

Stuck in a love time warp

Stuck in a love time warp

By : **Reylene Abbott**

This story is about a high school senior who doesn't believe in love and commitment. She gets sucked into a time warp that brings her to medieval times. There she is forced to marry a Prince, but will this relationship become true love?



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Stuck in a love time warp : Chapter 1

Chapter one

My alarm went off a little too loud and early for my liking. I just stayed in bed thinking of this crazy day ahead of me. First I had school, then a graduation meeting, and of course my brother's birthday party. On top of all that I would have to study for finals. Being a senior is stressful! I guess I'm getting a little ahead of myself. I should tell you a little more about myself. Well my name is Miranda VanHoover. Clearly I'm a senior in high school. I'm seventeen and live in Idaho with my mom, dad, and little brother. I know a lot of you are saying, "where the heck is Idaho?" Well it's somewhere between Canada and Mexico. It's a big state with nothing much in it. I come from a really small town. Our population is nine hundred people, twenty tractors, and a lot of horses. Sure I take pride in my small town, but I have a feeling I won't be here long after high school.

"Miranda, you're going to be late."

"Mom I'm ready you can calm down now." I made my way down the stairs, taking my sweet time. I've noticed I go really slow when I'm headed to something I don't want to do. "Oh morning Jake, happy 13th birthday."

"Thanks, now can we go I don't want to be late."

"It's just school."

"You're a senior, you guys don't do anything, but us 8th graders spend our school time wisely."

"Oh please, half of you still pick your nose!"

"All right kids, that's enough get going. Miranda, don't forget after your graduation meeting you're meeting us at the party center."

"I know mom."

"What is that smell?"

"Oh it's probably my football gear."

"Nasty! I need a coffee before school."

"You clearly don't care about education."

"Oh please you know that's a lie." As I waited for my coffee I thought about it. Did I care about my education? I got straight A's, but those weren't too hard to get. I was accepted into some pretty great colleges. If only my mother knew that I even applied. She wants me right by her side at home, in a small town. Everyone knew that my mother would blow up if she found out I was looking at out of state colleges. I finally got my coffee and headed off to school. We rode the rest of the way in silence...just the way I like it. When we pulled up to the school my brother was greeted by his friends. A bunch of 8th graders hanging around my truck didn't exactly scream "I'm cool." My brother was pretty popular because of football, but it was still weird. I grabbed my bag and coffee and started to walk away. Hopefully he remembers mom is picking him up. As soon as I walked in the bell rang, yes right on time. I walked into literature and took a seat.

"Miranda, are you alright?"

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"Yes, just a little tired and cranky." She must have gotten the hint because she left me alone. I watched as the students began to file in. I couldn't help but think how different our class was. Not one of us was exactly alike. I think this worked better for use. If we had cliques we would have drama. We all had one thing in common, we were all ready to graduate! Only 55 more days.

"Good morning class. I hope you did your reading assignment." Truth was I did read, it just not with a clear head. It had to do with some guy getting lost in a time warp. He ended up in medieval times or something like that. Mr. Drimy went on and on and on about the story. You could tell he was excited about the story. I don't know why. It's not like that could ever really happen. Finally after what seemed like ten hours the bell rang. Only three more periods of school today. Unfortunately the next was gym. I'm not sure how I got stuck with all the juniors.

"Miranda how are you?"

"Zack I just saw you yesterday not much has changed."

"True." He paused as if he had no idea what to say, which was a first for this kid.

"What's wrong? You ran out of cheesy pick up lines?"

"Yeah basically, i was wondering if you wanted to, you know, maybe go out?"

"i'm sorry but I'm just not looking for a relationship right now." I walked away hoping he wouldn't follow me. My hoping paid off I was Zack free. The rest of gym was boring and I was pretty happy to hear the lunch bell. I was starving. I grabbed lunch and sat at the all too familiar lunch table. I couldn't help thinking about how bad my case of senioritis was. Luckily I had great friends to help me through it.

"Hey girl."

"Hey kate, what's up?"

"After our lame graduation meeting want to go shopping?"

"Can't, it's Jake's birthday party."

"Oh wow, that will be fun."

"Yes, it's always been my dream to party with the 8th graders."

"Isn't it everyone's? So anyway I heard Zack tried to ask you out."

"News travels fast in this school."

"Why didn't you say yes? He's adorable!"

"I don't want a relationship."

"Why are you so afraid of commitment?"

"I'm not afraid of it, I don't particularly like it."

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"Why not?"

"Where's the point? Why spend your entire life with one person? Marriage and commitment is just a waste of time."

"Or you're just afraid of heartbreak." Yes she guessed it. Can you blame me? No one likes getting their heart broken.

'Kate! Just drop it okay? Let's go, we're going to be late to 3rd hour." I was so glad she didn't mention anything about it the rest of school. After 3rd hour I stopped by my little brothers locker. I only did this when necessary because the jr. high hall smelt really bad.

"Hey big sis."

"how's your birthday going?"

'It's been pretty good. What's up?"

"I just wanted to remind you that mom was picking you up."

"Oh right! I sort of forgot."

"Shocker!"

'Rude!"

"I'm your sister, I'm not supposed to be nice." We smiled and both walked away to class. Fourth period was the longest class. it was government. As soon as the bell rang I was so relieved that this part of the day was over. I grabbed my stuff and headed to my truck. I saw my mother waiting in the pick up section. I made the mistake of waving to her. She instantly called me over.

"How was your day dear?"

"Horrible and boring are the only two words I have."

"Oh stop it! You are almost done. Where's your meeting at?"

"Coffee shop."

"Okay, well try not to be to late to the party."

"I know. i will see you there."

I was the last senior to get to the meeting. Remember what I said earlier about going extra slow when I don't want to be somewhere? This is that same concept. I have been dreading this last meeting. All people do is fight. Nothing ever gets done. I took my seat next to my friend and pretty much zoned out the entire meeting. Before I knew it I had to leave to the party. I said my half hearted goodbyes and left. I was going to be late and that was the one thing that drove my mother crazy. I stepped on the gas and finally arrived. The party center was packed. I found a parking way toward to the back. I sat in my truck for another five minutes thinking of a way out of the party. This was the last place I wanted to be today. What was wrong with a simple birthday dinner? The whole family was here too. After about another five minutes I dragged myself

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out. I walked in only to be attacked by all my family members. I attempted to answer all their questions. They were all the same...when are you going to find a good guy and settle down? How's this, NEVER! I finally found my mom in the middle of all the noise.

"You're late." Seriously? She couldn't cut me some slack.

"I know I'm sorry my meeting ran late."

"That's fine, go find your dad and help bring in all the presents." This kid was spoiled. I probably brought in over one hundred presents.

The party was going by insanely slow. They all ate cake, Jake opened all of his presents, and I got the biggest headache of my life. All I could hear was my head pounding. I was so sick of everyone. "Mom, I'm going home. I need to study."

"Okay be safe driving home it's dark and stormy."

"No problem." I couldn't run out fast enough. My house was about a thirty minute drive from the party center. It's basically in the middle of a thick forest, and you can only get there on a dirt road. On nights like this it was near impossible to get there. We get the worst floods. As I made my way into the forest it was getting harder and harder to see. I had the thick forest on both sides of me and the rain was falling so hard. As soon as I thought this couldn't get any worse it did. My truck stopped going. I was stuck. I tried to get it out of course, but nothing happened. It was hopeless. I took out my cell phone and of course I didn't have service. I looked at all my options. I could sit here and wait or I could start walking home. There are never any cars on this road, and I couldn't expect my parents for a few more hours. I guess I was going to walk. The rain was starting to let up which was nice. It was still almost impossible to see. The dirt road was all mud. This made walking really difficult.

My house was another five miles from here. I got exhausted fast. I figured it wouldn't hurt me to rest on a bolder. I took out my phone and saw I had service! I put in my parents number and all I heard was beeping. *Phone dying, powering down.* just my luck! I got angry and threw my phone. I'd worry about that consequence later. I just couldn't hold back these tears anymore. Here I was sitting on a bolder with no phone, stranded five miles from my house alone. Pretty soon I was sobbing so hard everything went blurry because of my tears. My eyes started getting heavy and before I knew it I blacked out.

Chapter 2

Chapter two

I awoke tied to a tree. I had to blink a few times to make sure I was really awake. It all was coming back to me: the party, the storm, and my hopeless attempt to get home. In front of me looked like an army camp, but it all looked really old. The tents were mere sheets over tree branches. In the middle was a huge pot above the fire. I saw a scary looking man in rags. I'm not sure why he was wearing clothes like that, he was very muscular, but looked like he spent all day with my government teacher.

"Hey Joshua, she's awake!" So the muscular, scary guy had a name. He looked my way and charged with his sword drawn, anger was in his eyes and intense fear in mine.

"What's your name?" I was too scared to speak. I had goosebumps running all the way up my arm, and I was shaking. "Don't make me say it again." Still nothing, he drew his sword to my neck. Come on Miranda speak!

"Miranda."

"Miranda what?"

"V-v-vanHoover." he seemed to calm down a little bit, but by now we had a huge audience. Then a nice looking guy came up to us.

"Joshua, VanHoover? You can't kill her off with a name like that."

"Unfortunately you are right." He gave me a dirty look and slapped me. My cheek burned and I could feel the blood trickling down my face. Through all that pain all I could think about was, where was I? This wasn't a normal kidnapping. What was with these people? Someone pulled me out of my thoughts. I looked up to see the nice looking guy cleaning up my cheek.

"Hello, I'm Justin."

"Where am I?"

"As of now we're in the middle of the Grade Field forest." "They must have carried me off far. "Are you a spy?"

"No, a spy for what?"

"oh good, we just need to be safe with the war and all."

"What war?" He gave me a really strange look.

"Where are you from?"

"Idaho."

"Where's that at?"

"Where you found me." He let out a light chuckle as if he didn't believe me. "Where are you from?"

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"I'm not sure I'm aloud to tell you but since you're tied to a tree what harm could you do? We're all from Zumbania."

"Never heard of it." It sounded like some sort of intense workout.

"Miranda, why won't you just tell me the truth?"

"You wouldn't believe the truth, but here it is anyway. I was driving my truck and got stuck. Then i started walking and the next thing I knew i was tied to a tree."

"What's a truck?" These people were insane! Then i thought of something. I thought of the English story, the guy who got caught in a time warp. I'm pretty sure thinking I was stuck in a time warp made me certifiably crazy, but it's worth a shot.

"What year is it?"

"It's 1013."

"What? No it's not it was just 2012."

"Joshua must have hit you really hard. Well your cheek is all cleaned up, you should rest." I nodded and soon drifted off to sleep hoping I would wake up in my bed.

Meanwhile

"Gabriel, the girl is out of her mind. You heard Justins story. She thinks she's from 2012." I sat there contemplating. "You are the Prince, with your permission I can end her."

"Don't listen to him Gabe!"

"Soldier, you aren't aloud in here."

"With all do respect colonel Joshua I need to speak with the Prince."

"Joshua give me a few minutes and don't touch the girl until I say." I watched as Joshua's face fell and walked out. He was a good man, but his hunger for violence can take over his better half. "Justin, we've been friends a long time, but I can't keep covering for you."

"I respect you as my Prince, but as your best friend I need to stop you from makng a big mistake.'

"Fine, continue then."

"Yes the young girl is confused, but did you hear how noble her last name is? You are supposed to marry a VanHoover."

"I know, but all the VanHoover heirs have descesed."

"Yet here's one tied to a tree right out side. You are twenty years old you should have a princess by now."

"I just don't understand where this VanHoover came from." Justin drew back a drape on my tent. She was very beautiful. Maybe, just maybe. "Fine, we won't kill her, but only until my father comes and gives us the

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final word."

"I knew you would listen!"

"Don't get your hopes up the King is a very hard person to please. Get her a dress there should be some in the trunk in the carriage."

"Will do!" Justin exited and colonel Joshua walked in.

"So can I kill her?" He had a twinkle in his eye.

"Absolutely not, send my father a message to meet us at our next base."

"As you wish." Finally some alone time to think. I was getting to old not to have a princess. Everyone was pressuring me lately, my father, my friends, the entire kingdom. Only my father can set up an arraigned marriage. His word is always final. That's something I still haven't gotten used to.

Chapter 3

Chapter 3

Joshua woke me up. As soon as our eyes met I got scared all over again.

"I'm not here to hurt you."

"I'm supposed to trust you after you tied me to a tree and hit me?"

"The Prince forbids me to touch you."

"Who is the Prince?" These people must be actors paid to fool me. Last time I checked we were under a democracy.

"That would be me, sorry I haven't introduced myself. I'm Prince Gabriel Quimby." This so called prince was gorgeous! He looked about six feet tall, he had brown hair and amazing blue eyes. They looked like the ocean on a hot summer day with the breeze moving the oceans waves gently. Did I mention he was very muscular? Just because he was tall, cute, and muscular, that didn't mean I was letting him or anyone else off the hook.

"Let me go."

"I'm sorry I can't do that, but I have no intentions of you being a prisoner so I'll untie you. There's a creek a mile west. You can wash up and change into this." He held up a very elegant looking dress.

"Well I don't trust you."

"Please Miranda we aren't here to hurt you."

"Then why did you kidnap me, tie me to a tree, and slap me?" Gabriel gave Joshua a hard look.

"I'm sorry you have been mistreated."

"Sorry doesn't always work. I'd rather stay tied to this tree than have to trust you."

"I'm sorry you feel that way. Let me know if you need anything." I was probably dumb not to take the Princes' offer, but i refuse to trust people that easily.

It's been two whole days that I've spent tied to this tree. I haven't eaten, bathed, or most important, used the restroom. It's not as bad as it sounds, since I was dehydrated. Part of me just wanted to give up and die, but the other part was telling me to trust them all.

"Hello Miranda, are you okay?" Justin asked me this question every few hours. It got on my nerves. This time, however, I was ready to trust him and get untied.

"I want to be untied." Well there went all my pride. I guess you could say I'm really stubborn.

"Of course! I'll go get Gabriel and Joshua." He left and was back a minute later.

"Why now?" This Prince always has to ask so many questions.

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"Because I am tired, dirty, and I have to use the restroom!"

"Very well."

"Gabriel, how do we know she won't try and take off?"

"You are right Joshua, someone will have to watch her."

"Wait, watch me? Like while I get cleaned up?"

"Oh no! Not like that, I'll take her. Joshua, Justin you make sure the men stay away from the creek." Soon I felt hands untie me. Gabriel was a gentleman and helped me up.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4

On our way out Gabriel grabbed a few things. I finally got to use the restroom, and then we started to walk to the creek.

"So Miranda VanHoover, how did you survive?"

"Survive what?"

"All the VanHoovers were murdered. You don't remember anything?"

"All I remember is driving home and getting stuck." He let out a low chuckle.

"Miranda, you are so strange."

"No I'm not! I don't know why you won't believe me."

"They clearly hurt you, your memory is lost."

"Fine, don't believe me." We didn't talk the rest of the way there. Gabriel was such a gentlemen, he helped me across log bridges. We finally arrived to the crystal, blue creek. Gabriel handed me soap, a towel, and a dress. I hated wearing dresses, but my sweats have had it. At first Gabriel wouldn't leave. "Excuse you!"

"Oh sorry Miranda, I didn't mean to. I'll be over here when you're done." I waited until he was out of sight, and got in the creek and washed up. It's been a few days since I've been here. My family had to be so worried. As I was cleaning up I started to fear that I would never see them again. The setting sun reminded me that I had a Prince waiting for me. Him and Justin were the only nice ones, I owed it to them to be prompt. I walked over to Gabriel and got the pleasure of watching his face light up.

"You look really nice, that dress suits you well."

"Thank you, so now what? I get tied back up?"

"I have no intentions of keeping you as a prisoner. If that was the case Joshua would have already killed you."

"Okay, so what are your intentions?"

"I have to keep you safe until my father, the King, meets you."

"What does he have to do with any of this?"

"You'll find out soon enough." We walked all the way back. It was only a few miles, but my feet were hurting and I was exhausted. "There isn't any extra tents, you'll have to share with me." Oh great.

"Fine, but don't get any ideas." He flashed me a beautiful, white smile. I guess guys never do change they are the same in this time zone as they are in mine. We walked into the camp and all eyes were on me.

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"If you want to go sit by the fire I'll have Justin bring you supper." I made myself comfortable and Justin did bring me dinner. I honestly had no idea what it was, but I was too hungry to care. Everyone seemed to be so busy. It was getting boring. No one would talk to me but Justin and Gabriel. I couldn't find them anywhere. So I continued to sit by the fire alone. A few minutes later I felt someone sit next to me. It was Gabriel.

"Are you ready for bed?"

"Yes, I'm so tired."

"Okay come one." He grabbed my hand and helped me up, I felt sparks when we touched, which is very unlikely. I followed him to his tent. There were a few blankets on the floor. This is what they call a bed? I was not going to get any sleep tonight.

"So, I will stay over here on this half."

"Okay." I tried really hard to get comfy.

"We leave really early in the morning."

"To where?"

"Just to another site. We've been here too long."

"Is it safe?"

"No, but we'll try our best to make it safe for you." I decided it was best if I didn't ask any more questions, he seemed to be getting very irritated with me.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5

I eventually fell asleep, because next thing I knew Gabriel was waking me up.

"Come on Miranda we have to hurry." I walked out of the tent to see about twenty men packing everything up. There were a bunch of horses and I wondered why I hadn't noticed them before. They all seemed so frantic. Then Joshua spoke up.

"Okay everyone, we're getting ready to move out. Keep your eyes on every direction." Everyone mounted their horse and I felt a little left out. There were a few men who were walking, I hoped I wouldn't have to walk.

"Miranda, hop on." Prince Gabriel to the rescue again.

"In this dress?"

"Come on, take my hand I'll help you." After a few tries I made it to the top of the gigantic horse. Everyone made a formation and headed out.

It's been a few hours and no one has said a word. I was getting really tired and thirsty. As if Gabriel read my mind he handed me some water. Another few hours passed and night began to fall. No one said one word all day. I wondered if we were going to stop for the night. I was getting so tired. My butt was sick of being on this high horse. I debated talking, but decided against it. Maybe a whisper was aloud? I couldn't risk it. Could I?

"Pssst, Gabriel." I whispered close to his ear so only he could hear me. He replied yes in the same quite tone. "Are we sleeping tonight?"

"No, we have to keep going."

"But I'm really tired."

"Okay how about you come sit in front of me and lean back on my shoulder? It would be a lot more comfortable." I made my way to the front of him on the horse as quietly as I could. I cozied up to Gabriels chest. "Cozy?"

"Yes thanks, are you alright?"

"Never better, now get some sleep."

The next thing I knew it was morning. The sun was shining so bright. I almost forgot where I was until I nudged against Gabriel. I looked up to him smiling at me.

"Good morning, well afternoon." He whispered into my ear. Great, we were all still playing the quiet game, wait did he say afternoon?

"What time is it?"

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"About five in the afternoon, you slept a long time are you feeling well?"

"Yeah, fine." We heard rasling in the woods. Every man put their hand to their sword. Their faces were serious as they scoped out the area. I was starting to get nervous and scared. Out of nowhere an arrow hit a tree, men burst out of the woods with their swords ready to fight.

"Miranda, stay low!" I did as Gabriel asked. I took everything in. This was like a scene from an old war movie. Bodies were being dropped everywhere. We seemed to be winning. I was really grateful that no one noticed me. This would be the perfect time to run away, but to where? I was already pretty convined that i was stuck in a time warp. Maybe I could find someone hwo believed me. I began to take everything in again. All our men were still standing. All except Gabriel!

Chapter 6

Chapter 6

I watched as everything in front of me was unfolding. Joshua was taking on someone who was at least a foot taller than him. If I was in his place I would be so scared and intimidated. Joshua, however, didn't show one ounce of fear. His eyes were fixed on his much taller and muscular opponent. To his right was Justin. Justin was of average height, he was well matched. He was battling a man that was just about his height. He looked like he didn't have the skill Justin had. He was clearly struggling to keep up. I searched around for Gabriel just in time to see him get slit in the stomach. His opponent didn't even finish him off he just let him fall and moved on to the next man. As my eyes were fixed on Gabriel tears started to fall. Anyone would cry if they were watching this. Joshua finally stepped in and took the rest of the men out. All the others had finished, there were bodies everywhere. I felt like I was in a horror film. I don't have the strongest stomach. I looked around at all the dead men. I wondered if they had families they would be leaving behind. I took one more look at their faces and couldn't take it anymore, I felt my breakfast coming back up and into the bushes. After my throw up session Joshua yelled.

"Is every one in tact?" Someone ran over to Gabriel.

"Joshua, he's bleeding to much, I don't think I can save him. I don't know how to stop that much bleeding." Everyone hung their heads down. I looked at Gabriel's still body. He wouldn't move, but he didn't look dead yet. Why don't these men know how to save him? Is technology really that bad around here. Back home this bleeding could be fixed by pressure and some stitches. I learned all this in my CPR training class. Wait a minute! I knew how to fix this, I knew how to save Prince Gabriels life.

"i can save him," I said in a quiet voice. It was Joshua that answered me, yes that figured."

"What do you know, you're just a girl." Apparently the woman still haven't gotten their rights yet.

"Joshua let her try, what other choice do we have."

"Fine." I nodded my head in Justin's direction to thank him. I slowly got up from the cold ground that was now covered in strangers blood and flesh. My head hurt as well as my heart. I was still really queasy and unsure if I could really pull off playing doctor with Gabriel. I'm pretty sure stitching and working on a real patient was different than the dummy in class. I made my way over to Gabriel and kneeled down beside him. He was still breathing, his eyes were starting to flutter open. I had to rip off his shirt so I could see the cut. I would be lying if I said I wasn't distracted for a few seconds. Then it all came natural to me.

"Okay he is going to be fine, I need a lot of clean clothes, a needle, and thick thread." They all just stared at me like I was crazy. "Uhhhh quit staring and hurry!" They began to scramble to find the things I needed. I looked back into Gabriel's fluttering eyes. "Stay with me, you're going to be alright." they came back with the clothes and I started to apply pressure. Gabriel's face was suddenly pale, and I knew if I couldn't get with it I would lose him. I pushed harder and harder until the bleeding finally stopped. Before I could stitch him up I needed to clean the wound. There was so much blood everywhere and I started getting really queasy again. This was definitely not the time for me to throw up again. Night was falling fast and it was getting harder to see. "Someone light a fire so I can see!" Justin did immediately. It was nice that they were actually listening to me, but enough distractions. "Okay, this may hurt a little." Gabriel flinched at the touch of the needle, which was kind of a good thing. It meant he was feeling what was going on. Unfortunately he decided to regain consciousness halfway through the stitching.

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"What's going on?" Now he was trying to talk. His voice was weak and tired.

"Justin hold him down! Just relax I'm almost done okay?" Gabriel did as I asked and rested his eyes. "Okay I'm all done." Joshua and Justin helped him up. It felt amazing to save his life. Gabriel got up and immediately went into prince mode.

"Did we all make it?"

"Yes, but we need to keep moving, your father will be there in the morning."

"Then let's move out."

"I don't mean to interrupt you, but you're really weak I don't think you should travel." He walked up to me and stroked my cheek. My heart skipped a beat.

"I don't have a choice. Thank you for saving my life, we must get going at once." I wanted to stay like that forever. No! What was I thinking? I hate commitment!

"Come on Miranda, hop on. It should only take a couple hours to get to camp." A few hours passed, and we arrived at a camp site. It looked just like the last one. All the guys started to pitch their tents. Some one started a fire. Gabriel was setting up his tent, he looked really weak.

"Hey Gabriel, let me help you out."

"Are you sure you know how?" I had to laugh. I've pitched modern day tents with all of those complicated poles. It can't be hard to throw a big, thick sheet over a tree branch. I smirked at him and finished his tent as he awkwardly watched.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7

Gabriel was starting to get pale. It serves him right I told him he was too weak to travel. I've never been a really mean person so I decided not to say I told you so, instead I decided to get him some water. I got back to his tent and didn't know what to do. Obviously I should knock, but it is a tent. Hey I saved his life I should be able to just walk in.

"Hey Gabriel, I figured you could use some water." I looked up and our eyes met.

"Yeah thanks." He took his water and looked at me for what felt like hours. "If you go find Justin he can give you a new dress, one that isn't covered in my blood. Then you can come back and go to bed, I'm sure being a hero is tiring." I laughed, me a hero? I've never heard of that one. I was covered in Gabriel's blood and I did need a new dress. Finding Justin wasn't an easy task, if he didn't jump out of nowhere and scare me I would have never found him.

"Hey, Gabriel said you could find me a new dress that isn't covered in blood."

"Oh yeah come follow me to the trunk and I'll get you a new one."

"So why exactly do you keep a huge trunk of dresses?"

"They are just in case dresses."

"Just in case we run into a girl from another time and we decide to tie her to a tree?" He laughed a small, cute chuckle.

"Yes, that's exactly why."

"Justin, do you have a family?"

"Just a wife right now."

"Oh, tell me about her."

"Well we've been married for two years. Her name is Nichole. She's beautiful, she has long, wavy, blonde hair, and deep, navy blue eyes. She's sweet, kind hearted, I really miss her."

"She sounds amazing. Why did you decide to leave her to do all this?"

"Well there's a few reasons, Gabriel and I grew up together he's always been there for me, this is my way for repaying him. I also love serving my country. It's hard to be away from her, but she understands and it makes seeing her extra special when I come home." They sounded adorable. Maybe love really does exist, maybe!

"Well thanks for the dress and bed time story. I better get to sleep it's been a long day."

"Yeah I know, thank's for saving my best friends life. I have no idea how you knew all that."

"Like I've told you before I'm from a different time, that stuff was pretty basic."

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"Yeah sure it is. Have a good night Miranda." We smiled and both walked our own ways. I changed out of my bloody dress, I'd have to take care of the rest of me in the morning. I was a mess. I slipped into our tent and Gabriel was already asleep. I crawled up in my side of the tent, which was very far from his side. I couldn't help but look over at his angelic face. He looked adorable asleep. I watched his breathing. It was hard to think that maybe if I hadn't stepped up today he may not be breathing. I felt a little stalkerish after watching him for a while, I decided to get some sleep.

I awoke to every kind of noise. I felt like I was sleeping in the middle of Times Square rather than a tent in the woods. Gabriel wasn't in the tent, so I couldn't ask him what was going on. I peeked out of the tent to see the men running around. They all looked really formal.

"Good morning Miss VanHoover."

"Yeah you too, Justin, why does everyone look like that?"

"King Quimby should be here soon. Oh here have some water, you have a little blood on your arm." I took the water and washed the rest of Gabriels blood off my arms and face.

"Thanks, wait does this mean I have to get dressed up too?"

"That dress will do, you look fine." Why on earth was I nervous to meet the King? These people practically captured me. As of now I still wasn't sure what they had planned for me. Sure, I had saved Gabriel, and I haven't tried to kill any of them, but would that matter to them? The sight of Gabriel took me out of my paranoid thoughts. He looked amazing. He was wearing navy blue, which brought out his eye color. If I wasn't already convinced I'm stuck in a time warp the uniform would have me convinced. He looked like he walked out of my history book. He was walking toward me, and I felt myself blush for staring at him.

"Miranda, you look very beautiful." My cheeks turned a color of deep red. Even though I couldn't actually see it, I knew they were. I could feel it.

"Thanks, you too, I mean handsome!" Very smooth Miranda!

"I see him, okay everyone he is almost here." Everyone scattered into two lines. Miranda, go wait in my tent." I've gotten used to doing what I've been asked so I went back to the tent. I was still really scared, there was complete silence. The silence made me even more nervous. I ended up braiding my hair out of nervousness, a habit I picked up during senior year tests. Finally I heard Gabriel greet his father. Of course I peeked out of the tent, I guess you could say I'm a little nosey. I saw about ten unfamiliar soldiers and an older guy dressed like Gabriel. I'm guessing he was the King.

"I heard about the attack yesterday, are you all in tact?"

"Yes father, I was wounded, but Miranda saved my life."

"Good, now where is she? After all she is the reason I made this journey."

"I'll bring her out." Joshua came over to the tent. I pushed the curtain of the tent back in place and made it look like I wasn't just eavesdropping. Before he got closer I heard Gabriel speak.

"Father, she is horribly confused. She believes she's from 2012."

Stuck in a love time warp

"How absurd! I have heard that captured victims do tend to forget things and they suffer short memory loss." Joshua roughly escorted me out to Gabriel.

"Father, this is Miranda VanHoover."

"It's good to meet you dear. I must offer my thanks to you for saving my sons life." Oh my gosh speak Miranda, why did I have to be so nervous.

"You're welcome and it's nice to meet you too." Ahhhh, it felt so good to finally get a word out.

"So now here's the question, what do we do with you?"

"You can't jsut kill her after she saved Prince Gabriels life." Yay Justin to the rescue again!

"I suppose you are right. She is to beautiful too kill anyway." He started to pace which made me even more nervous.

"King Quimby, we don't have much time we need to get back."

"I've got it, you would make a lovely bride and princess. You and Gabriel will be married in a month!" I was to shocked to speak, me married? Ha I'm never getting married.

"Wait no way, I hadly know him and I'm too young." What has gotten into me? Am I aloud to talk to a King this way? Especially one that has the power to kill me?

"You're seventeen dear. I have made it official. Come on men let's be on our way. I expect to see you all in a week. You're due east tomorrow.

"Goodbye father."

"Take good care of her." The King turned, "I'll see you all in a few weeks." We all watched until they vanished into the woods.

"All right men, relax today because tomorrow we move out and fight."

Chapter 8

Chapter 8

"Miranda there's a lake two miles that way go get cleaned up."

"Thank you Justin." I started to walk away and I didn't feel anyone follow me. Apparently they were starting to trust me. The walk to the lake was very boring, but it did give me time to think. There had to be a way out of a time warp. If only I could remember that English assignment. This was all my teachers fault, he should have made the assignment more entertaining. It was no use, I wasn't going to remember how to get out, I'm not even sure the character did get out maybe he just made a life in the year he was stuck in. My life here wasn't to bad, besides being attacked and being told I have to get married...okay I have got to get out of here. All of my thoughts took away the boredom of the hike and I made it to the beautiful, crystal clear lake. I pushed past a bush and saw Gabriel standing waist deep in the water. I felt bad for staring, he probably needed some privacy.

"I know you're there." He turned toward me and smiled. "Come on in the water's nice."

"Oh no thanks, I just wanted a walk I'm going to head back." He walked up to the shore and stood in front of me.

"Oh come on Miranda." We stood there arguing for a while about why I didn't want to go in the water. Even though I really could go for a swim I knew we both needed some alone time to think about our "engagement."

"Gabriel, I just really don't want to."

"Well Miss. Stubborn, you leave me no choice." Before I knew it Gabriel had thrown me over his shoulder. I screamed put me down about a million times before I hit the cool water head first, dress and all.

"Gabriel! You're so mean!"

"It's the only way I could get you in." I wiped my eyes and wanted to get out and leave. It was just to awkward for me, being around Gabriel when I knew I was going to be forced to marry him. I started to walk back to shore, but then I surprised myself. I turned to him and looked him straight in the eyes, oh those gorgeous, blue eyes.

"Why do we have to get married?" He swam closer to me.

"I can't be King without a Queen and according to everyone I should already have a Princess."

"Oh so you're just using me?" I said rudely.

"No, you're just the only decent girl around here."

"Well I'm not from around here."

"Even if you weren't I'm sure my father would still make us marry." He was now close enough to touch. Marrying Prince hottie may not be a bad thing. What the heck was I saying?

"I'm not good enough to be a princess, I don't think I qualify for the job."

Stuck in a love time warp

"Of course you do. You're beautiful, smart, caring, compassionate," with every word he took a slow step forward, "and you care about me." Now we were only inches apart.

"No, Gabriel you're wrong I don't care." I realize this was harsh, but I would do almost anything to get out of this wedding.

"You wouldn't have saved my life if you didn't." He got me there. His breath was warm on mine. I felt his hand grab my waist, as he lifted my chin with his other. He was staring straight into my eyes. Next thing I knew we were kissing, and I liked it, way to much. I pulled back.

"I'm sorry Gabriel I can't do this." I began to walk away.

"No Miranda please come back." Of course I didn't turn back. It was already getting dark. I don't remember the walk to camp being this far. It took a few more minutes until I got really lost. Why did I have to run away from Gabriel? The problem was I had liked that kiss. Here I was seventeen years old and still kissing and running, just like we all used to do in elementary school. If I wasn't such a baby I wouldn't be lost right now.

After a few minutes of walking I saw a camp fire. Camp with the guys is the closest thing I have to home in this time zone. All right, I guess I was ready to face Gabriel. I pushed past the bushes to see a bunch of unfamiliar faces around the fire. They all looked just as surprised as I did.

"Well hello there gorgeous, who might you be?"

"Miranda VanHoover." They all stiffened up and a guy grabbed me.

"Tie her up now!"

"Wait, what did I do?"

"There will be time for questions and answers later."

So here I was, tied to another tree, deja vu. Why do I always put myself in these positions. About three hours later a tall man came out with a sword.

"How did you escape?"

"I have no idea what you're talking about."

"The VanHoovers were all captured and killed because...well you know why."

"Why don't you humor me and tell me why?"

"Sure, I don't have anything else to do besides, I like boasting. As you know our country has always been at war with Zumbania. A lot of our men were dying though. We finally created an idea for all new weapons; technology finally caught up. They were going to be something no country had ever seen! Until one of you VanHoovers heard about them. We had to kill you all to ensure our secret weapon stayed a secret. Apparently we missed a few. A VanHoover escaped the other day, I'm sure you already knew that though."

As crazy as this sounds, it all makes sense. That one VanHoover that escaped is the reason I'm alive today. I'm their descendant. One problem, I'm tied to a tree and they kill VanHoovers. Another few hours passed. If they were going to kill me I wish they'd just do it. Night was here, it was pitch black besides the small light that

Stuck in a love time warp

came from the fire. I kept dozing in and out of consciousness. I was so hungry and thirsty and tired. I did notice that this camp wasn't that big, they only had about ten men. Gabriel had at least twenty. Gabriel! That's it! He had to be back at camp by now. If I found this place he could easily...I hope.

Chapter 9

Chapter 9

Morning came and I was still all alone. I figured Gabriel and Justin would have found me by now. I'm a seventeen year old girl from the year 2012, and I found the enemy camp. How did they not know how to track me? They were supposed to be professionals. Maybe they weren't looking for me. Maybe they decided their lives would be better without me. I'm sure Joshua wouldn't hesitate to leave me out in the forest to die; Justin would probably be the only one trying to convince the rest of the men that I was worth saving, and Gabriel was probably to upset and didn't want to see me. I really know how to mess things up. On the bright side I was still alive. They haven't woken up, and I've been left alone.

Meanwhile in the forest

"Gabriel calm down, we're going to find her."

"It's all my fault."

"What happened? Why would she run away?"

"Well, I kind of kissed her."

"No way! You guys weren't even engaged for an hour and you kiss her."

"I guess you could put it that way. I wouldn't be surprised if she never wanted to see me again." We've been searching for Miranda all night and all morning. She didn't leave us much to work with; we couldn't pick up her trail. I knew something was wrong the second I got back to camp after our swim. It just felt wrong, it's like I knew Miranda wasn't back and that she was in some kind of trouble.

"Gabriel, we have something." Finally, I knew Joshua could track her down. That's the reason he's in my group. We wouldn't ever be friends, but he did always have my back. We followed Miranda's tracks for about an hour until we came across a camp site. We hid in the bushes nearby. All the men were looking around the area. My eyes fell on one thing and one thing only, Miranda. She was tied to a tree. Her hair was ratted up in a mess, her dress was dirty and torn, and her face was pale. I guessed she didn't have anything to eat or drink. She looked so fragile, like one touch and she could vanish into dust. I hated seeing her like this, and to know that it was all my fault didn't help. She still looked beautiful, she always would. No situation could make her look ugly. I had to get her untied and safe.

"Okay men listen up this is how we are going to do this. There are only eleven men. Two of them are guarding the camp at the other end. Miranda is at the big tree. Once we take down the two guards the others will come out of their tents. This means a fight. It shouldn't be too hard we out number them. Gabriel, while we are all busy you rescue Miranda. Can you all handle that?" There were replies to Joshua, but I was just too focused on Miranda. "Ready? Go." Everyone went their own ways and I ran up to Miranda's frail body. She looked up at me and attempted to smile.

"You came," her voice was so weak and so tired.

"Of course I came." I continued to untie her, her eyes were starting to shut. I was hoping it was just because she was tired. I looked around and saw that we were taking all the men down. Some ran into the forest to hide. I had Miranda back; I wasn't too concerned about wiping the entire camp out. I put her on my back and started

Stuck in a love time warp

heading back with my other men. I waited until we were far out.

"Miranda, drink some water." I held up my canteen to her mouth, but she wouldn't take it. "You need this." She was too weak to even look at me. I dripped some water in her mouth just so she had some kind of water in her system. All my men caught up and gathered around looking at her.

"Gabriel is she going to be okay?"

"She should be after she gets some water, food, and rest. Is everyone okay? Did we all make it?"

"Yes, we should head back." We started the long walk back. We decided not to bring horses along so we would have the act of surprise on our side. Now I was starting to think that wasn't my best idea. I was so tired, and not that Miranda was heavy, but she didn't help. It was already dark again. My days were going by really fast. I would be back home at the castle in a few days. I could rest and get away from this life for a while.

Chapter 10

Chapter 10

"Here Gabriel, let me carry her for a while. You've had her for miles." I didn't even speak I just gently handed her over. I don't know why, but I felt very protective of her. I had a hard time letting Justin hold her. I haven't known Miranda long so I couldn't be in love with her already, could I? After another few miles we arrived back at our camp. I reached out for Miranda, "No it's okay Gabriel I'll go put her in the tent." He vanished out of my site into the tent. I had to get my mind together. I'm responsible for all these men, and here I am thinking about love. We all could have gotten killed tonight, but I had to save her. It would be wrong for me to not go after her after she saved my life. So much for getting my mind together, I'm thinking about her again.

"Men gather around, tonight was a close call. I'm sorry and I would feel a lot safer if we slept in shifts. Some of those men got away and I'm sure they will be after us."

"No they won't be after us. They will be after Miranda, you know it's true. She is trouble!"

"What do you propose we do soldier?"

"We'll have to kill her."

"Great, will you be the one to tell King Michael you killed his son's bride?"

"Yes, I'm sure he would be fine if he knew we were all safe."

"No, we aren't killing her. I love her!" I cannot believe I just said that out loud. Everyone just stared at me. Before anyone could say anything about my outburst Justin came out of my tent.

"Gabriel, she's awake and she's asking for you. I'm going to get her some water."

"Thank you." I walked over to tent wondering why she would be asking for me. The last time we talked was when she ran off after I made a stupid move. I knew I shouldn't have kissed her. I pulled myself into the tent. She looked really tired, and possibly delusional. Her eyes were rolled back. She was still gorgeous. "Miranda, how are you feeling?"

"I'm a little tired." Justin handed me water and I made her drink it all. There was silence between us until she spoke, "I'm sorry for running away."

"No I'm sorry for kissing you. I'm not sure what was going through my mind." Lie! I knew exactly what I was doing.

"Will you come over here and sit by me?" After all that she still wanted me near her. I moved closer to her, and handed her some more water. "Gabriel," she said in such a weak voice.

"Yes?"

"Thank you for coming after me, I overheard the conversation outside. I'm sorry I'm trouble. I didn't ask to be here, I just woke up here. If I had a chance or a way to go back I would. Then you all would be safe, and I could be where I belong."

Stuck in a love time warp

"I think you belong here with me." I was staring deep into her eyes. I moved in closer, and I caught myself wanting to kiss her again.

"It's okay, you can kiss me." I looked at her like she was crazy. "Gabriel, it might be the traumatic few days I've had speaking, but I really do have feelings for you. As for the married thing, I'm not sure I'll ever be ready for that. I think you'll make an amazing King one day, and you won't need a Princess like me to help you out." That was enough for me; I leaned and kissed her again. To my surprise she kissed back.

"You need your sleep. Good night Miranda." I kissed her one more time and walked out of her tent. I had the biggest, goofiest smile on my face. I could finally sleep knowing my bride has some feelings for me. Then it hit me, the outburst I had with the men before the kiss. They were all staring at me.

"Gabriel, come sit around the fire."

"Look, I don't need you all to lecture me about killing Miranda." I shuddered at the thought of the men trying to kill her. "I do love her, I meant what I said. We're getting married."

"Gabriel, I agree."

"You agree to what Justin? You love her too?" Everyone laughed at my attempted joke, good I need them to lighten up.

"No, I know where you're going with this and I was agreeing beforehand."

"Okay, so it's settled no one lays a hand on her!"

"You can endanger your life, but when you start messing with my safety I have a problem with that. I'm sorry but I came here to defend my country not Zumbania's new fair lady. I can't go on with this. Thank you men for everything, but I'll be gone by morning."

"Stephen there's no need for that."

"Yes Justin there is."

"Then we'll see you back in Zumbania."

"Don't count on it." With that he left to pack up his things. Normally, I would have chased after one of our own and convinced them to stay, but I didn't. Everyone looked at me as if they were all saying, "Now what?" I really was starting to regret being a Prince. It's not like I had a choice in any of this.

"Hey Gabriel what do you think he meant by that?"

"I don't know. It's been a long day let's all get some rest."

Chapter 11

Chapter 11

Miranda

I woke up and my head was pounding. I felt like someone was hitting me with a sledge hammer. At first I couldn't grasp where I was. I felt the hard, cold ground beneath me. My throat was parched, and I was having some trouble breathing. The sun was shining through a small opening in the tent, and I remembered everything. I felt myself start to blush when Gabriel walked in; I had let him kiss me last night. I knew it was mainly because I was so happy to be safe again, but part of me wanted to be with him. It was a huge step for me. I haven't wanted to be in a relationship for a long, long time.

"Good morning." Gabriel was just staring at me. Last time I checked it was rude to stare and not reply. "Okay then, never mind. I'm really thirsty so I'm going to find some water and go clean up." I walked out of the tent and he didn't even stop me or say hi. Oh well. I found Justin sitting by himself on a log by the river. The scenery was amazing. There were trees that created shade all around the area. The rapids were rough in the water, one wrong step and you would be whisked away never to be seen again. That doesn't sound like such a bad idea right now. With Gabriel not talking to me life in this time zone would be even worse. The sky that was sunny a minute ago was now cloudy and gray. It was definitely going to rain. Justin's canteen took me out of my thoughts. I was extremely thirsty. I felt like I swallowed a hot iron, speaking of a hot iron I was really missing my flat iron! I had my hair in a braid this whole time. "Hey Justin," he didn't reply. Was this "don't talk to Miranda" day? I came up closer to him and noticed he had tears running down his cheek. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing." So this was the game we were about to play.

"People don't cry for nothing."

"I got a letter today."

"Oh from who?"

"Nicole."

"Well that's great! That's nothing to be sad about."

"She is having a baby."

"That's wonderful news congratulations!"

"No it's not wonderful news," there was a hint of sarcasm and mocking in his voice.

"Well why is it not good news?"

"I don't feel like talking about it."

"You can trust me Justin."

Stuck in a love time warp

"I'm already committed to serving my country. It's hard enough to leave Nicole, but now I have to leave her and my baby." He had a point. It couldn't be easy for him to leave all the time.

"You've helped me so much while I've been here. If it wasn't for you I'm sure I would be dead by now. It's my turn to help you."

"How are you supposed to do that? I'm not following you."

"You know I'm supposed to be a princess soon right?"

"I still don't understand you."

"Oh wow! I'm going to marry Gabriel that will make me Princess. When I'm a princess I can talk to Gabriel and his dad and have them let you off the hook. This way you can stay home with your wife and child." He turned to me wide eyed.

"Oh I get it!"

"Finally!"

"It's a generous offer, but I can't let you do that. I told Gabriel that we would stick together. He doesn't want to be here either, but he is."

"Like I said you have done so much for me, it's only fair." He looked at me with sincere eyes.

"Thank you, you're going to make an amazing Queen one day."

"I hope so."

"So does this mean you're over the whole "I'm stuck in a time warp" deal?"

"No, I know what happened. I know the truth. Maybe one day I'll find my way back, but until then I might as well enjoy the ride here. Can I have some of your water please? I feel like I'm dying."

"Sure, here you go. Gabriel's a good guy. Treat him right okay?"

"I will, he wouldn't even talk to me this morning."

"He's probably still in shock that you kissed him last night." All the blood rushed to my cheeks. I can't believe he told Justin. "We're best friends he tells me everything. Don't be shy about." Without another word he got up and walked back to the camp site. I really wanted to get into the water, but it would be my luck to dive in and get carried away by the current. I just relaxed and watched the rapids for most of the morning. It was nice to have quiet time in nature.

Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Miranda*

The rumbling of my stomach let me know it was time to head back to camp. I was expecting things to be calmer. The men were packing up again. I was so sick of constantly moving. I saw Gabriel talking to Joshua; this usually meant they had business to discuss. I couldn't help but wonder what Joshua had left back home. Justin left home a wife; Gabriel left an entire kingdom, but what about Joshua? By his rude actions I doubted he had a lover. What kind of woman would put up with him? I watched him and Gabriel talk for a while longer. I felt kind of rude staring, and Gabriel must have noticed because he took Joshua deeper in the forest to continue their conversation. Gabriel was being an all-time jerk! This new attitude that he's developed over night makes me miss the jumpy, way too happy, junior, Zack. It was obvious I wouldn't ever be included in any of these plans. They had made it obvious I'd never fit in here. I was only fooling myself. Yes I was going to marry Gabriel, but it won't be out of love. It will be a way for me to become powerful. If I had some power I could find a way out of a time warp. I still hadn't made a plan, all I knew was I was getting home some way! I have to try and push away my true feelings for Gabriel. They will definitely be a distraction. I didn't come here to find true love, heck I didn't mean to come here at all, but I won't be falling in love any time soon! If Gabriel wanted to play some kind of game with me, I could play that game back. Before I knew it my new mission was instated: play Gabriel's game and win, become Queen and assume power, find a way back home, and DON'T FALL IN LOVE. I pray that last one won't be too hard. I couldn't even deny to myself the feelings that have grown for this gorgeous Prince.

It's like he knew what I had going on in my mind, he turned slowly to me and smiled. I hated that pretty smile! It made me melt. He was walking this way, and out of nowhere I started to get butterflies.

"Hey Miranda," he acted like nothing happened. Like he hadn't ignored me all this morning. This was no time for me to play nice girl.

"Oh so you're speaking to me now?"

"What do you mean?"

"Never mind forget it, I'm hungry I don't feel like talking to you."

"Wait what did I do?"

"It doesn't matter; it's obvious you don't even want me around anymore."

"No I do! Are you talking about me talking to Joshua?" I didn't reply I just started walking away. "Look I just didn't want you to hear anything. There's just a lot of bad news going on; Stephen is gone and we are going to have to move out South for another week."

"I would have found out eventually, so why be secretive and hide it all from me?"

"I just didn't want to worry you. I want to keep you safe." Why did he have to be so sweet? Maybe I can fall in love, but still find a way out of here. I'll just leave that last part up in the air and see where fate takes me. "You have to go training."

"What? Training for what exactly?"

Stuck in a love time warp

"Well if you are staying with us for another week you need to be ready. I'll do my best to protect you, but this is a precaution."

"Fine, I'll train."

"Good, you start tomorrow morning with Joshua."

"Whoa, wait a minute you never said I'd have to train with him."

"Just tomorrow, the next day I'll be available to train with you."

"Fine, but you owe me big time!" He laughed and looked into my eyes.

"No problem!"

"Well I'm going to go get something to eat and relax."

"That's smart; you have to get up early tomorrow."

"No one said anything about getting up early."

"I just did." He gave me a kiss on the cheek and walked away. I bugged Justin to find me some food. He always seemed to come through for me. If I had any friends here it would be him. I finished eating and decided to go to bed early since Gabriel said he would be waking me up early so I could spend the day with Joshua! Yes, I'm very excited to spend the day with someone who wants to kill me every other day.

Stuck in a love time warp

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