stifled a groan. “It’s going.”

This was the best way I could describe it!

“Is there anything I can do to help?”

I shook my head. “No, not really. This is something I need to do on my own, Michael. Besides, you have a lot to deal with on your right now.”

The question of how Gabi was lingered in the air. It was a foolish question because how else would she be? My sister-in-law wasn’t going to be any better than she was a few days ago.

But she was still breathing. This was what I would remember.

The baby was still kicking. Michael remarked to me the other day that he had felt kicking. It felt like more than one kick so Michael was running on the theory that there was more than one baby in there.

I didn’t know what to think about that. Multiple pups were common, just not in our family. They weren’t even common in Gabi’s family!

“Well, keep to it, Lia. I know you can do it.”

I flashed him a smile. “Thanks, Michael.”

There were so many things that weren’t said but everything was so fragile now I was afraid to ruin it.

“You better go rest little sister. I can see just from the look in your eyes that you’re ready to fall over.”

“No,” I muttered, barely able to stifle a yawn.

It was true. I was exhausted and I was doing a piss poor job of hiding it from my brother. He may not be at the top of his game lately, bogged down by stress and worry, but he was still my brother.

He smirked. “You gotta do better than if you want to pull the wool over my eyes, Lia.”

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Rain

I could see how hard Lia was working so I wanted to do something special with her. It didn't take long to convince the guys that we should all work together.

While I was tempted to reach out to Simone, I was vaguely afraid she might take over and go a bit overboard. This was her MO. She loved to go all out!

To be fair I did too. I wasn't one to complain about someone going all out when I did the same damn thing.

Jesse sat me down, giving me that look that told me if I was so much as moved on inch he was going to throw me.

“Rain, let's just take her out to eat or something.”

I huffed. “That's not romantic at all! Jesse, where is your sense of romance?”

“I must've left it in another life,” he quipped, deadpan.

Leave it to Jesse to make a funny joke but still scare the shit out of me with it. I was tempted to chuckle but held it back out of fear of annoying Jesse.

“How about we order out but have a picnic in the backyard?”

Jesse blinked slowly. “That might work.”

I grinned. “See, I knew there was some romance in you.”

“Please, he doesn't have a romantic bone in his body,” Matt muttered, walking into the room to grab something from the fridge. “And before you start in on me, I know I don't have a romantic bone in my body either. It goes Colby and Rain then I followed by Jesse.”

A pout started to form on my lips. “Are you serious? How can I be at the same level as Colby?”

“Because he's softspoken.”

We all turned to Colby who entered the room, an eyebrow raised.

“Why is this the current topic of discussion anyway?”

I groaned. “We are talking about planning a party for Lia. The three of you are being no help.”

“A romantic outing in the backyard is simple but effective,” Colby pointed out, smiling at us all. “Just make you sure keep it a secret Rain.”

“I always keep secrets!”

It was such a blatant lie that all of us burst out laughing, even me. I snickered.

“Okay, let’s get to planning.”

Jesse shook his head, still smirking. “I can’t believe I’m getting dragged into a backyard date night.” “You’re not being dragged,” I shot back. “You’re participating willingly. You just don’t want to admit it.” Matt snorted. “I wouldn’t go that far.”

I rolled my eyes and turned to Colby, who at least looked like he was on my side. “Colby, back me up here.”

Colby chuckled. “I think it’s a clever idea, Rain. But if we’re going to do this right, we need to plan properly.”

Jesse groaned dramatically. “Does this mean I actually have to help set up?”

“Yes,” I said firmly. “That means lights, candles, music-the whole vibe.”

“Can’t we just throw down a blanket and call it a day?” Matt grumbled.

I gasped, placing a hand over my heart. “Do you hear yourself? Lia deserves romance!”

Jesse waved a hand. “Oh, we hear you loud and clear. You’re the one who has trouble listening when people tell you to tone it down.”

I ignored him. “We should get flowers too. Maybe fairy lights. Ooh! And we should get her favorite dessert!”

Matt sighed, rubbing his temples. “I knew this would turn into an event.”

Colby nodded, amused. “It’s Rain. Everything turns into an event.”

“I can’t help that I have taste,” I said, tilting my chin up.

Jesse snorted. “You’re extra, that’s what you are.”

“And Lia loves that about me,” I shot back, grinning.

“Unfortunately for us, yeah,” Matt muttered.

Colby clapped his hands together. “Okay, so let’s divide things up. Jesse, you, and Matt handle the setup. Rain and I can take care of food and decorations.” For more chapters visit [FundNovel.net](http://FundNovel.net)

Jesse pointed at me. “If you pick something over-the-top, I’m throwing you in the pool.”

“Noted.”

Matt grabbed a bottle of water from the fridge and leaned against the counter. “Alright, fine. Let’s just get this over with before Rain starts planning fireworks.”

I gasped. “Fireworks are a great idea-“

“No,” all three of them said in unison.

I huffed but smiled anyway. “Fine, fine. Let’s just make sure this is a night Lia won’t forget.”

Jesse shook his head, but I caught the small grin on his face. “Yeah, yes. Let’s just hope she doesn’t figure it out before then.”

I smirked. “Please. We got this.”

Now I just had to make sure I didn’t accidentally ruin the surprise.

It was the same thing Lia did for me after I passed my vampire trials. The two of us were going through a lot of the same things right now, reaching out past what we were usually comfortable with but we were willing to do it for the safety of the Moonveil pack.

When we had the event later the next night, Lia was so happy that she started to tear up. She kissed every one of us. It was a temptation to keep the kiss, but I resisted.

Showing affection in front of the guys was no longer a problem. We were going to be officially mated so it would be stupid if the four of us weren’t able to deal with our innate jealousy.

It caused Lia too much stress, anyway. I could see it in her eyes when we fought with each other. With this witch situation, the four of us were going to need each other more than ever.

They were probably lying in wait somewhere with their damn brooms and cauldrons.

I winced as I thought that.

It wasn’t fair. I didn’t like it when they called us beasts so I shouldn’t sink to their same level.

# Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

"I'm doing it," I said firmly. "I'm getting my magical license."

Silence. Four pairs of eyes stared at me.

I wish they would say something. They staring at me was making me nervous.

"You're sure?" Colby asked, arms crossed.

My eyes locked with his and I nodded firmly.

There was no going back now.

"Yes," I replied. "My teacher says I'm ready."

"You are," a new voice chimed in. I turned to see my teacher standing in the doorway, watching me with approval. "You've trained hard. You've earned this."

Colby let out a low whistle. "Damn. Didn't think we'd get here this soon."

"You doubted me?" I shot him a look.

He grinned. "Nah, I just figured you'd take longer to admit how powerful you are."

"You do hesitate sometimes," Matt added. "It's good to see you finally stepping up."

Jesse nodded. "It's the right move."

"You think so?" I asked, glancing at Rain.

"

He scoffed. "Of course. You supported me through my vampire trial, remember? I was a wreck, Lia. I doubted myself at every turn, and you—" He exhaled sharply. "You never let me give up. So, yes, I support you. Like you supported me."

"You were amazing during that," I said softly. "I just reminded you of what you were capable of."

"Exactly," Rain said. "And now we're reminding you."

Colby leaned forward, resting his elbows on his knees. “So, what happens next? Big test? Some kind of trial by fire?”

I hesitated. “Something like that.”

Matt raised an eyebrow. “Details, Lia.”

I sighed. “It’s a magical proficiency exam. Combat, spell work, control, endurance—everything I’ve learned.”

Jesse tilted his head. “And if you fail?”

I swallowed hard. “I won’t.”

A smirk tugged at the corner of his lips. “Good answer.”

“We’ll be there,” Colby said. “Obviously.”

I frowned. “I don’t think you guys can be. It’s a closed test.” THIS CHAPTER IS UPDATE BY FindNovel.net

“Doesn’t mean we won’t be waiting,” Matt said. “You think we’re just gonna sit at home while you do this?”

Rain scoffed. “Please. You couldn’t get rid of us if you tried.”

Jesse nodded. “And if they don’t let us watch, we’ll find a way.”

I sighed. “You’re all ridiculous.”

Colby grinned. “And you love it.”

I rolled my eyes, but I couldn’t stop the smile tugging at my lips.

“Thank you,” I murmured. “All of you.”

Rain squeezed my hand. “Always, Lia.”

Matt leaned back, crossing his arms. “So, when’s this happening?”

“Two days from now,” I said.

Colby whistled again. “That soon, huh? No pressure or anything.”

Jesse nodded. “You’ll pass.”

I exhaled slowly. "I hope so."

Rain nudged my shoulder. "You will."

Matt smirked. "And if you don't, we'll break in and redo the test until you do."

I laughed. "Pretty sure that's illegal."

Colby shrugged. "Just means we'll have to do it well."

I shook my head, warmth filling my chest. "I don't know what I'd do without you guys."

"You'll never have to find out," Rain said, grinning.

These four were the best mates someone could ever have. I don't think I could love them any more than I did right now, but then came the worry.

Taking a test to become a licensed witch was something I never considered but here we were. I used my magic to help us get back Gabi and without it, I knew we never would've gotten this far.

The same could be said for the vampire clan. They had put themselves at risk to help us in this situation. I know several of them were injured that night yet it didn't matter because they wanted to be there for us.

Well, be there for Rain.

Jesse once floated the idea that the vampire clan could've had some ulterior motives in helping us. They might have some history with the coven but as far as I could tell, there wasn't any beef between them. If there was the vampire clan was doing a damn good job at hiding it.

I sent an email to the testing association that night on the recommendation of my teacher. They gave me a slot at the beginning of next week, which seemed a little too soon. My first instinct was to say that it wasn't an enjoyable time for me, but then I thought of the Rosewater Coven.

What if they tried to hurt us again? I needed to be ready to match their magic with my own and right now, my magic was still at a novice level. When I became a full-fledged witch I would be able to access higher-level spells and potions that novice witches never dreamed of using.

Until I took the test I would be practicing every day and night, staying up until the early hours to get in as much information as I could. It was the only way I could pass the test.

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Jesse

I didn't know the first damn thing about magic. Werewolf magic wasn't something that was common and had almost entirely been wiped out. Magic was commandeered by the witches or the vampires, each wielding it in their distinct way.

But Lia found magic to be a new skill of her and I wanted to be there for her in any way I could.

She was in the backyard practicing right now, conjuring up these magical blasts and launching them into the distance. I was there as moral support, doing my best to offer it in my quiet way.

Lia kept going until I saw her body start to sway from all the energy she was releasing. I reached over to steady her, a low growl escaping me.

"Lia, it's time to stop."

She shook her head. "No, I must keep practicing, Jesse. The test is in two days and I need to make sure I am ready to come Monday. How else am I going to have one chance of passing the test?"

"You won't have a chance of passing the test if you pass out."

When I noticed Lia wasn't going to listen to me, I decided enough was enough. I picked her up in my arms and tossed her over my shoulder.

"Put me down!" Lia shrieked, kicking her legs, and hitting my back with her fists. "I need to practice, Jesse!"

Her shouting did draw attention from the others in the house. Even Gabi and Michael poked their heads out of the room to see what all the fuss was about.

"What's going on?" Gabi asked, her hand holding her swollen belly.

Michael came up behind her, wrapping an arm protectively around her middle.

"It looks like she's putting up a fuss and I'm sure Jesse has a perfectly good reason for it too, don't you, Jesse?"

My eyes softened whenever I see Gabi now. It took a lot to get to me, but seeing her so shaken up all the time was enough to get me to show emotion I usually didn't show.

"Your sister is insisting on practicing even when her body is ready to collapse," I told him, ignoring the sounds of Lia's cries of frustration. "So I decided that if she wasn't going to rest I was going to make her rest, hence why I'm carrying her up to her room."

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Michael rolled his eyes. "Lia, are you serious?"

“He needs to put me down! I am not a child!”

“Then stop acting like one,” Gabi said softly. “Just accept that he wants you at your best and your best is not when your body is ready to give out, Lia.”

Gabi’s words seemed to do the trick. She slumped in my hold, eventually giving up fighting entirely. I flashed Gabi a toothy grin and took Lia the rest of the way to her room.

“Let’s play together until you fall asleep,” I told Lia, dropping her onto her bed.

Before she could scramble off and make a run for the door, I threw an arm around her waist to pin her in place.

“Jesse, when my magic has returned to me and I am well rested, I’m going to turn you into a fucking toad,” she warned.

I rolled my shoulders in a nonchalant shrug. “I’m confident that you love me enough to not turn me into a toad.”

“Bold of you to say I love you that much,” she warned.

She tried to fight the exhaustion but Lia couldn’t fight it for longer than fifteen minutes. Lia fell into a deep sleep, her chest rising and falling with each steady breath she took.

“At least she’s finally fallen asleep,” I muttered to myself, not willing to tangle myself from her body and leave the room.

Lia needed the rest. If I had to lay here and wait until she fell into a deep enough sleep to not wake up then I would do it. Lia was worth it.

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

Colby

Things had been quiet for a while. I think that was when it hit me that something might go wrong. It was two weeks of no attacks on the house or any of us so I started to grow nervous, sometimes staying up until all hours of the night ready to protect the pack if I needed too.

Lia encouraged me to go off to bed one night when she found me. It was rich coming from the woman who had to be carried to bed by Jesse after throwing a large fit. I pointed it out, earning a glare from her.

“We aren’t talking about me,” Lia snapped. “We are talking about you right now, Colby.”

I shrugged. "Yes, but you shouldn't throw stones when you live in a glass house, Lia."

The scowl deepened, causing me to laugh. I closed the distance between us, brushing my lips over her temple.

"You need to sleep," Lia muttered, wrapping her arms around my tightly. "I don't want you to pass out or anything. And it's not like I can heft you over my shoulder, Colby."

A smirk flew to my lips.

"That's true."

"Unless I ask one of the guys to carry you..." she mused playfully.

Or I thought she was being playful.

"I'd like to see one of them try."

Lia smirked. "I could get Jesse to do it."

I coughed. "Okay, that's not fair. You know Jesse scares the shit out of all of us. There is no way I am going to cross him."

"So you know what that means?" Lia asked happily.

"No Lia tell me what it means."

She giggled. "It means you are going to go upstairs and get some sleep. Otherwise I will have to wake Jesse up and no one wants to do that."

With no other choice, I went upstairs to sleep.

But the next night, as I was about to call it quits and go to sleep, I heard a sound from the backyard. Stiffening, I readied myself when there was this bright light, temporarily blinding me. I heard this loud, high pitch scream ring through the air.

It didn't sound like a familiar scream. I knew it wasn't anyone in the house, but it was still strange enough to hear this random scream out of nowhere.

Everyone heard the scream and saw the flash. They rushed downstairs, standing at the back door.

"What the fuck was that?" Matt asked, growling softly.

"I think one of those vampiric charms the clan put up worked," I muttered.

Tegan had told us she put up several protection spells, wards, and charms to protect the house in case one of the coven members tried to attack.

“Could it be one of the clan?” Lia whispered, shifting a little close to Matt out of fear.

Rain, who was either brave or stupid, rushed towards the door. He stepped outside, causing all of us to shout.

“Hey, I see a dead witch out here!” Rain shouted, not using any subtlety. “She looks like one of those witches we fought at the Rosewater Clan’s hideout the other day.”

This piqued my interest. I hurried outside beside Rain to gaze upon the dead woman and it turned out that he was right.

While I couldn’t remember all their faces, I remembered this face specifically. She had attacked me back at the hideout, attempting to take my life but I was able to subdue her in the end.

“Fuck.”

I wondered if some of them were still out there. My eyes looked amongst the darkness, my stomach clenching in anticipation. One of them could attack any moment.

“Let’s get back inside,” Jesse said and no one complained. They all rushed inside after him, determined to protect themselves and the pack.

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Rain

I pressed the phone to my ear, pacing the length of my room as the line rang.

Tegan picked up on the second ring. “Rain. Didn’t expect to hear from you so soon. Something wrong?”

“No, nothing like that,” I said quickly. “I just... wanted to thank you. The protection spells are holding strong.” “Good. That’s what they’re meant to do.”

I could almost hear the shrug in her voice like this was no big deal to her. But it was to me.

“Seriously, Tegan. You didn’t have to go this far.”

She let out a short laugh. “Of course, I did. We’d do anything for a fellow clan member. You know that.”

“I do. But still... it wasn’t a small favor.”

“Doesn’t matter. You needed help. End of story.”

I hesitated, pressing my fingers against my temple. “One of them tried, you know.”

Her voice sharpened instantly. “Tried?”

“Yeah. One of the Rosewater coven members. They got too close to the wards last night. I don’t know what they were planning, but whatever it was, they didn’t get far.” I swallowed hard.

“They didn’t make it out.”

A long pause. When Tegan spoke again, her voice was unreadable. “How bad?” Updates are released by [FindNovel.net](http://FindNovel.net)

“Bad.” My stomach twisted just thinking about it. “The magic hit them hard. They were dead before we even knew they were there.”

Another pause. Then, in a voice devoid of sympathy, she said, “Good.”

I blinked. “Tegan-“

“No, Rain. They knew what they were walking into. Those spells weren’t for show. They were warned.” There was no hesitation, no guilt. “They wanted to test us. Now they have their answer.”

I ran a hand through my hair. “It just... it happened so fast.”

“It was supposed to.”

“I know.” My throat felt tight. “But it’s different, you know? Seeing it happen. It’s not just some theoretical line we drew in the sand-it’s real now. And they’re going to retaliate.”

Tegan sighed like she had been expecting this from me. “Rain. You can’t afford to hesitate. They wouldn’t have.”

“I’m not hesitating.” I exhaled sharply. “I just-damn it, Tegan. They died screaming.”

She was quiet for a moment. Then, softer than before, she said, “And if they had gotten inside, do you think they’d have shown you the same mercy?”

I clenched my jaw. She wasn’t wrong. I knew she wasn’t. But the image wouldn’t leave my head.

“You’re not weak for feeling bad about it,” she continued. “But you can’t let it shake you, either. This isn’t over. It’s only beginning.”

I let out a bitter laugh. “That’s comforting.”

“It’s the truth. And you’d rather hear it from me than learn it the hard way.”

She wasn’t wrong about that, either.

I rubbed my face, trying to push past the unease curling in my stomach. “You always make things sound so simple.”

“Because they are,” she said. “You think too much.”

“Maybe. But I know how much energy those spells took. You’ve got to be exhausted.”

“I’ve had worse.”

“That’s not comforting, Tegan.”

She snorted. “Wasn’t meant to be. Look, I’m fine. And if I wasn’t, I’d handle it.”

“I know you would.” I hesitated. “But that doesn’t mean I can’t worry.”

“You don’t need to.”

“You say that like it changes anything.”

A beat of silence passed before she sighed. “Rain. I’m fine. The spells are fine. You’re safe. That’s what matters.” “Yeah... I guess.”

“Then stop thanking me,” she said dryly. “You’re making me sound nice.”

I huffed out a laugh. “Wouldn’t want that, huh?”

“Not.”

The silence that followed wasn’t uncomfortable. If anything, it felt like a quiet understanding, stretching between us like an invisible thread.

“Well,” I said finally, “I’ll check in soon. Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate it.”

“You’re welcome,” she said, then added, “And Rain? Stay safe.”

“You too, Tegan.”

“Always.”

I ended the call and let out a breath I hadn’t realized I was holding. But the weight on my shoulders hadn’t lifted—it had only shifted.

As happy go lucky as I tried to act, it didn't change the fact that all this death was starting to weigh heavily on me.

How many more people would have to die because this was all over finally.

## Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

"Drive faster, Simone," I muttered, glancing over my shoulder.

Simone snorted. "Relax, Lia. You act like they're gonna chase you down in their cars."

I crossed my arms. "You don't know that. Colby has tracked me down before just because he 'had a feeling' I was stressed."

Simone laughed. "Okay, that's kind of cute."

"It's annoying."

"It's protective."

"It's suffocating."

She shot me a look. "You love it."

I huffed. "Not today. Their nerves will rub off on me. I already feel like I'm going to throw up. If they were in the car, they'd be hovering, asking me a million times if I'm 'okay'—and then I really would throw up."

Simone smirked. "And Matt would dramatically blame himself."

I groaned. "Exactly! Rain would try to be calm, but his leg would be bouncing, Colby would make stupid jokes, and Jesse would be the quietest one—but somehow the most intense."

Simone hummed. "So, what you're saying is... they care."

I rolled my eyes. "Yes. But today, I need space."

"And that's why you snuck out."

I grinned. "I didn't sneak. I... strategically left early."

“Uh-huh. And the fact that you checked to make sure they were asleep before leaving?”

“That’s just being thorough.”

Simone laughed. “You are so in trouble when you get back.”

I sighed. “I know. But it’ll be worth it if I pass. And if I fail... well, I’ll deal with their reactions later.”

“You won’t fail.”

“You don’t know that.”

She scoffed. “I do. I know you, Lia. You stress, you overthink, and then you pull it off like a badass. Every time.”

I exhaled. “I hope you’re right.”

“I am right.”

I tapped my fingers against my leg, staring out the window. The sun was just starting to rise, casting golden light over the empty roads.

“How mad do you think they’ll be?” I asked.

“Oh, furious,” Simone said. “Jesse will probably glare for an hour straight. Rain will be passive-aggressive about how you could’ve asked for support.’ Matt will be sulky. And Colby? Colby’s gonna be so dramatic.”

I winced. “I’ll have to deal with it when I get back.”

“Yep,” she said cheerfully. “But first-you pass this test.”

I nodded, gripping the strap of my bag. “Yeah. First, I pass.”

Simone pulled up to the testing center and put the car in park. “Alright, this is your stop, Miss Magical License.”

I unbuckled my seatbelt but hesitated.

“You got this,” she said, giving me a knowing look.

I let out a breath. “I got this.”

Simone grinned. “Text me when you’re done. And, uh... good luck dealing with your four overprotective mates when you get home.”

I groaned. “Don’t remind me.”

She laughed as I stepped out of the car.

“Go kick ass, Lia!”

I shut the door and watched her drive off, heart pounding.

Now, it was just me and the test.

When I walked in, I swear I felt eyes watching my every move but it was likely just in my head. I squared my shoulders, ready to do my best!

This test was only going to decide my very future.

My stomach started to do flip-flops.

What if I failed? I hadn’t asked if I could take it more than once, assuming I would do it automatically on the first try. Maybe that was my mistake.

But Rain had to do it more than once. Maybe I should just accept that this was simply how it might be for me.

“My nerves are threatening to throw me off my game,” I whispered to myself.

“Lia Brown!” the woman at the front desk called. THIS CHAPTER IS UPDATE BY find\*\*novel.net

I jumped to my feet, wobbling ever so slightly.

“Hello, I’m here!” I called out.

This was it.

I was now going to take my magic test and, finally, see if I could get my magical license.

If Harry Potter could do it then so could I!

So, I took a breath and prepared to jump into the magic trial. First, it was a paper test, which was never fun. Then you had to show you knew the spells you had been practicing. Finally, a potions test.

I truly feel like I had stepped into Hogwarts or something. During a brief break between trials, I nearly did make a joke about it but didn’t think it was going to go over well so I stopped myself. When I was finished, I left the building feeling my nerves on edge. I wasn’t going to find out what happened until a few days from now, adding to my stress. It was annoying but I had to respect the process.

Before I could text Simone, I smelled some familiar scents. I paled, looking around desperately.

My mates were here.

I wonder if I could find a back entrance to escape. Then I'd text Simone and hide out at her house for a while.

Slowly, I stepped away from the door.

Just seconds after I sent her a quick emergency text, Simone responded with two words.

Too late.

My mates knew and no Simone was coming here to save me.

"Lia, are you coming out or what?" Matt asked, sounding annoyed. "We want to get back home!"

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Matt

I was the one to find out that Lia had snuck out in the middle of the morning to take her test. When I first realized she had done this, I was furious. Lia had every right to leave the house when she wanted.

But Lia also knew we wanted to take her to the test. It was like when we accompanied Rain, wanting to give him our support. I went to her room to check on her when I saw a note taped to the door.

I went to take my test. Simone drove me don't be mad.

My anger flared instantly. I didn't realize I was growling until Colby poked his head out of the room and cleared his throat. "Matt, are you okay?"

"Read this," I hissed, gesturing to the note on the door.

Colby's reaction was much more subdued than mine. He sighed heavily, crumbling the note up in his hand.

"Do you want to go pick her up?"

I growled. "Yes."

"Better check in with Simone first. No point in the two of you going there and wasting gas money."

She's going to likely tell me to fuck off or something, I thought but I brushed those thoughts to the side. I decided the easiest way to do this was to text Simone to tell her I was going to pick up Lia.

In the end, Simone didn't give me much pushback. She agreed that I could go ahead and pick Lia up but she wasn't going to be very happy about it. My response was to just shrug because I knew she wasn't going to be happy about it.

If only Lia had told us she wanted us to back off. We would've! Yes, we could be intense but that was our charm.

And this brought us to this moment.

Lia walked out of the building, giving me a look. I smiled, waving at her to come over and join me.

"Why are you here?"

"To pick you up," I said as if it were the most obvious thing in the world.

She rolled her eyes. "Simone was supposed to pick me up."

"Yes, well here I am after you snuck out," I muttered.

Her eyes narrowed. "I have a right to leave the house. Am I a prisoner or something?"

"Lia, that's not what I mean and you know it."

Lia crossed her arms over her chest, eyeing me closely. "Then what do you mean?"

"We would've backed off if you just told us!" I argued. "I know all of us can be intense, but we want to protect you. But if you are feeling suffocated then you need to tell us, okay? How are we supposed to know otherwise? No one is psychic no matter how much Rain likes to pretend he is."

She snorted. "Okay fair enough but sometimes talking to you all is exhausting. It's easier to just sneak out."

"And that is something we need to discuss," I said, gesturing to the car. "In the meantime let's get home. Unless you want to stop somewhere first."

Lia shook her head. "No, I'm exhausted from the test, which I think went great by the way."

"That's great to hear, Lia."

Magic was beyond me. I didn't know a thing about magic and honestly, I liked it that way. It was unpredictable and you never knew what was going to go wrong. One wrong move and it'll blow up in your face.

Sometimes literally. I had seen Lia once conjure a fireball and launch it at a target. It scared me.

"But you guys have got to back off," she warned. "A little bit, at least. Now that my magic skills are improving, you risk getting turned into a toad."

I smirked. "Bet I'll look like a pretty damn good toad."

"Agree to disagree."

## Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Colby

When I found a message in my inbox from the werewolf association. They accepted our application and gave us a date for our full mating ceremony to take place in about three months.

I felt my heart start to beat a bit faster.

How could it be so soon?

It might sound like my fears were getting the best of me and I was facing cold feet, but it wasn't that. I just couldn't believe we had gotten to this point.

A part of me always feared that something was going to go wrong or Lia was going to take off running. In the beginning, this was almost guaranteed. She couldn't stand being around us. The more time she spent around us the more Lia hated us.

But we tried to bond with her in our way.

It worked and it didn't work. Fast forward months and months later, we've managed to all become a unit or a pack if you will. I had never imagined myself becoming a pack leader, but here we are.

I headed downstairs, pausing at the sight. Michael and Gabi were downstairs. They had finally ventured from their bedroom, joining us for breakfast. So far, there had been no talks for them to return to their apartment and I think all of us were fine with having them here.

But with a pup on the way, this place was starting to get crowded.

It was normal in these modern times for us to live apart. This was how wolf clans worked today, but the urge for all of us to live under one roof was strong. I needed to talk to my mates. It was the only thing on my mind.

With a quick text message to the group text, I encouraged them all to meet me downstairs. Most of us spend time in the house since we never knew when some of the other Rosewater Coven members were going to try to attack us.

I hoped they would stay away and continue licking their wounds.

Imagine a powerful coven being taken down by a werewolf pack... and a vampire clan. I couldn't forget the clan. They were the main reason we were able to succeed that day. Guarantee that without them we would have died or gone home very injured.

“So why are we here so early?” Rain asked, barely stifling a yawn. IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE CHAPTERS, PLEASE VISIT [FindNOvel.net](http://FindNOvel.net)

“We got a date for the mating ceremony,” I said, not bothering to beat around the bush.

Everyone turned to look at one another and then back at me. Rain burst out into tears, rushing over to Lia, and pulling her into a tight hug.

“I'm so happy!”

Lia coughed, patting Rain awkwardly on the shoulder.

“It'll be okay Rain.”

“These are happy tears!” he insisted, rubbing at his eyes. “Guys aren't you happy too?”

Everyone was showing happiness in their own way. Matt was flushed, thinking of what it could mean and Rain was crying. I was smiling with a silly smile on my face.

Then there was Jesse. He was... being the typical Jesse, sitting there with an impassive look on his face.

“We have time to plan everything so don't worry about it,” I assured the pack.

Everything was going according to plan. We had Gabi back and we were on track to do the ceremony.

But it felt like something could go wrong at any moment. I almost wanted to hold my breath for fear that something could go wrong.

“Jesse?” I asked, turning my attention to him.

He blinked. “Yeah?”

I chuckled. “Never mind.”

It wasn't surprising this was how Jesse was being. This was his usual reaction to things. He did feel some types of emotions stirring in his chest, but he didn't show it say like Rain was or I might.

Then again no one showed emotions as much as Rain did. He wore his emotions on his sleeve, showing them as easy as someone breathed air.

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Jesse

“Well, it's happening. No turning back now,” Colby said, breaking the silence.

Rain clapped his hands. “This is exciting! Right, Jesse?”

I looked up, barely reacting. “It's fine.”

Rain tilted his head. “You don't look happy.”

Matt smirked. “That's just Jesse. This is him being happy.”

“Fine? That's it?” Colby asked, raising an eyebrow.

“It was inevitable,” I shrugged, tapping my fingers on my thigh. “Now we deal with it.”

Rain threw his hands up. “Unbelievable. The most life-changing thing ever, and you act like it's just the weather.” “Partly cloudy with a high chance of fate,” I muttered.

Matt laughed. “See? He's ecstatic.”

I didn't argue. “Yeah, sure.”

Colby shook his head, a grin on his face. “I swear, you have the most deadpan reactions to everything.”

Rain leaned in, trying to read me. “Seriously though, Jesse. This is huge. Aren't you at least a little excited?”

I gave him a look, my expression never changing. “Of course I am but it doesn't mean I have to jump for literal joy like you, Rain. Why can't you understand that?”

Rain groaned. “You're impossible.”

Matt chuckled. "That's why we love him, though."

I leaned back, stretching my legs out in front of me. "You guys can love me all you want. Doesn't change anything."

Colby gave me a pointed look. "You really don't feel anything about this?"

"Not particularly," I replied, glancing at him. "It's just the way things go. You can't stop it, so you adapt."

Rain frowned, clearly frustrated. "You really need to lighten up."

I shrugged again, tapping my fingers against the armrest. "Lighten up? Maybe after it's done."

Matt leaned forward, his eyes twinkling. "So, after it's done, you'll be dancing in the streets, right?"

I smirked. "I'll think about it."

Colby laughed. "I can't wait for that day."

I just exhaled and sank deeper into the couch, my thoughts still swirling. Then I gave him a long look, not entirely sure if he was serious. "You'll be waiting a while then."

Rain threw his head back, exasperated. "You're impossible, Jesse. Seriously."

I shifted in my seat, crossing my arms again. "Just because I don't put on a show doesn't mean I'm impossible. I'm just... not into all this performative excitement."

Matt leaned forward, his eyes narrowing. "You're still saying you don't care about this, huh?"

I stared at him, silent for a moment, before finally responding. "I didn't say I didn't care. I just don't care the way you want me to."

Colby scratched his chin. "So, you do care?"

I sighed, running a hand through my hair. "Of course, I care. How can I not care that I'm getting mated to Lia? I don't need to be jumping up and down for something that's already been decided."

Rain leaned back, his expression was a mix of frustration and amusement. "You're like a walking contradiction. You act like you don't care, but you do."

I shot him a glance, half-smiling. "Maybe I just don't like showing it."

Matt raised an eyebrow. “Then when are we going to see the real Jesse? The one that doesn’t hide behind that cold exterior?” I paused, wondering how to answer. “Maybe when it matters.”

Lia knew I was happy to be mated to her soon. When it came to Lia, I did let my cool demeanor fall and what replaced it was something softer.

But I wasn’t one to show this much excitement at all, even in such a situation.

Yes, I loved Lia. I’d said that to her many times and she understood how I was. It didn’t matter that I was more subdued than the rest of the guys. All that mattered was that I expressed that I cared about her.

“So we all good?” I asked, looking around the room.

Lia laughed. “Guys lay off Jesse. You know that he does things in his way. I know he cares so you should know that too.” “See, Lia is on my side.”

“I’m on the side of logic and logic dictates this is how Jesse is going to be,” Lia said. “It also doesn’t bother me so I want all of you to keep this in mind.”

## Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

It was a week after my trial, early in the morning, when the number of the Witches Association flashed across my phone.

I paled, pulse racing. Read full story at [findnovel.net](http://findnovel.net)

The phone kept ringing. I was frozen, thumb hovering over the green icon.

If I didn’t answer they would be forced to leave a message. A message I would have to return because they certainly wouldn’t give me the results with a phone call.

I take a deep breath and swipe up.

“Hello?”

“Is this Lia Brown?”

“Yeah, that’s me.”

“We’ve been expecting your call. I have your results here.”

“And?”

“Congratulations, Lia. You passed. You are now officially recognized as a witch.”

“Wait, seriously?”

“Yes, seriously. You demonstrated remarkable skill, control, and endurance during your trials. You met all the requirements, and your potion work was especially impressive.”

“I can’t believe it. I thought I screwed up the second part.”

“Your energy output was high, but you recovered well. The council was impressed by your adaptability.”

“I felt like I was barely holding it together.”

“Nerves are expected. But in the end, you proved yourself capable. That’s what matters.”

“Wow. I-I don’t even know what to say.”

“Just say you’re ready for what comes next. With your official status, you’ll have access to higher-tier spells and resources. We’ll be sending over your certification and additional information soon.”

“So this is real? I can call myself a witch now?”

“Yes, Lia. You’ve earned the title. You’re no longer just a trainee or a novice. You are officially recognized by the Witches’ Association.”

“What happens now? Is there, like, an initiation or something?”

“There are optional induction ceremonies, but they aren’t required. The main thing is that you are now bound by the coven laws and magical regulations. You’ll have access to our spell archives, potion ingredients, and, if necessary, legal protections.”

“Legal protection?”

“There are certain rights afforded to licensed witches. If someone were to challenge your magic or accuse you of unauthorized spell work, you’d have the association backing you. It also means any use of magic in conflicts will be scrutinized more heavily.

“Right. So basically, more power, more responsibility.”

“Exactly. And more opportunities. You’ll be eligible for advanced training, mentorship programs, and even council work if you’re ever interested.”

“That sounds... intense.”

“It can be, but it’s also rewarding. And based on your performance, you’re more than ready for it.”

“Thank you. Really. This means so much.”

“You earned it. Welcome to the ranks, Lia.”

“I won’t let you down.”

“We’ll be in touch. Enjoy your celebration.”

“Yeah... I think my mates are going to freak out when they hear about this.”

“Good luck with that.”

“Seriously, I think they might throw a party before I even finish telling them. They’ve been on edge waiting for the results.” “That’s understandable. This is a big moment for you.”

“Yeah. It feels... surreal. I’ve spent so long working for this, and now that it’s real, I don’t even know how to process it.”

“Take a breath and enjoy it. You earned this, Lia.”

“Thanks. I will.”

When I hung up, I let out a squeal of excitement.

Oh my god, I did it! I did it!

My face was lit up, eyes shining and pulses still racing. This was amazing. I finally had everything I wanted.

Getting my magic license was going to help further protect us all from the Rosewater Coven if they wanted to attack us again.

I smiled to myself, sending a text message on the pack group text. Everyone was thrilled for me. They were congratulating me and I smiled, happy that they were saying their thanks.

This was everything I wanted it to me and more.

Simone and I talked privately. She tried to talk me into a party but I didn’t want to do anything really. It was enough to know that I had achieved something I never thought I would achieve.

Magic was never something I thought I was capable of. No one knew we had magic in our blood. Our grandmother and possibly our mother had kept it from us for whatever reason. They found it easier to let us think we were full werewolves.

But they should've told us. Maybe if we had known then we would've been better prepared for the situation.

The coven wouldn't have taken us by surprise, eventually kidnapping Gabi. She was still struggling and trying to adjust to being back home. When we asked her about what she faced there, Gabi was very blunt.

Gabi said that they were nice to her the entire time if Gabi listened. If she tried to show any difference then they would start threatening her. All she could do was go along with what they were saying and obey them because she didn't want to risk losing her child.

I didn't hold anything against her at all. Gabi did what she had to do to survive, something all of us would do if we were in that situation.

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With my magical license in my hands, I was ready to take the world by storm! Or the magical world anyway. I still planned to take magical lessons. How would I be able to grow without the lessons?

Sighing softly, I flopped onto my bed one night after practice. I spent the entire day practicing but I wanted to practice more. So I quietly slipped outside and into the backyard.

There was this sound in the distance. I tensed, looking around.

"Whoever is there needs to get the fuck off our property!" I shouted.

I knew where the protection spells begin and ended. So I was careful not to walk past it.

This woman stepped out of the darkness, a sneer on her face.

"You ruined us," the woman shouted.

Before I could say anything, she shouted this spell. Electricity crackled through the air and the protection spell lapsed for a moment, but it was all she needed to run inside the barrier.

I put up a forcefield around me, stopping her blow of magic. The woman stumbled backwards, quickly umping back to her feet. "Learned some new tricks, didn't you?" she taunted, gathering fireballs in both her hands.

I prepared myself, not bothering to call my mates. This was do or die.

If I tried to call out to them then it would be too late. They wouldn't get here in time even if it were just upstairs!

I fought back tooth and nail, matching the woman with every blow I could manage myself. She faltered for a second, giving me a chance to gain the upper hand.

It was going to leave me open and vulnerable, but there was no other option. This was the only way to kill her.

I muttered a spell under my breath, the energy blast sending the woman flying. She lashed out at me, but mine hit her first and ended her life. It was easy to tell when she let out this loud gasping breath that was commonly referred to as a death rattle.

My body started to sway. I felt myself falling towards the ground at an alarming rate. But before my body could hit it, someone caught me.

Slowly I blinked and looked up.

Colby was holding me. He was looking at me, anger flashing in his eyes.

"Hi," I slurred, waving up at him.

He looked like he wanted to kill me if I wasn't already injured. It made me giggle a little harder. The guy was very mad. Colby was also worried.

Wait were the other guys surrounding me now too.

I looked around, smiling at them.

"Hi guys."

Rain shouted something. They brought me inside, checking my wounds.

I started to fall into unconsciousness, unable to stay awake.

It was okay. I wasn't going to die.

They were going to help me. All they had to do was stabilize my wound and ensure that the bleeding was stopped.

I hoped they weren't angry at me. Maybe I had acted a little too foolishly but I had to make sure that I was doing what needed to be done here.

"Jesse--"

"I'm on it, Matt!"

I've never heard Jesse so angry before. Or panicked.

I think that was what made me realize this was serious. He was showing he was panicked and I feared, for a moment, that I was going to die.

The last thing I wanted to do was leave my four mates—who weren't even my mates yet!

Please let me live.

## Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

I groaned, throwing my head back against the couch. "I swear, if one more of them tries to fluff my pillows or bring me soup, I'm going to scream."

Simone snorted. "Oh no. Not soup. The horror."

"I'm serious. They're driving me nuts. I love them, but they've cranked the overprotectiveness to suffocating levels. I can't even go to the bathroom without one of them hovering outside like I'm going to keel over mid-walk."

"To be fair, you did almost die."

"Details." I waved a hand. Then, after a beat, I straightened. "You have to get me out of here."

Simone blinked. "What?"

"Smuggle me out. Through the window. Just for an hour. I need space."

She burst out laughing. "Not."

"Come on! I am being held hostage by my mates!"

"And you think I want to be an accomplice in your inevitable downfall? Yeah, no. I like living, thanks."

"Coward."

"Survivor," she corrected. "Besides, let's be real, you honestly think you'd make it five steps before one of them sensed you were gone and came running?"

I groaned. "No. They probably have some creepy sixth sense attuned to me at all times."

“Exactly. So, instead of scheming an escape plan that will get you caught in under a minute, how about we pick something to watch?”

I sighed. “Fine. But if one of them brings me another blanket, I’m setting it on fire.”

I huffed, crossing my arms. “You could at least try. Maybe create a diversion. Start a small fire. Fake a fainting spell. Something.”

Simone grinned. “Oh, sure. Let me just set myself on fire real quick. That’ll work out great for both of us.”

“You’re being dramatic.”

“No, you’re being delusional if you think I’m getting involved in this. Do you know what would happen if your mates caught me sneaking you out? I’d never be allowed back in this house. I am not losing my best friend privileges because you have cabin fever.”

I let out a long, suffering sigh. “You’re the worst.”

“Correction-I am the only reason you haven’t completely lost your mind. Now, stop pouting and embrace your fate. You are stuck here, surrounded by love and devotion. The horror.”

“You don’t get it.” I turned to her, pleading. “It’s non-stop, Simone. They take shifts watching me. They won’t even let me walk to the kitchen alone. Colby carries me up the stairs like I’m some frail Victorian woman about to perish from a mild breeze.”

Simone burst out laughing. “Okay, that’s hilarious. And very on-brand for Colby.”

“It’s not funny!” I threw a pillow at her, but she dodged it easily. “Rain keeps checking my temperature like I’m secretly dying. Matt has become my chef. And don’t even get me started on how Jesse and Jesse have turned into my bodyguards. He just stands there, arms crossed, glaring at nothing, like danger will materialize in my living room.”

Simone wiped away tears from laughing. “That’s love, babe.”

“That’s suffocation.”

She leaned back, looking entirely too comfortable. “Well, you should’ve thought about that before you went and got yourself almost killed. Actions have consequences, you know.” Check latest chapters at [find•novel.net](http://findnovel.net)

I groaned, dragging a hand down my face. “I need air, Simone.”

“You have a window.”

“AIR, Simone. The kind that doesn’t come with constant supervision.”

She smirked. “Too bad. You’re under lockdown. And honestly? It’s kind of nice seeing them fuss over you. You deserve it.”

I grumbled, sinking deeper into the couch. “I hate this.”

“No, you don’t. You love them, and deep down, you love that they’re taking care of you.”

I glared at her. “That is slander.”

“That is the truth,” she shot back. “Now, stop fighting it. Let them dote on you. Milk it for all it’s worth. If they want to fluff your pillows and bring you food, let them. You’ll miss it when they stop.”

I scoffed. “Doubtful,”

Simone smirked. “We’ll see.”

She watched the movie with me as she promised. I didn’t want her to go because I was sick of staying in this room, trying to heal.

After I was injured, I was in and out of consciousness. I woke up about two days later in my bedroom. There was an IV drip attached to my arm.

How had they managed to not put me in a hospital?

Found out later that they did have me in the hospital but there was nothing they could do because it was a magical injury. So they called my teacher who called a doctor who was an expert on wounds from magical attacks.

It had been touch and go for a while, something I was shocked to learn. How could it be touch and go? I can’t believe I nearly died.

Had it truly been that serious?

The guys were angry at me, torn between wanting to express their anger and wanting to shower me with love and attention.

I felt bad for what I had done to them. It had never been my attention to worry them but there was no going back now.

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Matt

It had been a stressful few days. One minute we’re lying in bed then we smell something burning followed by blood.

The smell, it turned out, was magic. Magic leaves this strange smell afterward. It's a mix of burnt ash and sulfur, not a scent I think I'll ever be able to get used to.

Colby was the one who ran out and found Lia lying there, struggling to breathe. He started giving us orders, taking initiative, and being the one to take charge. It proved that making him a pack leader had been an excellent choice.

The man could work under pressure.

On the field, it was Colby who was the captain of the rugby team. It made sense that he would also be the one who would take the lead of our pack.

It felt like it was touch and going for a while. We had to reach out to her teacher because this was no normal wound. The wound was magical.

All of us took turns taking watch over her. I was thrilled when Lia finally opened her eyes and was back with us.

But I was also angry. She had put her life at risk and we nearly lost her.

It's safe to say after that, all of us started to act overprotective. We weren't letting her out of our sight, not wanting her to get hurt. I know I promised we wouldn't get out of control like this but the four of us had no other choice with the stunt she pulled.

Now she was healing. I could see Lia was frustrated with sitting in bed so long but the doctor ordered that she had to take it easy.

One time I entered the room, bringing her some food, I noticed she was looking out the window longingly.

"Lia," I called out.

She looked at me, a pout forming on her lips. It reminded me a bit of Rain, though he had perfected the pout. Lia still had some ways to go.

"I want to go outside."

"You can go outside," I said to her, smirking. "But you'll have to let me carry your bridal style."

Lia looked away, her scowl deepening. "I'd rather you throw me over your shoulder like a sack of potatoes just like Jesse did the other day."

"I could do that but it would jostle your wounds, which will lead to you spending more time in your bed. Is that truly what you want?" I pointed out, giving her a look.

She sunk back down into the covers, the scowl on her face deepening.

“I hate this.”

“Lia it’s only for a few more days and then you’ll be able to start moving around more. Hell, you’ll be able to go back to school.”

Doing work online wasn’t easy for everyone. I am sure Lia was doing good. She was never one to let this bother her.

Our professional lives were a bit of a mess right now. We weren’t giving the team as much dedication as we could but everything had been so crazy it just kept slipping our mind.

“Fine, I want to go out. Pick me up,” Lia demanded, causing me to grin.

I scooped her up effortlessly in my arms, enjoying the way she clung to me. She always seemed afraid that we were going to drop her but there was no chance of that ever happening.

## Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

I had finally healed and all I could think of was getting hell out of this house.

“We should go away for the weekend,” I had said, leaning forward with excitement. “Get a suite, spend the night together, just the five of us.”

Rain immediately furrowed his brows. “Why can’t we just stay home?”

Before I could answer, Jesse smirked and threw an arm over the back of the couch. “Because Lia’s brother is here and doesn’t want to hear his sister’s cries of passion.”

My face burned instantly. “Jesse!” I hissed, swatting at him, but that only made him chuckle.

“Calm down,” Colby interjected, always the peacemaker, though there was amusement dancing in his eyes.

Matt, however, wasn’t having it. “Shut up,” he muttered, clearly irritated by the whole discussion.

“You shut up,” Jesse shot back. “Just because you don’t want to admit it’s a good idea doesn’t mean—”

Matt cut him a glare. “It’s not about that. It’s about you being incapable of having a normal conversation without making it weird.”

Jesse grinned. “Weird? Or brutally honest?”

Rain rolled his eyes. “You’re being insufferable, is what you’re being.”

“You love it,” Jesse said, winking.

“I don’t,” Rain deadpanned.

“Look, the point is,” I interrupted before this spiraled any further, “a weekend away could be nice. We could all use a break.” Colby nodded, ever the reasonable one. “She’s not wrong. A change of scenery could be good for us.”

“Fine,” Rain relented, crossing his arms. “But I’m not sharing a bed with Jesse. He kicks.”

“You love it,” Jesse repeated with a smirk.

“Not.”

“Wait, wait, wait,” Matt cut in, rubbing his temples. “We’re seriously considering this now. After Jesse just—” He gestured vaguely in Jesse’s direction as if that alone summed up his entire personality.

“I did nothing wrong,” Jesse said smugly.

Matt sighed, looking seconds away from strangling him.

And now, here I was, sitting there, mortified unbelievable while my mates bickered over the logistics of our nonexistent weekend getaway. I buried my face in my hands, groaning.

“Forget I said anything,” I mumbled.

Jesse chuckled beside me, entirely too pleased with himself. “Oh no, princess, we’re not forgetting this.”

Before I could argue, footsteps echoed from the hallway. Michael walked by, barely even glancing at us as he said flatly, “Please get a hotel.”

My soul left my body.

Colby snorted. Rain covered his mouth, shaking with suppressed laughter. Jesse outright cackled.

Matt sighed heavily. “Great. Now he’s involved.”

Michael reappeared just long enough to add, “I was already involved the moment I realized you guys don’t understand volume control.”

I groaned louder. "I hate everything."

Rain wiped fake tears from his eyes. "This is the best day of my life."

Matt stood up abruptly. "No. No weekend trip. I'm putting my foot down."

I squinted at him. "Since when do you get the final say?"

"Since I know exactly how this will go. Jesse will cause trouble, Rain will complain, Colby will try to keep the peace, you'll be stressed, and I'll have to deal with all of it."

Rain gasped dramatically. "I am offended by your lack of faith."

Colby snickered. "You're also proving his point."

Jesse nodded. "Yeah, no lies detected."

Rain scowled. "Fine. But if we do go, I'm picking the hotel."

"No," everyone said in unison.

"Rude."

But after some more talking, we decided to throw caution to the wind and go check into a hotel.

I was desperate to get out of this house after spending so long inside, stuck healing from my injuries.

It was something I did to myself. I knew this.

If only I hadn't run out into the backyard, determined to fight that witch.

Not only did I win but I lived to tell the tale.

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The hotel suite we checked into was big enough for five people. It had several adjoining rooms and I was a little hesitant to spend this much money on it, but there was plenty of money left from what my parents left us. There was no worry of it ever running out.

Though, I didn't want to think about my parents right now.

Jesse was between my legs, my dress pulled up around my hips. He was licking my sex like a man starving, causing moans of pleasure to slip from my lips. I could feel hands on my breasts, kneading them and roughly pinching my nipples.

Then there were the moans coming from my other mates. They were watching me get pleased by Jesse, jerking themselves off. Hearing their goals and groans of pleasure from just looking at me was more than I could handle.

But before I could reach completion, he pulled away much to my frustration.

“Jesse,” I whimpered.

He chuckled. “If you want to come it’s going to be on my cock.” [READ LATEST CHAPTERS AT Find\\_Novel\(.\)net](#)

Without much warning, he pushed inside and filled me up instantly. Jesse thrust inside me fast, hitting that spot with every movement of his cock. I came sooner than I intended, unable to do anything but lay there as Jesse reached competition inside

me.

When he pulled out I whimpered. Colby lifted me, Matt taking his place between my legs.

“Is it too much?” Colby murmured, kissing the side of my head.

I shook my head. “No, it isn’t.

Colby released his cock, rubbing it against my ass. Meanwhile, Matt was pushing inside making me gasp. It was almost like they were both fucking me. One day I think I wanted to try it but for now, I was content with only this.

Both were groaning, adding to my pleasure. I felt a thumb on my clit, bringing me closer and closer to orgasm. My second orgasm.

It hit me by surprise again, causing me to clench down on Matt’s cock still thrusting inside me. He groaned, filling me with his seed, Colby following suit.

Then there was Rain. I was tired and feeling a bit sore, but I motioned for Rain to come over. Without hesitation, I took him into my mouth. He gasped, thrusting into his mouth just a bit. Rain didn’t want to hurt me but I wanted him to come undone, to seek pleasure from me until he came.

When it was all over, I felt myself being moved to the tub. It was there I soaked for a while, basking in the warmth of the water.

I was tired but I felt so good. It was amazing being with all of them at once.

The five of us were still trying to find a routine that worked for us. It wasn’t perfect but it worked for us.

Even though I was tired, I managed to climb out of the tub on wobbly legs. I threw on a loose t-shirt and shorts, toweling my hair dry. When I came back into the room, the guys were off in the other rooms cleaning themselves off.

I threw myself onto the big bed, giggling to myself. It was so crazy that I had gotten to the point where I was comfortable sleeping and being sexual with the four.

This was something I never imagined!

But we were able to achieve it.

I started to fall asleep when I felt the bed dip.

“Who is it?” I asked, the words coming out mumble.

Rain snickered. “It’s me. I’ll sleep in here tonight with you and Colby. Jesse and Matt will sleep in here tomorrow.” “Hmm.”

He threw his arm around me, cuddling close. Colby ended up joining us, sleeping on the other side of me. By the time Colby made it to bed I was almost completely asleep. I did mumble out a good night, but my exhaustion was so strong by this point.

Colby would understand so I allowed myself to fall asleep, throwing all caution to the wind.

## Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Jesse

The sounds escaping Lia right now were driving me mad. She was on the bed, bouncing on top of Colby’s cock. I was stroking my own slowly, not wanting the moment to be over.

Her breasts were bouncing, moans spilling from her lips. Colby held onto her hips tight enough to bruise. I remember the one time I left bruises in the shape of fingerprints on her hips.

It was beyond enticing to leave my mark on her. All of us probably felt that way at some point.

When Lia did come, she collapsed on top of Colby’s chest. He lifted her off, finishing outside of her. She whimpered, rolling over and spreading her legs.

“Jesse, please.”

I groaned, surprised I didn’t come at once.

Colby climbed off the bed and I sat down where he had once been. I pulled Lia into my lap, allowing her arms to drape over my shoulders. She could do little but cling to me in desperation.

It was as if she were nothing more than a rag doll. I knew I wasn't going to last long with her whimpers of pleasure and the way she was gripping my cock every time I thrust inside her.

The other guys were around the hotel suite. I could smell them and hear their growls of pleasure. It was strange at first to get used to hearing these noises all the time, but now it was second nature.

We shared a mate—one mate. With their being four of us we were going to have to essentially get used to seeing each other in such states.

I was a little apprehensive about it before but now I was fine with it. So was everyone else.

Rain took some time getting used to it, him being the shyest out of all of us. But one look at Lia in the throes of passion and that was enough to make him realize he didn't give a shit who was watching.

When I came inside Lia, I growled. I had to bite down on my lip to not bite down on her neck. There was no neck biting until the official mating ceremony where we would all bite Lia and she would bite us. From there, we would kiss and allow a little of the other's blood to get into our system.

It was a way of becoming one. I never thought we'd be doing the mating ceremony so soon, but Lia was insistent on it.

Gabi's situation had woken us all up. Life was too short and sometimes you had to be a little bit impulsive.

After I came inside her, the two of us just lay there for a while. I felt Lia slump against me, mumbling something under her breath.

"Lia," I murmured, kissing the side of her head.

She muttered something, slowly opening her eyes.

"What?"

"I'm still inside you."

Lia squeaked, jerking upright. Laughing, I helped her climb off my lap, my softening cock slipping out of her.

"Can you go grab some washcloths?" she asked me, yawning.

I nodded, kissing her on the forehead. “Yeah, just give me a minute.”

When I returned, she was nearly asleep. I was able to wash her off without even waking her, tucking her under the sheets and glad I managed to not wake her.

It was a surprise I didn’t but I guess that was how exhausted she was.

Yawning, I snuggled in beside her.

It was time to sleep.

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Lia

As we walked through the front door, I stretched my arms over my head, feeling pleasantly exhausted from the weekend. The trip had been exactly what we needed—fun, intimate, and completely free from distractions. But the moment we stepped inside, Michael was waiting for us, arms crossed, eyebrows raised.

“So,” he said, his tone unreadable. “How was the weekend?”

I opened my mouth to answer, but Rain beat me to it.

“It was amazing,” he grinned. “We got this huge suite, and the bed was massive—“

Jesse smacked him on the back of the head before he could continue.

Rain yelped, rubbing the spot. “Ow! What was that for?”

Jesse shot him a pointed look. “Because Lia is Michael’s sister, you dumbass.”

Michael exhaled sharply, pinching the bridge of his nose. “Yeah, no details, please. I was just being polite.”

Colby, ever the diplomat, cleared his throat. “It was a good trip. Relaxing. That’s all.”

Michael eyed us suspiciously but seemed to accept the answer. “Good. Because if I hear even one thing I don’t want to know, I’m moving out.”

I groaned. “Michael, you’re being dramatic.”

He shook his head. “No, I’m being reasonable. And I know Rain. He has no filter.”

Rain opened his mouth to argue but then seemed to think better of it. He huffed instead, muttering under his breath about “unappreciated storytelling.”

Michael sighed. "Glad you're all back safe. Now, I'm going to go bleach my brain just in case."

As he walked off, I turned to my mates, shaking my head. "See? This is why I told you to behave."

Jesse smirked. "I did behave. It's Rain you have to worry about."

Rain scoffed. "I was just setting the scene!"

Colby patted his shoulder. "And now you've set Michael on a path of deep regret."

I covered my face with my hands. "Next time, we're sneaking back in."

Matt chuckled. "Please. You think Michael doesn't have the whole house wired for sound?"

I gasped. "You think he heard-"

"NOPE," Michael's voice called from down the hall. "And I don't want to!"

Jesse burst out laughing. "Yeah, I think we broke him."

Rain sighed dramatically. "No one appreciates my storytelling talents."

"Tell that to Michael's therapist," Colby quipped.

I groaned again. My mates laughed.

Rain flopped onto the couch with a pout. "You're all just jealous of my ability to captivate an audience."

Matt rolled his eyes. "Yeah, Rain. That's it."

Jesse smirked. "I mean, he did get a reaction. Just not the one he wanted."

Colby shook his head. "Next time, maybe leave out the bed details."

Rain crossed his arms. "Fine. Next time, I'll keep it classy. Maybe open with a candlelit dinner description instead."

"Or," I said quickly, "maybe just say 'we had fun' and leave it at that."

Rain huffed but nodded. "Fine. But it's a real waste of my narrative skills."

Maybe next time, we'll rent a place farther away and then not talk about it.

No discussion whatsoever.

And absolutely no Rain commentary.

It had been good for the five of us to go away and spend some quality time together. With Michael and Gabi now staying with us, it was hard to find time alone together.

I had asked Michael the other day if he wanted to stay here for good and my brother grew quiet, unsure how to answer.

“Michael?”

He sighed. “Give me a minute, Lia. I’m thinking.” THIS CHAPTER IS UPDATE BY [NovelFind.net](#)

“It’s either a yes or no question.”

“You make it sound so simple. It’s not, even though I wish it were.”

The apartment was owned by Gabi’s parents, so it’s not like they wouldn’t be able to easily get out of the lease. They would with no problem!

But it was the thought of moving back home that must shake Michael up.

He had been so determined to move out and give me and my mates space. Then he came back after Gabi was taken from him, with no sign of going back home.

In this place, where we were raised, there was comfort here around every corner. It was our childhood home, for god’s sake!

“I think we’ll be staying here for a while,” he said after a long pause. “Is that okay?”

“Michael, of course, it’s okay. It’s your home too.”

“I know, but I don’t want to get in the way.”

“You’re not in the way.”

He let out a dry chuckle. “Tell that to your mates. Pretty sure they’d rather have their space.”

I shook my head. “No, Michael. That’s not true.”

He gave me a skeptical look, but before I could say anything else, the sound of someone sniffing caught our attention.

We both turned just as Rain stepped into the room, his face red, his eyes watery.

Michael’s eyes widened. “Are you-are you crying?”

Rain sniffed again, wiping his face aggressively. "Shut up."

Michael blinked. "What-why-"

"You idiot!" Rain cut him off, his voice cracking. "Did you think we wouldn't want you to stay? That we'd just be fine with you leaving? You're family, Michael! You don't get to just decide you're in the way like some unwanted guest!"

Michael stared at him, completely thrown off. "Rain..."

"No, don't 'Rain' me! You're staying, no matter what. I don't care how long it takes for you to feel like yourself again. I don't care if you take over the entire damn house. Just stay."

A heavy silence fell between them.

Then Michael exhaled sharply, running a hand over his face. "Jesus, Rain."

"I mean it," Rain muttered, looking down, his voice quieter now.

Michael looked like he had no idea what to say to that. His jaw tightened, his eyes flickering with emotion before he finally let out a shaky breath and pulled Rain into a hug.

Rain clung to him immediately. "You're such a dumbass," he mumbled into Michael's shoulder.

Michael let out a weak laugh. "Yeah, I know."

I watched them, my throat tightening, and when they finally pulled apart, Michael turned back to me.

"Well," he said, voice rough, "I guess that settles it."

"You were always staying," I said softly.

Michael nodded, clearing his throat. "Yeah."

Rain sniffled again. "And if you ever say you're in the way again, I swear to god, I will make it my life's mission to annoy you every second of every day."

Michael rolled his eyes. "Like you don't already."

Rain grinned. "Fair point."

I smiled, feeling the tension finally break.

"Alright," Michael said after a beat. "I guess I should start getting my stuff in order, then."

Rain crossed his arms. “Already ahead of you. I moved all your stuff back into your old room when you weren’t looking.” Michael blinked. “Wait, what?”

Rain smirked. “Yeah. Hope you weren’t too attached to your apartment because you officially live here now.”

Michael groaned. “You’re unbelievable.”

“And you love me.”

Michael sighed, shaking his head. “Unfortunately.”

I laughed. “Welcome home, Michael.”

Honestly, I was fine with Michael staying as long as he wanted. The same went to Gabi.

## Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

After the many attempts on our lives by the Rosewater Coven, we filed another appeal at the Werewolf association. I was shocked to hear from them one morning, but I answered right away.

The conversation started normal. They said they had managed to work together with the magical association to reach out to the Rosewater Coven who were willing to give up on the blood oath under one condition.

But the condition set me off.

“The only way they’ll drop the blood oath is if we pack up and leave the state? That’s insane!” I snapped, barely able to keep my voice steady.

How could they suggest such a thing? It was insanity!

This place was our home. Why should we have to leave because they were refusing to leave the blood oath alone? Their stupid pride was to blame for everything.

“These are the only terms they’re willing to agree to,” the voice on the other end responded, calm and unbothered. “Either you relocate, or the blood oath remains in place.”

I gritted my teeth. “Do you even hear yourself? You’re asking an entire pack to uproot their lives because a bunch of vengeful witches won’t back down.”

“I understand this isn’t ideal, but negotiations have been difficult. This is their final offer.”

“So that’s it? We either run or live under constant threat?”

“At this point, yes. It’s the only way to guarantee your safety.”

I let out a bitter laugh. “Guarantee our safety? That’s a joke. They’ll just come after us wherever we go!”

“We can only do so much, Colby. This is the best outcome we could secure.”

“Best outcome? This is a goddamn death sentence disguised as a choice. Do you expect us to abandon our home, our lives, and everything we’ve built, just because the Rosewater Coven demands it? What kind of negotiation is that?”

“It’s a realistic one. You knew this wouldn’t end in your favor. The coven is unwilling to budge, and the council isn’t willing to risk open conflict. This is what compromise looks like.”

“Compromise?” My voice rose, fury burning in my chest. “This isn’t compromise! A compromise would be them backing the hell off. A compromise would be an actual solution instead of bending over and letting them dictate where we can and can’t exist!”

“The council has spoken. These are the only terms on the table. If you refuse, the blood oath stands, and the coven will continue their pursuit. I don’t need to remind you what that means.”

Silence hung between us like a blade, sharp and unforgiving.

“You don’t need to remind me of anything,” I finally said, my voice flat. “I know exactly what’s at stake. What I don’t understand is why the hell you expect us to just roll over and accept this.”

“Because the alternative is worse.”

I clenched my jaw so hard it ached. “Worse than being hunted? Worse than tearing an entire pack from the only home they’ve ever known? Tell me, what exactly is worse than that?”

A pause. “More death. More blood. More of your people suffering, Colby. That’s what’s worse.”

My stomach twisted, my anger burning even hotter.

“So you’re telling me to run, to give up everything, or else more people die?” I spat. “That’s what this comes down to?”

“That’s what it always comes down to,” they said, voice colder than before. “This is war, whether you like it or not. And in war, survival matters more than pride.”

“You have until the end of the month to decide,” the voice continued. “But I’d advise you not to wait that long. The coven is watching. The longer you stay, the more dangerous this becomes.”

“Yeah? Well, thanks for nothing.”

I ended the call before they could say another word. My fingers curled tightly around the phone, my entire body shaking with fury.

There was no winning this. Not like this.

I wanted to throw my phone against the wall, not caring if it shattered into a million pieces.

How could they be like this? It was something I couldn’t wrap my mind around. They should be willing to help us no matter what. Isn’t helping your fellow wolves what you should do?

But no. They seemed more like they wanted to throw us under the bus.

I couldn’t imagine any of us leaving this state. This city was all we knew. Our friends and family were here.

Then I had to consider Lia and Michael. This house was their parents’ estate, something that was all they had left of them. There was no way they were going to leave it, not without a fight at least.

Slowly, I reached for my phone and brought up the group chat we had for the entire pack. I needed Simone and her mates to come over here because this was something they needed to be a part of as well.

It was of the utmost importance we discuss this right away. I didn’t want to ruin their moods or days, but what else could I do? As pack leader, it was up to me to tell them and that was what I would do.

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Calling a pack meeting was not something I had done in awhile but it had to be done. When I was finished explaining everything, I swear you could cut the tension with a knife..

“The hell kind of choice is that?” Jesse growled, pacing back and forth. “We pack up and run or stay and get picked off one by one? That’s not a choice. That’s a goddamn threat.”

“They want us gone,” Simone said, arms crossed, voice flat. “And the Werewolf Association is just letting it happen. Typical.” “They aren’t letting it happen,” Matt muttered. “They just don’t care.”

I gripped the back of a chair, my knuckles white. “They expect us to throw our entire lives away. To leave everything behind like it means nothing.” The thought made my stomach turn. They

wanted us to uproot everything, to abandon not just our home but our history, and our families. Like we were disposable. Like we didn't matter.

Lia, quiet until now, finally spoke from her place by the window. "They think we'll be scared enough to do it." This chapter is updated by find~novel~net

"Well, they're wrong," Rain said, firmly. "We're not running."

I lifted my head and looked at him. "No, we're not."

"They won't stop, though," Jesse pointed out. "Even if we stay, they'll just keep coming at us. This isn't just about the blood oath anymore. They want a war."

"Then we give them one," Simone said, eyes flashing.

Matt shook his head. "Easy to say, but how do we fight back? It's not just a few witches—we're talking about an entire coven. Silence settled over us for a moment. It was a valid point. The Rosewater Coven had numbers, resources, and the backing of the magical council. But they weren't invincible.

“

"We're not alone," Lia reminded him. "We have allies. The vampires. Other packs that aren't too afraid to stand with us. We're not as outnumbered as they want us to think."

I glanced around the room, at the faces of my pack—my family. Each of them held the same determination, the same fire. We had been pushed, cornered, tested over and over again. But we were still standing. And I'd be damned if I let the Rosewater Coven drive us out of our home.

"So we stand our ground?" I asked, already knowing the answer.

Jesse nodded first. "We stand."

"No matter what comes," Rain added.

Simone cracked a grin, sharp and full of defiance. "Let them try to chase us out."

I exhaled, my decision final. "Then we get ready. Because if they want a war... we'll damn well give them one."

It was easy to say that, but I knew leaving was not an option. This was our home!

I was attached to this place because it was my home away from home. All of us had been coming here since we were kids to hang out with Michael and now it held a different meaning. It was the place where all of us were able to bond with Lia and convince her that we should try to see this mating to the end. Or see where it went.

Now Lia had accepted all of us. We had accepted each other, bringing Simone, her mates, Michael, and Gabi into the fold. I mean, we were a real pack now!

“There will be a fallout,” Michael finally said, smiling from ear to ear. “And you know what? I don’t give a fuck about the association. They turned their backs on us, without so much as any hesitation on their part. Why should I do anything they say?”

He was right.

“We’ll figure it out,” I assured Michael.”

And we would.

Somehow.