

# It's in the accent

By : **Kirkyb**

Moving schools is one thing moving schools from one end of the country to the other is another. Christine Sommers family have picked up and moved from the heart of Cow country in Wisconsin down to the Sunshine State so her Dad can take up a coaching position with U.F. Football. Her Dad was originally from Tampa and has always wanted to move back there and he saw this as the chance his family needs, with her Mom an author that's away on book tours a lot most of the time it's left up to Chris to take care of her little sister. Fitting in to a school run by the popular kids isn't going to be the only challenge she faces when she upsets the girl that could make or break her. .



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## It's in the accent : Chapter 1

..... *"Honey are you going to be okay going into school on your own" Dad said throwing his things into his bag and looking at his watch.*

*ï¿½*

*"Aren't I always" I groaned putting the breakfast dishes in the dishwasher. I heard Dad sigh I turned and looked at him. "I'm sorry that came out a little rough" I hugged him "I'm nervous about the school"*

*ï¿½*

*"You'll be fine honey" he smiled "Jessica come on baby" he called out to my little sister*

*ï¿½*

*"Dad" she protested "I'm not a baby I'm in first grade" I had to laugh at her flouncing*

*ï¿½*

*"I'm sorry honey" Dad chuckled dropping a kiss in her blond ringlets as she hoisted her backpack onto her shoulder "Remember Aunt Marie will pick you up after cheer practice"*

*ï¿½*

*"I know Chris already reminded me" she groaned looking out of the door "Oooo there's the girl from Next door she's in my grade. Can I go wait for the bus with her?" she begged already half way out of the door.*

*ï¿½*

*"Hey small fry" I called out to her she turned round and looked at me. "Lunch" I held out her Monkey lunch bag a smile lit her face*

*ï¿½*

*"PB&J?"*

*ï¿½*

*"Do I ever give you anything else?" I teased as she took the bag from me and hugged me tight "I'll come pick you up when I'm done with school okay?"*

*ï¿½*

*"I know you told me" she rolled her eyes "Love you Chris"*

*ï¿½*

*"Love you Jess" I watched as she hugged Dad*

*ï¿½*

*"Be a good coach and don't yell too much Daddy" she kissed his cheek "Love you"*

*ï¿½*

*"Love you to Bab..." she looked at him "Love you too Jess" he corrected himself and watched as she ran out of the door as I put my lunch into my bag.*

*ï¿½*

*"She'll be fine Dad" I picked up my coffee mug and drained it "Jess can find friends anywhere"*

*ï¿½*

*"I know but I just thought your' Mom might have called.*

*ï¿½*

*"She's in Australia whole different day there at the moment" I laughed trying to not make Dad feel so lost for a while "Here" I held out a brown bag.*

*ï¿½*

*"What's this?"*

*ï¿½*

*"PB&J and some cold pizza" I smiled kissing his cheek "oh and I let you have the last of the cookies Grandma baked"*

*ï¿½*

*"Christine you're my angel" he chuckled "I'll see you around 9 tonight okay"*

*ï¿½*

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*"We'll be fine Dad don't worry and Aunt Marie is only a few miles away" I picked up the keys to my car "Have a good day and like Jess said don't yell too much"*

*ï¿½*

*"Call me at lunch time so I know how you're getting on"*

*ï¿½*

*"I will" I nodded.*

*ï¿½*

*I walked out for 6.45am it was like walking into a steaming sauna. I clicked the button on my pretty little mustang all shiny and black. For some reason my Mom insisted that I got it for my 16th birthday that as normal she missed due to it inconveniently clashing with the release of the new thriller but I'd had fun without her which was getting more and more frequent as she was more and more in demand from her publisher and from her fans. I turned on the engine and turned up the air conditioning. I've visited Florida plenty of times but living here was going to take some getting used to.*

*ï¿½I pulled down the driveway and out onto the street it was only about 5 miles to school but I wanted to get there before most of the other kids did. I rounded the bend and the school rose up in front of me twice the size of my old school in Wisconsin... Ah for the cool lake right now and my friends, I swallowed back the homesick feelings and pulled into the parking lot not too many cars were there. The soccer and football teams were out practicing with a hoard of hangers on as I'd call them al the giggly girls that looked the part but had nothing between the ears watching them and whispering to each other. I'd heard things from Family members about how bitchy things had become here and I'd tried not to let it bug me but now I was here, alone it was bugging the hell out of me. I locked the car and took a deep breath and walked to the main entrance.*

*ï¿½*

*The office was easy to find as soon as I walked in there was the odd student walking the halls a few looked me over but I think that had more to do with the Wisconsin t-shirt I was wearing than anything else I opened the door and walked over to the desk the young woman sitting behind a computer looked up.*

*ï¿½*

*"You must be Christine Sommers... Welcome to Riverview High" she smiled a huge over bleached smile "All the way from chilly Wisconsin" she shuddered.*

*ï¿½*

*"It's September its still 80 degrees there" I pulled a face I hated anyone bashing the mid west. My cousins loved to tease me about it when I saw them every year.*

*ï¿½*

*"Of course well here's your schedule and the map of the school... we have try outs coming up for the play and for soccer and swimming and dance team and..." oh this woman could drone on and her voice was beginning to irritate the heck out of me.*

*ï¿½*

*"Do I have a locker" I interrupted her*

*ï¿½*

*"Yes down the hall she took the map from my fingers and a sharpie and drew a line across the map "then go up the small stairs and it's on your left locker 212" she walked over to the computer and printed off something else "And here's your combination" I took it from her and had to smile at the 715 the old dialing code for my old home town. "You have to get this signed by each of your teachers today and then bring it back here after school done"*

*ï¿½*

*"Okay thanks" the door to the office opened and the noise level rose with the sounds of guys laughing.*

*ï¿½*

*"Boys' come on you're not out on the football field now" She groaned but I swear she stood straighter pushing her boobs out further I rolled my eyes and coughed. "Oh yes... right" she looked back at me "you have everything you need so you can run along" she seemed to want to get me out of the office as soon as she could. I picked up my things and turned round there was four guys all standing waiting patiently eyeing me up and down weighing me up. One of them grabbed the door handle and opened it for me.*

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*i*<sub>ç</sub><sup>1/2</sup>

*"Thanks you"*

*i*<sub>ç</sub><sup>1/2</sup>

*"You're welcome honey" he chuckled as I walked by*

*i*<sub>ç</sub><sup>1/2</sup>

*"Wisconsin isn't it a state full of cows and snow" one of the guys laughed making the other howl I ground my teeth together today was going to be a long rough day.....*

*i*<sub>ç</sub><sup>1/2</sup>

## Chapter 2: We got our Sandy

..... Home room I felt like a goldfish in a bowl when the teacher made me introduce myself. The guy that had opened the door was sitting in the back of the class chewing gum with a hanger on either side of him whispering across him he started to smirk at something one of them said before draping his arm round her shoulders The teacher pointed me to a seat to the side and carried on talking about announcements. I was in hell I could feel eyes burning into the back of my head I wanted so much to turn round but I remembered my cousin's advice when he found out I was coming her. 'First day keep your mouth shut and the razor tongue you have inside your damn head' I took a deep breath and went back to trying to work out where the hell I was going for biology next.

The bell rang and the class all seemed to pile through the door all at the same time, I leant on the wall waiting for the crush to subside a little.

"So a little far from the Midwest aren't you?" one of the hangers on smiled a sweet sickly smile at me

"A little but I get to come here and see how a big school works" I put on my best Wisconsin accent making her recoil like I'd poured acid on her.

'Oh jeez you talk funny" she wrinkled her nose.

"Yeah well you look funny" I shrugged in my normal voice "we're all screwed in some way" I heard someone start laughing as the girl stood there with her mouth hanging open as if to say something but she could quite figure out what. As I walked down the hall.

"Yeah well the packers suck" she called after me I turned round and walked backwards and held out my arms.

"I knowâ but then again so does most football" I turned round and walked into someone. "Sorry" I held up my hands as their books crashed to the floor.

"Its okay" the girl looked up at me "You're Christine right"

"Chris" I corrected I only got called Christine normally if I'd done something wrong

"I'm Miranda" she pulled her books together and stood up. "Mr. Sorenson sent me to find you"

"Found a friend Mir" the girl I'd had words with said pulling a face as she walked past with the guy from earlier

"Shut up Reba" Miranda muttered under her breath.

"Now now" the guy tapped her chin she slapped his hand away and glared at him. Great 8am and already the bitchiness begins

"Jackson come on" Reba whined her overly blonde hair swinging in the high ponytail it was scrapped into. I watched as they walked down the hallway his hand on her ass.

"Okay I have a few questions" I mused as I followed Miranda

"Shoot" she sighed trying to arrange the books and papers in her arms.

"Okay who's Mr. Sorenson and why did he send you to find me?"

"Oh he's the musical director and he got your transcripts from your old school and he wants you for the lead in Grease" she shrugged. "He's got you out of your next class so you can audition for him" she smiled as her papers were finally neat again "you must be good"

"I'm embarrassed it Miss Doyle sent the DVD from the last show" I groaned.

'Who's Miss. Doyle?"

"My olds music teacher" I smiled remembering the blast we'd had in spring putting on West side story I hung my head that homesick feeling was washing back over me again. Suck it up Chris you're not going back north till you graduate I said in my head.

"Okay so what other questions do you have?" Miranda brought my thoughts back from East High to River View High.

"Who was the blond?"

"Rebecca Lawsonâ Reba" she moaned "Head Cheerleader captain of the dance team and all round school slut" Miranda giggled evilly. "But don't cross her she can make your life hell".

"I get itâ so who was the jock?"

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"That would be Jackson Williams, Lacrosse captain and Basketball captain" she shrugged "Reba's on again off again lets get horny in the back of your truck boyfriend" she pushed open a door the sound of music flooded out. "Oh and my twin brother" she turned away from me "I got Sandy" she laughed across the room. 20 set of eyes turned round to look at me.

"Ahhh Miss Sommers" an obviously over dramatic gay man stepped from behind a piano wearing a red shirt with leans and a huge green bow tie. I was so far from Wisconsin now I think forgot how to spell it "Come sitâ | sit" he patted the vacant piano stool "Miss Doyle spoke to me for 30 minutes about you this very morn" he wiped his forehead with a large white handkerchief "You are my new muse and these sweet people here" he swept his arm out to the rest of the students in the room "agree with me after witnessing the wonderful job you did as Maria"

"Erâ | Thanks" was all I could thing to say.

"So my darling you must play for us" he pushed up the cover that was over the keys "Play and swing something for us" Oh great nothing like being put on the spot and all the songs I could think of we're all Nickelback every show tune I knew had up and left my mind and gone on vacation as I stared at the keys. The room was deftly silent. I took a deep breath and started to play Far away the music sends me to a totally different place as my fingers ran over the keys and I started to sing. The words ran through my head as I remembered singing it when I last went camping with all my friends. I came to the end of the song and opened my eyes. "Wow that wasn't a song I was expecting butâ |" everyone else was on their feet in the room clapping and whistling. "I think Miranda you need to go get coach Jones down here we've found the girl to sing the anthem at Friday nights game and we've found our Sandy" MR. Sorenson wiped away imaginary tears as Miranda got to her feet

"You know Boss I'm ain't a gopher" she grinned

"Honey I know that" he laughed snapping his fingers and bobbing his head "but I know what you get like when you see a certain football player who right now has practice" Miranda blushed beet red and scurried from the room as I got swamped by people all chatting to me. Finally a place with no bitchinessâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ |

## Chapter 3: Just have my back quietly

..... The door to the music room opened and Miranda walked back in with a guy around the same age as my Dad dressed in shorts and a Polo shirt.

"Angusâ Miranda here said you've finally found someone to sing at the first home game"

"Jules" Mr. Sorenson beamed "I'd like you to meet Miss Christine Sommers new from the dairy state fresh from the cattle truck and the cheese wagon" I closed my eyes and groaned as it sounded like I was being introduced into a circus or at least the freak show. "Christine this is our Athletic director and our football coach Jules Jones"

"Nice to meet you" I smiled nervously

"Okay then honey belt out the anthem for me" he sat in a chair and crossed his legs and folded his arms. I looked at Miranda who was stood by the open door and giving me the thumbs up. I took a breath and started to sing again singing the national anthem always makes me cry for some reason I felt the tears slip down my cheeks as I came to the end and opened my eyes again to see everyone on their feet with hands over hearts.

"Damn Girl you've got some pipes on you" Coach Jones said shaking his head. "Come see me after school I might have something for you to do for half time as well as those fru fru dancers" he rolled his eyes "Angus thank you"

"You're welcome oh might football coach" Mr. Sorenson bowed deeply making the Coach laugh I looked to the door Miranda was talking to a guy that was easily 6ft 1 wearing a tight shirt that showed every muscle in his upper body his dark hair curling on the back of his neck. He looked my way and nodded at something Miranda said to him. Before stepping back as the coach walked out and they both disappeared down the hall. The bell rang again. "Well Miss Sommers I can't hold you any longer you have to go to class" Mr. Sorenson lifted my hand and kissed it "I'll get you a practice schedule for our times and we'll be seeing you so very soon"

"Yeah thanks a lot for this" I looked round for my bag.

"I have it" Miranda called over to me as the room was slowly emptying. I hurried over to her "You okay you look in shock"

"Mr. Sorenson is soâ"

"He's awesome when you get used to his diva ways and we all call him the boss" she smiled handing me my bag. "And you're amazing"

"Don't" I felt my cheeks turn red. "So how was the guy by the door with you?"

"One of the few Jocks that talks to everyone" she smirked "Super hot and you should see him swim damn those trunks and my imagination" she started to giggle infectiously making me smile.

"You have a crush on him"

"Not really I've known him since 5th grade when he moved here" she shrugged "he's just fit and has a rocking body"

"So what's his name?" I pushed her

"Nikolai or Niko as everyone calls him" she pushed open a classroom door "He's a sweetheart that doesn't take crap Oh and he has a brother as well"

"You keep doing that" I laughed as we sat down at a table.

"Doing what?"

"Giving me half the story and then the rest in a separate sentence"

"I space out sometime" she winked "Oh Talk of hotties" she nodded to the door. I smiled as a 6ft blond guy walked over to the teacher and handed him a note.

"Christine you have a call in the office" he said kindly "Miranda will catch you up when you get back" I got up and looked at Miranda.

"Hands off he's mine" she joked nodding in the direction of the guy waiting by the door for me.

"Not really into blonds" I whispered back to her. Before turned and walked out into the hall the guy closed the door and broke out into a huge grin.

"So managing to keep your mouth shut" he nudged me

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"Noâ | Thanks Xander you could have warned me how whacky this damn school is" I put my arm round his waist as we walked down the hall

"Hey you were the one living in butt-fuck-now-where" he laughed "I can't help that"

"I'll remember that when you want to go to the cabin and snowmobile" I dug my fingers into his ribs.

"I can make it easier for you if you let me introduce you to people" he sighed stopping and looking at me.

"Noâ | we've been through this I want to make it here without the help of my cousin"

"I know people though Chris"

"And I'm meting people as well" I kissed his cheek 'I love you Xander just have my back quietly"

"Okay" he groaned "Oh and Mom said you and Jess are staying for dinner

tonight"â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ |

## Chapter 4: This Mid west Girl bites back

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..I walked into the office the same woman that I'd spoken to that morning was stood by the photocopier.

" I was told I have a call"

"Oh yes Honey" she smiled 'pick up that phone over there and press 6"

"Thanks" I walked across to the white phone next to a chair and picked it up.

Me \* hello

Mom \* Chrisâ ! honey I'm so sorry I didn't call earlier I lost track of the time with the whole 14 hours time difference

Me \* I understand

Mom \*so hows school?

Me \* I already have the lead in the playâ ! Miss. Doyle's been in touch with the Music director her

Mom \* awesome I knew you'd settle inâ ! is Xander helping you?

Me \* yeah

It was easier to say that than try to explain I wanted to come here and not have a baby sitter as such

Mom \* so did Jess get off to school okay?

Me \* yeah see made a new friend next door in the same grade so they went together

Mom \* and your Dad I bet was nervous?

Me \* headless chicken

Mom \* and you sorted it all out I'll bet.

Me \* I did my best.

Mom \* and your best is always amazing honeyâ ! oh I have to go I have a T.V. interviewâ ! I love you Chris and I'll be back next week

Me \* okay Mom have funâ ! Love you too

The phone disconnected and I cradled the receiver in my hands for a while. I loved the success both my parents had in their jobs but it took a lot of my childhood away hang to look after Jess when they were gone.

"Christine" I blinked a couple of times and looked round at the Secretary "You zoned out there honey" she giggled a high tinkling laugh "Mr. Sorenson asked me to give you a practice schedule for the play" she held out a neon pink sheet of paper.

"Oh thanksâ ! I'd better get back to class" I put the phone down and hurried out of the door Xander was talking in the hall to Miranda's brother and a few more guys. "Excuse me" the parted so I could walk through the middle of them

"No I'm telling you wait till you hear her" I glanced up at the voice that said it. It was Nikolai the guy who Miranda had been talking to. He was looking at another guy slightly shorter than he was.

"Hey Wisconsin" Jackson called out as I carried on walking I turned round "Packers don't suck it was the first thing Reba could think of" I shrugged.

"Well that's impressiveâ !" I smiled a little that she actually knew the Packers were from Wisconsinâ ! at least I now know her I.Q must be at least as big as her shoe size" I turned away as Xander hung his head and closed his eyes the others all started to laugh as I walked away Xander was going to yell at me at dinner but if people didn't like Christine Sommers then they were going to have to deal with it.

The rest of the morning was uneventful Miranda had English when I had History just before lunch she said she'd come find me when she was done. I went to my locker and pulled out my lunch and my cell phone and walked outside into the sunshine and I went over to my Car and sat on the Hood. I pulled an apple from the bag and dialed my Dad's number.

Dad \* Christian Sommers

Me \* so how's it going?

Dad \* hi honeyâ ! it's going really well so far I've just been meeting with players and the other coaches.

Me \* so you haven't yelled yet.

Dad \* you and Jess make it sound like that's all I doâ ! and no I haven't I don't want to scare them

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Me \* you're a doofus sometimes. Mom called me.

Dad \* she said she was going to she called em when I was driving here.

Me 8 oh okayâ | I've seen Xander and Aunt Marie said we're having dinner there tonight

Dad \* goodâ | is Xander still annoyed that you won't let him show you around.

Me \* a little but he'll get over it

Dad \* made any friends?

Me \* one so far she seems fun oh and I got the lead in Grease

Dad \* you've been in school half a day

Me \* I know but I'll fill you in later.

Dad \* okay honey have a good afternoon and I love you

Me 8 Love you too

I hung up as Reba walked by with Jackson

"So you have a boyfriendâ | long distance with a farm boy" she said smugly.

"Have you ever been north of the State line or are you just an ignorant suck up southerner?" The mid west had taken enough bashing now this Mid west girl was biting back

"I've been to New Orleans" she bragged. I slid off the hood of my car as I spotted Miranda walking out of the school

"Aw honeyâ | that's sweet but that's actually due westâ | but good try" I looked at Jackson "What I said before I take it back the shoe size is so much larger" I pushed my phone into my pocket as Reba stood in shock I waved a Miranda. Jackson bit his lip and shook his head

"Yeah well the Packers play in the snow and it's stupid" she stammered struggling for something to throw at me

"Yep they do and yes it is because your ass goes numb and the beer freezes when it's thirty below but hell they know how to party" I winked :he Miranda" I walked away

"Oh she got you there" Jackson laughed

"Shut up Jackson" She pulled away from him and stalked to where the rest of her friends were sittingâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 5: Change it

..... The rest of the day Miranda and I spent talking like she'd been my friend for year we just connected easily. Other people were saying hi to me and I had no clue who they were until Miranda told me they'd been in the Band room when I was singing earlier, and that there was a buzz going round about Coach Jones and Mr. Sorenson cooking up a plan with the Dance Coach for the big first home game this coming Friday.

"Chrisâ Chris" I looked round as I walked out of the office after handing in the form I'd had to drag round and get signed by the teachers. A tall skinny guy with jet black hair and thick raccoon eyeliner skidded to a halt. "Do you have to be anywhere?"

"Erâ yes and no" I shrugged

"Okay if no then the Boss wants to see you in the band room and Yes then the boss wants to see you I the band room" he laughed

"So I don't get a whole lot of choice then do I" I smiled shaking my head

"Nope" he popped the p as he said it "I'm Alfie" he held out his hand I took it and smiled "and I have to say you're good Nickelbackâ Ehâ not so much" he waved his hand and pulled a face

"Hey don't knock one of the hottest singers ever"

"You're kidding right" he groaned "the dudes' fugly"

"Hey this girl wouldn't say know I held up my hands and if he sang to me" I fanned myself with my hand "I'd be putty in his hands"

"Canadian rockers" he clicked his tongue and rolled his eyes as we walked down the hall

"I need to make a quick call" I said thinking about my Aunt watching Jess. "Okay I'll meet you in the room" he walked away pushing his hands into his pockets as he went I took out my phone and dialed my Aunt's house and groaned when I got the answer machine

\*\*\*Aunt Marie its Chris. I have to stay behind for some music thingâ I might be a little later than we thoughtâ call me if it's a problem\*\*\*

I hung up

"You know she doesn't mind she gets a little girl to herself for a while" I looked round as Xander walked down the hall his cleats in one hand and his helmet in the other.

"Are you following me?" I smiled

"No I left these in my locker" he held up the cleats "So what did Alfie want?"

"I have to go see Mr. Sorenson again" I shrugged

"Niko heard you sing and was telling the guys you rock, and I have to admit I had a hard time keeping my mouth shut" he chuckled "I wanted to brag about how good you really are"

"Well don't and keep biting that tongue for a little while longer till I find my place in the school" I patted his shoulder

"Okay" he smiled "I'll catch you laterâ oh and I think we need to talk about your sarcasm levels" he pointed at me as he walked away

"I know they're not quite back to my usual level but I'm, working on it" he shook his head and pushed open the door to the outside world as I headed for the band room. I walked in there were three guys including Alfie sitting on chairs Alfie had a base guitar on his lap.

"Darling finally" Mr. Sorensen breezed over to me "Now we wise and wondrous teachers have decided to wow" he did Jazz hands and over exaggerated the WOW "And I truly mean wow the Home crowd at this weeks' opening game with a half time show to rival the super bowl" I pulled a face and looked at Alfie he shook his head and smiled "Well you get what I meanâ !" he smiled "and you my dear will be the perfect all American girl to begin with when you sing the Anthem and then half time you'll be our rock chick" I snorted because the words rock and chick coming out of his mouth sounded so funny.

"So Boss what are we doing?" One of the guys sighed twirling drumsticks in his fingers.

"Well the dance team will be doing their performance in front of the bleachers while you my wonderful students" he walked round the 4 of us "will be singing a mixture of" he handed Alfie a C.D. and waved his

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hand at the stereo on the far wall. I sat down in the seat Alfie got up from and looked at the other two guys.

"Hi. I'm Chris" I smiled at both of them

"I'm Kerion and this is Pete" the drummer smiled they both looked like they belonged in a metal band. "And the Nickelback you did" he offered me his fist making me laughed as Mr. Sorenson clapped his hands together

"Okay now the first song" he rolled his eyes "Coach wants it for his "BOYS"â" He did the quotation marks in the air so fine let him have that but your little Nickelback performance this morning" he looked at Kerion "Thank you for letting me borrow your I-pod" he giggled Kerion just shrugged. "I'd personally not listened to them but I found a rocking song that I changed the words to because I don't really think we can talk about drinking whiskey at a school event" he sighed he handed me a sheet of paper "But I think you could blow it out of the park so to speak because to me it sums up or schools 'Balls to the wall' attitude" I looked down at the slightly revised words for "Burn it to the ground" as Alfie hit play and 'The Boys Are Back In Town' filled the room. I looked at Mr. Sorenson.

"Coaches song" I laughed pointing to the stereo

"Yes Honey he has no imagination" he sighed okay so lets get started he jumped up.

"He'll work us like dogs to get this right" Alfie laughed as he walked back over and picked up his guitar again

"e has a thing to prove that us Band and theatre kids can kick ass as much as the rest of the school" I took a microphone from the stand and looked at him

"He's right we can"

"Erâ Hello have you seen Jock central" he groaned "We're not the cool kids"

"So do something about it" I smiledâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ

## Chapter 6: Weakening

..... I walked up the drive to my Aunt's house as the sun was setting. Uncle Tom was stood on the step smoking a cigarette as he wasn't allowed to smoke in the house.

"First day and already putting in overtime" he chuckeld kissingmy cheek

"Like you wouldn't believe I'm glad I managed to squeeze in home work in study hall this afternoon and I'm so sorry for not calling"

"Honey it's fine" he smiled "Jess I s tucked up in one of the girls rooms asleep she had a busy dad"

"I'll take her home"

"Chris she can stay we miss having the girls around now they've left for college and you know Xander always wanted a little sister to look after" he flicked the cigarette butt into the bucket he kept behind a wall. "Nopw inside and eat" he opened the door the smell of potraost wafted over me making my stomach growl. I walked in and kicked off my shoes and put my bag down. "She made it call of the sercch dogs" Uncle Tom called out "Sorenson on just let you go" Xander looked at me from the bookms he had strched out ver the dining room table.

"Yeah we I think sang far a while" I nodded looking over his shoulder at the math he was doing "And you got that wrong" I pointed to the last answer he'd written it's 99.8" I walked intot he kitchen.

"Come here you" Aunt Marie hugged me "I want front row seats for the play"

"I'll see what I can do" I kissed her cheek and took the plate she offered me

"Xander move over so your cousin can sit" Aunt Marie scooted his things over.

"Was Jess okay"

"We had a blast she did her homework and then played in the pool ate supper annoyed Xander for a while and crashed out on the couch" She went backin the kitchen and came back with a bottle of water for me "I'll take her to school in the morning on my way to work"

"She needs clothes and stuff and lunch"

"Chris I have a spare key to your house" She laughed "we went and got clothes"

"I'm sorry" Xander kicked me under the table. "Ow dude"

"Stop saying sorry" he poked his tongue out at me "We're here to help"

"Exactly" Uncle Tom put his hand on his wives shoulder "We like having you guys a few blocks away that's what families for looking out for each other"

"I know" I groaned kicking Xander back and moving my legs so he couldn't get me back.

"Well we're going to go watch T.V." Aunt Marie got up "could you help him with his homework so he doesn't get dropped from the team"

"Yes Ma'am" I nodded as they walked away. "Your grades that bad" I asked finishing the food onmy plate.

"No just Math" he groaned "I pulled the others up but if I fail this assignment" he tapped his pen on thew page

"I'm on the bench for the next 4 games"

"Tell you what" I got up from the table "Get your things and come over to my house so I can at least shower and change before we pull an all nighter"

"Deal" he nodded "you drive I'll walk home later" I nodded and put my plate in the dishwasher the two of us got in my car and I headed for home "So what is planned for the game?"

"Now if I told you apparently I'd have to kill youaccording to your coach and Sorenson" I laughed as his phone rang.

"Hey Dâ ! No I can'tâ ! dumb math assignemtn could bench meâ ! I know it sucksâ ! well Niko needs a hobbyâ ! Dude I tired it and got maimed rememberâ ! You're a train and theres no pads involved it hurts like a bitchâ ! I'm not a pussy"

"You are" I giggled earning a dead leg from him

"No some annoying hag Mom's gto tutoring me" he gave me the finger. "Okay Dâ ! 6am" he hung up the phone "Bitch"

"Yes" I nodded "So a friend asking if Xander was coming out to play" I teased as we pulled into the garage at home.

## It's in the accent

"Yeah I have a couple of friends that are trying to get a rugby team going"

"Oooo hot gus with muscles and no padding to hid behind" I licked my lips "Sooooo Hott"

"Oh your sick girl" he pushed me

"And like your friend obviously said you're too much of a pussy to play without pads"

"I'll tell everyone we're related if you carry on" he threatened flopping down on the couch "No go make popcorn I can't study without munchies" I flicked on the stereo as I walked past Pink's Glitter in the air began to play. I hummed along and then started to sing and dance in the kitchen while the microwave did it's job on the popcorn. Xander leant on the door frame watching me.

"You could be good for our school" he sighed moving round me and fetching the popcorn out and pouring it into a bowl. "The separation between groups is stupid"

"I noticed" I turned down the music and took the bowl from him we both went into the living room "It's really screwy"

"I know it gets tiring sometimes" he picked up a math book

"Do something about it stop hitting on the airheads and find a cute girl"

"Where?"

"Open your eyes Xanderâ how about Miranda?" I suggested remembering her reaction when Xander had walked into the classroom earlier.

"Jackson sister?" I nodded "She's my best friend's sister that's like wrongâ but she does have a sweet ass and her rack isâ!" my hand connected with the back of his head

"Hey get your brain out of your pants she's not one of those easy lays you're used to" I poked his chest "she's someone you could probably call your girlfriend not someone to fumble with round the back of the gym" he blushed as he knew damn well his sister had told me he'd been caught by her round the back of the gym having a little too much fun with one of the girls in his class last summer.

"Are we going to get on with the math"

"Nice way to change the subject" I sighed taking the book from him. he was weakening I could tell by the way he chewed the inside of his cheek the way he and I both did when we were weighing things up oh this was going to be funâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ

## Chapter 7: You have to be kidding

..... The next few days were crazy insane with classes and meeting more people that Miranda kept introducing me to. It amazed me that when Jackson and Miranda walked down the halls they both acted like the other wasn't there if I had a brother I'd at least acknowledge he was there. Reba had tried and failed a few times to make a snide comment to me but I always had a comeback that left her fuming.

It was Friday morning before the big game that night Sorenson insisted in some form of costume for his grand half time extravaganza. I walked into my Health class for the first time and glanced round Alfie and Pete were in there and so was Reba sitting with the guy Niko had been talking to earlier in the week, I'd seen hm around but he was always either talking to the guys or he had a girl called Abby following him. Reba whispered something to him but he looked boared with what every she had to say. Jackson walked in and poked me in the side.

Hey Wisconsin" he beamed "how's the pet cow doing?"

"I don't know you're dating her" I fired back sweetly before going to sit with Alfie who high fived me on the way past.

'Sweet Chris" Pete chuckled "I'm waiting to see the look on her face when she realizes she's not dancing to a backing track tonight and your singing.

We'd done everything we could to keep it all a secret from everyone and it had the whole school buzzing for not only the game but also halftime. The dance team thought they were being touted as the best around making them want to put on a real show while the football team were ready to have the school behind them leaving the four of us to drive it. Miranda knew about it and it was driving Jackson mad because Xander bitched to me about him whining his sister was hiding something from him. Jackson went and sat with Reba after pounding his fist with the other guy.

"You're late Nicolai" the teacher looked over her glasses at him as he skidded in the door making the jock row laugh.

"Sorry Ma'am I had swim practice" she said turning his eyes on her and batting his eyelashes.

'Dumb Jock" Alfie muttered.

"You're just jealous Emo boy" Nico hissed walking past him

"Of what! The fact you're brain's in your ass along with having to have a real insecurity about your manhood or why else would you flex before coming into the class room" I spat out before I'd thought twice.

"Oooo Wisconsin hits it out the park for a home run and the crowd goes wild" the other guys laughed as Jackson tried to keep a staright face and Reba looked fit to slap me talking about her jocks like that. Nico looked at me and shook his head

"Nice come back" he smiled "Sorry Dude" he looked at Alfie. He walked away and sat down punching the other guy on the arm

"I think I love you" Alfie teased

"Yeah I'll let your girlfriend know" I smiled as the teacher started to talk. I looked round and Reba was giving me stink eye Nico and Jackson were chatting quietly and the other guy was watching me. I looked away from him and nudged Pete.

"Question"

"Hmmm"

"Okay I know queen bitch and Jackson and Nico but who's the other guy"

"That's Nico's twin" I raised my eye brows "Yes we have 4 sets of twins in our grade" he rolled his eyes.

"They don't look the same"

"Fraternal not identical" Alfie said leaning back in his seat. "His names Dimitriâ ; he's not as mellow as Nico he has a temper so I've heard" he glanced back and then looked back at me "and his 'girlfriend' makes Reba seem like a puppy" I turned round and looked at him again he was listening to something his brother was saying to him not in English. I turned back round. One thing about moving to a new school it gave me entertainment learning about people. The door swung open and Miranda burst in.

"Excuse me Miss Hardacreâ ; I need two minutes with Christine" The teacher sighed



## Chapter 8: The Boy's are back in town so burn it to the ground

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ! "You look cute" Miranda smiled as I pulled my hair back into a ponytail. My make up was the bare minimum

"I look like preppy Barbie" I groaned looking at the pink polo shirt and jean skirt I was wearing. "I can safely say I've never worn this shade of pink in my life I feel like I've been dowsed in Pepto"

"Oh stop bitching" Alfie called out from the other side of the curtain where the band were getting ready.

"Dude Look" I stepped out

"Ewâ !" he pulled a face

"See" I hung my head "I'm supposed to sing the anthem looking like something from candy land"

"Oh My Goodness who put you in that?" Mr. Sorenson walked over.

"Erâ ! You did" I held out my arms

"Oh honey I must have been sick that day"

"Boss it was 20 minutes ago" one of the band kids shouted across the room.

"I have an idea" Miranda raced from the room coming back 10 minutes later.

"What have you down? Is Xander wandering half naked somewhere?" Mr. Sorenson giggled Miranda turned beet red.

"No I asked coach for a spare jersey that's all" she looked down "It's supposed to be a high school thing the first game so what better than a football jersey" Mr. Sorenson pulled her in to him and waltzed her round the room.

"Child you are a genius" he cooed at her I pulled off the polo and threw it over a chair my black tank still on under it I slipped on the jersey.

"Okay I need perfume it smells all like jock" I wrinkled my nose I heard a whistle and one of the girls threw some body spray across the room I smiled at her in the past week we'd all got really close I sprayed myself as the rest of the band left to play before the game leaving me and the guys and Miranda.

'Nervous" Kerion asked.

"I want to throw up" I nodded but I'm not sure if it because of the shirt I almost had to wear or because of the singing" I smiled

"You'll be awesome" Miranda squeezed my hand

"Yeah and then you get to come back here and get ready to blow away all the jocks and bitches" Alfie grinned we could hear the band playing on the field.

"Christineâ ! Are you ready?" the Principal put his head round the door I nodded the guys got up and hugged me and Miranda walked out with me. I stood next to the principal as he spoke about how good it was to be playing the first home game of the new season I looked at the bleachers that easily held 1000 people way different from the usual couple of hundred I was used to oh and the odd cowâ ! well it was Wisconsin. The football teams were lined up on each side of the podium I was stood on. "I'd like everyone to rise of the National Anthem" he said in his crisp tone before handing me the micro phone all I could think was don't screw it up. Everyone on the bleachers got to their feet I saw Miranda standing off to the side with the Alfie, Kerion and Pete I looked down the line of players Xander gave me a quick wink calming me before I started to sing.

As ever I cried as I sang it, Opening my eyes when I got to the end to see Coach Jones wiping away a tear as Jackson stepped forward and offered me his hand to help me down from the podium.

"You gave me chills" he chuckled letting go of my hand. "Nico was right about you"

"Told you dude" Nico punched Jackson in the shoulder.

"Hey you think I could get my jersey back before the game starts" I looked round at Dimitri.

"It's yours" I choked on the words. "Miranda said she asked coach for a spare"

"He gave her mine without looking at the number" he smiled.

## It's in the accent

"I'm so sorry I didn't know" I pulled the shirt off as he pulled off the one he had one I almost choked when I saw his arms they were bigger than his brothers and so very sun kissed I shook my head as Alfies' words pushed in to my brain 'he's got a temper and his girlfriend makes Reba seem like a puppy' I ran my fingers through my hair and held out the jersey.

"Here you go" he laughed handing me the one he had "it looks cute on you" he turned and walked away with Jackson.

"Nice job Chris" Xander whispered as he walked by me. I walked off the field and over to the waiting guys and Miranda.

"I think you made grown men cry" Pete laughed putting his arm round my shoulder as we walked back to the school and there were a lot of pissed looking girls when they seemed to surround you when you got down"

"Hey they were just saying well done it's their fault if they're insecure about it" I pulled open the door to the band room and pulled the band from my hair.

I sat down while Miranda and one of the other girls went to down with my hair making it fall in huge curls my eyes were made up all smoke and my lips a deep red Miranda pulled the curtain as I took off the skirt and pulled on black leggings she handed me the top that she'd picked out all slivery and shiny.

I have a better idea" I walked out into the room and picked up the football jersey Dimitri had given my in return for his.

"Chris you're half naked and we're teen guys here" Kerion shouted as they piled the drums by the door ready to take outside.

"Okay I have pants on and I have a bra on" I pulled a face "Go take a shower if you need to" I walked back behind the curtain.

"You can't wear that it was large on Dimi" Miranda groaned.

'Exactly it'll make me feel better about wearing the boots" I smiled putting on the jersey I picked up the band I'd pulled from my hair and secured the shirt so it sat across my hips at an angle the one side of the neck fell off my shoulder I looked in the mirror and nodded "Okay give me hooker Barbie's boots" I teased sitting down in the chair. It took Chris and the other girl and me tugging and fighting to get them on the three of us laughing hysterically as we were doing it finally they were on and I had to admit they felt comfortable and gave me a feeling of being able to take on the world. The door to the band room opened

"Okay stage crew go set up quickly" Mr. Sorenson was clapping his hands "Boys are you readyâ guitars are tuned"

"Yes Boss" I recognized Pete and Alfies voices

"Christine where are you?"

"She's here" Miranda pulled back the curtain and I walked out

"Hot damn" Kerion dropped his drumsticks.

"Oh I sense horny Jocks" Alfie groaned

"Oh I need to think of my grandma right now" Pete shook his head. I blushed at the comments of my friends/

"Hmm you toned down the shirt"

"Yeah well I think a red corset and these boots great for a strip joint not so much a high school football game" I laughed

'Ahhh you are my voice of reason" Mr. Sorenson chuckled

"Aungus we're readâ Sweet mother of god Christine?" Coach Jones had walked in

"Isn't she wonderful"

"I think we're going to have to worry about the guys concentrating after seeing her" Coach groaned. I walked past him

"this is toned down" I sighed.

"I walked out of the doors that Miranda held open with Alfie and Pete following me I linked Keirons arm

"You okay?" he smirked as we walked round the dark side of the bleachers the dance team already warming up.

'No I'm going to fall on my ass on the grass these heels are like ice picks"

"Hey use them to shut Reba up for once and all" he pretended to twist a sinister mustache.

"Okay you need counselingâ that's disturbing" I swatted him

## It's in the accent

"Made you forget about falling though didn't I" he poked his tongue out at me as the principal walked on to the slightly larger stage than before where the guys instruments were set up and as the Dance team positioned themselves in front of it

"Okay as a huge treat this year our wonderful Theatre and band department have worked hard to produce a half time show for you all enjoy" he smiled "and our dance time have a routine ready for when they take state again this year" the bleachers erupted in cheering and whistling as both teams came from the locker room and sat on the benches Miranda ran over and double checked my shirt and then yanked the boots up I swatted her laughing.

"I'm helping" she grinned before disappearing to stand next to Coach Jones and Mr. Sorenson. Jackson looked at her and asked her something she just shrugged and grinned at him he pulled a face and turned away

The guys got on to the stage one of the stage crew handed me a micro phone and offered me his hand to get on to the stage behind Kerion on the drums as they started to p[lay the opening bars to 'The Boys Are Back In Town' I stepped out and started singing dancing around on the stage as the dance team did the routine they'd worked on to go along with the song I walked across the stage totally lost in the music and the arrangement we'd done half way through the music changed getting heavier as the bass intro started to burn it to the ground I saw people on their feet on the bleachers rocking out This had to be the best feeling in the world right nowâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 9: People are going to strat to think twice

the beginning of this is from the view the guys on the bench as they watched the uncool kids kick ass

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â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. "Oh come on Miranda what's happening?" Jackson moaned turning from the bench to where his sister was standing with Mr. Sorenson and Coach Jones. Miranda shrugged and flashed a grin at her brother happy for once she'd got the upper hand over him. "God you suck sometimes" he sighed turning back around as the principal began to talk on the stage.

"Well someone's obviously going to be singing" Niko looked at Xander.

"I hope to god it's not that band that won the talent show last year because the dude couldn't sing for anything" Jackson chuckled.

"Hey Mir" Dimitri beckoned she left the side of Mr. Sorenson and walked over to him, blushing a little as he was sat next to Xander. "Okay so you can't tell him what's happening but come on" her winked at her.

"Dimitri Alexi Carpov" she sighed dramatically "I can't you're all just going to have to watchâ !" she looked to the stage and leant on both Dimitri's shoulder and Xanders "Them" she chuckled nodding forward before patting their pads and stepping back as the guys started to play "The Boy's Are Back In Town" I stepped out from behind Kerion as he played the drums and walked to the front of the stage. Xander had his Gaqtorade half way to his mouth and stopped his mouth hanging open as I bounced in the boots sing.

"Isn't thatâ !?" Jackson stuttered

"She didn't look like that singing the anthem" Dimitri scratched his head. "Damn"

"Oh you have to love F.M.B.'s" Nico whistled

"Dude really" Xander looked at him "She's myâ !" he caught himself all the guys looked at him "She's new" he closed his eyes and shook his head.

"Fair game then" Nico rubbed his hand over his chin "about time I found someone new to play with"

"So help me I'llâ !" Xander spat at him

"Nico quit" Dimitri interrupted.

"Fairs fair bro you have a girl" Nico laughed. The music becoming heavier made all of them look back at the stage all of them falling silent and watching.

"Okay so I think we can safely say that girl has walked into this school and Kicked ass" Dimitri shook his head tilting it a little as I turned round with my back to everyone and walked to the back of the stage as the guys played "and with an ass that good" he groaned. Xander got up and walked behind the bench and caught hold of Miranda pulling her aside.

"Okay you're her friend right?" he swallowed hard

"Yeah" Miranda looked at him "You want me to ask her out for you?" she looked down

"Whatâ !Ewâ ! Hell noâ ! not my type" he added quickly "Did she really have to wear what she's wearing?"

"Erâ ! it's a show" Miranda pulled a face "and she looks amazing" Xander hung his head and sighed. He turned and walked back to his place on the bench as the song ended.

"So what did you think?" Reba ran over to Jackson as he was about to put on his helmet.

"Oh they rocked" he smiled nodding his head

"Wisconsin is hot as hell" Nico laughed running past both of them "I hope to god she owns those boots"

"Dude" Dimitri and Xander yelled at him at the same time.

"Hey I was talking about our dancing not her" Reba stomped her foot like a two year old.

"What danceâ ! Oh right yeah" Jackson caught himself "you were really good baby" he smiled at her

"What the dance team performed" Dimitri chuckled Reba glared at him.

"I'll let Abby know you didn't even look at her" She put her hands on her hips

"Whatever" Dimitri shruggedâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.The Bleachers and the rest of the team erupted as Alfie took my one hand and Pete took my other with Kerion on the end as we all took a bow. I couldn't wipe the smile off of my face as we stepped

## It's in the accent

down and the stage crew took over dismantling the stage so the second half of the game could start. Some of the dance team ran over and hugged us.

"Oh that was the best ever" a girl with a black bob beamed at me "You're amazing" she hugged me "Thanks I'm sorry I don't know your name and from where we were we couldn't really see you guys dancing" I apologized.

"I'm Abby and I think it was videoed" She walked backwards as Reba ran over to her and whispered something to her glaring at me the entire time. "so screw him" Abby shook her head she looked back at me "thanks again"

"Hey Chris" Pete yelled from the door to the band room I hurried as fast as the heels and the grass would allow pulling the door closed behind me.

"Oh YOU BLEW THEM ALL AWAY" Mr. Sorenson cheered his eyes wet with tears Miranda hugged me as the guys were all high fiving each other "I think people will think twice before knocking the band and theatre kids again" the door opened and the principal walked in Alfie draped his arm round me.

"Well that was some show" he smiled "I've had the local new station asking if they could interview you guys"

"All we did was what was asked" I shrugged.

"Christine I know what this school is like for clicks and I'm trying to do something about it and thanks to the staff I have for coming up with ideas like this to help break down the barriers" he held out his hands. "I've lined up for them to talk to you guys right after the game is done along with some of the players in the team"

"No problem Larry" Mr. Sorenson buzzed "they'll be there smiling for everyone"

"Good now I'd better get out to watch the rest of the game" he smiled and looked round the room at all of the band kids "You all take crap and still try your best and your best is beginning to show up some of the others in this school" he walked out as the room erupted into cheering and shouting again. I looked at Miranda.

"You want to come out and watch the end of the game"

"Hell yeah" she nodded "Guys you coming because I think your hotness stakes just went through the roof from some of the comments I over heard from the cheer leaders and the dance team"

"Finally" Pete laughed holding open the door for us "Ladies" we stepped out into the sticky night air and walked to the field as Jackson scored a touchdown

## Chapter 10: Well That was a shock

..... We stood watching the game till the final whistle we'd won by 30 points trouncing the other team most of our points coming in the third and fourth quarters. The team came off the field pumped from the win. Jackson and Dimitri ran over to us.

"Alfie since when can you guys rock out Like that dude" Dimitri laughed high fiving Alfie.

"Always" Alfie shrugged "We just needed our perfect girl" he pointed to where I was talking to some parents.

"Hey Wisconsin" Jackson shouted making me look round. "Dinner all of us" he put his arm round Kerions shoulder.

"Sure" I nodded I felt hands on my shoulders.

"Don't get changed though you'll ruin my dreams" a voice whispered in my ear I jumped as Nico walked by me and winked back over his shoulder bumping right into Xander who was looking pissed. "Xander you coming to dinner"

"Oh yeah I think I need to" he shot a look at me

"Awesome" Nico put his arm round Xander and pulled him toward the locker room.

"Jackson, Dimitri" we heard the principals voice above the crowd "Christine, Alfie" he waved us toward him. The four of us made our way over to him. "I know you guys all want to celebrate but first can you talk to the news crew" he pointed to where the two local news crews were standing.

"The four of us?" Dimitri asked

"Yep they have some questions for you guys" he started to walk over to them.

"Well it looks like we're the popular ones" Dimitri laughed "Ma'am" He offered me his arm. We all went over. The reporter smiled at the four of us.

"Okay we want you two" she pointed to me and to Alfie "In between our two Jocks" she smiled a huge cheesy smile at Dimitri and Jackson. Dimitri moved my arm that was still linked through his and put his arm round my shoulders as Alfie and Jackson were laughing together. Dimitri had the warmest brown eyes I think I'd ever seen where as his brother's were pale blue. "So Guys tonight's first home game was a little different to the usual high school game you actually had a halftime show" she started talking to us and the camera "How did it feel to have that?"

"From the team point of view it blew us away" Jackson smiled his arm draped round Alfie's shoulder "We knew nothing about it and to me it helped us win the game at the end of the day"

"Yeah" Dimitri nodded "how can you not go out and win when you have the entire school behind you and giving you what these guys and the rest of the band did tonight" Alfie looked at me and winked he knew the jocks were beginning to soften a little.

"Christine have you ever done anything like that before?"

"No neverâ well not as a show for a football game" I smiled Dimitri's thumb was rubbing on the back of my neck and driving me to distraction.

"Do you guys think it's going to become a regular thing? because I think people will come not only for the football but also the show"

"That I think you're going to have to ask the principal about" Alfie chuckled.

"Well From the two extremes of groups here at Riverview high it's back to the studio" she ended the interview

"Nice job guys" she shook all of our hands and began to walk away.

"I think we need to hurry up and get changed" Jackson said looking at Nico

"Yeah I think I do as well" I sighed.

"Hell no" Jackson, Alfie and Dimitri all said at once I looked at them

"You look amazing" Jackson chuckled please from the quarterback on behalf of the rest of the team let us all have the image of you dressed like that just for tonight as a celebration thing" he dropped to his knees and pretended to beg. I felt my cheeks flame red.

"Yeah come on Chris" Alfie smirked "you look hot and that was from my girlfriend" he pointed across the field to where The quietest girl I've ever known was sitting talking to Miranda She was only about 5ft compared to Alfie's 6ft but Heidi was all about him and he was all about her.

## It's in the accent

"Fine I'll do it for Heidi" I laughed "And Jackson get up" I groaned. Dimitri's hand was still in the back of my neck.

"D come on" Jackson got up and headed toward the locker room as some of the guys were already out and talking to people in the parking lot.

I'm coming" Dimitri dropped his hand "thanks again guys and dinner's on us" he turned and walked away I looked at Alfie.

"Wow one gig can make that much difference" I put my arm round him as we walked over to his girlfriend.

"Oh yeahâ I hope it last that's all" her dropped a kiss on my head "and Chris we'll play for you anytime"

"Thank you" I smiled letting go of him as Miranda skipped over to me.

"So?"

"So what?" I looked at her as she handed me my purse

"You going to be the next big thing?"

"Yeah I'm a high school kid that has fun singing" I smiled linking her arm as we made our way to my car "So you must really like Xander for the Boss to know" I pushed my tongue in my cheek and looked at her as she flushed red.

"He's cute" she looked down and messed with the ring on her finger. "But he's one of them"

"Who?" I looked round where kids that I'd never seen talking were mixing together "all I see tonight is a group of high school kids"

"Smart ass"

"Ask him out" I nudged her

"I couldn't and anyway he was asking all about you" she sighed.

"Ewâ I've said it before he's not my type" I swatted her okay sit by him at dinner. "I'll sit next to you or right across the table from you"

"Okay" she groaned "Oooo no Chriâ" she couldn't finish the sentence before I was grabbed round the waist and spun round.

"Wisconsin you rock" I recognize Nicolai's voice most of the crowd were watching.

"Dude really" I laughed as he put me down. I turned to face him

"What do you mean reallyâ I think it was down you you and the guys that we won" he put his hands on the sides of my face and kissed meâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ;

## Chapter 11: Don't rag on a mid west girl

..... Nico pulled back and winked at me as I tried to recover from the surprise ninja attack.  
"Just thought I'd show you my appreciation" he smiled his hands resting on my hips pulling me into him.  
"Really do you kiss your mother like that after a good meal" I was still in a state of shock.  
"Noâ€¦ only the girls I like" he moved as if to kiss me again.  
"Right come one I'm hungry" Xander clapped his hand down on Nico shoulder distracting him "You're my ride"  
"I wasâ€¦!"  
"Nicolai I know what you were just and I think we need to go get the table with so many of us going" He pulled Nico away slightly  
"Dude wait" Nico looked at Xander before turning to me  
"I'll save you a seat" he turned away from me and walked over to Xander and was gesturing something at him Xander looked at me and pulled the 'I'm pissed with you' look.  
"You have to be kidding me" Miranda nudged me "You just got kissed by one of the hottest guys in schoolâ€¦ with tongue I may add" she giggled holding up her finger.  
"There was no tongue" I pulled a face.  
"Oh there was tongue" she laughed as people started to get into cars and Jackson and Dimitri walked out of the locker room to where Abby and Reba were waiting. I unlocked my car and got in Miranda sliding into the passenger seat as I took the top down on it. "I know there was tongue because you weren't chewing gum before he kissed you and Nico always has gum when he's not out on the field" she said matter of factly I stopped and choked on the gum as it hit the back of my throat. Damn I hadn't even realized thatâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦.  
â€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦ lâ€¦. I pulled into the parking out of a place on the edge of town.  
"The burgers in here are awesome" Miranda grinned  
"Cool I'm starving actually" I said sniffing the air as the smell of fresh cooked food wafted from the place I linked her arm as we crossed the parking lot "Looks like were two of the last ones here" I smiled as the waitress showed us to the large outdoor patio all the football players got to their feet and started clapping making me turn beet red.  
"I can't believe she's still wearing those boots" I heard Reba snipe to Abby "shows what she really is" Abby shook her head as Dimitri sat down next to her she moved her chair a little further away from him.  
"Okay I think we all should look round at the people here" Jackson shouted above the noise "Tonight I think changed how we need to look at each other"  
"Jackson shush" Reba tugged on his hand he rolled his eyes and pulled it away  
"Well how some of us are going to look at each other" he ignored her  
"I think we need to hear more" one of the band kids yelled across  
"Hell yeah" Nico shouted back.  
"Sorry guys I need to eat before I sing againâ€¦ some meat thick meat and cheese" I put on my thick Wisconsin accent again making people laugh Nico opened his mouth.  
"All here honey" he laughed  
"DUUUUDE" Xander put his head on the table.  
"Did I mention Nico can be a littleâ€¦!" Miranda whispered to me  
"Crude" I finished her sentence laughing I walked over to Nico "Really because that's really not the impression I got when I saw you at the pool" I winked he raised one eye brow "I don't know if it because of the Farm boys I grew up knowing but to meâ€¦ you were more mini wiener than jumbo Bratwurst" I heard groans from round the table from band guys and football players alike. Nico shook his head and laughed  
"Dude she got you again that's twice she threw you done and pinned you for the count" Dimitri called over I rubbed Nico shoulders  
"I'm sorry but don't pick on a Wisconsin girl or any mid western girl without being ready for a comeback" I walked away from the table and headed for the bathroom.

## It's in the accent

"You going to let her get away with that" Reba hissed at Nico

"Yeah why" he shrugged "she was giving back after I gave her crap"

"But she's a bitch about it"

"No she's a hot chick wearing FMB's that I'm sure will be in my bed byâ!"

"Oh hell No" Xander got to his feet stopping the conversation. He stalked into the restaurant.

â! I looked in the mirror at the still made up girl that looked back at me and smiled I think I was going to like being here in Florida after all. I walked back out.

"Okay Chris I can't do this" Xander caught my arm and pulled me to the side.

"Do what?"

"Okay I have to say this first" he sighed "You were incredible tonight and I was so proud of you" he smiled

"Thank you"

"But I've had to listen o what the rest of my team wants to do with you and it ain't milking cows" eh whined

"and then I come out of the locker room to you and the biggest player in the school sucking faceâ! oh and did he pass you his gum?" he shuddered I groaned and hung my head "Chris I love you but I don't want or need to hear those sort of thing being said about youâ! Please they need to know about us before I kill some of my best friends" I put my arms round him and hugged him

"Okay" I nodded slipping my arm round his waist. "Come on"â! â! â! â! â! â! â! â!

## Chapter 12: it's like a Soap opera

..... "Oh you need to check you bitch" Reba said walking over to Nico and standing her hip popped to the side her arms crossed over her chest, "You're being played.

"What?" he pulled a face.

"You and little Miss Cheese headâ she's playing you and screwing your best friend behind your back"

Jackson walked over to Her along with Dimitri.

"Reba you're losing it" Jackson groaned.

"Really why was Xander pleading with her outside of the bathroom to tell us about them and that he loves her" she put a smug look on her face "Not such the shy band girl you all thought"

"Never thought that about her anyway" Nico ran his hand through his hair.

"See look" she pointed as I walked through the door with Xander.

"Dude where'd youâ" Nico trailed off as he looked at the two of us as other people looked round. My arm was round Xanders waist as his was round my shoulder. Miranda's mouth fell open and I swear looked like she wanted to cry.

"Chris?" Miranda looked at me

"We have to tell you guys something" I sighed

"Dudeâ are you" Nico pulled a face

"Ewâ" Both of us pulled a face

"I can't actually believe none of you have worked it out" Xander smiled "What's my Last Name?"

"Jackass" Reba pulled a face at him.

"Close Reba" he smiled

"Sommers" Dimitri said looking lost

"And what's Her last name?" Dimitri and the others looked at each other.

"Sommers" Miranda added

"His my cousin" I sighed.

"Cousin's" Reba choked out.

"Yeah as in my Dad and his Dad are brothers" I smiled trying not to laugh at the expression on her face

"Why didn't you say something and I've admittedâ Oh god" Miranda put her head down Dimitri rubbed her shoulders.

"Chris as you've probably gathered has a stubborn streak a mile wide" Xander laughed and she'd asked me not to let anyone know who she was because of who I was she wanted to make her own mark on the school"

"She's done that" Alfie said shaking his head. "So our rock star is related to one of the biggest Jocks"

"I'm sorry I didn't tell anyone but would you guys have been as accepting of me if you knew who I was?" I asked

"Probably not" Miranda admitted

"Oh Jeez Xand" Nico groaned "I'm sorry I said some ofâ" he looked at me "Hell no I'm not" everyone started to laugh.

'Look can we just eat and get over it" I suggested

"Sounds like a plan" Jackson Smiled He hugged me "I still think your pretty cool"

"God I hate this" Reba stomped away and over to Abby as Dimitri was trying to talk to her. I need a ride home

"I've lost my appitie"

"Yeah I'm done as well" Abby shrugged.

"trouble in paradise?" Reba butted in

"Shut up Reba you know you're a real bitch sometimes" Dimitri hissed at her

"What?" Dimitri Grabbed Reba's arm and pulled her away from everyone. I looked at Alfie and nodded in the direction of a wildly gesturing Dimitri

"I told you about his temper" he shrugged.

'Yeah but you said Abby was worse than Reba" I whispered

## It's in the accent

"She can be I think she's just done with his mood swings" he put his arm round Heidi "Can't say I blame her" he walked away

"Hey Wisconsin" I looked round and was face to face with Nico again "I think I miss placed my gum"

"Ahhh so it was yours" I smiled "I lost track of whose it could have been"

"So you've been kissing a lot of guys tonight then"

"No I didn't kiss any but one kissed me" I smirked folding my arms across my chest.

"You're a tough nut to crack aren't you" he groaned

"Something like that and I know all about you" I tapped his jaw with my finger. "Remember I've been listening and learning for a week now"

"Oh god yeah" he shook his head. I walked away from him and sat down across from Miranda

"I told you how much I like him>" she moaned

"And I haven't told him anything" I laughed "Just take charge and ask him" I looked round "Hey Xander come and sit down by Miranda" Xander walked over from talking to Jackson who sat down on the other side of me while Nico was talking to Dimitri. "Drama?" I asked nodding in their direction.

"With the girls we've been dating there's always drama" Jackson sighed looking at Xander talking to Miranda and shaking his head a little "If you've heard that Reba and I are on and off then Abby and D are more off than on and when they're off she tends to go a littleâ Over the top is the polite way to put it" he turned in his seat to face me. "I haven't got the full story yet but from the sounds of it she's been seeing him here and then a guy 20 minutes away in Clearwater"

"Nothing like keeping it local" I smiled making Jackson laugh.

"Yeah well this dude is moving away because he's been in trouble once or twice with the cops and now Abby wants to go with him"

"So why doesn't she just go"

"Her" Jackson pointed to Reba "One of the other sets of twins in our grade. Reba and Abby"

"Wow this is like a soap opera" I shook my head.

"Yeah well I haven't told you the best yet" He patted my hand "Reba had to go with Abby to get a pregnancy test done"

"Dimitri's going to be a Dad"

"Well that would be true apart from he hasn't slept wither in the past 4 months"

"Oooo drama" I rubbed my hands together

"Exactly" Jackson nodded "Now our dear Russian friend has a short fuse and hates the fact he's been lied to and Reba keeps trying to push them back together as you saw tonight" I nodded "He'd not hit a girl but Nico has to stop him from going to find this guy an debating the crap out of him"

"But if he's done with her then why let it bother him?" I asked Jackson held up his hands

"I have no idea I told him to ignore her and forget herâ but his temper won't let him"

"Is Nico much different?"

"No temper wise I've seen him hit first ask later" he shrugged "But he's got his eye one you right now"

Jackson picked up his drink "But then I think so does Dimitri"â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 13: rollercoaster of fun and emotion

â lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. Dimitri and Niko came and sat back down Dimitri sat next to Miranda sandwiching her between him and Xander Niko took a breath and checked his brother who was looking pissed as Miranda spoke quietly to him.

"So how come you can sing like you do and he sounds like a cat being tortured?" Niko asked.

"Well he's the all American sports dude" I smiled picking up my soda "Whereas me not so much, we kinda balance out the family"

"Yeah thanksgiving's a riot" Xander winked at me.

"So did it bother you when Reba said the packers suck?" Jackson chuckled.

"No! I mean I'm born and raised 75 miles from Green Bay so I knew moving to Florida I was going to get crap" I shrugged "Because he gives it me every time I talk to him" I pointed at Xander.

"Okay I've been wanting to ask but we've not had the time with what you were doing" Miranda leant on the table and looked at me she was trying not to look at Xander because every time she did she turned beet red and stumbled over her words "But how come you had to move here I mean it's senior year"

"I had the choice to stay there" I nodded "But My Dad got the best job offer and my Mom travels away a lot" I looked down I felt Xander kick me under the table gently I looked at him and smiled "And I miss him" I giggled Xander knew I'd never complain about my life but he also knew how hard I had it sometimes being a second Mother to Jess.

'So only child?" Dimitri looked at me and smiled his face calmer now no signs of the anger he had written on it before.

"No I have a little sister that just started first grade" Xander pulled out his wallet and opened it.

"Here" he handed Miranda a picture that was taken last winter at my parents' cabin in the Northwoods of Wisconsin of Xander and Jess sitting on a snow mobile.

"She's cute?" Miranda smiled as Dimitri put his head on her shoulder to look.

"She has your eyes" he looked at me his eyes doing all the smiling for him I shuddered a little inside as I could feel the sensation of his thumb on the back of my neck from earlier when we were being interviewed. Miranda handed the picture over to Jackson who held his hand out for it.

"She's going to need a big brother to fight off the guys that are going to date her" Jackson laughed.

"Oh believe me Jess won't need it she can take down a deer in one shot" Xander groaned "she'll do the same with any one that pisses her off" I high fived him over the table. Niko's arm was over the back of my seat he nudged my shoulder.

"She protective of her big sister"

"Yes" I smiled as he took the picture from Jackson.

We all finally ordered food and sat laughing and talking. Xander leaned in to Miranda and whispered something to her making her giggle. She shot a look across the table at me and looked down.

'Okay excuse us" I stood up "I want a few words with Miranda"

"You do?" Xander and Miranda both looked at me.

"Yes I do! I need help getting the boots off"

"Don't" half the guys round the table called out

"You guys are obsessed" Xander groaned "and you all know I'm related to her"

"Dude she's in FMB's what the hell do you expect" Dimitri laughed

"Okay Russian start running" Dimitri got up and took off running laughing as Xander chased him I shook my head and looked at Miranda and nodded to the corner of the Patio that wasn't taken over by all of us she followed me over

"You want help to get the boots off"

"No I wanted to wind up Xander and I knew what the reaction would be" I smirked "So what did he say to you?"

"Nothing?"

"Bull you got giggly" I poked her in the ribs "I can ask him myself?" Xander and Dimitri ran passed laughing.

## It's in the accent

"He asked me if he could pick me up tomorrow and take me to the beach"  
"Reallyâ Oh that's awesome" I hugged her "You do know I want details right" she pulled a face. "Ew not those sort of details" I swatted her "I mean if he's a gentleman and he's good"  
"Screw being a gentlemanâ Damn he could throw me on the table and kiss me right now and I'd be happy" she fanned herself with her hand "You're cousin has rocked my world since 6th grade"  
"You didn't tell me that" I smiled looking back to the table where Xander had sat down and was talking to Kerion Dimitri had taken my seat in between Niko and Jackson and was talking and shaking his head at his brother. The both shook hands and smiled as Jackson put his head on the table.  
"So it looks like you have Niko hanging off everything you say" Miranda sighed leaning on the wall  
"Whatâ Oh he's just messing" I shrugged  
"Niko doesn't mess where women are concerned" she smiled.  
"I think it's the boots not me" I laughed "and anyway stop getting off the subject of Xander"  
"Well apparently he's picking my up in this really sweet mustang as his cars in the shop"  
"Where's he getting that from?" I pulled a face  
"His cousin's letting him borrow it"  
"I'm the only cousin with aâ Damn it" I walked over to the table "okay a little heads up might be nice if you want to borrow my car" I put my hands on my hips.  
"Oh yeah" Xander grinned "Hey Chris I'm borrowing the mustang tomorrow"  
"And what am I supposed to do?"  
"Your Dad's car"  
"He has a game tomorrow" I pointed out  
"Your Mom's car's in the garage"  
"Yeah like I'm allowed to use that" I groaned  
"You're Mom's in Australia your Dad's going to be at least in Gainesville" he shrugged "Have a day at home with Jess and I think you owe me after I kept quiet" he winked.  
"Fine" I pulled the keys from my purse 'here you can drive me home when we're done and take it"  
"You want your seat back?" Dimitri asked getting up  
"No I just lost my appetite" I picked up my purse "I'll be out front" Xander got up and caught me arm.  
"I didn't think you'd mind"  
"I don't" I ran my fingers through my hair "but it's the weekend story of my life and I love Jess butâ!"  
"I didn't think and it's your first weekend here isn't it" he groaned "How about you and Jess come to the beach with us?"  
"I don't think so" I patted his arm "I'll be okay I'm being a bit selfish" I kissed his cheek "I'm going to call some of the guys from up north"  
"Okay" he nodded and watched as I walked through the doors and out to the parking lot of the restaurantâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 14: My little secret

..... "Okay so all the heat disappeared when you left" I looked round As Niko swaggered over to me as I closed my phone and wiped the tears from my cheeks.

"Yeah right it's eighty degrees" I stood up from the bench.

"I wasn't talking about the weather" he smiled "Okay I never thought calling you hot would make you cry" he walked over to me.

"I was talking to friends" I shrugged

"Some friends if they make you cry" I walked over to my car and sat on the hood Niko followed me

"They're my life" I shrugged "They're all out camping right now and I'm realizing how homesick I feel"

"We have cows here in Florida if you feel that bad" I shook my head and smiled

"Anyone tell you you're an idiot"

"Yeah but I'm a good looking Russian idiot" he smiled "That has to just do thisâ " "

He stepped between my legs and pulled me to him and kissed me his hands resting in the middle of my back holding me against him. His mouth moved from my lips kissing along my jaw and down my neck. My head was spinning with emotion right now torn between missing my friends, the crazy rush that performing had created in me earlier and now Niko. His hands moved from my back to my legs wrapping them round his waist.

"God your hot" he murmured his hot breath on my ear somehow making me come to my senses I put my hands on his chest and pushed him gently

"Niko" I closed my eyes and tried to catch my breath.

"What?" he groaned

"We need to stop" I looked at him "I'm sorry"

"Chris" he pleaded moving into kiss me again I unwrapped my legs from round him and shook my head.

"I can't"

"You've got a guy?"

"Noâ | yesâ | it's complicated"

"Someone you left in Wisconsin?"

"I'm sorryâ | but I'm not the girl for you" he pulled me back to him

"Why don't you let me make that decisionâ | I can kiss the other guy out of your head" he bent his head his lips skimming the exposed collar bone where the football jersey was hanging off of my shoulder.

"Niko please" I begged.

"Chris I promise I can take your mind off any jerk farm boy" His hand skimmed under the jersey and over my ribs heading upwards "I'm good" he groaned as his fingers toyed with the bottom of my bra.

"Stop" I pushed his hand away "I'm notâ " "

"Hey you ready to go?" The door to the restaurant opened and all the others piled out of the door Dimitri and Xander in front Xanders hand linked with Miranda's

"I'm going to walk" I said looking away from all of them I didn't want to let them see I'd been crying "Night" I pushed by Niko who was looking like I'd rained on his parade Standing with his arms folded over his chest.

"Whoa you're Not in Wisconsin now" Jackson stopped me

"Chris you can't walk down the streets looking like that here" Miranda shook her head. "Unless you want to earn some money"

"I'm taking you home" Xander stepped up. I glanced at Miranda who was looking worried. Then at Niko who was leaning against his truck with his back to me.

"No you and Miranda go do something"

"We'll take you home" I looked at Alfie and Heidi

"Thanks" I kissed Xander on the cheek and hugged Miranda.

"What's going on?" she whispered I just shook my head.

"Night guys" Heidi put her arm through mine and walked with me to where Alfie was waiting by his car.



## Chapter 15: I don't want to open up

..... Dad was up making breakfast as I walked into the kitchen.

"Please tell me you didn't just get in" he moaned looking me up and down "And where did you get those?" he pointed the butter knife to the boots

"No I got in a little after 11" I sighed sitting down "and it's what I wore last night onstage and I can't get them off on my own" I smiled as he handed me a coffee.

"So you slept in them?"

"Yup"

"So I saw you on the news last night" he said turning back to the pancakes on the griddle. "who were the boys"

"Erâ ! Alfie was the one not in football gear and the other two were Jackson and Dimitri" I looked round as my phone vibrated on the counter dad threw it to me.

\*\*\*New Message\*\*\*I'm sorry and I miss you, come back North Baby\*\*\*Arron\*\*\*8.10am

I groaned and put the phone down

"Trouble?" Dad eyed me

"Nothing I can't handle" I shrugged.

"If he's bothering you again" Dad banged his hands on the counter top.

"Dad it's okay" I tried to smile with confidence but could see the worry and pain in Dad's eyes. "So what time do you think you'll be home tonight?" I wanted to change the subject.

"It's going to be tomorrow the games against LSU" he put a plate down in front of me "I'm sorry you get stuck with Jess again"

"Hey it's okay" picked up my fork "I'm sure we can find something fun to do"

"Hey it's me" Dad and I looked to the door as Xander walked in.

"Xander nice to see you son" Dad hugged him he hadn't seen his nephew since we'd gotten here. 'You looking after Chris for me"

"I think Chris is good" he chuckled "Why are you still wearing the stuff from last night?" he wrinkled his nose.

"I can't get the FMB's off" I laughed watching Dad's face drop in shock

"Do you even know what FMB means?"

"Yes Dad" I winked at him "It's just what the guys were calling them last night"

"Not what I want to hear from my 17 year old daughter" he sighed kissing me on the head "I'm going to leave this conversation and go say bye to Jess" he walked away.

"You want me to help you get the boots off?" Xander offered.

"Sure and then you can tell me what you're doing here at 8.30 in the morning when you have date?"

"Well I wanted to come and make sure you were okay after last night" he sighed as I lay on the floor and put a foot in his hand and he began pulling at the boot. "And to tell you Mom will take Jess tonight and take her to the movies with Dad and then head to Orlando and take her to Sea World tomorrow" he got the first boot off and dropped it on the floor and held his hands out for my other foot.

"She doesn't have to" I leant up on my elbows.

"She knows that, but she also knows you need a life other than babysitting your little sister" he hissed at me so Dad wouldn't hear him.

"Yeah but what's the point when I'm going to be here without my car" I held out my hands as he dropped the second boot on the floor and pulled me to my feet "damn I feel short now" I smiled

"We're all heading to the beach tonight we've found a cove that's really cool and we hang out there most weekends someone will come pick you up" He picked up my coffee and took a drink as Dad walked back in with Jess.

"Okay I have to go you girls have fun and Xander keep her out of trouble" he winked hugging me again

"Good luck with the game"

"Thank you" Dad walked out as Jess sat on one of the stools

## It's in the accent

"So squirt you want pancakes and a day playing in the pool" I pointed out the back door.

"Xander staying as well" she looked at Xander as he piled her plate with pancakes and syrup.

"I can't I have a date"

"Oooo you going to kiss her?" Jess waved her fork at him making me laugh.

"I'm not telling" Xander shook his head

"Oh come on throw me a bone I'm 7 I know what happens on a date" she rolled her eyes and took a fork full of pancake in her mouth "I've seen Chris putting her tongue in toâ€" I put my hand over her mouth.

"Okay Squirt if you want to have a huge treat we need to knock off spying on people" I snapped she pushed my hand away and took another mouthful of pancake.

"It's gross and when his hand was in yourâ€" I" Xander started to laugh

"Okay I think I'll call Aunt Marie and tell her you don't want to go to the movies or to Sea World" I leant on the counter in front of her she swallowed the pancake and was wide eyed.

"I'm sorry" she whispered.

"Look Jess go take your breakfast in the living room and watch T.V. for a while okay" I sighed

"Okay" she nodded and jumped off the stool taking the remains of her breakfast with her.

"So who's mouth has your tongue been in other than Niko's" he chuckled as we both walked out on to the patio "and I don't think I want to know where someone's hand has been" I swatted him.

"I wasn't a hermit in Wisconsin you know we do date up there and we have to find things to do in the winter" I took a drink of my coffee "And I didn't have my tongue in Niko'sâ€" I" he looked at me "Okay maybe I did" I put my head down. "Oh why does life have to be this rough"

"Look I know Niko's a player butâ€" I" I looked at Xander

"It's not just him" I sighed "But don't worry about it" I took a deep breath you need to go pick up Miranda" I sank the last of my coffee "And don't screw up she's a sweet heart"

"Chris talk to me"

"I just have been Xandâ€" ; thanks for helping me with the bootsâ€" ; now don't trash my car" I walked back into the house to spend the day with my big mouthed sister right now i wasn't ready to open up not even to Xander  
â€" lâ€" lâ€" lâ€" lâ€" lâ€" lâ€" ;

## Chapter 16: The things you do when pushed to the limit

..... I cleaned the house quickly putting the boots in my closet and changed into my bikini.  
"Yeah she's hereâ school awesome" Jess pushed open my bedroom door my cell phone to her ear I held my hand out to her. "Here's Chris" she handed me the phone.  
"You know you're not supposed to answer my phone" I chastised her  
"I know but its Arronâ I'll go get ready to swim" she skipped across the hall to her room and closed the door normally it took a while for Jess to irritate me but today she was hitting the nerve every time.  
Me \* what?  
Arron \* we missed you at the lake last night  
Me \* I live 1500 miles away get used to it  
Arron \* you could have stayed here with Brit  
Me \* yeah then you'd have been having your cake and eating it  
Arron \* I was mad with you  
Me \* really so you screw my best friend  
Arron \* it wasn't like that  
Me \* I don't want to hear itâ it wasn't just my problem was it.  
Arron \* Chrisâ I love you  
Me \* don't make me laugh Arron you love your truck and drinking with the guys oh and footballâ mind you so do the guys here  
Arron \* you've met someone  
Me \* is it any of your business  
Arron \* hell yeah we dated for 2 years  
Me \* screw you  
Arron \* who's Niko?  
Me \* what?  
Arron \* Jess was telling me about you talking about a guy kissing you called Niko  
Me \* bite me  
Arron \* you used to like that  
Me \* I'm hanging up Arron don't call me again  
I hit end call and sat on my bed with my head in my hands as Jess walked in.  
"Okay I'm ready to swim"  
"Get out Jess and go in your Damn room" I yelled  
"What?"  
"You heard meâ what did I say about stopping spying on people and within minutes you were listening in to what I was talking to Xander about" I got up and crossed the room to her he bottom lip was quivering "Get out of my sight Jessica" she ran across the room to hers and slammed the door I put my hand over my mouth and wrapped my other arm round me and broke down crying. How could I have been on such a high yesterday and now every demon in my life was coming back to haunt meâ lâ lâ lâ . I woke up to the sound of my phone ringing I looked at the clock it was 10.30am. I sat up and picked up the phone  
Me \* I told you not to call me  
Dimitri \* Erâ you might have told Nikolai but not me  
Me \* ohâ oh I'm sorry I thoughtâ how did you get my number  
Dimitri \* Miranda called me to see if I could pick you up to go to the beach later  
Me \* I'm good I'm not good company right now  
Dimitri \* dude you screwed up badâ sorry I was just giving Niko crap for last night.  
Me \* it wasn't himâ look have fun tonight okay and I'll see you round.  
I hung up the phone and crossed the hall and knocked on Jess's door  
"What?" I pushed it open she was sitting on the bed here eyes ringed red from crying. I sighed and crossed the room and sat next to her and put my arm round her shoulders.

## It's in the accent

"I'm sorry for yellingâ but you know you don't listen in to peoples conversations especially adult ones" I sighed

"I know but you were crying in bed last night and I thought when I saw Arron was calling you he could make you happy again" I smiled at her and kissed her head.

"Honeyâ Arron is the reason I was crying he's not a nice person" I stroked her hair.

"But you used to like him?"

"I know but things happen that make people change and Arron changed" I sat up "Look come on lets go swimming and then I'll order pizza for lunch"

"Hawaiian?" her eyes lit up.

"Fine anything you want" I nodded as she scooted off the bed "Go get your life jacket on and I'll grab some towels" Jess raced out of the door and down the hall. The rest of the afternoon I spent in the water with Jess making up for yelling at her for something that she really had no idea about. I got her out of the pool and showered and dressed and her hair done and her bag packed all by 4 o'clock I walked intot he living room with her back pack as Uncle Tom walked in.

"Hi honey Jess already to go?" he asked kissing my cheek

"She's just getting her bear" I nodded.

"You were awesome last night honey we bragged about you to so many parents on the bleachers" he leant on the couch.

"You were there?"

"We're at all of Xanders games" he shrugged "and we'll be at all of your shows and what have yous" he chuckled waving his hand. "We know it's hard for your parents"

"I'm used to it it's no big deal" I messed with the zipper on Jessica's bag.

"Hmmm sure Chris" he got up as Jess walked in to the room. "Jess we're not going to the movies" she stopped in her tracks "How does a late afternoon in Magic Kingdom sound instead? and staying in Orlando overnight"

"Awesome" she jumped into his arms and hugged him tight "Can Chris come?"

"I think Chris has plans with Xander and their friends honey" Uncle Tom smiled looking at me. as I fidgeted

"You be good Squirt okay" I kissed her cheek "Call me later" she nodded I handed her the bag of her things "have fun"

"We will" Uncle Tom walked out with Jess I closed the door and want to put the wet towels in the laundry my phone rang again.

Me \* hello

Arron \* I've tried calling four times since you hung up

Me \* why? I hung up because I didn't want to talk to you

Arron \* you didn't answer me who's the dude?

Me \* it's none of your damn business

Arron \* I want you back where you belong with me no guy can do the things I used to

Me \* reallyâ but you think a lot of yourself don't you?

Arron \* you didn't complain

Me \* yeah well that was before I had something to compare you to and boy you don't come close.

Arron \* you're a bitch

Me \* and you're a loser that runs at the first sign of trouble

Arron \* he can never match up to me

Me \* go to hell

I ended the call and turned the phone off I was literally shaking I was so angry right now. I need to go cool off. I pulled off the t-shirt I had on over the top of my bikini and through it on to the couch and headed for the door to the pool I put my hand on the handle as the front door knocked

"God damn it" I slapped my hand on the wall I wrenched open the front door "What?"

"Well Miranda told us we needed to come get you regardless of what you saidâ and damn those Wisconsin boys have lost out" Niko whistled making my mind flick back to the fight I'd just had with Arron "Dimi really lucked out having to run Mom to the store" he bit down on his bottom lip and looked me over as I stood there in my Bikini. I don't know what happened but something triggered in me and all I could think was I'll show

## It's in the accent

Arron.

I pushed Nikolai against the front door and kissed him with more urgency than I think I've ever kissed anyone taking him by surprise. It wasn't long before he caught on the two of us made it as far as the couch before the last of our clothes was on the floorâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 17: He's a good guy after all

..... "Chris" Nico put his hands on my arms and held me away from him "What's going on?"

"I'll teach him" I growled straddling Niko's lap as he lay on his back on the couch

"Chris stop" he shook me a little. I blinked a couple of times as I realized I was naked he was naked andâ oh jeez he was well built all over!!! He sat up and pulled the blanket off the back of the couch and wrapped it round me.

"I'm sorry I'm really sorry" I burst into tears he pulled me to him and hugged me.

"It's okay" he whispered stroking my hair.

"I'm sorry I'm as bad as him" I buried my face in the blanket

"Give me a minute okay" I felt him move from under me and get off the couch and I heard the shower running I curled into a ball dying of embarrassment and hurt. "Here" I looked up and Niko was wearing his jeans and nothing else he handed me a coffee and sat on the table in front of me I sat up holding the blanket round me.

"You want to tell me what that was all about?" he sighed. "Because believe me I wanted so much toâ" he looked down "and I think I can safely say damn girl" I took a drink off the coffee and looked at him "Oh I added vodkaâ it's the Russian in meâ hey at least you've got some Russian in you now" he chuckled as his phone buzzed

"Niko I'm sorry I'd just had a huge fight with someone and I guess when you see red you blur out all rationalization"

"Okay Jock here it's the weekend and I just turned down sex with a really hot chick" he groaned looking at his phone "Dimi's on his way here" I groaned "Look go get dressed and I'll pick up in here" he took the cup from my hands and put it next to him on the table. "I'm not the bad guy all the time it looks like you need a friend more than a roll on the couch right now" he got up and kissed my forehead "And I don't like fighting with my brother" he winked and took my cup into the kitchen.

I went to my room and showered quickly and pulled on shorts and a halter top. I walked back out into the living room Dimitri and Niko were sitting on the couch watching the preview of the UF and LSU game on the TV. Niko was dressed again. My bikini was out on the table drying in the sun there was no signs that 20 minutes earlier I was naked rolling round trying to have hot sex with a horny Russian.

"Hey" Dimitri looked round as I walked into the room "Has he behaved?" he chuckled Gibbs slapping Niko.

"He was a gentleman" I smiled

"Okay yeah have you met my dog of a brother" Dimitri pulled a face "Miranda asked why your phones not on?"

"I was having a few problems" I walked over and sat on the love seat and looked at the screen and filled up as they started talking about the new coach for UF on the T.V.

"You okay Chris?" Niko asked

"Yeah I always get like this about him" I pointed to the screen as dad was getting ready to be interview. Niko and Dimi looked at each other and then at me "It's my Dad"

"Coach Sommersâ your dad" Niko choked out I nodded "Damn I passed that one up" he whistled as I turned my phone back on it vibrated I looked at the message as Dimitri got up

"Come on let's try to get to the beach before the others"

"You guys go I'll catch you up" Niko stood up and hugged me "You okay now"

"Yes thank you" I smiled at him and looked back at the message "No not really"

What's wrong?" Dimitri looked over his brother's shoulder the both looked at the message.

\*\*\*New Message\*\*\*You were never good enough for me Brit's a better lay\*\*\*Arron\*\*\*5.25pm

"Is this the jackass you were fighting with?" Dimitri demanded I shot a worried glance at Niko he put his hand on Dimitri's shoulder.

"I'll meet you at the beach" he walked to the door "Chris you'll be fine" he smiled and pulled open the door

"Dimitri I think the girl needs a hug" â lâ !..

## Chapter 18: I'm so confused

..... I closed the door and walked over to where Dimitri was standing leaning against his truck, I felt uncomfortable after what had almost just happened with Niko. Dimitri opened the door for me.

"So was Niko right?" he smiled making a dimple show on his left cheek

"About what?" I murmured

"That you need a hug" he put his thumb and fore finger on my chin and lifted it to make me look at him "And if you say no I can tell you're lying" you've got so much pain behind your eyes that wasn't there yesterday" I closed my eyes "Don't" he said softly but sharply I opened my eyes and looked at him. "So that hug" I just nodded as he wrapped his arms round me.

I inhaled deeply he smelt so good fresh from the shower good his thumb was again on the back of my neck just rubbing lightly. I think if Niko had done that to me then nothing would have managed to stop me going all the way with him. I pulled back a little it felt wrong to have been so close to Niko earlier and now I was getting confusing signals from Dimitri.

"Lets go" he stepped back and waited till I'd got in before he closed the door and walked round to the drivers door and got in. the drive to the beach was filled with music I could feel that Dimitri at every chance he got was watching me probably about to chew me a new one for coming on to his brother. We pulled into a small parking lot behind some dunes. "Well we're the first here" he sighed turning off the engine "You want to help me get the stuff"

'Sure" I nodded and walked round to the back of his truck as he dropped the tailgate and handed me some folded blankets while he pulled out a cooler. "This way" I followed him through the gap in the dunes into a sweet little secluded beach a ring of stones were piled to the one sided with the remains of a bonfire the waves lapped gently on to the white sand. "Hey Wisconsin" I snapped back to reality and looked at Dimitri who was already over by the fire ring I walked over to him and helped him put the blankets down putting large pieces of driftwood on them to sit on.

"It's nice here" I looked out across the gulf

"Yeah it's our weekend spot" he nodded "Why can't you look me in the eyes?" damn he wasn't pulling punches.

"Because I'm not a good person" I walked to the edge of the water and kicked off my flip flops and picked them up

"Why because you tried to jump my brother?" he chuckled I groaned and hung my head his shadow falling over mine as he stood right behind me "I wouldn't have been as diplomatic as he was" I glanced round at him his hands were pushed into the pockets of his jeans the white tank he had on hugging every inch of him. "He told you what I did?" okay now I was officially horrified I turned away from Dimitri I wanted a shark to come out of the water and eat me right now.

"He told me" and we don't have secrets from each other" it's annoying as hell when we both like the same girl" I could hear the smirk in his voice "But after he saw you crying in the parking lot after you called home and then you knocked him back he knew there was something bugging you" I wrapped my arms round myself He moved closer to me and rubbed my hands "Niko's not good handling emotion".

"what so he sends you in?" I snapped a little harder than I meant to

"Something like that" he turned me round and took the flip flops from me and threw them so they landed 20 ft away next to the cooler "but I was ready to take his head off for some of the comments and that he got in there before I had a chance" he smiled down at me

"But you have Abby"

"And I'm sure Jackson our little gossip guy filled you in on all of the drama" I looked down "It's okay I'm good with it I'm not the one in the wrong" he shrugged "I wanted to talk to you since the day outside of the office"

"That was you" he nodded

"And then when you took a chunk out of Niko for being mean to Alfie" I smiled remembering the day I told Niko he must have been making up for something" now I know he didn't need to make up for anything" I

## It's in the accent

closed my eyes again feeling guilty. "I could of and really should have kissed you right then and there" my eyes snapped open and looked right at him. "Sorry the Russian in me makes me blunt and to the point" he shrugged

"But what I did withâ€" "

"Still doesn't change the fact I want to get to know you" he tucked a piece of hair behind my ear "Niko's a player I'm not. He likes you too much for who you areâ€" he wants to be a friendâ€" which leave meâ€" "

"Hey you're here?" We both looked round and I took a step back from Dimitri as Xander and Miranda appeared

"We'll talk later" Dimitri smiled at me "they have perfect timing" he rubbed the back of my neck with his thumbâ€" now I was really confusedâ€" !â€" !â€" !â€" !..

## Chapter 19: Not one the other

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. I turned back to the ocean as Dimitri walked away calling something out to Xander as he went.

"You have the sweetest hottest cousin ever" I jumped as Miranda interrupted my thoughts and hugged me from behind.

"So I take it you had a good time" I smiled pushing my worries and confused thoughts to the back of my mind

"We had a blast, we went shopping for your birâ !" she stopped herself

"My What?"

Birthdays present" she moaned "I shouldn't have told you" she looked up and swatted me.

"Ow"

"Why didn't you tell em it was your birthday next weekend"

"I don't like a fuss being made" I shrugged after my 17th birthday was forgotten by both of my parents as Mom was in Aisa on a book tour and Dad was busy with football. "So what else did you guys get up to?"

"We had lunch and went to the park and walked and talked" she was swaying and grinning fromn ear to ear

"and then he kissed me"

'Kissed you?" I chuckled

"Oh Yeahâ !" she sighed "nothing like the gum swapping you and Niko did" she teased "He held my face in his hands and moved in and his lips.. oh he has really soft lips" she murmured as her eyes glazed over

"Oh way to much information" I wrinkled m,y nose making her blush.

"Sorryâ ! so what sort of day did you have?"

"Rough as hell" I said running my hand through my hair

"You want to talk about it?"

"No it's okay" I pated her arm "So what am I getting for my birthday?"

"You'll have to wait and see" she giggled "So what's happening with you and the two hot Russians we have in school?" I shot her the don't go there look. "Sorryâ ! Come on" she linked my arm and we walked over to where Dimitri and Xander we piling the wood into the fire pit for later one.

"Your phones been ringing" Xander looked up at me

"Did you answer it?"

"No why would I?" he smiled shaking his head as I pulled it from my bag, Dimitri was watching me intently as it started to ring ion my hand.

"From one to the other" I muttered answering it

Me \* do you really think we have anything to say to each other?

Brittany \* Chris don't be mad

Me \* I trusted you with everythingâ ! we've been friends since 3rd grade

Brittany \* he told me you were over

Me \* so you take the chance to jump right into bed with him without even thinking to ask me if it was true

Brittany \* Chris

Me \* you were the only one that knew what was happening and how scared I was and you still go and screw him

Brittany \* he was upsetâ ! I was trying to comfort him and it got out of hand

Me \* what you happened to comfort him naked and on your damn backâ ! but you know what really hurts is that you knew what I was trying to deal with and what he'd done and you still even gave him the time of dayâ ! you have no idea what being loyal is.

Brittany \* I know and I'm sorryâ ! Emma and the others aren't talking to me and Kyle took a punch at Arron.

Me \* well I'd better call Kyle and thank him then hadn't I and as for your sorry you can stick it where the damn sun don't shine.

Brittany \* I miss all of you guys

Me \* what do you want me to do call the others and tell them to be nice to you again?

Brittany \* would you?

## It's in the accent

Me \* like hell I will and this fall don't even think of going to the lake house in fact you go give Emma the key you're not welcome there any more.

Brittany \* Chris please

Me \* I'm telling you like I told Arron leave me the hell alone.

I ended the call and looked round and instead of there only being Dimitri, Xander and Miranda there was now most of the kids from dinner the night before and they were all looking at me.

"Everything okay?" Alfie asked looking concerned

"I'm fine" I forced a smile

"You're a lousy liar" Dimitri chuckled sitting down on one of the driftwood logs.

"I just don't need to..."

"Okay the party can start now we've arrived" the voice was like nails on a chalk board we all looked round as Reba and Abby walked through the gap in the dunes.

"Oh jeez who asked them?" Miranda hissed through her teeth Xander put his arm round her waist and pulled her to him

"You don't have to even acknowledge they're here" he said kissing her head.

I looked to Dimitri who had an expression on his face that was impossible to read as Abby walked over to him and sat at his feet on the blanket and started to talk to him he looked down at her. I turned away and walked back to the ocean. Damn Russian another guy that seemed to want the best of both worlds.

"Hey you okay?" Kerion nudged me handing me a bottle of water.

"You guys came" I hugged him.

"You, Jackson actually called me to remind me" he grinned "Never in a million years did I think King Jock would invite any of us here"

"I think after last night they realize they're not the cool kids in the school" I looked back to where all the others were mixing together and talking. I got a weird feeling in the pit of my stomach when I saw Abby and Dimitri inches from each other her hands resting against his chest.

"Earth to Chris" Kerion waved his hand in front of my face. I looked at the sand before looking back at him

"Sorry a few things on my mind" I linked his arm and walked back to the others. I sat down by Alfie and Heidi and everyone was talking and laughing. Miranda was determined she was going to have me laughing and was telling the corniest jokes she could come up with. I noticed Xander always had to be touching her even when he was talking to someone else, Reba was all over Jackson who looked like he didn't care that she was there. Abby was sitting between Dimitri's legs both of them not really saying anything to anyone else. The sun began to sink lower over the ocean as my phone beeped I stood up and pulled it from my pocket and started to smile at the picture message.

"First time I think you've smiled all afternoon" Dimitri called over

"Yeah well some things will always make me smile" I said a little sarcasm edging into my voice.

"It has to be a cute guy" Heidi laughed getting to her feet from Alfie's lap and grabbing Miranda to come look at my phone.

"It's not a guy they're too confusing" I looked at Dimitri as I said it making him look down.

"Nice house" Miranda whistled "Oooo look at the lake" I handed her the phone and moved away a little

"Scroll through and take a look" I smiled as both Miranda and Heidi looked through the pictures.

"Tubing with out the ocean waves looks like fun" Heidi said looking at me as a few more people were looking with them "Oooo Damn who is this he's cute"

"Hot as hell" Abby smiled as if digging at Dimitri who was also looking. "Nice Tattoo"

"let me see" Miranda turned the phone round.

"The blond guy not the beagle"

"That's Kyle" I laughed "He's the Quarterback and the boyfriend of one of my best friends back in Wisconsin - oph and he's a sweet heart and a romantic"

"Talk about all round" Miranda fanned herself laughing earning herself a slap on the ass from Xander.

"Chris shes not allowed to coe to Wisconsin with us at anypoint" he chuckled.

"Okay this one's easy on the eyes as well look at the dimples and the six pack" one of the other girls laughed.

"Who's this one then?" Jackson asked I looked over at the screen.

## It's in the accent

"Oh that needs deleting" I took the phone and hit delete "He's a lying cheating spineless did I mention cheating douche bag"

"So you don't like him them" Jackson laughed.

"So when do you guys light the fire" I asked pushing my phone back into my pocket.

"I think that means she doesn't want to talk about him" Pete joked. Everyone went quiet as if they didn't know what to say.

"I made it" Nikolai's voice called out. The chatter started again. As he walked over, he stopped and looked at Dimitri and Abby and the muscle tightened in his jaw. "D I need to talk to you" Niko walked back to the dunes. Dimitri jogged after him.

"Hey Chris you want Smores?" Xander called over to me

"Sure" I nodded as Niko was shouting at Dimitri in Russian.

"They do that when they don't want people knowing what it's all about" Jackson sighed when he saw me watching them

"One way to do it I guess" I turned away as Pete handed me a Smore.

"I'm sorry" I felt hot breath on my neck making me shiver a littleâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 20: Wisconsin Ass tough

..... I turned round and smiled at Niko. He put his arms round me and hugged me.  
"I left the two of you together becauseâ!"  
"You can't handle too much emotion" I teased, it felt good to be hugged by the one person who understood some of the crap from today,  
"No" he groaned "If I'd known" he looked back at Dimitri who was talking to Jackson away from everyone else. "I wouldn't haveâ!" I put my hand over his mouth and blushed. He moved it away "I was going to say I wouldn't have let him try to get close to you if he wasn't done with" he jerked his head in the direction of Abby.  
"And you'd have stopped yourself fromâ!" his hand went over my mouth this time.  
"Chris I wanted to carry on so muchâ! I think you felt how much" he chuckled a little and turned a lighter shade of pink as his voice whispered so others couldn't hear. "But I'll never take advantage when the other person is hurting like you are" he dropped his hand from my mouth "You still want a friend" I nodded as he rested his forehead against mine. "What happened this afternoon will stay kept quiet okay as soon as I've said one thing" he moved back and took a step back "Nice rack Chris" he winked a grin across his face as I swatted him he started to run down the beach with me chasing him.  
"That's really keeping it quiet" I laughed jumping on his back.  
"Hey I'm saying what most of the guys were saying about you yesterday after the performance" he groaned hoisting me so he was giving me a piggy back "So you good with having a hot headed Russian friend"  
"I guess" I sighed "Thanks again for notâ! I'm sorry for"  
"Okay apologize for it again and I'll take you to my truck and show you what you could have had" he laughed as we got back to the fire he set me down and high fived me. Dimitri glaring at his brother. "He's pissed because we're laughing"  
"Oh well his problem" I shrugged as Miranda looked at me then at Niko and back to me I just shook my head at her.  
"Hey Chris" Alfie called out I looked up. He held up his guitar.  
"Hey Wisconsin do you need the Fuck me boots to sing or can you rock it out bare foot?" Jackson called over.  
"Okay can we put an end to the joke about the bootsâ! it was for the stage" I held up my hands.  
"Oh and there go my dreams" Niko teased hip checking me.  
"Hey she slept in them last night" Xander called out everyone looked at me.  
"I couldn't get them off on my own" I protested  
"Yeah right... Who was the lucky dude?" Pete whistled across to me.  
"Oh will you stop" I hung my head laughing "Xander had to help me get them off this morning, while my dad had a heart attack in the kitchen after seeing me dressed like that"  
"Kitchenâ! I needed the bathroom after thinking of you like that" Niko laughed poking his tongue out. Dimitri came up to him and punched him in the arm hard and hissed something in Russian at him. "Get over it" Niko smirked back at him  
"Okayâ! I think we need to get her singing" Miranda grabbed my arms and steered me to Alfie Pete brought over his guitar as well and sat down.  
"So give us a song" Alfie said strumming lightly and looking round. We spent the next hour singing and playing the request that were fired at us half the time the others joined in. I stood up  
"Okay I need a drink" I smiled  
"Come on you have to do more" Jackson called out as Reba pulled a face at him.  
"I need a drink first and then if my good friend here will let me use his guitar" I put my arm round Pete's shoulder.  
"Any time" he nodded  
"I walked over to the cooler"  
"You think you're so good don't you" I looked up and round at Reba "You've got Nikolai drooling over you and Dimitri and Abby fighting because he brought you here today, and now Jackson's joined the Christine fan

## It's in the accent

club"

"I don't make people do things" I shrugged "If people like me that hey great if they don't then screw themâ I don't need to be the popular oneâ I have enough confidence to know I'm good at what I doâ I don't need to be told I'm pretty or cute or have to date the hottest guy in the school because it makes you look good" I was pissed she'd said anything but she reminded me of Brittany with how shallow she was. "I feel sorry for you because what are you going to do for friends when you leave high school and everyone goes their own way, some washed up cheer leader that had acquaintances not true friends" her face dropped "I don't care if you like me but don't be jealous of me just because you want to be like me" I turned away from her and noticed everyone listening Jackson and Niko and Xander were trying not to laugh as Alfie and the other band kids didn't care and were on the verge of applause"

"Why would I want to be youâ I you're from Wisconsin and you can't do the things I do"

"True but I never really thought about getting laid as a talentâ I for you maybe a vocation" The snorts and sniggers rang through the air

'You've asked for it you bitch" She lunged for me as Jackson hauled ass from where he was sitting to grabbed her but not before she'd slapped my face.

"I might be from Wisconsin but they make us ass tough" I snapped balling my fist and taking a shot only to hit the ground wrapped in someones armsâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 21: A rose between two Russians

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. I fought to get out of the grip of whoever was holding me.

"Reba go the hell away" the voice had a hard edge that pulled out the slight accent more prominent

"She attacked me" Reba spat angrily

"Chris said what the rest of us wanted to say a long time ago" Niko shouted at her he wasn't the one holding me.

"Abby you can both leave" Dimitri snapped his hot breath gasped in my ear.

"Let me go" I said trying to pull away from Dimitri

"Like hell you'll go all cheese head psycho and beat the crap out of her" he hissed at me.

"And your point"

"She can leave and we don't have to worry about her and I like holding you"

"Really Abby must like it when you do it to her as well" I bit before I could stop myself. I felt his grip loosen on me

"we need to talk" he murmured

"Dimi" I heard Abby shout

"You'd better go see what she wants" I rolled away from him.

"Chris" he pleaded loud enough for just me to hear.

"Xander I think you need to find a ride home" I said getting to my feet "I want my car"

"Don't go" Jackson sighed shaking his head "Don't let her ruin the night" he held my hands

"You think I really feel like staying here after I just got slapped" I groaned.

"If you love us you will" Alfie called out as Pete held out his guitar.

"And you promised to sing some more" Miranda said grabbing my hand and pulling me toward her Niko came over and put his arm round me.

"Come on I'll take you home in a while" he looked to where Dimitri was talking heatedly to Abby and Reba between the dunes.

"He should have let me kick her ass" I groaned as Xander looked at me.

"Yeah and we'd have been picking up pieces of cheerleader from the beach" he sighed "I remember you getting into it with that chick on the snowmobile trail"

"Well that bimbo was asking for a slap in the mouth" I sat down between Miranda "She cut me off and caused you to hit the ditch" I shrugged

"And when we had to explain to the cops why she was out cold?" He raised his eye brows.

"Well she could of hit the tree" I pouted.

"Yeah" he shook his head. Dimitri walked back over Niko put his arm round his brother's shoulder and said something to him both of them looked at me for a moment making me feel self-conscious.

"Sing" Pete handed me his guitar.

"Okay my choice" I sighed taking the guitar. I began to play times like these by the Foo Fighters.

â ! I'm a one way motorway

I'm the road that drives away

Follows you back home

â ! I'm a street light shining

I'm a white light blinding bright

Burning off and on

It's times like these you learn to live again

It's times like these you give and give again

It's times like these you learn to love again

It's times like these time and time again

â ! I'm a new day rising

I'm a brand new sky to hang

The stars upon tonight

## It's in the accent

Iâ | I'm a little divided  
Should I stay or runaway  
Leave it all behind  
It's times like these you learn to live again  
It's times like these you give and give again  
It's times like these you learn to love again  
It's times like these time and time again  
It's times like these you learn to live again  
It's times like these you give and give again  
It's times like these you learn to love again  
It's times like these time and time again  
It's times like these you learn to live again  
It's times like these you give and give again  
It's times like these you learn to love again  
It's times like these time and time again  
"Is that what moving here is" Jackson asked as I stopped singing  
"What?"  
"a way to start over?" Alfie added  
"You got all that from a song" I chuckled handing the guitar back to Pete  
"The song, the phone call, the guy you deleted from your phone" Miranda shrugged.  
"Am I so easy to read" I smiled looking round at everyone.  
"No we're good at picking up on stuff"  
"Yeah well sometimes it makes more sense to shut out the past" I got up Xander walked over to me and pulled me away from the others.  
"Okay I think there's more to this Move than just your Dad's job"  
"Yeah there is" I nodded "But I don'tâ | I meanâ | Xander it's hard really hard okay"  
"Chris we've always been close" he begged  
"And we still are" I sighed but sometimes it's too hard to explain things to the people you love without hurting them or letting them down" I kissed his cheek  
"Chris do my parents know?" I shook my head  
"Grandma and Grandpa don't even know Xandâ | even my mom doesn't know" I felt tears forming behind my eyes all I wanted to do was be home curled in my bed away from everyone and all the questions.  
"You need that ride?" Niko walked over to both of us.  
"Hell yeah" I nodded  
"Niko" Xander looked at him with the are you kidding look  
"Hey don't worry I'll look after her" Niko reached for my hand "Tell the others we said good night" we walked across the sand to the parking lot.  
"You think you might open up to anyone and let them in?" I jumped as Dimitri slid off the hood of his truck my hand still in Niko's  
"You think you might decide if you want to play happy families with Abby or just keep screwing with my head" I spat at him I was too tired and down to care.  
"Hey Niko I'll take her home" Dimitri said looking at his brother. There was a stream of Russian coming from the two of them.  
"Do you know how rude that is" I groaned my head was starting to pound now.  
"Sorry" Niko turned me to look at him "You'll be okay" he kissed my forehead "Tomorrow we're having a family BBQ Xander and some of the others are coming so you tag along okay"  
"But" he held up his hand  
"D give her the directions when you drop her off" Niko said ignoring my plea  
"Sure" Dimitri opened the door to his truck as he did earlier and waited for me to be in before closing the door and walking round to the drivers sideâ |â |â |â |â |â |â |

## Chapter 22: 50 yard line

..... We pulled away from the beach and headed back toward home. I was looking out of the window.  
"Sharp tongue you've got" Dimitri sighed  
"You haven't heard the half of it" I shook my head "Wait till I get really pissed" I expected him to swing left into the neighborhood where I lived but instead he carried on. "Or I get taken somewhere I wasn't expecting" I glared at him  
"We're going to talk like I said we were earlier" he said flatly  
"And I want to go home I feel like crap"  
"I'll take you home as soon as we're done" he looked at me as we hit a stop light "Trust me"  
"Hmmm" I huffed turning and looking out of the window again we drove to the football field at school he got out and walked round and opened the door for me. "Nice feel safer on home ground do you"  
"I have duct tape is the sarcasm keeps escaping" he smiled  
"Better be a damn big roll" I muttered as he pushed open the gate and walked to the 50 yard line.  
"Come on" I walked over to him  
"Talk about dramatic"  
"No if you look" he turned me to the bleachers "the 50 yard line is where you seemed the most at ease I think I've seen you since you moved here" I realized it was the same place that the stage had been set up the night before "and the field is one of my favorite places"  
"What's Abby going to think to you being here with me?"  
"I don't care" he shrugged  
"Really you and her seemed pretty cozy at the beach" I pushed my hands in my pockets "But then what's it to me"  
"You like me"  
"You have a high opinion of yourself"  
"I know you like me because you can't stop looking at me" he smirked. Okay he was infuriating right now "the same way I struggle to stop looking at you when you're around" that same way I get so wound up when Niko gets near you"  
"I like Niko he's a good guy"  
"Why because he didn't bang the ass off you when he had the chance" I looked down  
"Because he didn't take advantage of me when I was angry and upset" I snapped "and you know it takes someone with respect to back off like"  
"Respect this is Niko he doesn't know the meaning of the word" Dimitri scoffed.  
"Nice to know you have such appreciation for your brother, but then look at you and Abby you and her are on again off again and then you come round pretending to like me what is it some ego trip you're on because your brother can get the girl you think you need to try as well" I was almost yelling at him he took a step back.  
"I'm done with Abby" he shook his head. "We're done" he looked at me as he said it "I told her we were done because there's no way I'm going to deal with some other guys kid" He rubbed the back of his neck "and I told her I'm interested in someone else"  
'Did you tell her who?'"  
"Why do you think Reba went after you" he smiled nervously  
"So I have you to thank for the slap?" I raised an eye brow  
"Erâ" I'm not taking all the blame for that" he pulled a face "what you said to her had a lot to do with the slap"  
"So it was okay that she slapped my but I couldn't retaliate"  
"I saw the fist that wasn't going to be a slap"  
"And your point is"  
"It's not fair"  
"Hey guess what Dimitri life's not fair but you deal with it" I felt my phone start to ring I pulled it from my pocket and answered it

It's in the accent

Me \* yep

Arron \* please don't take it out on Brit

Me 8 are you kidding me what is it with jerks and bitches tonight

Arron \* for me

Me 8 I can't believe you just said that

Arron \* I took her to bed

Me \* Arron I've gone past the stage of giving a damn that you and my best friend had sex. I'm past the fact I've lost all trust in people. I'm sick of being the punch bag for you when you couldn't take it. "Chris give me the phone" Dimitri mouthed I shook my head "Chris" he held out his hand I turned my back on him

Me \* Arron I hate you for what you did. I hate you more than one person should hate anyone. The phone was pulled away from my ear and Dimitri held me out at arms' length

Dimitri \* Dude get the message she's not your girl any more

Arron \* who the hell!

Dimitri \* shut the hell up unless you want me to fly up there and kick your ass

Arron \* yeah right

Dimitri \* you want to mess with Chris then you have to come through a couple of really pissed off Russians to do it. Leave her alone and go back to banging who ever it is you dumped Chris for

Arron \* you don't know what you're talking about

Dimitri \* I don't need to know but when I see her upset then the prick that's causing it is on really think ice and believe me if I ever see you I will take you down. now leave Chris alone"

He closed the phone and let go of me making me stumble into him as the resistance was gone between us

"Okay now you want to fill me in on the Dairy boy" Dimitri asked pushing my phone into my pocket.

"Are you always such a egotistical arrogant son of a bitch" I pushed him backwards "When I say no it means now I was dealing with him"

"That's why he's called you what twice today and upset you" Dimitri snapped back "Yeah Chris you were really handling it" lol lol lol lol lol lol lol!

## Chapter 23: Australia I don't think so

..... "Go to hell" I turned and walked away from him as fast as I could. I could handle it. I always had to handle it without help, it was something I'd gotten used to. Arron would have got the message if That damn Russian hadn't butted in, but now Arron would be more determined than ever to find out who called him out on the phone and I know he wouldn't let it drop at all now.

"Stop Chris" Dimitri caught up to me as I passed through the gate I pulled it closed behind me as he slammed into it "Ow Jeez" I looked round as he was rolling on the floor holding his ribs.

"And that's what happens when this Dairy girl gets pissed off" I carried on walking.

"Don't you dare" Dimitri caught my arm as I got by his truck he pinned me against it without hurting me his eyes seemed to be full of anger.

"Excuse me" I stuttered

"Don't you dare walk away from me when I'm trying to help you"

"Did I ask for your help" I pushed against his chest and for all that it did I might as well of been pushing against a brick wall "Did I ask for you to screw with my head my emotion and my feelings" when I got mad a lot of what I had bottled inside me flooded out it always did that's why I tried to stay away from confrontation as much as I could but this week it seemed to come knocking.

"No you didn't" I could feel his breath on my face "But I'm doing it anyway"

"Don't think I'm some safe betâ " tears escaped my eyes betraying me

"I never thought that for a minute" I murmured his face drawing closer "Drop the guard Chris let me in" his lips brushed against mine sending my head into a total tailspin of emotion "Let me in Chris" he murmured against my mouth. I shook my head and turned away from him.

"I can't" I was biting my lip so hard I could taste the blood "It'sâ 'it's" I slid down the side of the truck between his arms and sat on the floor hugging my knees to my chest.

"What the hell did this guy do to get you like this?" Dimitri dropped down next to me and pulled me into his chest wrapping his arms round me.

I don't know how long we sat on the asphalt Dimitri holding me tightly against him my eye liner and tears were staining and soaking the front of his shirt. I began to calm down, my breath coming in rasped gasps.

"I think I should get you home" he sighed lifting my chin to him "You look a mess" he smiled "Still hot though" he added getting to his feet and pulling me up with him. He opened the door to the truck and I slid into the seat resting my head against the window I was drained more than I had been in a while.

The trip home was silent apart from the hum of the engine and the faint music in the background, music my escape from reality the notes played through my head as I closed my eyesâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ |

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ | "What the hell are you doing still here?"

The sound of Xanders voice infiltrated my dreams as I blinked against the sunlight that was coming through the half closed blinds. I rubbed my neck and sat up I was still wearing the same clothes that I was wearing the night before at the beach. I woke up altogether now as memories from the night before hit me like a sledge hammer. I could still taste Dimitri on my lips making me tingle a little inside. I got off my bed and looked in the mirror and groaned. The bride of Frankenstein had nothing on me, I walked into my bathroom and washed my face removing the last of the makeup. I walked into the kitchen and Dimitri was on one side of the kitchen counter while Xander was on the other.

"Hey" they both jumped and looked at me.

"God you look like shit" Xander said shaking his head.

"Thanks I feel like it" I walked to the coffee pot and poured a cup wrapping my hands round the cup.

"See she's still wearing her clothes" Dimitri hissed at Xander.

"Yeah well between you and Niko no girls safe" Xander groaned.

"Xand I'm fine" I sat on one of the stools at the breakfast bar " how come you are still here?" I looked at Dimitri

"Well after you feel asleep I put you to bed and your Dad called to say he wasn't going to eb home till later today" he shrugged pouring himself a coffee "so rather than leave you home alone I slept on the couch" he

## It's in the accent

nodded into the living room where the blanket was laid out.

"She's been left home alone plenty of times" Xander added

"Yeah but not when she's spent almost an hour in tears" Dimitri looked from Xander to me "No way was I going anywhere"

"Yeah well I think I need to go in the pool and get my head a little more clear"

"You want some company?" Xander asked. I shook my head.

"Not right now" the phone started to ring. "excuse me" I hit speaker phone

Me \* hello

Mom \* honey how's the sunshine state?

Me \* erâ ! sunny

Mom \* we're going to move to Australia darling

Me \* what?

Mom \* I've found a beautiful apartment overlooking the harbor in Sydneyâ ! they love me down here

Me \* okay you've been drinking

Mom \* honey it's cocktail time here you'd love all the hot surfers with the cute accents

Me \* Mom quit drunk dialing and don't buy another house.

Mom \* nut Christine it's so nice

Me \* yeah Mom I thought you were heading home today?

Mom \* oh they extended the tour a few days I might be back next weekend

Me \* what ever

Mom \* oh don't be pissy it doesn't suit you sweetheartâ ! and I can buy you the avalanche you want with the commission for the next couple of days

Me \* why would I want a new car?

Mom \* because the other one is 2 years old.

Me \* so you remember when I you got it for me

Mom \* of course when my book got to number 1 on the NY times best seller list.

Me \* so do you know what's happening next weekend?

Mom \* yes you have try outs for the play at the new school, Jess has her first gym meet and your Dad has a game against some other college.

Me \* just checking Momâ ! look I have friends here and Xander I'm going to go.

Mom \* okay baby you have funâ ! kisses I love you

Me \* yeah mom you too.

I cut off the phone and didn't even look up.

"I'm going to change" I walked away from Xander and Dimitri.

"Damn" Xander ran his fingers over his face.

"Okay where's her Mom?"

"Book tour" Xander sighed looking at him "Her Mom's the woman that wrote about the girl trying to make it as a singer"

"My sister loves that book"

"Well you've meet the inspiration for her lead character" Xander pointed in the direction of my roomâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 24: friends

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ! I pulled on my favorite black Bikini and grabbed a towel from my bathroom and headed back to the kitchen

"You both still here" I looked from Xander to Dimitri and back again.

"Sorry you're stuck with us" Xander smiled "And Miranda should be here in about 5 minutes

"Then when you're done in the pool we'll head to the BBQ" Dimitri added

"I'm not going to be able to say no am I?" I moaned

"Nope" Dimitri Chuckled as the front door knocked, Xander walked over and pulled it open.

"Okay one not the way I wanted to see your bedroom" Miranda giggled handing Xander some swim shorts and you really need to get the sweaty gym bag out of there" she kissed him. "And you" she walked over to Dimitri and handed him some as well "Your Mom's having a shit fit and from the amount of Russian I know I think she'll be in church for the next month with all that cussing" Dimitri started to laugh

"Where was Niko?"

"There trying to calm her down, Your Dad went into work to get away from doing anything" she smirked

"Hey Chris, You got somewhere I can get changed?"

"Sure you can use my room" I walked with her down the hall and pushed open the door "There you go?"

"Thanks" she smiled her eyes twinkling as I stepped back into Xander.

"Oh No you can use Jess's room" I pushed him toward it.

"Chris you're a spoil sport" he pouted.

"No I changed my sheets yesterday I don't want to have to change them again" I laughed walking back to the kitchen as Dimitri walked out of the bathroom. "Ready for the pool?" he asked opening the door to the outside.

"You don't need to stay here if your Mom needs you" I sighed putting my towel down on the chair

"I'm fine she gets flustered before we have a party" he shrugged "I'll bring in some ice and she'll be happy and I'm not going anywhere in case jerk boy calls again"

"Why I went mad at you last night wasâ !" I stopped and looked at him "Arron likes a challenge and that's basically what you handed to him doing what you did on the phone"

"Well if that's what he wants he's got it" Dimitri held out his hands.

"I don't need another meathead" I sat on the edge of the pool my feet in the cool water

"So I'm a meat head?" Dimitri scoffed

"You're acting like one" I looked back at him the scratch and purple bruise caught my eye "How'd you get that?"

"Some hot head slammed a gate closed as I was about to run through it" he looked down at the mark and then at me.

"I'm sorry"

"No you're not you're trying not to laugh" he chuckled "so for that" he came behind me and pushed me into the pool.

The coolness felt so good I pushed myself to the bottom and lay down. I felt the water shift and the sound of someone jumping in as two hands grabbed my arms roughly and hauled me back to the surface.

"Are you okay?" the panic was obvious in Dimitri's voice as his grip lessened and his hands moved to hold my waist pulling me close to him.

"I'm fine" I nodded

"You were lay in the bottom of the pool after I pushed you in" his eyes were searching my face for signs of distress

"I like to do that when I'm stressed it feels like nothing can bother you when you're down there"

"You had me worried" his face softened

"I'm fine I promise" My phone started to ring I pulled out of his grip and got out of the pool he leant on the side watching me.

"Is it him again?" Dimitri snapped as I picked it up.

## It's in the accent

"No" I smiled hitting the speaker button and sitting on the edge of the pool  
Me \* my god I didn't think you'd be out of bed at what 9 your time  
Emma \* ha ha very funny have you met Kyle 'lets go mountain biking at dawn' Kendrick.  
Me \* did he not get the hint at spring break when we threw his bike in the lake.  
Emma \* nope and I don't have you here for back up  
Me \* walk out on the deck naked he'll soon leave the bike  
Dimitri looked at me wide eyed  
Emma \* hey we're not all you  
Me \* okay just so you know you're on speaker  
Emma \* oh Damn your Dads not there is he  
Dimitri \* nope but I think you need to tell me more about Christine  
Emma \* whose that?  
Me \* Someone in my pool  
Dimitri \* I'm Dimitri and you have me intrigued  
Me \* Emma not a word and I did it once  
Emma \* Yeah I don't think Arron moves that fast on the football field.  
Dimitri looked at me as my face fell he moved so he was resting his arms on my legs.  
Me \* is Kyle talking to him  
Emma \* Nope Kyle's benched for 2 games for punching Arron  
Me \* he has to be careful because of his scholarship  
Emma \* he know and he's spoken to the college and pre warned themâ helps your Dad's working there now  
Me \* tell him I want to talk to him  
Emma \* no you scare him when you get angry  
Me \* I love him really  
Emma \* okay the two things I was calling you for  
Me \* Okay  
Emma \* one I got a visit from little miss backstabbing skanky whore this morning  
Me \* did she give you the key  
Emma \* yepâ she told me you'd told her to bring it back  
Me \* I knew you and Kyle were going to be there this weekend.  
Emma \* well she gave me the key back and I gave her a piece of my mind  
Me \* you didn't have to  
Emma \* Chris shut up your not here so I get to kick some ass  
Me \* and that's why I love you  
Emma \* okay secondly next weekend  
Me \* yeah  
Emma \* you up to a couple of visitors  
Me \* you guys are coming here?  
Emma \* yep we've got a long weekend so we fly in Thursday night till Sunday night and we got you tickets for the Nickelback gig in Tampa  
Me \* shut up  
Emma \* well I sort of called Xander and asked him to help out a little but yeah  
Me \* I love you guys  
Emma \* we love you too so I need to go I have a dirty biker walking in looking like he needs a shower and some attention  
Me \* I hope to god that's Kyle.  
Kyle \* nope it's some other hot guy  
Me \* well that's okay then  
Emma \* hey Dimitri I'll fill you in on Chris when I meet you  
Kyle \* whose Dimitri?  
Emma \* some hot sounding guy she has in her pool

It's in the accent

Me \* Guys I love you now go break a bed and I'll pick you up on Thursday

Kyle \* see you then Chris

I hung up

"Wow look at that for a smile" Dimitri laughedâ la la la la la la !..

## Chapter 25: Wrestling the demons

â lâ lâ lâ lâ ! "I get to see two of my favorite people for my birthday" I threw my phone on top of my towel  
"When's your birthday?"  
"Next Saturday"  
"You were going to let it go without telling anyone" he said tipping his head to the side.  
"Xander knows"  
"Ah he's family that doesn't count" Dimitri laughed  
"Yeah well it's a bonus when my family remembers"  
"Your Mom?" he moved my legs so he was between them his hand on my hips while he still stood in the water  
"Last year when I was 17 My Mom and My dad forgot I got cards and gifts from my friends and from Xander's family but my own Mom and Dad zoned out totallyâ !" I swallowed hard "That's why I don't like making an issue of being a year older"  
"Yeah well this year we'll make it the best birthday you've ever had" he grinned "You've got friends coming down from Wisconsin you've got tickets to Nickelback and so do Jackson me and Niko"  
"You never said"  
"Well I know you like them and I didn't want you to be jealous" he winked at me "And really we haven't had the right moment to talk about fun stuff" he hooked his thumbs under the strings of my bikini bottoms. "So I think we all go for dinner and then to the concert and then hang out at the beach and then may be I couldâ !" the door to the house opened and Xander and Miranda walked out.  
"How long does it take to get changed" I said getting to my feet Dimitri groaned and pushed back from the pool wall "And do I have to change the sheets again"  
"No" Mirnada turned red  
"I already put them in the washer for you" Xander laughed cannon balling inches away from Dimitri.  
"Ewâ ! I said no" I shook my head as the phone rang again.  
Me \* Emma I really need help  
Arron \* so who was the douche calling me out  
Me \* oh jeez when will you get the hint to stop calling  
The sound of someone getting out of the pool made me look round As Dimitri was right there  
Arron \* who is he Chris?  
Me \* I don't have to tell you any thing  
Arron \* some guy trying to get in to your bed  
Me \* well if he is he'll be better than the 20 seconds you used to last  
Dimitri looked at Miranda who was trying not to laugh  
Arron you never used to complain.  
Me \* yeah well there was something I wanted to see on TV so the quicker you were done the better  
Dimitri held his hand up to me and high fived me.  
Arron \* got youâ !  
I quickly grabbed the phone and took it off speaker and walked into the house.  
Me \* don'tâ ! don't you dare go there you son of a bitchâ ! don't you ever go there  
I felt an arm wrap round my waist.  
"Chris please" I handed Dimitri the phone he took it and ended the call before Arron could say anything else. I looked at him and hugged him squeezing my eyes tight to stop the flood of tears that wanted to come out.  
"What did he do?"  
"You don't want to know" I sighed moving back from him.  
"If I didn't want to know then why would I ask" He caught my hand "Let me in please"  
"I don't know" I trialed off  
"Is it okay if Xander stays here if we go somewhere?" Dimitri asked  
"Yeah he has a key" I nodded

## It's in the accent

"Go get ready for the BBQ"

"You can use the shower if you need to" I pointed to the bathroom he'd used to change.

"I'll be okay till I get home" he smiled "go get ready I'm not letting this go" I walked away and showered and changed into a denim skirt and a blue tank I grabbed my bag and walked out into the living room Dimitri was on his phone. "get over it and have at it I don't give a damn Abby you got knocked up by some guy that you don't even know his last name so you're not going to bring me into this screwed up equation" he looked round his face dropped a little "I'm done Abby stop bugging me and don't even think of taking this out on Chris because I'll come after you" he closed his phone

"You really want me to open up about my life when you say things like that?" I shook my head.

"Chris I didn't mean it like it sounded" he stepped over to me "I was warning her and Reba that I my being finished with Abby has nothing to do with wanting you" he ran his hand through his hair "I'd never touch a girl like that" is that what he did?" I picked up my bag from the floor where I'd dropped it.

"So where are we going?" I walked to the front door. he groaned

"You like changing the subject don't you?" he asked taking my bag from me and opening his truck door.

"I like to avoid things that hurt to think about"

"So you're not going to tell me are you?"

"I don't know" I admitted frankly "I don't know if you can take my skeletons" I swallowed hard and looked at him "I can see you turning away from me"

"You don't know me well enough to make that assessment" he shrugged walking round to the drivers side and getting in "Whatever you tell me no matter how bad I swear on Niko's life I'll never tell anyone not even him"

I sighed and looked out the window as he started his truck and pulled out onto the street. Part of me was screaming not to say anything to him not to say anything to anyone about Arron while something else was tugging at me telling me I need to trust someone with my secrets

## Chapter 26: Russian Mama

..... We drove down a palm lined street of large houses as Dimitri was talking on his phone in Russian he kept glancing across at me he turned in to a drive that swept up to a yellow colored house with views out across the river that led to the ocean.

"Damn I thought my house was large" I whistled trying to take his mind off the reason we were here.

"Yeah well when your Dad works for NASA" he smiled turning off the engine.

"What your Dad's rocket scientist" I tried not to laugh.

"Yepâ ï the reason we moved here" he looked to the house as the front door opened

"So why aren't you living near Kennedy?" I asked getting out of the truck as a woman stood on the step her hands on her hips

"Dad took a trip to Busch Gardens when he was checking out the place and for some reason decided he'd rather commute across Florida twice a week so we could liveâ ï" he looked toward the house "Damn itâ ï I'll fill you in on the rest afterâ ï I forgot the ice" he pulled a face as a stream of Russian flew from the woman with him answering her and smiling sweetly as he walked toward her. He turned and looked at me "Come on you" the woman stopped mid sentence as he said something quickly to her she looked me up and down, I felt less nervous and one edge the other night in front of everyone at the football game. "Mama this is Christineâ ï Christine this is my Mom" he kissed his Mom on the cheek her eyes never lifted from me as she started to talk in Russian again. "Mama English" he chastised her.

"Sorry" she smiled a little at me "So you're the girl my sons are talking about" I looked at Dimitri "So pretty but I need to hear you sing"

"She will later Mama" Dimitri grinned some of the other guys coming are bring their guitars. She nodded "I'm Elena"

"Nice to meet you" I smiled politely even though this woman was intimidating the life out of me. The door opened again and a shirtless Niko walked out

"Hey Chris" he pulled me into a bear hug.

"Ay boys" Elena sighed turning round and walking backing to the house calling something out to them

"She said we have to take you inside" Niko translated taking my hand and pulling me through the doors it was like stepping into a house far from America with the rich tapestries hung on the walls and the rugs scattered round

"Niko look after Chris I need to grab a shower and if Nas gets here send her up to me" Niko draped his arm round my shoulder as Dimitri shook his head.

"I'll take good care of her don't worry" Niko winked

"Yeah I know you remember" Dimitri smirked back at his brother and turned and ran up the sweeping staircase.

"I know the house is way over the top but that's a Russian family for you" Nikolai laughed "Come on let's get a drink" he steered my through the house to the kitchen were people were busy making things with Elena supervising things she smiled at me and watched her son pull me to the fridge and hand me a bottle of water.

"You want to go help me outside"

"Sure" I nodded as we stepped to the door his hand in mine. Elena shouted something to him.

"Mama I know" he laughed closing the door "She's told me to step back from you because of Dimitri" I looked over my shoulder back to the house "If only she knew" I swatted him "I'm sorry it's not funny" he nudged me with his arm. We started to help put up tables when a girl walked round the side of the house. He long blond hair pilled in a high ponytail her dress skimming the floor looking so perfect with the slightest sign of a baby bump just showing.

"Hey Nikolai where's D?"

"In his room and is that all your Favorite brother gets?" she groaned and put down the things she was holding and came over and hugged him. "Where's Gemy?" she swatted him round the head.

"Jeremy is in the house talking to Mama" she corrected him all the time her eyes on me.

"Oh sorry Christine this is my big sister Nasâ ï well Anastasia"

## It's in the accent

"Nas please" she smiled holding her hand out "You do know you have both of my little brother drooling over you" I turned beet red "All I've heard for the past week is Chris this Chris that and Chris has FMB I've gone to heaven" she poked her tongue out at Niko.

"Hey I told Chris tart to her face that call was from Dimitri" Niko held up his hands.

"Talking f him I need to talk to him" She walked back up the few steps to the house picking up her things as she went "Hey Chris I'll catch you in a while"

"Nice to meet you" she walked in the house and closed the door I balled my fist and punched Niko on the arm.

"Ow\*"

The boots I swear I'm going to burn those damn things"

"No you can't do thatâ I'm sure D would" I looked at him "Shutting up" he chuckled hugging me again. The door to the house opened and Dimitri stepped out in clean shorts and a T-shirt.

"Niko Mom wants you"

"Catch you later Chris" Niko took the steps two at a time and said something quietly to Dimitri who just nodded and walked toward me.

"This way" he reached for my hand and pulled me to the left of the steps through a set of bushes that covers a dock where there were 4 jet skis and a boat moored. A small summer house structure was on the land next to the dock he led me over to it and opened the door inside there was a small outdoor couch and a table I sat down.

"nice view" I sighed looking out across the water "I miss the lake house" I murmured.

"Okay truth time" he sat with me and looked at me

"I don't knowâ !" I looked down "It's not easy"

"Let me in" he begged that was the 4th time in two days he'd asked. Oh this was too hard right now I was sitting here facing a guy I hardly know wondering if I should tell him anythingâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 27: Do I dare

..... "Okay I have something for you" Dimitri said taking control of the situation. He pulled something from the pocket of his shorts. "I hate that the world's biggest douche bag can keep calling you" he looked at me "Are you and he done?"

"Done is an understatement" I nodded

"Okay here" he handed me a brand new phone wrapped in a red ribbon. "Transfer all your numbers and everything you need from your other phone and then get rid of it" the tone was short and sharp.

"I can't accept this"

"It's your birthday present from me and Niko" he sighed "think of it like that"

"You're insane"

"No I'm pissed off with you hiding behind the brick wall you've put up" I looked at him and raised my eyebrows.

"Do you have some disorder that makes your mood swing like a damn trapeze" I snapped getting to my feet and putting the phone down on the table.

"No I don't like not getting all the information" he bit back I spun round.

"You don't get it do you" I pleaded "I've had to deal with something on my own when all I wanted to do was turn to my Mom and have her help meâ I wanted to curl in the corner and die with what I was dealing with, and the only person that knew absolutely everything betrayed me in the worst way possible ruining my trust in people" I shook my head "You have no right to get pissy just because I won't roll over and tell you everything like people obviously normally do" I walked out on to the dock and rubbed the back of my neck

"I'm sorryâ I have a temper that comes out easily when I see people hurting" he sighed "Chris you don't have to be alone anymoreâ If you don't want to tell me then Tell Xander, Tell Miranda hell tell Niko" he turned me to face him "Let one of us help you" He looked hurt "Please"

"Hey guys the others are here" Niko called from the bushes. Neither of us moved "Okay I sense a moment so I'm backing away" he disappeared.

"You know what I want to do" Dimitri said as if Niko hadn't been there "You know I want to kiss you so badlyâ but I can't while your wrestling your demons in here and here" he pointed to my head and then to my heart "How can I try to make things right for you if I don't know how to mend the pieces" he stroked his fingers down the side of my face his accent was more prominent the more passionate he became. "You don't have to be alone" I closed my eyes and a single tear rolled down my cheek he brushed it away with his thumb. "Arron and I had been dating for two years since half way through freshman year" I pulled away from Dimitri and walked down the dock "You know he was the type of guy every guy wanted to be and every girl wanted to be with" I shook my head "I was the one that didn't want to know, I wasn't impressed by the muscles and how he could play every damn sport he tried. I was the challenge try to get the theatre chick to date the all American" I turned to face Dimitri who was a couple of feet away from me watching and listening.

"Yu said he liked a challenge" he sighed

"Yeah he does and I know it sounds really cheesy but he literally swept me off my feet even for a freshman" I smiled "It was the talent show at school and I won by the time I got to school the next day my locker was full of roses and his football helmet and a replica of his jersey"

"Well you do kinda rock the football jersey" Dimitri chuckled

"Well he thought the same and was waiting for me during lunch and I guess that was it.. I fell in love with a sweet guy that treated me like I was the only girl in the world" I wrapped my arms round myself.

"So what did he do that was so wrong?" Dimitri took a step forwardâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 28: No going back

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !. I looked across the water and watched as a boat drove by. I'd gone this far with the story I might as well go the whole way so I could leave and let Dimitri get back to his friends.

"Chris" his voice was soft no hint of an accent.

"The summer before we started junior year his dad lost his job and his mom was caught cheating and I guess Arron and his brother took the brunt of it" I ran my hand through my hair "but a lot of people were going through the same thing with parents being laid off and they just dealt with it. Well like Niko" I smiled a little "Arron has the emotional capability of a teaspoon" I heard and chuckled from Dimitri.

"I'll have to remember that one" I turned to face him

"One night I was tired and stressed over the play that was coming up we were going balls to the wall with rehearsals and I wasn't seeing Arron as much as he thought I should. He thought the play should come second to what he wanted. So the one thing he asked was to be the one to take me home after rehearsal, which was fine but all he wanted to do was go park on his Dad's hunting land andâ !" I looked down.

"Did he force you to have sex?" the accent was back along with the angry tone my eyes locked with Dimitri's and I shook my head.

"Noâ ! well not as such some night I didn't feel like it but he'd grabbed me round the throat a couple of times telling me it wasn't his fault I was tiredâ !" I trailed off and groaned and I realized for the first time I had been forced into it.

"I'm sorry Chris but in my books that's rape" Dimitri stepped closer to me "He had no right to treat you like that" I took a step back and shook my head.

"That's not whatâ !" I

"There's more?" he spluttered. I nodded

"By the time it got to thanksgiving and the play was done Arron was getting worse with the slaps" I absently rubbed my fingers over the scar on the inside of my wrist. Dimitri narrowed my eyes "I started to get sick to the point of not being able to get out of bed in the morning, Brittany insisted on taking me to the doctor and they ran some test" I felt sick right now actual beginning to talk about it "I was anemic"

"So they give you iron pills right"

"Yeah" I nodded "Butâ ! oh god" I crouched down "I can't do this"

"Yes you can" Dimitri culled me back to my feet "Chris you've gone this far" I was shaking.

"They also found out I was pregnant" I looked at him.

"He'd got youâ !" I

"Well I wasn't sleeping with anyone else" I snapped a little too fast

"I'm sorry I didn't mean it like that" he still had hold of me.

"I know" I took a deep breath "you want to hear the rest?"

"More?" he groaned.

"Well do you see a baby" I laughed a little hysterically he dropped his head "When I went to school I told Arron I needed to talk to him so we skipped school and went to his house he thought it was an excuse to get naked in the middle of the day" I sniffed "but I told him no and he got mad and slapped me hard enough to break a tooth" Dimitri looked back at me "so I blurted out that I was having his damn kidâ ! he accused me of sleeping round on himâ ! but then he realized there wasn't enough hours in my day to do everything I was doing and have sex with someone else" Dimitri reached his hand up and tucked my hair back behind my ear "so he told me it was my fault I should have taken precautions he just wanted someone to screw and he wasn't going to take responsibility for my mistake, so I slapped him" Dimitri raised his eye brows "he punched me in the stomach and pushed me through a glass door"

"Is that where this came from" he lifted my arm and rubbed his thumb over my scar I nodded.

"Yeahâ ! I have a few more but nothing to serious" I shrugged "Arron stormed off leaving me bleeding on the floor, I called Brittany we've been friends since we were 7 she took me to the E.R. but I was already bleeding and I'm not talking about the cuts"

"You miscarried?" I nodded "Where were your parents?"

## It's in the accent

"Workingâ Mom was I can't remember where promoting a book Dad was stressing about some football game"

"But the bill"

"My dad knows some of it I had to lie a little and say I fell into the glass and the tooth was an accident" I couldn't stop the tears from coming now "the only one that knew it all was Brittany three days after it happened he turned up at her house to" I did quote marks in the air "talk about me" I shook my head "They ended up in bed together and then I find out that while I was rehearsing they were fooling round every chance they gotâ my best friend and my boyfriend and I never knew"

"And this guy thinks he can come back into your life"

"I'll go you have a party" I walked by him how I don't know my legs were like jello. I'd opened my heart and poured it all out there was no taking back anything Dimitri knew it all.

"Chris stop" he caught up to me and pulled me to him "You're not going anywhere not with out me"â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ .

## Chapter 29: Called out

..... "Come with me" he led me to the side of the summer house up a flight of stone steps that brought us back out at the side of the house. He pushed open the door and walked inside.

"Where are we going?" I sniffed trying to calm myself down in case anyone saw us.

"My room" he walked up the stairs I stopped at the bottom "Chris you can sort yourself out in my bathroom in private without anyone disturbing you"

He walked back to me and took my hand and led me back up to a long landing with doors on each side we walked along to the last one on the left he opened the door and walked in. Everything was midnight blue I lighted with white the thin drapes were billowing from the breeze blowing in the noise of the party drifting up from the garden. The furniture was heavy wood that looked old including the intricate wrought iron head board of his bed that were all vines and leaves entwined. The pale floor reflecting the light as I looked round.

"Wow"

"The bathrooms over there" he pointed to a door "I'll be here when your done"

"I need my bag" I said quickly realizing if I needed to fix my make up then I'd need it "I left it in the kitchen"

"I'll get it" he hurried out of his room and closed the door I walked into the bathroom and looked at my reflection and sighedâ !â !â !â !â !

â !â !â !â !â !.. Dimitri picked up my bag from the kitchen counter and headed back up the stairs my phone started ringing he pulled it out. And shook his head.

Arron \* Baby

Dimitri \* who the hell do you think you are

Arron \* oh you again get the hell off of my girls phone

Dimitri \* your girl! You still thing she's your girlâ !? Dude

Arron \* she is mine

Dimitri \* why so you can knock her round again

Arron \* go to hell you don't know anything

Dimitri \* I know everything I need to knowâ ! I know if I ever see you you'd better run

Arron \* I'm scaredâ ! Chris will come back to me she knows what we had was good.

Dimitri \* it was till you started hitting her and you got her pregnant and screwing her best friend how low can you actually getâ ! I fact I know how low you can get and you raped Chris and you killed your baby.

I pulled open the bedroom door and looked at Dimitri the look on his face was scary how angry he was

Dimitri \* I swear if you even think of getting in touch with her I will come and go to town on your ass

Dimitri looked up and caught sight of me watching him, his eyes fixed on mine

Arron \* you think your tough?

Dimitri \* I know I can take down a piece of crap like youâ ! Leave Chris alone there's more than one guy her prepared to look after her and love her the way she deserves

He ended the call without taking his eyes from me.

"Why didn't you just ignore it?" I asked shaking my head "Why couldn'tr you let it go"

"Because of everything you told me out there" he pointed outside "You think I can let that go"

"I shouldn't have told you" I put my head against the door frame

"You shouldâ ! you did" he walked over to me and made em look at him. "He will never ever get the chance to come near you and if he does he's going to have to come through me"

"You still want to be around?"

"Do you see me going anywhere?" he handed me my bag I turned and walked back into his room and put it on his bed. "You let me in"

"I told you things about me that I never wanted to have to tell anyone" I murmured

"And I'll never tell anyone" he turned me round to face him "God Chris please drop the guard around me" he pulled me to him "I'd never treat you like thatâ ! I could never treat you like that"

"Can I get a hug" I stammered, I needed to feel safe for a while. A smiled spread across Dimitri's face as he wrapped his arms round me he rested his head against my hair. He pulled back and put his hands on the side

## It's in the accent

of my face. He hesitated before he moved closer his door knocked and opened without him saying anything "Dimitri Mama's looking for you" Nas giggled. Dimitri put his forehead against mine "Anastasia" he groaned.

"Sorry but be thankful it was me and not her you know she never knocks" she grinned "now go see what Mama wants while I talk to your girlfriend" Dimitri and I looked at her.

"I'm not hisâ€" he squeezed my hand stopping me mid sentence

"How about you go see what Mama wants and leave me with Chris" He suggested

"Because Papa wants you" Elena appeared in the doorway behind Nas. I wanted the world to swallow me right here right now. I was stood so close to Dimitri you couldn't see daylight between us, we were in his bedroom next to his bed. "So down stairs" he looked at me

"Go finish sorting yourself out" he smiled "and I'll be downstairs"

"Okay" he waited until I walked into the bathroom his Mom and his sister were standing looking at him.

"Stop" he moaned. As the both smiled

"She's nicer than that last thing you brought home" Nas laughed

"I never liked that Abby" Elena shook her head "I still think you should find a nice Russian girl" she sighed wistfully

"Oh god" he put his arms round both of them "look give Chris some time and don't go all Russian on her and smother her"

"Would we"

"Hey I have enough to deal with keeping Niko away from Chris" he smiled

"Don't fight with your brother over a girl" Elena chastised

"We're notâ€" he's trying to be a friend to her"

"So whers the singing girl?" Dimirti's dad smiled as the got to the bottom of the stairs your friends have been telling me all about her.

"She'll be down in a whileâ€" I can we take this outside so I have the support of my friends instead of hassle from my family"â€" lâ€" lâ€" lâ€" lâ€" lâ€" !..

## Chapter 30: Singing keeps me sane

..... I walked out of the house and looked round.

"Hey you" Jackson put his arm round me "Where've you been?"

"In the house" I smiled

"Xander was looking for you" we walked over to where all the kids from school were all laughing and joking around.

"Okay where have you been?" Xander eyed me.

"Talking to Dimitri" I shrugged as Heidi hugged me

"So we're performing" Kerion nudged me.

"What?"

"Well I got a visit from Niko this morning and we're getting paid \$500 to play here" he shrugged "didn't D tell you?"

"Erâ ! no we sort ofâ ! kind ofâ ! so were playing" I said shaking my head.

"Yup" Pete nodded

"I'm voting for the FMB's" Jackson laughed "whose with me?" a heap of hands shot up I looked round and saw Dimitri and Niko talking to a guy about an inch shorter than the two of them his graying hair neat and tidy to go along with the neat perfectly pressed clothes he was wearing. I walked over to them Dimitri saw me and smiled.

"Her she is" he held out his hand to me. The guy turned round immediate I knew he was their Dad he looked more like Niko than dimitir but he had the same dimples when he smiled that Dimitri had.

"Ahhh now I see why my boys were soâ !"

"Papa" Niko and Dimitri both moaned he held up his hands

"I'm sorry forgive me" he took my hand and kissed it.

"Chris this is our Dad" Dimitri sighed

"You can call me Alexi and your Christine yes?"

"Chris" I nodded

"Okay Chrisâ ! so you and your friends are going to entertain us this afternoon I hear"

"Well so I've been told" I looked at Niko and then Dimitri.

"My daughter saw you at the game on Friday and said you were good" I looked round Nas winked at me and walked over

"Good Papa I think I told you they were better than good and the look on the faces of the guys was out of this world"

"Can you do the same again?" Alexi asked smiling at me.

"Iâ ! I..." Dimitri pulled me in between him and Niko where he knew I was comfortable.

"Papa let us talk to Chris" he smiled "and I'm sure we can work something out"

"Alexi" some guy called over to him

"Okay fine let me know and if the \$500's not enough then" he kissed my hand again and walked away

"Okay when were you going to tell me about this" I looked form Niko to Dimitri

"Hey I had no idea till 5 minutes ago" Dimitri held up his hands "and if you want to say no then it's fine" he had his hand on the back of my neck his thumb doing the rubbing thing that he seemed to like doing.

"I didn't think you'd mind" Niko shrugged "But if you don't want to then it'll be okay" he squeezed my hand.

"Niko two minutes okay" Dimitri pulled me aside.

"I really didn't know this is what they wanted I promise" I rested my hands against his chest as I face him.

"I know, you've been babysitting me all day" I smiled a little "I'll do it singing has been the one thing that's kept me goingâ ! till now" I added he smiled a crooked smile

"You rock you know that" he chuckled.

"Do you think I should wear what I did on Friday night?" He sat on the small wall and put his hands on his thighs and tipped his head to look at me.

## It's in the accent

"Personally I think you look cute as you are but Wow Friday youâ wellâ" he shook his head. "You were smoking" I felt my cheeks turn red. "So you need a ride home to get changed then don't you?"

"Do you mind" I was pushing the thoughts of earlier to the back of my mind.

"Not at all" he got up and pulled his keys from his pocket "I'll go tell my parents you go and tell the guys where we're going because I swear Xander is ready to string me up for keep taking you places". He winked at me I walked over to the others and let them know Alfie high fived me as they started to set up there things on the patio which over looked the rest of the garden.

"You know we should make this a big thing and try to get in to the bars and clubs round here" Kerion suggested.

"I like the sound of that" I nodded.

'Yeahâ we can become big and famous and you already have your own body guards" he pointed to where Niko and Dimitri were laughing with Xander and Jackson.

"You guys need me to get anything while I'm gone"

"Nope we're all good" Pete smiled "we'll work out a set thing while you're gone with the songs we dad at the beach and at school"

"Cool" I kissed the three of them on their cheeks and waked to Dimitri "I'm ready"

"Se you guys in a while"

"Chris be good" Xander called out

"I can't believe you just said that" I groaned as Dimitri disappeared into the house. I hurried after him.

"Okay we have to take my sisters car mines blocked in" he smiled throwing his keys down and picking up another set.

"Will she be okay with it?"

'I don't know she blocked me in so" he shrugged he took my hand and laced his fingers with mine and pulled me out to the cars, we got into a sleek black Mercedes and headed for my house. I opened the front door the message light was blinking on the house phone I walked over to it and hit play.

\*\*\*Chris it's Dad, you're phones offâ anyway can you get your sister to school in the morning by the time we get to Gainesville it's going to be late and I have a meeting at 8 in the morningâ I'm sorry honey I know it's a pain but you know what football seasons likeâ I love you kiss jess for me\*\*\*

"Story of my life" I sighed

"Where is your sister?" Dimitri asked

"With Xanders parents in Orlando" I looked at him "yet more crap" I ran my hand through my hair "make your self at home I'll be as quick as I can" I walked down the hall to my room and pulled out a pair of leggings and the football jersey I wore the night at school I started to get changed. And walked back into the living room Dimitir looked at me.

"You know what would look better?" he smirked

"What?"

"My jersey on you"

"It's the same as this one" I shrugged.

"No that's' #18 mines #7" he bit on his bottom lip "you can borrow mine when we get home. It is clean"

"Well you actually need to help me with these" I pulled the boots from behind my back "It took me Heidi and Miranda to get them on me and it took Xander all his strength to get them off" I sat on the couch

"Okay he rubbed his hands together as I slid my foot down into the leather I swear he swallowed like he was trying to get down a Granny smith He stood next to me and grabbed the top and pulled as I pushed till my foot slid into place.

"Next" I gasped trying to catch my breath after the effort of the first one I slid my foot in and he grabbed the top again pulling to the point of me falling off the couch backwards Dimitri got his had stuck in the boot and fell with me landing on top of me on the floorâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ

## Chapter 31: EACH

..... See what I mean about it being hard to get them on" I said trying to break the silence that seemed to drag on. Dimitri shifted his weight so he was supporting himself over me

"Yeahâ but we did it" he sighed 'Chris canâ !"

"Anyone here?"

"God damn it" he groaned as the sound of my Aunts voice carried through the room front he front door Dimitri got up and offered me a hand and pulled me up "Oh there you are" she walked in the room with Jess in tow "Oh hey Dimitri"

"Mrs. Sommers" he nodded

"Christine what are you wearing?"

"The bands playing for Dimitri's family and this is for the stage" I shrugged Dimitri was standing close enough for me to feel his body heat.

'Oh that's right it's the BBQ" she groaned io zoned and forgot about it"

"It's okay" Dimitri shrugged looking at Jess who was taking him in with her head tipped to the side.

"Look I need to do a few things for work Chris I have to leave Jess with you" she sighed "But we'll be at the BBQ later so hey Jess you want to spend the night at my house again?"

"Aunt Marie I can watch her" I said not wanting to put another night on my Aunt.

"Live a little honey" she patted my cheek "one day you'll let me know what happened with Arron" she whispered glancing at Dimitri.

"Nothing happened" I lied

"Okayâ ! well I'll see you later" she walked out of the house I looked at Jess.

"So did you have fun?"

"It was awesome" she grinned "Whose that?" she pointed at Dimitri "and how many cows dies to make those boots" Dimitri burst out laughing "You look like a hooker"

"And meet my 7 year old sister" I groaned "Jess this is Dimitriâ ! Dimitri this is Jess"

"Nice to meet you" Dimitri nodded at her

"You kissed Chris?"

"Okay pack a bag of stuff fast" I pushed her toward her room.

"She's as feisty as you" Dimitri winked.

"Yep" I nodded smiling after her "I'm sorry but I can't leave her here"

"It's okayâ ! I'm sure there's enough of us to keep her occupied" he reached for my hand "You want to grab some things to change into after"

"Sure" I walked away from him and grabbed a few things as I heard Jess talking to Dimitri.

"Will you make Chris happy?"

"I'm her friend and isn't that what friends do?" He smiled

"She had friends in Wisconsin but some of them weren't very nice to her"

"Like who?"

"Arron he used to be nice but then he wasn't so nice anymore and Chris used to cry a lot"

"Well how about I try to do everything I can to make your big sister smile"

"You can do that by not talking about me when I'm not around" I laughed making the two of them jump.

"Eaves dropping is rude" he pointed out taking my bag and Jess's

"Yeah so's talking in Russian when other can't understand it" I giggled taking Jesses hand.

Dimitri drove us back to his house Mirnada was waiting out the front for us

"Oh god you didn't have another shirt to wear" she rolled her eyes.

"What this is how I was the other night" I said shaking my head.

"She can use my jersey" Dimitri made the offer again.

"D I love you but where stage wardrobe is concernedâ ! shush" Dimitri started to laugh

"Come with me" she grabbed my hand.

"Erâ ! Can youâ !?" I started Dimitri picked up Jess and put her on his shoulders

## It's in the accent

"I got Jess" he winkled "I'm not getting in the way of Miranda and clothes" he walked round the side of the house as Miranda took me inside and up the stairs to the room opposite Dimitri's this one was deep blood red with black accents.

"Okay get the jersey off"

"What"

"Trust me" I groaned and pulled the jersey off she handed me some pins "Okay" she grabbed something from the side "Oh crap which way up does it go" she unfolded it

"A flag" I pulled a face

"No the Russian flag" she corrected "I had a brain wave while you were goneâ just wait" she ran to the bedroom door and opened it. "Okay just the person which way up does the flag go is the white at the top or is the red" Niko put his head round the door 'Dude she's half naked"

"Sorryâ !" he laughed "and the white is on the top and Chris the black bra really won't go"

"Okay out" Miranda pushed him out.

"Hey it's my room"

"Hey Niko" he looked back in the room at me. "It looks like a French prostitute lives here" he gave me the finger as Miranda doubled up laughing.

"Keep it up Wisconsin" he shook his head and smiled. I handed Miranda the flag and she turned it round while I took off my bra so she could wrap the flag round me

"Okay I need to breath to sing" I gasped

"Oh sorry" she pinned it so it was fitted to my but so I could still sing.

"You're a genius" I smiled looking back at her through the mirror

"Yeah well remember that when you're a huge rock star and need a stylist" she laughed "Okay I think you're ready"

"This is insane it's a backyard BBQ and they arte paying us to perform" I looked at her.

"Yeah well they left Russia with nothing only what Alexi could do with rockets or space" she shrugged he's way up in NASA so he get's big money and Elena used to watch kids in the neighborhood until she started to work for an event companyâ now she owns the company" I raised my eye brows. "Yup so they go big when they party" She took my hand "Come on I've missed lap time with your hot cousin so I could get you ready" she giggled the two of us walked down the stairs. Pete, Alfie and Kerion were talking to Dimitri's parents in the kitchen

"Wowâ one way to wear the flag" Elena clapped her hand "that has to be your doing?" she held Mirandas face in her hands Mirnada laughed and nodded "Ahhh your good" she kissed both of Miranda's cheeks

"I'm going out to my boyfriend" She smiled "Blow us away Chris"

"Oh she will" Alfie called back to her handing me a list of songs.

"I feel short" Alexi sighed standing next to me he was the same height as me now.

"Alexi go tell everyone to get ready" Elena pushed him out of the doors. "Thank you for doing this" she smiled at the four of us and wlaked out to join everyone else. Pete handed me \$500

"What's that for?"

"We thought they said they were paying us" Alfie poihted at the four of us '\$500"

"Yeah"

"Well it was \$500 each" Kerion smiled

"That's mad they haven't heard us" I choked

"Well we'd better be worth it then hadn't we"â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !

It's in the accent

## **Chapter 32: Glitter in the air**

guys i'm going to re post this chapter i hate when it smushes up

this chapter has now become chapter 33 so basically ignore this page

## Chapter 33: Glitter in the air

..... Miranda walked over to where all of the others were standing Jess was charming all the guys as she sat on Niko's Knee. Xander put his arms round Miranda

"So did she take off the bra?" Niko laughed making everyone look at him

"Dude" Jackson nodded at Jess Niko pulled an 'oh shit face'

"I mean did you sort out Chris's shirt" He laughed. Dimitri Gibbs slapped him "Ow"

"Chris looks better than she did at the game the other night" Dimitri looked at her.

"Did you use my shirt?"

"No been there done that" she waved her hand dramatically "Watch" she pointed as Alfie, Pete and Kerion walked out and started to play the opening to burn it to the ground I walked from the house again singing the really version on the edited one we'd had to use at school.

"Crap" Dimitir whistled

"Oh the boots" Jackson chuckled

"I need a slap for passing upâ " Niko trailed of and hung his head.

"Damn my sisters good" Jess giggled making the guys all remember she was sitting there.

"You kissed her yet?"Niko said as Xander took Jess and put her on his shoulders.

"No we keep being interrupted" Dimitri sighed not taking his eyes off of me "And seeing her like that isn't helping the urge I have right now"

"You dog" Jackson Laughed putting his arms round both of the brothers "you've got the girl every guy except him" he pointed to Xander "wantsâ ï imagine those boots wrapped round your back"

"Don't go thereâ ï Not about Chris" Dimitri snapped

"Okay I'm sorry damn what's bit you"

"It's more like what hasn't bit him" Niko nodded in my direction.

'OH Damn you're falling for her"

"I hardly know her" Dimitri hissed through his teeth "you know how guarded she is, he was doing a good job of covering up that he knew more about me than anyone else there.

"So what is it with her you and Niko seem to have toned down the player thing since Chris showed up. Niko and Dimitri looked at each other

"I don't know she's justâ ï well she's different" Niko shrugged "And out of my league" Dimitri tipped his head. "Comeon you're the nicer sweeter brother if there can be one out of the two of us" he laughed "I like having her as a friend"

"Wow I never thought the day would come that a girl would knock the both of you on your asses" Jackson chuckled "But I have to say it shes damn fine dressed like that"â ïâ ïâ ïâ ïâ ï.

â ïâ ïâ ïâ ïâ ïâ ï We finished singing all the songs we'd got planned I walked over to Kerion and whispered something to him he smiled and nodded he walked over to the wall and sat down with his guitar.

"Okay I have one more" I smiled "this has to be one of my favorite songs and I feel like it's the right song for now" I looked at Dimitri as I said it I glanced back at Kerion who began to play acoustically I closed my eyes and sat on the stool Alfie put behind me

The notes to Glitter in the air filled my head

Have you ever Fed a lover with just your hands?

Close your eyes and trust it, just trust it

Have you ever thrown a fist full of Glitter in the air?

Have you ever looked fear in the face and said I just don't care

It's only half past the point of no return

The tip of the iceberg, the sun before the burn

The thunder before the lightning and the breath before the phrase

Have you ever felt this way?

Have you ever hated yourself for staring at the phone?

Your whole life waiting on the phone to prove you're not alone

## It's in the accent

Have you ever been touched so gently you had to cry?  
Have you ever invited a stranger to come inside?  
It's only half past the point of oblivion  
The hourglass on the table, the walk before the run  
The breath before the kiss and the fear before the flames  
Have you ever felt this way?  
La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.  
There you are, sitting in the garden  
Clutching my coffee, calling me sugar  
You called me sugar  
Have you ever wished for an endless night?  
Lassoed the moon and the stars and pulled that rope tight  
Have you ever held your breath and asked yourself  
Will it ever get better than tonight? Tonight.  
Most of the song I was looking at Dimitri as I came to the end I felt a tear roll down my cheek as everyone there started to applaud.  
"Oh you're wonderful" Elena hugged me and the guys "all of you are wonderful! you have a gift my darling" she held my face "so much pain in the heart makes you sing like that"  
"What"  
"You can hear the passion you have when you sing a song like that last one" she hugged me again I blushed as a hand was offered to me to step down the steps I looked at Dimitri.  
"The song" he whispered I nodded he wrapped his arms round me and hugged me to him he pressed his lips against the side of my neck.  
"Can we?" he seemed to read my mind he took my hand and pulled me into the house and up to his room away from every one. "The song seemed to fit us! today" I wrung my hands together nervously he put his hands on my hips.  
"It was amazing" he murmured leaning back against his door and pulling me into his "You're amazing" he moved a hand in to my hair bringing my head closer to his "so amazing" the brush of his lips was so slight it almost felt as if there was nothing I looked at him for a split second his eyes glinted before he closed them and his mouth met mine properly our tongues fighting with each other as my hands knotted in his hair he knew me, he knew how hurt I was, he knew this was what we both wanted! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! !

## Chapter 34: More stuff

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ | Dimitri pulled back a little catching his breath I opened my eyes and looked at him.  
"Finally no interruption" he smiled "I think I was about to kill someone"  
"You're not the only one" he pulled me to him again and kissed me lightly  
"I need to say something to you" he moved taking my hand as took me over to the bed and we both sat down.  
"you do know that what you said this afternoon will never go any further"  
"You've told me" I nodded "And I believe you" He held both of my hands his thumbs rubbing the backs of my hands  
"It blows me away the things you've had to deal with and drag around with you and you keep going"  
"You've seen the little girl out there" I pointed outside "Someone has to be a parent to her"  
"She has a mom and Dad" he shrugged.  
"With huge careers that have gotten bigger over the past 2 years" I sighed "My Mom is out of the country for weeks on end she has a better relationship with her damn fans than she does with her own kids" I stood up and walked to his window and looked down at the people partying. "My Dad does what he can, but the level of the job he's got now and the fact he wants us to live in his old home town and not in Gainesville" I rested my head against the window frame and closed my eyes. "I'm 18 next weekend and I feel like I'm losing my grip. My teen years should be a blast and they've sucked" He came behind me and wrapped his arms round my waist and rested his chin on my shoulder.  
"Oh and I thought I was making it a little better"  
"You are" I leant back into him "you've bugged me to the point where I told you me deepest secretsâ |"  
"Do you feel better for it?" he murmured pressing his lips to my neck.  
"I'm coming to terms with the fact I've told you"  
"Promise me you'll tell me if I do anything to upset you" I turned to face him.  
"I promise" I kissed him the door knocked.  
"It's open" Dimitri smiled not taking his eyes off me.  
"Okay people are wondering where you guys are and you're hogging Chris" Niko smiled  
"I was going to get changed" I looked round at him  
"No" both of them said at the same time  
"You look good like that" Niko held up his hands "Sorry bro she does"  
"Hey I know she does" Dimitri laughed "We'll be down in a minute" Niko closed the door.  
"So the Nickelback gig next weekend"  
'Yes"  
"I know your friends are coming into town butâ | maybe we could sneak away and get some me and you time"  
"I think that could be arranged" I hugged him "Hey you could come to the airport on Thursday night when I got to pick them up"  
"What meet the friends? You think our relationship is ready to go to that level" he chuckled  
"I don't know Kyle will be cool but Emma you think I'm a hot head"  
"Oh great to hot cheese heads" I swatted him  
"Do me a favor?"  
"Depends"  
"Go to the gig in the boots"  
"Are you serious?" I smiled  
"Hell yeah" he took my hand and walked with me to the door of his room "I want to have the guys looking at how hot my girlfriend is"  
"Let me think about"  
The two of us walked down the stairs and outside. I got pulled away from Dimitri by his parents and was introduced to so many of their friends whose names I forgot as soon as I was told them.



## Chapter 35: A chance in a lifetime

â lâ lâ lâ !.. I linked Alfies arm as we hurried up to the front door of Dimitri's house the usual Florida afternoon storm ht as we arrived Dimitri was at football practice like Kerion and Pete were at band Alfie and I had made out excuses to get out of the commitments we had. I rang the bell as Alfiwe fidgeted.

"Will you stop it looks like you need to pee" I muttered elbowing him in the side

"I'm sorry I'm nervous I watched a movie last night about the Russian mafia and the woman in it was like Elena" he maoned as we heard footsteps coming toward the door

"You have to be kidding me" I Gibbs slapped him

"What she was scary in a I'll cut off each finger and make you eat them sort of way"

"Really" I pulled a face as Elena opened the door

"Come in, come in out of the storm" I grabbed Alfies jacket and pulled him inside we both took off our shoes and followed Elena to the kitchen where two guys were sitting with coffees in front of them. "Would you both like a drink?" Elena smiled warmly

"No we're fine" I nodded

"Where are the other two boys"

"They had to go to band" Alfie sighed "we should be there as well butâ !"

"Cutting school" one of the guys laughed.

"Not really" I looked at him "the Boss will be pissy we weren't there because of the play but I told him we had an appointment"

"Simon, Lukas this is Alfie and Christine" Elena beamed as she introduced us "Two of the band I was telling you about"

"So we've heard nothing but your names since last night and believe me when this woman gets something in her head we all take note" Lukas laughed.

"I know what makes sense and what makes business sense" Elena pointed out "or I wouldn't do what I do and get the accounts I have" she smirked with pride.

"Okay lets get down to it" Simon leant forward on the counter and looked at em and Alfie "do you have a guitar with you?"

"No" Alfie shrugged "We came in Chris's car" Simon got up and walked out of the kitchen

"If you don't mind me asking what are we here for".

"We want to see if you are as good as Elena reckons you are" Lukas leant back in the seat "and then if we think it's worth it we can push to get you gigs round the city and maybe the state. I heard Alfie gasp

"Wowâ ! that was unexpected" I chuckled nervously. Simon walked back in with a guitar and handed it to Alfie.

"Be careful with her it's a collectors piece" he smiled "Okay do what you do" he sat back down Elena standing behind them. I looked at Alfie.

"We tend to do a lot of Nickelback because she loves them" he laughed

"I'll tell you what" Lukas looked at both of us "do one rock it out sing and one more mellow"

"Fine by me" I nodded

"Just to get high" Alfie suggested.

"Sure" he started to play and I started to sing I felt more self conscious singing for three people than I'd ever felt before I didn't hear the door open or that Dimitri and Niko were stood listening. The song ended and Simon looked at Lukas who was staring intently at us.

"I think you should do the one you sang the other night" Elena pushed "the one about the glitter" Alfie started to play glitter in the air for me as I sang it better than I think I'd ever done. "So didn't I tell you they were amazing"

"Yes you did" Lukas took a deep breath "Can you guys give us a few minutes"

"Sure. Sweet guitar by the way" Alfie handed it back to Simon

"for \$10,000 it should be" I laughed as the color drained from his face I turned round and was greeted by a smiling Dimitri we all went int ot he den.



## Chapter 36: A few words I don't understand

..... The next couple of days were insane My Mom wasn't coming home for another 3 weeks which was no huge surprise. Dad had managed to get dispensation to be late to work on Saturday because he was determined he was going to be there for me on Friday night. I'm sure my Aunt had something to do about it. The talk round school flitted between the upcoming game and the fact four band and theatre kids were playing at one of the biggest places in the city and none of us still knew why.

"Hey you?" I jumped and looked up from my book as Dimitri walked toward me.

"Hi" I kissed him

"Okay you look stressed" he pulled me against the lockers.

"I just had to deal with Abby and Reba in class" I sighed. "Reba won't let it drop that I stole you away from her sister"

"Has Abby said anything?"

"No but she left the class crying" I put my head against the cold metal. "I got a letter this morning from Arron and then to top it off I got ticketed for speeding because I was late for school"

"He sent you a letter how the hell did he get your address?" Dimitri put his hands on each side of my head.

"I have no idea but a lot of people had it back homeâ I don't worry I didn't even open it I sent it back" I rubbed my neck "I'm stressing out about Friday night" Dimitri wrapped his arms round me and hugged me tight.

"Okay what time are you done with practice" he said stroking the back of my neck.

"Around five Pete has to work and I have to sort Jess out"

"Okay I don't have practice just a meeting. So how about if I go pick up Jess from Xanders and we go to the movies"

"We have to be at the airport for nine Kyle and Emma are coming in"

"Alrightâ I how about I pick Jess up and we got swimming at your house and then we can leave for the airport from there" his hands slid to my butt and held me against him.

"Deal" he kissed the tip of my nose.

"I have a couple of gifts for you"

"Why? You got me my new phone for my birthday" I protested as he put his arm round my shoulder and we headed for the band room

"That was a gift from me and Niko when we were just friends now you're my girlfriend I get to spoil you a little more" he chuckled "and anyway they aren't gifts for your birthday they're good luck gifts for Friday, considering our game finishes at 8 and we somehow have to shower change and haul ass across town to get to see you and the guys"

"You don't have to" I sighed.

"Well think again because all of the football team are going to be there and I think from the census Jackson and Xander were taking so is ninety percent of the school" He moved my hair and kissed my neck "you doing our song?"

"Our song?"

"Yeah the one by Pink" he nuzzled my ear making my knees wobble "It's okay I call it our song rightâ I mean after" I kissed him to shut him up.

"I'll check with the guys but yes I think we are"

"Goodâ I'll see you at your house" he kissed me again and ran down the hall I think I was finally happy with him knowing everything I could relax when I was round himâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ

â lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. I came from my bedroom showered and ready to go to the airport Dad was talking to Dimitri as he was eating his Dinner I'd kept warm as he'd only just got home Jess was tucked up in her bed sound asleep as Dimitri had worn her pout swimming and playing with her.

"Okay I'm ready" I was wearing my Wausau East t-shirt and a demin skirt.

"Oh really Dimitri pulled a face.

"Dude you haven't even been there and it was my haven for 3 years" I swatted him.

## It's in the accent

"I'll let it slide as long as you don't wear it to school" he smiled  
"I won'tâ Ĩ Dad I made up the bed in the guest room"  
"I'm still not oto sure about thisâ Ĩ?"  
"Dad really they got to the cabin every weekend you really think they sleep in separate rooms?" I pulled a face. Dad groaned and shook his head  
"I'm not sure your Mom" I looked at him again. "Okay fine" he held up his hands just don't you think you get the same privilege" he shot a look at Dimitri.  
"I don't" I kissed his cheek "Go to bed you look exhausted" I grabbed my phone and my purse as Dimitri opened the front door. we walked over to his truck. "So I think we just got told no sharing a bed" I teased.  
"Yeah not the type of thing I wanted to think of with your dad in the room" he laughed "oh here" he handed me a gift bag I pulled out a tank top and held it up and started to laugh.  
"Russian boys Rock" I looked at him  
"Yeah well we do" he cranked up his accent and winked at me "there's another one" I pulled out another.  
"It's in the accentâ Ĩ and Russian is hot" I started to laugh.  
"Oh gee thanks such a confidence boost" he nudged my leg.  
"I'm sorry but who have you been talking to?" I turned in the seat and looked at him  
"Erâ Ĩ Wellâ Ĩ Miranda did mention something about a conversation you guys had yesterday at lunch" he fidgeted in his seat. "I didn't realize I still had that much of an accent"  
"You don'tâ Ĩ till you get really annoyed or excited" I smiled "and it it really really hot" I leant across to him and caught the bottom of his ear in my teeth and tugged making him swerve a little on the street.  
"You can't do that" he choked "not when I'm driving"  
"I'm sorry" I sat back smiling to myself as we pulled into the multi level parking lot at the airport. He turned off the engine and looked at me as I pulled off my red East t-shirt.  
"Damnâ Ĩ" he whistled "page ten" I pulled on the tank that said about accents and looked at him  
"Page ten of what"  
"The Victoria's secret catalogue" he smiled.  
"Only place to shop" I laughed "my Mom actually gave me a store card for there for my 15th birthday"  
"I love you Mom" he moaned  
"Yeah well you haven't met her yet" I sighed getting out of the truck he walked round to me.  
"I know" he rubbed his nose against mine. "How does this sound" he moved his mouth till it brushed my ear  
"Ñ Ñ ÐµÐ±Ñ Ð»Ñ Ð±Ð»Ñ " his warm breath made me shudder combined with whatever the hell he just said in Russian I held on to the belt loops on his jeans as he repeated himself.  
"Whatâ Ĩ what does it mean?" I managed to form the words quietly  
"I'll tell you later" he kissed me and took my hand locking his truck and pulling me toward the entrance for the domestic flight arrivalsâ Ĩ lâ Ĩ lâ Ĩ

## Chapter 37: Wisconsin's invading

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !. We walked over to the bank of screens with the flight information on.  
"They've landed just" I pointed to the screen  
"Come on then" he pulled me down the hallway to the gate as the planed was pulling up to the jet way he stood behind me his arms wrapped round my neck "Ñ Ñ ÐµÐ±Ñ Ð»Ñ Ð±Ð»Ñ "  
"Hey no fairâ ! now you know it does things to me" I groaned "and what does it mean"  
"Ahhhâ ! you'll just have to wait won't you" he chuckled as the door opened and people started to walk off of the plane. I spotted Kyle before I spotted Emma as he was wearing a cheese head. "Oh I take it that's Kyle"  
Dimitri laughed  
"Hmmmâ ! dork" I laughed  
"Oh by the wayâ ! Ñ Ñ Ð¾Ñ Ñ , Ñ Ñ Ð¾Ð±Ñ Ð²Ñ " I turned and looked at him  
"Reallyâ !"  
"What?" he winked  
"You have to tell me what they mean" I begged  
"And I willâ ! just not now" I kissed my neck  
"So unfair" I pouted  
"Heads up cheese head" Kyle called across making people look round. Dimitri let go of me as Kyle came over and picked me up hugging me like he was crushing the life from me. "Two weeks and look at the tan" he kissed my head. He put me down and looked at my shirt. "Russian has the sun got too much for you" I swatted him as Emma came over.  
"Move out of the way jack ass" she giggled slapping his butt and wrapping me in a hug "I missed you"  
"I missed you too" I grinned. "Love the dark hair"  
"Yeah well I'm in mourning for you leaving" she giggled, "Oh heeeellllloooo" she caught sight of Dimitri standing with his hands in his pockets watching us with a smile on his face. I looked round and laughed  
"Emma Kyle this is Dimitri, Dimitri this is cheese head and cheese poof"  
"Oh kindergarten names" Emma pulled a face "you're the dude in the pool"  
"That would be me" Dimitri nodded reaching for my hand.  
"Finally it's bugged the crap out of me since we spoke" she beamed. "Okay on the phone he sounded cute in the flesh damn girl he's hot" she whispered. I groaned and shook my head  
"So you must be the Russian?" Kyle held his hand out to Dimitri  
"What gives it away?" Dimitri Chuckled  
"Well the name I think" Kyle laughed.  
"Come on let's get going rather than stand in the arrival hall all night" I linked Emma's arm.  
"Okay you moved up guy wise" Emma murmured to me "he makes Arron look like a farm boy"  
"He is a farm boy" I looked at her "and we don't go there remember"  
"He and Brittany broke up she's dating a new guy that started school"  
"So he's all alone?" I smiled  
"He right now can't get a date for homecoming" she shrugged "People don't like what he did across you and his I'm better than you attitude is getting worse"  
"Dimitri is ready to kick his ass" I sighed "that's why I have a new phoneâ ! It was a gift from Niko and Dimitri"  
"Whoa, Niko?"  
"Nikolaiâ ! Dimitri's brother" I laughed  
"Is he as hot as him?"  
"No I'm the hotter twin" Dimitri put his head in between me and Emma. "Kyle just said you guys haven't eaten dinner so you want to call Xander and some of the others while I call the guys and we can meet up"  
"Sureâ ! you up for meeting a few crazy people?" I nudged Emma.  
"I already know Xander and he's not that bad" she laughed  
"Yeah well you're on his ground now" I opened the door to the truckâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !

## It's in the accent

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ! We pulled up at the pizza place the parking lot full of cars I recognized now as the guys from school. Dimitri took my hand.

"Oh it smells good already" Kyle sighed sniffing the air.

"Best pizza in town" Dimitri nodded opening the door and getting shouted at from inside. "Behave we have guests" he yelled back.

"Hey Wisconsin! where's the boots?" Jackson yelled.

"I left them at home" Kyle shouted back making everyone laugh.

"Damn we're being invaded" Niko smiled. Xander got up and hugged Emma and shook Kyle's hand.

"Its okay he had to leave his hunting stuff at home" Emma said looking round at the number of guys and that fact there was only Heidi and Miranda.

"Okay! Emma, Kyle this is the madness I've moved into" Xander took Kyle and started to introduce him to the guys.

"Hey Niko" Dimitri waved Niko over. He pulled him to the side and the Russian started to flow but this time I picked up on some of the words he'd said to me...

"Beats the Wisconsin accent any day and is that his brother?" Emma giggled in my ear "Damn if I hadn't got that hot piece of ass! I'd be going for that one"

"Oh Jeez Em" I groaned. Dimitri and Niko walked over to us.

"So you're a Cheese head like her are you" Niko put his arm round my shoulder "are they all as cute as you" he turned on his accent like Dimitri did making Emma giggle.

"Nikolai knock it off" I swatted him "Kyle will pummel you in to the ground if you hit on Emma"

"I was being friendly" Niko shrugged. "I'm Niko by the way" he held out his hand to Emma.

"Emma" she smiled as Kyle walked over.

"Okay so why didn't you tell us?" he tapped my shoulder

"Tell you what?"

"The gig you've got"

"You've what?" Emma tipped her head and looked at me

"When I got here I was introduced to some people that rock! and well to cut a long story short, this amazing Russian woman I know got us a chance to perform at the same place where we're going to the Nickelback gig" Emma's eyes got wide.

"See how long have we been telling you you need to get in touch with someone that could help you" Kyle high fived me "do we get to come see you"

"We're all going" Dimitri nodded "as in most of the school"

"Christine Sommers takes Tampa by storm" Emma laughed "Don't forget your friends when you become famous"â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 38: Caught.... well sort of

â lâ lâ lâ lâ ! We all walked into the house with Kyle yawning his head off.  
"Okay I've swung it so you guys get to share the guest room" I smiled  
"Your Dad not to happy about that I'll bet" Kyle chuckled  
"He wasn't but when I pointed out you guys don't exactly sleep in separate rooms at the cabin"  
"You mind if we go and crash" Emma moaned leaning her head on Kyles chest.  
"Noâ ! it's fine I'll show you to your room"  
"See you guys tomorrow" Dimitri waved as Kyle and Emma walked after me down the hallway. I came back out into the living room Dimitri was sitting on the couch he held out his hand to me I took it and let him pull me down on to his lap. "I like your friends".  
"I'm glad" I sighed as he wrapped his arms round me "They like you as well and no not just because Emma thinks you're hot"  
"Ð- Ñ Ð¾Ð»Ñ Ð°Ð¾¾ Ñ Ð¾¾Ñ Ñ , Ñ Ñ Ð¾¾Ð±Ñ Ð²Ñ " he nuzzled into my ear "ÐçÑ Ð´Ð»Ñ Ð¼ÐµÐ½Ñ Ð²Ñ Ñ " his hot breath made me shudder.  
"Are you trying to seduce me?" I groaned as his teeth grazed the edge of my jaw.  
"Is that what you think?" he chuckled  
"Well if you're notâ ! that's what's happening?" I turned to him and kissed him. He moved me so I was straddling him as he sat on the couch his hands edged round the bottom of my shirt, making me moan.  
"Erghâ ! that's icky" Jess's voice sounded sleep making us jump apart "you put your tongue in his mouth" she pulled a face and walked into the kitchen. We heard her fill a glass with water. "You should get a room if you're going to have sex" she yawned appearing again in the doorway, Dimitri snorted and my mouth fell open. "What is sex anyway?"  
"Something you don't need to know about yet Jessica" I got off of Dimitri's lap "back to bed you have school tomorrow" I picked her up and took her back to her room. Dimitri was standing by the front door when I walked back out. "I'm sorry about that"  
"Hey it's okayâ ! but it's almost midnight and I have a game tomorrow and if I stay here much longer I won't be able to be good" he pulled me to him.  
"I wouldn't mind if you weren't good" I giggled as his thumb did circle thing on the back of my neck.  
"Yeah well I don't really want to get hot and heavy with you on the couch in the living room when your Dad is sleeping down the hall" he kissed my nose.  
"True" I nodded "I wished we weren't so busy this weekend"  
"Well skip the Nickelback gig" he teased I raised one eye brow, we'll get some time don't worry" I hugged him "Now get some sleep you have a huge day tomorrowâ ! Ñ Ð¾¾Ñ Ð¾¾Ñ Ð¾¾Ñ Ð¿Ð°Ñ Ñ Ñ ÐµÐ±ÐµÐ½Ð¾Ð°" He kissed me once more before slipping out of the door and to histruck I closed the door and leant against it trying to compose myself.  
"You have to be careful" I jumped as Dad walked from the dark hallway.  
"You scared me" I moaned walking toward him "and be careful of what?"  
"Falling for guy too soon and getting your heart broken again" he sighed "And the whole sleeping with guys Chris..." I held up my hands.  
"Dad I'm not going to have this conversation right now" I ran my hand through my hair "And think about it Dad do you really think I'm still a good girl" I kissed his cheek "We don't talk a whole lot any more Dad things change" I fought back the tears "good night" I walked to my room and closed the door. How could I go from such a high to feeling so low in the space of a few minutes I looked at my closet the outfit Miranda had worked on all week was hung up. Maybe I just need to shut out parts of my life and take a risk every now and then. I ran my hand over the Black corset top and the skinny jeans she'd decided would be sexy but not too sexy along with all the guys favorite bootsâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 39: Lies

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ! I spent the day with Emma and Kyle showing them around while the others were all in school, but I was taking them in with me after lunch as Mr. Sorenson was helping us practice for the show later. Emma and I were in the bathroom while Kyle was waiting in the hallway.

"Chris stop chewing your lip" Emma said nudging me "Are you really that nervous"

"Nervous I wanted to throw up as soon as I got up this morning" I groaned

"You're not pregnant are you?"

"Okay to be pregnant you need to have sex" I swatted her

"You and Dimitri, come on he looks at you like you're dessert" I blushed if he could have ripped off your clothes and threw you on the table at dinner last night he would have"

"Will you stop" I hung my head.

"Can I ask you something?" Emma's face became serious.

"Sure" I nodded

"Did you really have an abortion?" it felt like all the air had been sucked out of the room "Arron's been telling everyone the reason he cheated on you was because you got rid of his babyâ ! I didn't want to say anything in front of Dimitri" she fidgeted "I mean Chris we love you no matter what" I looked down and shook my head.

"He's a son of a bitch" I walked out of the bathroom as Abby and Reba had cornered Kyle. "Move now" I snarled din Reba's ear.

"Screw you" she looked down her nose at me

"Kyle can I use your phone" I ignored Reba and pushed her out of the way.

"Sure" he handed it to me "Chris what's going on?" he looked worried as Emma came up behind me.

"Some piece of crap is going to be yelled at" I snapped I turned round and bumped into Reba "Get out of my damn way before you go through the wall face first" all I could see was red right now and no one had better get in my way. Reba hesitated for a minute before thinking better of it and backing away. I hurried down the hall to the nearest exit running by Miranda and Alfie going to the band room

"Hey, where you going?" Alfie shouted after me

"5 minutes" I yelled back as I disappeared outside I scrolled through the numbers till I found Arron and hit dial.

Arron \* what Kyle?

Me \* you god damn son of a bitchâ ! how dare you blame me

Arron \* Chrisâ ! what the hell are you screaming about?

Me \* telling everyone I had an abortionâ ! are you fricking kidding me.

Arron \* what the hell do you expect

Me \* you to keep you damn mouth closed you idiot.

Arron \* I'm getting shit because people were on your side you're not here now so I can say what I want.

Me \* you're a lying piece of crapâ ! why don't you man up and tell them the truth if you want to tell them anything at allâ ! tell them you beat me, raped me and punched me hard enough in the stomach that I miscarried.

Arron \* you dare breath a word to anyone and I'll kick the crap out of you

Me \* you don't scare me anymore and people know what you did to meâ ! you'd better stop talking to people or I'll be filing charges against you

Arron \* too late to do that

Me \* really with the medical evidence they have its won't be that hardâ ! be warned

I hung up and dropped to my knees sobbing holding myself tight.

"You know I'm no good with emotion" I heard Niko's voice and froze as I was pulled to my feet wrapped in his arms I didn't open my eyes. I heard him press buttons on his phone

"Yeah D you need to get round to the far side of school I think Chris needs you" he hung up and hugged me tighter "I got most of the conversation if you're wondering Alfie said you looked pissed so I came to find you" he stroked my hair "Did he reallyâ !?"

It's in the accent

"Niko I don't lie" I sniffed

"No wonder D was beyond angry when he'd spoken to him" I heard the sound so running more than one set of feet.

"What's going on?" Xander's voice was the first I heard.

"Chris just got into it with her ex" Niko sighed

"He called you?" Dimitri snapped pulling me away from Nikolai

"I called him" I buried my head against his chest.

"Guys can you give us a 5 minutes"

"Butâ "Xander started

"Please" Dimitri begged I looked up as they walked away. Dimitri looked at me and held my face in his hands. "Why did you call him?" he looked hurt.

"I just got asked by Emma if it was true and I'd had an abortion" I sobbed "He's telling everyone that's what happened"

"Oh Baby" he pulled me back into him and held me tight

"I didn't I swear I didn't" I cried.

"I know I believe you" he kissed my hair "Chris it's okay" he rocked me in his arms. I don't know how long we were there but the sound of a cough made us look round.

"Guys The boss is looking for Chris" It was Kerion looking at us.

"I'm coming" I sniffed pulling away from Dimitri" Kerion walked back inside.

"Chrisâ | forget that jerk okay you have the chance of a lifetime tonight don't let him screw it for you" his kissed me deeply "ĐçÑ ĐĐ»Ñ Đ¼ĐµĐ½Ñ Đ²Ñ Ñ " I smiled at him

One day you'll tell me what you're saying and I hope it's not a grocery list"

"It's not baby believe meâ | I'll walk you to the band room"â lâ |

## Chapter 40: See you at the show

â lâ lâ lâ !.. I remember singing with the others that afternoon while Kyle was allowed to go and train with the football team. Miranda had been and fetched my stage costume and was tweaking it my head was reeling still from the argument with Arron.

"Honey" Mr. Sorenson came over to me "My sweet Christine" he took my shoulders "you need to focusâ you have the world for a stage tonight and you need to be at the top of your game"

"I know I just have a head ache"

"Boss why doesn't Chris go lay down for a while" Alfie suggested "we have the set planned and she's sounding really good and I think we could all do with a chance for a 10 minute break"

"Okay fine" he threw up his hands dramatically

"I'll be fine in a while I promise guys" I walked to the door Miranda, Heidi and Emma following me the four of us went to one of the empty classrooms Emma handed me some Advil and a bottle of water.

"I'm sorry I upset you" she sighed putting her arm round me

"It's not you it's himâ !" I looked at her "He's lying Emâ I miscarried I didn't have an abortion" Miranda looked at me wide eyed as Heidi choked on her gumâ look to cut a really long bad story short I got pregnant and he beat me" Emma got up from the chair and paced muttering under her breath a whole string of words that would have made a Marine blush.

"You were going to have a baby" Heidi's voice wasn't much above a whisper as Miranda sat next to me

"It was a mistakeâ not planned" I ran my hand through my hair "Arron went off the deep end"

"Kyle's going to kill him" Emma hissed through her teeth.

"Please guys I don't want people to know"

"But Kyle Loves you"

I know if you do tell him he can't risk doing something to screw up his chance at school" she nodded "Please don't tell anyone" I begged looking round the room.

"Does Dimitri know?" Miranda asked

"Yeahâ he was the first person I told since it happened" I nodded "And Niko knows as well he over heard me yelling at Arron" Em stood behind me and hugged me to her

"Okay forget the asshole dirt bag scum sucking leeching chewing tiny dicked douche bag" Miranda and Heidi looked at her and started to laugh "You have a hot damn hot Russian guy who's accent could get the panties off of a nun" even I started to laugh now "go out there tonight and remember the friends that love you and the hot Russian you need in you"

"OMG I don't believe you just said that" I groaned as Heidi and Miranda fell about laughing as the door opened

"Talking hot Russians" we all looked round as Niko put his head round the door.

"You called" he swaggered into the room and put his arms round Emma and Miranda's shoulders

"Well we were talking about you brother" I sighed

"Oh knock the ego thanks Christine" he pouted

"I'm sorry" I winked at him

"Okay D said be by the locker room at 4"

"Alright" he looked at me

"You sure your okay?"

"I'm sure Nikoâ I think I just realized my friends rock"

"Of course we do I'm Russian" he chuckled "4 don't be late" he turned and walked back from the room. I walked over to the window and pulled the blinds closed I lay down on the floor and drifted off to sleep while the girls sat talking quietly about hot guys and the pros and cons of hot band guys and the hot bodies of the jocksâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

â lâ lâ lâ !. I walked down the hall after splashing cold water on my face Dimitri was leaning against the wall in just his shorts a Football jersey slung over his shoulder.

"I thought you'd stood me up" he smiled as I got up to him

## It's in the accent

"I fell asleep and the girls left me as long as they could" I kissed him.

"I wanted to see you before you we have to go and you guys have to go sound check" he laughed "Hey what happens if I tell people I'm with the band"

"I don't knowâ if we suck I think they'll laugh at you" I rested my head against his shoulder

"You don't suck" he lifted my chin "I'll be there watching you"

"Oh now I'm more nervous" I groaned

"You'll be fine when you step out on that stage" he stroked his fingers down the side of my face "Ñ

Ñ ÐµÐ±Ñ Ð»Ñ Ð±Ð»Ñ " he breathed in my ear "Ñ Ñ Ð¾Ñ Ñ Ð²Ñ "

"One of these times you're going to do that and I won't be able to control myself" I gasped catching his bottom lip in my teeth.

"That's what I'm hoping" he murmured kissing me wrapping his arms round me and lifting me from the ground.

"Mr. Carpov" the sound of the Coaches voice echoed down the hall "you have 3 minutes to kiss Miss. Sommers goodbye" he walked into the locker room and Dimitri put me back down.

"Here" he handed me an envelope "Don't open it until just before you go in stage tonight okay"

"Why?"

"Just don't" he pleaded "and this is also for you" he handed me the jersey over his shoulder I held it up it was a replica of his with his number 7 on it.

"I love it" I kissed him pulling it on over the tank I was wearing.

"Looking hot baby" he increased the accent.

"Mr. Carpov if you want to be benched then stay where you are" Coach barked.

"You'd better go" I chuckled "See you at the show" he kissed me and pulled away.

"That's a Nickelback song right" he smirked as he opened the door.

"Oh yeah" I nodded turning and walking down the hall back to where the others were going to be waiting to head off the venueâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ .

## Chapter 41: Swallow the grapefruit

..... Mr. Sorenson held the door open as we got to the stage entrance that was busy with people running in and out setting up the stage. My hands were shaking and my palms were sweating as we walked inside.

"You okay" Pete whispered slipping his arm round my waist I could feel him trembling as much as I was.

"I can't believe we're here" I murmured as Miranda linked her fingers with mine.

"Christine" the unmistakable Russian accent of Elena cut through the air "You all made it" she came over and hugged me and the guys in turn as Lukas stood smiling behind her.

"Yeah" was about all I could get out.

"Excellent" she looked at the shirt I was wearing and grinned. "I see Dimitri got you his number" she chuckled putting her arm round me and leading me forward grabbing Alfies' hand with her other hand

"He gave it me about an hour ago" I said nervously looking round at all the packing cases all with NICKELBACK sprayed on them "are we supposed to be backstage" I whispered like a kids trying not to get caught telling a secret.

"Yes, yes you are supposed to be back hereâ I have these for all of you" Simon came over with a bunch of passes in his hand and put one round each of our necks. "Okay Lukas can you take the others back to the dressing room while we go up to the stage"

"Sure" Lukas took the clothing bags from Emma and Miranda 'you guys this way" they all walked off disappearing into the darkness. I swallowed hard and I could hear Kerion chanting 'don't puke breathe, don't puke breathe' as we walked up some steps and out on to the stage the house lights were up full and made me blink a couple of times after being backstage.

"And welcome to the world of Arena's" Simon threw out his arms. People were bustling around setting up lighting and sound and other equipment.

"I feel like I'm in a dream" I turned round on the spot trying to take it all in I heard Elena laugh a little

"Well you guys need to get yourselves together a little and we'll come get you to do a sound check in about 10 minutes" Simon laughed "this is where you'll be playing tonight and we've opened the doors to anyone who wants to come" I looked at him and raised my eye brows "We're hoping for at least 2000 people. I staggered back a little. As someone came over to him and started showing him some papers. "!0 minutes okay Elena you need to come look at these he held up the papers "Chase will you take these guys down to the dressing room" a tall guy in his mid 20's came over his ball cap on his head backwards a tool belt round his waist.

"Sure" he smiled at us "This way he led us backstageâ Mrs. C has been raving about you all day you have us all waiting to hear you guys" he drawled in a heavy Canadian accent. "And I'm not just talking roadies" he pushed open a door.

"So what are you talking?" Pete asked putting his guitar case down.

"Oh everyone here and others" he laughed "later" he walked out and closed the door the four of us looked at each other. I sank down into a chair. I need someone to pinch me because this isâ !."

"insane, crazy, awesome" Alfie laughed as the door opened again and Miranda walked in with all of the others.

Well you guys all look like you've seen a ghost" Emma smirked.

"You need to go out there and look out" Pete whistled "it's scary"

"Oh we know rock stars" Miranda sang leaping round the room "I'm styling the band" she started to giggle and fell over Alfies feet as the door opened again and Lukas put his head round the door.

"Okay we're ready for you guys" he smiled at the pure terror written across our faces. "You'll be fine there's only the crew out there" I got up and pulled Alfie to his feet followed by Pete the four of us walked back the way we'd come and onto the stage Chase walked over to me and handed me a microphone while he put in the ear pieces.

"I have to aks is that what you're wearing tonight?"

"Oh hell no she has real good FMB's" Alfie smirked I groaned and shook his my head

"Wow looking forward to it" Chase grinned "maybe we could go out to eat"

## It's in the accent

"Back off" Elena said stepping from almost no where "she has a Russian boy tha't is all that"  
"I'm sorry Mrs. C" he held up his hands "Can't blame a guy for trying" he walked away winking at me Elena mutter something under her breath before taking my hands.  
"Just do what you did the other day two songs is all we need right now"  
"I thought it was just a check?"  
"It is but we just want to make sure" she smiled a twinkle in her eye. She walked off the stage and out into the empty arena where we couldn't see a lot. Kerion began his intro into side of a bullet with Pete and Alfie joining in. I let the music do the job of a drug and make everything in my head the way it should be. The song was done in the blink of an eye, Pete came forward and sat on a stool and started I'd come for you the tempo so much lighter than before from one extreme to the other. I got goose bumps as I came to the end the feeling was like nothing I'd ever felt and this was just a sound check.  
"That was fantastic" Simons voice cut through the air "do half as good tonight and it'll be awesome.  
"I think maybe we could help out with at least one of those songs tonight" I chuckle came from behind me  
"you wereâ Well of anyone is going to poach our songs then I'm glad its you" I turned round and almost dropped to the floor where I stood sitting on the riser was Nickelback. Oh god oh god I couldn't form words  
"So how about it? We won't steal your thunder but one song right at the end wouldn't hurt right"  
"Hmmm" I swallowed the grapefruit that was lodged in my throat.  
"That was mean Chad" Elena was on the stage now laughing "And I think When Christine manages to stop the stroke she's about to have she'd love to do a song or two with you" She out her arm round me.  
"I vote something in your mouth" Emma called from the side of the stage I shot her a look.  
"How old are you?" Chad asked looking back at me  
"Erâ 18 tomorrow" I croaked out.  
"Okay why don't we try Last day and maybe Never gonna be alone".  
"Hmmmâ sure" I nodded oh god get a grip girl he's just a guy that sings I thought I my headâ oh if Dimitri could sing like him and witht hat accents of his Damn he'd be in bed right now"  
"So we'll see you tonight then" he offered me his hand I took it and shook it "And if we thought you were good screw what anyone else thinks" he winked as they all left the stage.  
"Oooo pinch me I'm dreaming and I'm never washing my hand again" I gasped. Chad Kroeger shook my hand" I looked down at my hand I don't know what I was expecting to see.  
"Okay Chris I'm doing this ofr you r own good" Emma laughed I blinked atr her as she slapped my face.  
"Thanks I think I forgot how to breath for a minute" I smiled "Are they really going to be here tonight?" I looked at Elena" she nodded  
"I was owed favors for getting the best rooms in twon so I asked them to come to the sound check"  
"I think I need to go lay down" I stepped away from Elena "Thank you"  
"You are welcome honey" she laughed "thers everything you need back in the dressing room I'll check on you all later" she walked away. Emma and Miranda helped me learn to walk again ireached in to my pocket for my phone and my hand clsed round The note Dimitri had given me.  
"You guys go on I'll be two minutes"  
""Okay but you need to get in there so we can start your hair" Miranda pointed out.  
"I will" I waited till they'd gone and I sat on a box and opened the envelope  
Chris,  
I can't believe I'm not there right now and if we lose the game tonight it's because none of us want to be here we want to be there supporting you guys,  
Mom won't tell me anything about what's happening but she wouldn't screw you overâ like mother like son. I thought you'd like to finally know what I keep saying to you and writing it down I know will look crazy but Ñ Ñ ÐµÐ±Ñ Ð»Ñ Ð±Ð»Ñ means I love you.  
so I'll be there waiting for my Beautiful rocker to come out and blow us all away with her now knowing that this Russian is in love with her.  
I love youâ Ñ Ñ ÐµÐ±Ñ Ð»Ñ Ð±Ð»Ñ  
D xoxoxoxo

## It's in the accent

Right now reading the note made me happier than just meeting Nickelback I was riding on such a high right now I don't think I could get knocked down by anything, I wanted to tell Dimitri I felt the same way but it was going to have to wait till after the showâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 42: Keep breathing

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. I looked in the mirror the three guys were sitting on the chairs doing their own thing to get their heads in the game. I tipped my head making the loose curls move to the side, my eyes were dark and smoky and my lips a deep red, I smoother my hands over the Black corset that Miranda had actually made that hugged me and was Sexy without taking it too far. My finger tips skimmed the tops of every ones favorite boots. My stomach was churning with nerves My phone buzzed with a message. Pete picked it up and through it to me.

\*\*\*New Message\*\*\*we won the game Niko's driving and we're 5 minutes putâ ! I love you\*\*\*7.45pm

"The guys won the game tonight" I smiled looking at Alfie and the others

"Nice" Kerion got up and paced "I sit me or was it easier before we knew Nickelback were watching us" he laughed nervously

"I'm trying not to think about it" I chewed the inside of my cheek. The door knocked and Lukas walked in.

"Wowâ !" he smiled "you certainly look the partâ !" he looked round "You all look good"

"Thanks" Alfie sighed.

"Nervous"

"To the point of wanting to puke" I groaned.

"Good" he rubbed his hands together "it's time"

"For what" Kerion looked at his watch.

"For you guys to make your way to the stage"

"I don't know if I can walk" I said leaning on the wall locking my knees to stop them from shaking.

"You'll be fine" he chuckled.

"Yeah come on Chris" Alfie reached for my hand I linked my fingers with his as Lukas held the door open for all of us. Pete slipped his arm round my waist as we walked round behind the stage. Elena was talking with Simon at the foot of the steps to the stage the sound of the crowd on the arena side was like a buzz of a million bees.

"You look amazing honey" Elena clapped her hands together. She took my hands "Are you ready?" she looked at the guys. "Are you all ready?"

"Go big or go and hide under a rock" Kerion laughed.

"Exactly" Simon put his hand on his shoulder "We've added steps coming down on to the stage where you'll walk down" he looked at me "as the guys are playing Burn it to the ground" he directed

"Walk down stairs I'll be on my ass" I panicked

"No you won't" Elena giggled "you can do it believe you can do it" she patted my cheek "Do what you know you can do" I nodded I looked round at the guys and hugged the three of them.

"We can do this" Pete murmured "Chris you sing your heart out and we'll play for you like we've never played before"

"Deal" I smiled at the three of them kissed my cheeks and walked up onto the stage. I looked to the flight of steps and took a deep breath.

"Need a hand: I jumped as Chad Kroeger walked toward me and offered me his arm.

"Sure" I nodded now the nerves had just ramped up even more as I took his arm.

"You want some advice?" he chuckled as we walked up the steps

"Anything"

"The time that you don't get nervous is the time that you stop doing this" he sighed "It can be the scariest thing in the world going out there and singing but it's also the best feeling in the world. We stopped walking "you look amazingâ ! you're voice blew me away earlier and you're band love playing for you it was written all over their facesâ ! this is a chance of a lifetime for all of you make the most of it you have my backing and the rest of my bands backing" he was genuine and was speaking frankly "Go out there like you own it and steal the show and I'm looking forward to singing with you later" he kissed my cheek. "good Luck" he turned and walked back down the stairs.

## It's in the accent

I smiled and took a deep breath this was it make or break time. The beginning to burn it to the ground began and I started down the stairs getting half way down before I began to sing the first line all the nerves vanished as the music took me and the lyrics flowed from me I made it down the steps in one piece and to the front of the stage I could see out as far as mid way across the arena floor and people were shoulder to shoulder. Moving and mouthing along. I felt on a totally high as one song rolled after another. The time came to slow it down and for Alfie and Kerion 3 minutes break as someone can on with two stools as Pete took his acoustic guitar and sat down. I took a drink of water and sat with him. I looked out into the crowd I could see Dimitri was to the left of the stage with Niko and his Sister Miranda and Xander next to them with a Shocked looking Emma and Ryan. I caught Dimitri's eye and winked at him he put his hand over his heart and winked back. MY stomach flipped as I started to sing Hero. I got half way through before the crowd roared and the sound of a second guitar was added followed by another voice I looked round and smiled as Chad walked across the stage Pete stopped playing and got up letting Chad sit and carry on the rest of the song. I glanced back at Dimitri and the others who were all stood with their mouths open. It got to the end of the song. "Okay guys you didn't come here to see me tonight" Chad said taking the microphone as he handed off his guitar to a stage hand. The crowd roared as the rest of Nickelback took to the stage. "Or the rest of usâ but tonight I think you'll all agree the show that was put on rocked" the roar was deafening to the point of being scary. "Now Chris here is 18 tomorrow so I think we need a round of Happy birthday" I shook my head and felt the color rise in my cheeks I started to back away he grabbed my hand and lead the Happy birthday. I was at the point where I was expecting to wake up from the dream I must be in. I was truly embarrassed and I was in front of hundreds of people that I could see. Every one finished singing I groaned "Thank you for that" I laughed "You ready for the final two songs but with us backing you" Chad smirked I nodded and high fived him. We finished both of the songs and returned to the front of the stage and took a bow along with Alfie, Pete and Kerion. We headed off the stage hugging and laughing. "Awesome job" Chad called over you guys want to come to the gig tomorrow" "I already am" I chuckled "My friends got me the ticket" "Cool friends" Mike smiled "Oh you have no idea" I smiled "Well what can a bunch of Canadians give you for your birthday?" Chad held out his hands "I don't need anything I think this memory is present enough" "Okay then tomorrow you come on stage and do one song with us" Mike suggestedâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 43: Riding high

..... "That was insane" I heard Jackson's voice. We looked round as I saw the other walking over to us I stepped away from Nickelback as Dimitri came in to view.

"You wereâ€"!" I didn't give him chance to say anything else I jumped into his arm. He wrapped me in a hug his mouth crushing mine like we weren't surrounded by people or Rock stars. I pulled back "Ñ Ñ ÐµÐ±Ñ Ð»Ñ Ð±Ð»Ñ "

"You know I know what that means right?" I giggled.

"I didn't know if you'd remember the note" he blushed a little

"Dude share your girlfriend" Xander picked me up "are you kidding me you sang with Nickelback Damn I'm so lucky to be related to you" I pointed over my shoulder to where all of Nickelback were still sitting "oh my god" he stammered letting go of me.

"Excuse my dorky cousin" I laughed

"It's okay are you all coming to the gig tomorrow" Chad chuckled

"Huh" Xander croaked

"Yes they're all coming to the gig" I nodded swatting Xander

"So we were trying to think of a gift for Chris" Mike smiled "What do you guys think if she sing with us on stage when the arena is sold out"

"We weren't far off that tonight" Lukas said walking over we opened it up for a charity thing for the troops at \$5 a head we got almost 5,000 people in here tonight I sat down heavily.

"FIVE THOUSAND" I gasped.

"Hey Get used to it" Chad nudged me "you'll be packing out places like this if you carry on and write some stuff of your own"

"Yeah nice dream" I sighed

"Make it reality" Mike shrugged "dude do you think she could do it" he looked at Dimitri

"Hell yeah"

"See"

"His bias he's my boyfriend" I joked.

"Okay what if I told you I know you'll make it and I can definatly see you on that stage round the world night after night" Chad stood up from the box he'd been sitting on "I'm sure you could open for us at some point" he glanced across at Elena "You have a kliller manager right there" he pointed at her making her blush.

"Yeah go Mama" Niko called out

"Look we have to go you guys did an awesome job" the whole band hugged me and the guys "and we'll see you all tomorrow Lukas has passes for all of you"

"Thanks for the support" I smiled

"Anytime" we watched as they walked away

"Christine honey" I looked up as Dad walked over with a grin from one side of his face to the other He hugged me to him "Wow you guys were justâ€"! I wish you're mom had been here to see this as well"

"Yeah well" I shrugged and looked down.

"I need to get Jess home and son't worry about curfew tonight you have fun and celebrate with yor friends" he kissed my head "I'm so proud of you right now"

"Thanks Dad" the party had ended up in the dressing room as I leant against the wall.

"Hey You" Dimitri stood in front of me

"Heyâ€"! You want to sneak away?"

"Sure" Kyle walked from the room

"Hey get Xander to take you back to the house will you we're going toâ€"!" I looked at Dimitri.

'Consider it done" Kyle grinned I just up loaded chunks of the gig on to face book so douche bag can see you're doing just fine"

Kyle" I groaned.

## It's in the accent

"What his ex rocking it with Nickelback" he chuckled "sorry hun it had to be done" Dimitri took my hand and we both hurried from the arena across the parking lot that was still emptying to his truck he opened the door for me I got in and waited for him to come round to the other side

"So where do you want to go?" he asked pulling onto the street

"Anywhere where it's just the two of us" I slid over so he could put his arm round me. The rest of the drive was in silence I was still riding high from being on stage but now I just wanted to be normal again for a while, we pulled into the driveway of his house and into the garage. He took my hand and led me round the side of the house to the summer house that was hidden from view from the main house. The water lapped gently at the dock with the only other sound was the crickets chirping.

"So am I losing you to a rock star?" Dimitri asked lighting a candle

"What? Hell now he's married" I shook my head "and a little old for me" he walked over to me and put his hands on my hips

"Just making sure" he chuckled "You guys were incredible tonight" he murmured moving my hair and trailing light kisses down the side of my neck. "I wanted everyone to know you were my girlfriend I was so proud of you" his teeth grazed my ear making me shiver.

"The whole being on stage was a rush but the best thing about the night was the note" he moved back and looked at me. "I love you too" a smile spread across his face before he kissed me passionately. His hands knotting in my hair as mine tugged his t-shirt over his head.

"Ñ Ñ Đ¼Ñ Ñ Ñ ĐµĐ±Ñ Ñ ĐµĐ¹Ñ Đ°Ñ " he growled catching my bottom lip in his teeth "Ñ Ñ Đ¼Ñ Ñ ,Ñ Ñ Đ¼Đ±Ñ Đ²Ñ Đ³Đ¼Đ»Ñ Đµ"

"I have no idea what you just said but it sounded so damn sexy" I groaned as my head fell back and he kissed along my collar bone his hands moving one to my ass the other holding my against his in the middle of my back. His finger looped in the laces on my corset and undid it loosening it till it fell to the floorâ lâ !..



## It's in the accent

the bathroom

"Hey Chris" I looked round "the songâ was it something in your mouth?" I started to laugh and winked at him and walked into the bathroom

"Dude that's' TMI"

"Jealousy's a cruel thing" Dimitri pated Niko's back

"Yeah rightâ she's my friend that amazingly enough has gotten me backstage passes for the gig tonightâ so I don't care if you got laidâ tonight I'm with the band" he grinnedâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..



## It's in the accent

from Elena" he smiled "they will be signed to the record label and given every opportunity to make it in this business talent like theirs doesn't come along too oftenâ we want to be the ones to make it happen. Nickelback have already said they're going to be big brothers for these guys". I don't think I took in anything of what he was saying I still swear I was going to be woken up from this crazy dream at any minuteâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 46: Yes or No

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !. "Do we need to decide right now?" I asked everyone looked at me a little surprised.

"We need to know by lunchtime today?" William smiled "With there only being three weeksâ !" I got up and walked out of the room Dad scabbled to his feet.

"is she okay?" Lukas said getting up with him.

"I thought that she would have jumped at the chance?" Alfie murmured

"Let me talk to her" Dad smiled round the room nervously.

"You mind if I come as well?" Dimitri got up from the couch Dad hesitated before nodding. They both followed me outside to where I was pacing and chewing on my fingers.

"Honey"

"How can I do this?" I shook my head "The biggest chance in the world is staring me right in the face and I can't do it"

"Whoa, Baby" Dimitri stopped me walking "What do you mean you can't go?"

"I have to be a parenâ !" I stopped mid sentence and looked at Dad he looked down, "I have to watch Jess, and get her to school I can't leave for a month" I ran my hand through my hair.

"Dimitri can I have a few minutes with Christine?" Dimitri nodded he kissed my head.

"I love you " he murmured before walking back inside the house. I sat on the wall.

"I've really dropped the ball haven't I?" Dad sighed sitting next to me "I've met my little girl become a mom to my baby" I looked at him.

"I haven't minded"

"No, I know you've never complained and maybe you should have" Dad nudged me "Even when we forgot you're birthday last year"

"It's okay you were busy and Mom was away"

"And you only turn 17 once and we dropped the ballâ !" he put his arm round my shoulders "I called you're Mom last night and told her things have to change"

"I bet that went down well"

"I sent her video footage of last night and she cried" he smiled "She broke down and she's taking a flight home today"

"Guilt tripâ ! nice dad"

"Well I think it gave her the wakeup call we needed toâ ! I want you to take this chanceâ ! you have to take this chanceâ ! Chris this is your time to be you" He held my face in his hands "I promise Jess will have her parents to look after her and not her big sister" I hugged him "this is huge for youâ ! and for your friends" I smiled

"I really is isn't it" he nodded

"I need to talk to Dimitri" Dad nodded

"I love you Chris and I'm so proud to have you for a daughter" he walked into the house Dimitri came back out and smiled at me.

"So my Girlfriends going to rock Europe" he chuckled

"Will you be mad if I leave?" he put his arms round me and pulled me to him.

"How can I be madâ ! this is a once in a lifetime chance and if it turns out that you become a huge rock star you'll need a body guard" he kissed my neck "And I can guard this body" I started to laugh. "I love you and I respect you so much for being able to sing like you do to the point that Nickelback is actually offering you their help to make it big"

"Come with us" He raised his eyebrows "If we can be tutored then why can't youâ ! your mom's going to be with us" I put my arms round his neck.

"I'd love to but I really don't think my MOM would go for it" he shrugged "I can visit you"

"So I should do it?"

"Hell yeah" he took my hand "Come on I think you need to sign whatever they want you to" he pulled me back in the house and into the dinning room as William was talking to the parents while Niko was talking to

## It's in the accent

Alfie and Pete while Kerion was pacing the floor. Everyone looked round.

"Everything okay?" Elena looked concerned.

"Its fine guys can I talk to you" Alfie and the others followed me out into the hallway. "So what do you think?"

"I think it's one of those days that you dream about" Alfie chuckled pushing his hands in his pockets.

"Yeah its one day playing for people at a football game next dayâ damn Chris this is insane" Keiron put his arm round my shoulders

"We have to agree to all do it" Pete shrugged

"Well Alfie yes or no?" I asked

"I say yeah" he nodded beaming from ear to ear.

"Pete?"

"All in" he smiled

"Kerion?"

"I'm inâ Chris?"

"Looks like we're going to have a lot of work to do" I grinned the four of us were all screaming and hugging each other.

"I think you have your answer" Dad smiled looking at William. Niko nudged Dimitri

"You good with this?"

"No not really but there's no way I'm going to let her see how much this is going to kill me" he shrugged as we walked back in the room "I find a girl I'm in love with and I'm losing

her'â lâ !

## Chapter 47: Russian doll, guardian angel

..... We all signed what we needed to sign and left our parents with Elena and William as Lukas walked out with us.

"We know it's your birthday" he said looking at me but tomorrow you have to be here" he handed me a slip of paper "at 8am to start rehearsing"

"We'll be there" Alfie looked over my shoulder at the address.

"Good I'll see you all tonight?" he got in his car and pulled away.

"If you guys don't mind I want to take Chris out for a while" Dimitri put his arm round my waist.

"Sure" we walked over to the truck and got in.

"Where are we going?" I asked snuggling up to him again.

"To the beach for a while" he murmured "I still have something to give you"

"Isn't it against the law to do something like that on the beach" I giggled

"You're crazy?" he bent his head and kissed my hair

"I try my best" we pulled up at the beach that was already filling with families ready for a day roasting in the Florida sun. we walked a little ways in and sat on the warm sand.

"I guess we need to make the most of the time we have" he stroked his thumb on the back of my hand.

"You sound like we'll never see each other again" I tipped my head and looked at him.

"Sorry" he smiled "I didn't mean it like thatâ I meant before you are so busy al these moments will count for something" he handed me a gift bag he'd brought from the truck with him. "It's something a little Russian for you" I reached into the bag and pulled out the prettiest Russian nesting doll.

"It's beautiful" I sighed running my fingers over the hand painted doll.

"Open it and keep going" he nudged me I took off the top of the first doll and worked my way through the dolls fitted inside one another till I came to a small roll of tissue paper. He took the dolls from me so I could unwrap it. I wish I could get you a real Faberge egg but this will have to do

"It's so pretty" I gasped turning the small blue enamel egg pendant in my fingers.

"Like you" he stroked his fingers down the side of my face "Open it it's a locket" I carefully opened it letting the small charm fall out. "It's a guardian angel to watch over you" I thought it would somehow keep you safe and not let jerks bug you" I looked at him knowing he was talking about Arron.

"Do you know how good today feels?" I laughed as he fastened the chain round my neck "I don't think I've ever been this happy" I pushed him back on the sand and straddled him. "I have you I have my dream waiting for me to take it and the people I love the most are right there backing me" a tear rolled down my cheek "Don't cry" he leant up on his elbows. "Your life's about to explode and you need to be ready for it". "We" I corrected him "This is all down to your Mom" "Yeah that's true" he bit his bottom lip "I love you Chris" "I feel like a kid at Christmas when you tell me that?" I giggled.

## It's in the accent

"How about this" he moved so his mouth was next to my ear "ÐçÑ Ð´Ð»Ñ Ð¼ÐµÐ½Ñ Ð²Ñ Ñ â ¡ÐÑ Ð¾Ð»Ñ Ð°Ð¾Ñ Ð¾Ñ Ñ ,Ñ Ñ Ð¾Ð±Ñ Ð²Ñ â ¡Ñ Ñ ÐµÐ±Ñ Ð»Ñ Ð±Ð»Ñ "

"What does it mean" as he caught my ear in his teeth making me shudder.

"You're everything to me" he murmured "I just want you and I love you" his hot breath was turning me on.

"We need to leave" I growled low "You n what happens when you start talking Russian to me"

"Well we can go back to mine for a while Mo's out and Niko was going tubing with Xander and some of the other" he smiled "that big old house all to ourselves... My big bed" he whispered in my ear.

"Dude you'd better haul ass or we will be arrested right her right now"â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

â lâ lâ lâ lâ ! Dimitri finally dropped me off at home to get ready for the Nickelback gig around 3 in the afternoon, I wasn't sure I could walk properly after the morning we'd just had I couldn't keep the smile off my face as I opened the door to the house.

"Baby" I groaned as I heard my Mom's voice 'Oh why didn't you tell me you could sing like that"

"I have mom" I sighed as she hugged me to her

"Europeâ ¡ oh you'll loveâ ¡ it the romance of Paris, the life in London, the men in Spain and Italy" she laughed in her high fake laugh she'd developed since becoming famous.

"I'm more into the Russian guys" I shrugged.

"Russian" she pulled a face

"Yes Mom Russian" I put my bag down.

"So what have you been doing to get home this late" Jess came from her room I could see she'd been crying.

"I was with Dimitri" I smiled crouching on the floor next to her, suddenly feeling guilty for not coming home sooner but when you're handcuffed to a bed it's difficult I thought to myself.

"Yeah well we have presents for you" she stomped her foot. I caught a glimpse of Mom's look of Horror on her face as she realized what day it was.

"Okay let me shower and then we can do gifts okay" I kissed her head as I got up. I walked to my bedroom and went and showered smiling at the hickey just above my right hip bone, the door knocked and I grabbed my robe. 'It's open"

"Chris" Mom's voice was low I walked out into my bedroom

'Hey Mom" I pulled my brush through my hair.

"You're birthday's today"

Yup" I didn't even look at her

"You must think I'm a really bad Mom" she clutched her chest dramatically

"Noâ ¡ just absent minded" I shrugged "No big deal"

"Anything you wantâ ¡ name it"

"Mom it's okay" I put down the brush "I have the chance of a record contract, I'm going to tour with one of my favorite bands and I have friends and a boyfriend that loves meâ ¡ I don't need anything" I walked by her and out into the living room taking deep breaths as I wentâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !

## Chapter 48: Impending doom

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. Jess was sitting on my bed as I did my hair and make up.

"Okay shrimp what's bugging you?" I sighed looking at her long face.

"Daddy told me you were going to go away for a while" she looked down here baby blue eyes filling with tears.

"Yeah he's right" I knelt on the floor and lifted her chin "But I'll call you every day I promise and I'll get you something sweet from every country I go to"

"I'm going to miss you"

"I'll miss you to Jess" I rested my forehead against hers "But this is a huge think I really want to do like whne you really wanted to swin with dolphins and Dad took you" she nodded "You saw me on the stage singing last night"

"Yeah with that guy from that band you like" I nodded

"He's the one I'm going to be with as well as Alfie, Pete and Kerion" she sniffed and looked at me.

"What about Dimitri?"

"I'd love for him to come with me but I don't know if he can" I sighed "He has school and footballâ ; but he might get to visit me"

"Can I visit you?"

"Well that's up to Dad" I kissed her head "But I'd love if you did" the door knocked

"Honey Dimitri and the others are here" Dad put his head round the door. I stood up and picked up the heels My Mom had actually brought back from Italy 5 inch heels that were Scarlet red. I looked in the mirror at the Black t-shirt Miranda had gotten for me and smiled the skinny jeans fitting me perfectly. Jess and I walked out into the living room Mom was fawning all over, Jackson, Niko and Dimitri Xander looked at me and rolled his eyes. I mouthed I know at him.



"Hey guys" they all looked up "Miranda love the t-shirt" I giggled  
"For some reason it suits you" she stuck out her tongue.  
"Ready to grab dinner" Dimitri said dodging my Mom and coming over to me. "Sureâ we're out guys"  
"What time will you be home?" Mom called out trying to sound like a Mom.  
"First thing in the morning?" Miranda called out "Everyones crashing at mine"  
"Have fun then darlingsâ oh Christine" I groaned damn I was almost out of the door  
"You guys go on I'll catch you up" I turned round.  
"So I take it he's the Russian you were talking about" she grinned "His brothers cute"  
"Mom stop" I moaned  
"If you need birth control or anything like that you can come to me" I almost laughed in her face  
"I think I got it covered" I turned on my heel  
"Shoes look food on you"  
"Night Mom" I walked down the drive Dimitri waiting in his truck with Xander and Miranda in the back the others already on the street waiting for us. we all went to the restaurant and had a blast over dinner with Jackson taking off one of my shoes and claiming they were stripper heels to go with the FMB's by the time we got to the Arena it was already jammed with people but the 'All access pass' we had rocked as the security led us backstage.  
This is better than yesterday" Niko giggled like a kid  
"dude" I swatted him  
"What you guys were good but this is Nickelback" he grinned.  
"You're an idiot you know that" Dimitri shook his head  
"Happy Birthday" I looked round as Chad walked toward us. "I hear you got our gift"  
"Yes and thank you doesn't cover how much it means"  
"I told you we believe in you guys" he smiled Joe can you show these guys to the VIP section  
"We're VIP's" Niko jumped up and down and got a hail of Gibbs slaps for his effort.  
"Chris you and the band we want 5 minutes with" Chad nudged me Dimitri kissed me  
"I'll go wait" he sighed.  
"I won't be long"  
"it's okay" He turned and walked away.  
"Ishe pissed" Chad asked as we all walked to the dressing room.  
"I don't know he said he's okay with me going away butâ" I shrugged.  
"You need to follow your dream" he said opening the door "I'm sorry to say this but guys come and go the true ones will stick aroundâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !  
â lâ lâ lâ !.. We were let back into the VIP area I walked over to Dimitri  
"You okay?"  
"Yeah I'm fine" he came up a little short  
"Really doesn't seem like it"  
"I said I'm fine" he ran his hands through his hair.  
"You want me to stay with you tonight?"  
"You have to be up early in the morning so I'll take you home after this"  
"Okay ypu need to tell me what's eating your ass this morning you were screwing the ass off me and now you don't seem to give a damn" I snapped back Niko eyed the two of us.  
"Yeah well I think you're reading stuff into this" he pushed his hands into his pockets as the music started drowning out all hope of talking to him I felt something in the ribs Jackson bent down to my ear.  
"He's okay"  
"Yeah I beg to differ" I shook my head Dimitri had moved away from me and was talking to Xander who looked madder than hell right now. I turned away and focused on the concert playing out in front of meâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 49: Screw him

â lâ lâ lâ lâ ! "Hey Chris" a security guard called me over "William sent me to get you it's time" I nodded  
Miranda hugged me  
"Good luck" I nodded and smiled at her Dimitri wasn't even looking at me I walked through the barrier and  
was taken backstage. Lukas and William were stood talking.  
"You ready for this?" William smiled.  
"Hell yeah" I nodded "It's not turning out to be a good night right now" I took the earpieces from the sound  
guy and put them in as he handed me a microphone. They both looked at each other.  
"The guys spoke to you earlier right" Lukas said leaning in to me I nodded as the feeling of nervous nausea  
rose in me. "You still okay with everything"  
'Right now I'd leave and never come back" I headed for the steps that lead to the back of the drummer riser.  
"Looks like trouble for our new star and her Russian" William sighed "I hope Elena doesn't get to  
involved"â lâ lâ lâ !.  
â lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. Chad started to sing the beginning of Rock star with me walking out onto the stage joining in  
the chorus.  
"Miss Christine Sommers People" Chadd announced as I walked till I was level with him both of us singing  
tonight felt bigger than the one before I knew the arena was full. I'd seen the amount of people in there. It got  
to the end of the song. "I think one more" he looked at me "You have to practice" he looked back out "This  
young lady and her band are supporting us when we head over to Europe in a few weeks so I think she needs  
to feel what it's like to Be Part of the Nickelback circus" the arena seemed to shake with the noise. He bent to  
me "Because of you?"  
"Sure" I nodded I looked down to where I'd been standing 15 minutes before Kyle and Emma were looking at  
me and shaking their heads I scanned the rest of them Dimitri was gone. So was Niko my heart sank as the  
music started again. I walked back to the others after I'd finished Niko was back talking to Kyle and Xander  
Miranda and Emma came over to me.  
"You were awesome" Emma smiled nervously  
"Where'd he go?" I looked from her to Miranda and back again.  
"Home" I looked round at Niko.  
"Okay and why?"  
"He said he's down Chris" Niko looked down  
"Doneâ ! is he for real"  
"He overheard what Chad said to you about guys coming and going" Niko shrugged.  
"Your borthers a dumb ass" I shook my head "Something was bothering him all day?"  
"He thinks your going to forget him once you hit Europe".  
"I won't be long" I walked backstage and into a dressing room and pulled out my phone.  
Dimitri \* Yeah  
Me \* you run at the first chance you getâ ! you didn't even have the balls to talk to me  
Dimitri \* have a good time Chris  
Me \* don't you dear hang upâ ! what the hells wrong with you.  
Dimitri \* I'm not cut out to be the guy on the sideline I guess.  
Me \* so your damn ego's not up to competitionâ ! You lied to me when I asked you if you were okay with it.  
Dimitri \* have fun In Europe.  
Me \* I trusted you with everything and this is what you do.  
Dimitri \* I won't tell anyone  
Me \* So when you told me you loved me it was to get my in bed.  
Dimitri \* Yes  
The tone in his voice rocked me to the core, I was used again. I sat down in a chair the ache that radiated from  
my chest was like a knife. I don't know how long I was in there but the music had stopped and there was more  
backstage nosie now the door opened and William walked in I made him jump.

## It's in the accent

"Are you okay?" he narrowed his eyes to look at me I wiped my eyes and got up as I heard Kyle's voice calling me

"Yeah just not a good day" I walked by him "William how soon can we come out"

"Well the first Date you play is in Manchester in England in just over three weeks we have you flying in two days before hand" he said looking on his phone "Why?"

"I was hoping it would be tomorrow" I ran my hand through my hair I heard laughing and the voices of Nickelback and my friends in the hall

"Next weekend you can all join us in Green Bay Wisconsin and go from there and we can get you rehearsing everyday with us"

"That would be perfect" I nodded "Can you let the others all know" he nodded I walked out of the room and right into Kyle.

"Hey you okay or do you want me to go Wisconsin on his Russian ass"

"I'll surviveâ I have a habit of doing it" I hugged him

"Nice job again tonight" Mike high fived me

"Thanksâ I guys I'm sorry I'm skipping out but I feel rough".

"I'll take you" Niko stepped forward.

"Okay" I hugged everyone and followed him out to the parking lot and to his car.

"He's a jerk Chris" He said after 10 minutes in the car.

"He told me he only said he loved me to get me into bed" I fought back the tears. "You know I told him everything about my past things that my parents have no clue about and not even Kyle and Emma"

"I know and I don't know what's got into him"

"One of these heels if I see him tonight" I growled.

"Hey"

"Niko I thought he was different maybe he was my oneâ but if his ego can't take the fact I'm good at what I do then I'm sorry your brother can go screw himself" I snapped. We drove past the parking lot to the school football field and his truck was there along with Abby's carâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 50: bubble burst

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ! Niko looked at me with a look of sheer shock and panic

"You have to be kidding" I groaned 'Niko stop the car"

"Hell no you're going to kick his ass"

"To damn right I'm going to kick his ass"

"I'm not stopping Chrisâ ! I know what he's doing isâ !" Niko shook his heads trying to understand it "Look let me talk to him you have a lot to think about"

"Nikolai please, I need to talk to him if you want to you can stand between us" I begged. He groaned and turned the car around pulling into the parking lot. He hadn't turned off the engine before I was out of the door and half way across the parking lot.

"Damn it Chris" Niko chased after me.

I walked round the corner Dimitri was sat on the bleachers with Reba, not Abby as I was expecting her hand was resting on his leg while his arm was resting across the back of where she was sitting.

"Abby maybe I could understand but herâ !" I snapped Dimitri got wide eyed when he saw me. "You walk out on me in the middle of me being on stage with Nickelback and for what to come here and meet with one of your best friends ex'sâ ! I take it in Russia you have no damn boundaries when it comes to picking up the cast off skanks of your friends" he got to his feet.

"Knock it off Chris" he bit at me "Deal with the fact I don't love youâ ! yes I used youâ ! now go to Europe"

"Yeah Chrisâ ! leave Dimitri never was in to the band chick" Reba grinned. I looked at Dimitri who was looking at the floor glancing up at me every now and then.

"You need to shut the hell up or I will lay your ass out" I pointed a finger in Reba's face

"Really maybe you should go back to Wisconsin and the guy that beat you"

"Reba" Dimitri pulled her arm

"Oh I forgot even he screwed your best friend" I shot a look at Dimitri.

"You promised you wouldn't say anything" he shook his head looking shocked "You know I'm glad I'm leaving because I don't have to look at you" I pushed past Reba so I was face to face with Dimitri. "You might want to find someone that deserves this" I took off the necklace he'd given me and pulled the phone from my pocket "Here"

"You need your phone" he moaned as I pushed them into his hands

"I needed my boyfriend's support, not some jumped up jock with ego problems"

"I'm Sorryâ ! Đ Đ½Đμ Ñ Đ°Đ° Đ¶Đ°Đ»Ñ "

"Save itâ ! and stop with the damn Russian" my eyes were brimming with tears.

"ĐçÑ Ñ Ñ Đ²Đ°Đ¾¼¼" Niko pulled me away from Dimitri "Đ Ñ Đ¿Đ¾¼¼Đ¿Đ°Đ»Đ,Ñ Ñ , Đ°Đ°Đ° Đ±Ñ Đ°Ñ â ! Chris lets' take you home"

"Chris I hope it all works for you" Dimitri called after me I didn't even look back I didn't want for him or Rea to see the tears that rolled down my face Niko opened the door for me and walked round to the drivers' side and got in.

"You need a hug" he asked rubbing my arm. I nodded as he pulled me to him and hugged me

"Chris I don't think he'd have told her anything about Arron" he moved back from me and started the engine.

"Will your Mom be okay withâ !" "

"To Mom it's business and I think to be honest shes going to rip him a new oneâ ! and ship him back to our Grandparents in Russia" I smiled a little "Don't hold it against me what he didâ ! I'm still a friend"

"I know" I closed my eyes "I hate the fact my 18th birthday was so good this morning and the things your Brother was saying and doing made me feel on top of the world and then my bubbles been burst". We pulled into the driveway of my house. "Thanks for the ride"

"It's okayâ ! I'll see you at school" I got out of the car and beant to look at him.

"Maybeâ ! thanks again Niko" He waited till I got in the house before he pulled away.

"You're home early" Mom walked from the kitchen with a huge bowl of Popcorn "No Russian boy?"

"No Momâ ! I'm going to bed"

## It's in the accent

"Honey, can we talk"

"Not right now Momâ oh you'll be getting a call from the tour manager sometime in the next couple of Days we're goingâ or at least I'm going to leave next weekend for Green Bay" I pulled off the heels.

"Are you going to see Arron? You too made the cutest couple" she giggled.

"No Mom I hate him with a passion" I turned to walk to my room

"Christine you guys were with each other all the time then you move here and hook up with the first cute guy you meet" she sighed.

" Mom right now you need to stop because there's things that have happened that you couldn't even imagineâ !" I snapped "You have no right to come in here and try to be a Mom you stopped being that two years agoâ I don't need to be brought by the gifts you sendâ sometimes I needed my Mom"â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ .

## Chapter 51: Facing Mama

..... I walked out of the house into the early morning heat haze The two shirts Dimitri had brought for me folded and in my hand I slide into the drivers seat and started the engine I groaned as the music was turned low I turned it up and headed first to Dimitri's and then to the address William had given us the day before. I was hoping it was way to early for anyone to be awake as I pulled into the drive way Alexi was watering the flowers.

"Christineâ is early for you isn't it?"

"Yes sir. I smiled getting out of the car and walking over to him

"Dimi's in the pool if you want to go round to see him"

"Noâ damn that came out a little too quickly and sharply "I have to be somewhere in 20 minutesâ can you just give him these for me" I handed him the shirts.

"Sure but you can spare two minutes for a coffee"

"I'm sorry I can't and your son is the last person I want to see right now" I turned and walked back to my car, hearing the front door open.

"Chris" I froze with the door open at the sound of Dimitri's voice. "Wait" there was a stream of Russian between him and his Dad I turned round as he came over the water beading in his chest from the pool as it dripped off his hair.

"What?" I was impressed with myself for being able to sound so damn pissed while I couldn't help feel a little weak at the sight of him "You want to rub some more salt in the wound" okay the anger was now beginning to overtake the desire. He looked down it looked like he hadn't slept all night "Or do you just want to tell me how much better Reba is than me" I folded my arms across my chest.

"I wanted to make sure you were okay"

"Are you kidding me I'm on top of the damn world" I hissed "The guy I was head over heels in love with tore out my heart and threw it on the ground but I'll get over it so all in all I'm doing good"

"Okay quit with the sarcasm" he snapped.

"Give me one damn good reason and I don't answer to you" I got in the car and slammed the door closed he reached in the window and put his hands over mine to stop me turning the key "Get your damn hands off of me" I growled

"I swear I didn't tell her anything Chrisâ I might be the biggest piece of crap on the planet right now but I swear to god on Niko's life I didn't tell her anything"

"Move your hand off me and get the hell away from my car" I glared at him "And crap doesn't begin to cover what I think of you right now" he stepped back and hung his head as I left black tracks on the drivewayâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

â lâ lâ lâ lâ I knocked on the door of the address I'd been given it was almost 8.30 now I was late not the best first impression to make. The door opened and Alfie grinned back at me.

"Did you get lost?"

"Something like that" I sighed hugging him "where is everyone?"

"this way" he lead me down a hall the sounds of music filtered down and then laughter. As he pushed open a door.

"You made it" William looked up from where he was sitting on a huge black couch.

"Long story but I just got my second speeding ticket in as many weeks" I put my purse down.

"Did you get any sleep?" Kerion asked looking at me

"Nope not really?"

"Tiredness will show in your voice" Lukas maoned

"Yeah well I think I'll sleep a whole lot better after a day of singing" I ran my hand through my hair.

'Okay so we really need to start on the songs you guys will be doing?' William started to go through the songs getting the guysto play parts and letting me go with it. By the time it was lunch we'd got one of the songs done and ready to go. William went out and picked us all up some Mexican food from a place down the street.

"I tried to call you this morning" Pete said nudging me

## It's in the accent

"I don't have a phone anymore" I sighed tipping back my head and letting the sun warm my face

"I thought Niko and Dimitri got you a new one?" Alfie asked

"They did but I gave it back" I brought my head back down "I'm not with him anymore"

"You're kidding?" Pete choked on his soda

"Nope, I asked if we could leave sooner"

"I know and Green Bay isn't that where you're from?" Alfie grinned.

"Close" I nodded "I'm 75 west of there"

'So you're going to show us the cheese State" William chuckled.

"It's the Dairy state" I corrected "And I think after living here these guys would think it was a little dull" I pointed Kerrion and the other.

"What's dull?" Elena's voice made me feel sick, I was dreading having to face her.

"Wisconsin" I said weakly.

"Nonsense it gave you to us" she smiled "I'm sorry I'm later a few troubles at homeâ you know how boys fight"

"Well you're boys have Tempers" Lukas said finishing off his food.

"True" she never took her eyes off me. "So how are things going?" She walked inside with William and Lukas.

"Okay you need to spill" Alfie hissed "If you've split with Dimitri how come he and Niko are fighting" I got up with my rubbish.

"If you want to know call them" I shruggedâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 52: One dumb Jock is like another

â lâ lâ lâ !. I got home a little before midnight there was a box on the front step with my name on it in Dimitri's handwriting. I opened the door and went through the darkened house to my room I could hear the muted snore of my Dad sleeping and the taping on keys as mom wrote another chapter of a book. I put my head round Jess's door she was sound asleep hugging one of my old teddies she'd latched on to from being little. I closed the door and went and sat on my bed and opened the box and took out the phone and a note. Chris,

This was a gift from me and Niko, and you need a phone you can't go back to using the same one as before not with the way Arron was bugging you.

The necklaceâ ! okay that was from me and I think now more than ever you'll need that guardian angel to watch over you while you're away, please keep it

Love you

D

"You have to be kidding" I muttered "One breath you love me the next it's screw you" I looked in the bottom of the box the necklace was in there. I pushed the phone back inside and walked over to my dresser and picked up the pad of paper and a pen

Do you actually have a clue right now?

You bitch at me one minute and then sign the Note loveâ ! are you for realâ ! You lied to me to get between my legsâ ! You tell me to my face that you never loved me and still you think I want anything from youâ ! Oh wait a minute what's that pain in my sideâ ! oh they just split from laughing at the sheer dumbassness and yes it's a word a WISCONSIN word.

I'll be out of you way by Friday and back to Wisconsin so have fun with Abby and Rebaâ ! see if they'll both take you to bed and we all thought Niko was the man whore

Christine

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry as I pushed the note into an envelope and taped it to the lid of the box. I looked at the clock it was already 12.45am and I had to be in school by 7.30. I didn't bother getting ready for bed I just pulled the cover over me as exhaustion pulled me down rather than

sleepâ lâ !

â lâ lâ lâ !. Miranda and Xander we both waiting by my locker.

"Your phones off" Xander snapped pulling me into a bear hug "We were worried"

"I'm fine and I'll get my new number to you later today" I pulled open my locker door "Dad's picking me one up" I dumped my things in it and took my books and the box Dimitri had left.

"I have some things I made for you" Miranda smiled "for you to take with you"

"You rock girl" I hugged her stopping and grabbing Xander's hand and pushing the scrapes on them

"Jeez Chris" he moaned

"What did you do?"

"I took a swing at him" he shrugged.

"Why?"

"I saw the state you were in on Saturday night Chris he screwed you over and friend or not blood thicker than water" he gritted his teeth.

"And I leave on Friday you have to stay here you should have let it go" I pleaded

"Friday I thought it was three weeks time" Miranda stuttered

"It was but the least amount of time I have to be here the better" the bell rang "Look I'll catch you at lunch" I walked away from the two of them I had English with Niko and Dimitri and Abby right now and I wasn't going to show how much I was hurting.

I pushed open the classroom door Niko was sitting on the table where I normally sat Dimitri was talking to one of the other guys from the football team. I felt his eyes on me the moment I started across the classroom. And put my books down next to Niko making him Jump.

"I didn't know if you'd show up" he smiled



## Chapter 53: one last time

..... The next few days at School Dimitri wasn't around and neither was Niko. We were going right from school to Lukas's house to rehearse and I was falling into bed dead asleep. My Mom was insisting on supervising the packing of my clothes for the 7 weeks we were going to be away. It was beginning to hit me now how big of a step this was, people at school were buzzing about it and kept stopping us in the hall and talking to us about it. We were being called up in front of the entire school on Thursday afternoon. I had been in Florida just over a month and it was insane everything that happened, both good and Bad. I walked down the hall listening to my I-pod trying to get the songs to sink in my head and stay there. My head was down and I walked into someone ending up on my ass on the floor.

"I'm sorry" I looked up as I pulled out the ear phones and groaned.

"You need some help" Dimitri offered me his hand I looked at it and disregarded it and got up.

I'm good I've learnt now I'm the only one than can pull myself up and get on with it" I dusted off my ass

"Excuse me" I stepped round him pushing my head phones back in my ears and turning it up I walked away.

"I'm sorry Chris" he called after me I was oblivious to him talking. "Đ Đ½Đμ Đ°Đ»Ñ ... Ñ

Đ»Ñ Đ±Đ»Ñ Ñ ĐμĐ±Ñ ... Đ- Đ±Đ¾Ñ Ñ Ñ Đ'Đ»Ñ Đ²Đ°Ñ Đ¾Ñ Ñ Đ°Đ²Đ,Ñ Ñ ... Đ- Đ½Đ,Đ°Đ¾Đ³Đ'Đ° Đ½Đμ Đ;ĐμÑ ĐμÑ Ñ Đ°Đ²Đ°Đ»Đ° Đ»Ñ Đ±Đ,Ñ Ñ Ñ ĐμĐ±Ñ " he punched the wall next to the locker as I kept walking he slid down the wall his head on his knees the blood dripping down his fingers from the force of the blowâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !

â lâ lâ lâ lâ !. We were all on the stage at the front of the school as the Principal droned on about how proud he was to have some of his students taking to the world wide stage I scanned the crowd Niko was sitting with Jackson Xander and Miranda all of them grinning. I just wanted to get home and go to dinner with Jess and get an early night.

I think we need one last song before you guys wave us goodbye" the Principal beamed. Mr Sorenson ran on and handed Pete a guitar and nudged me beaming I looked at Pete who shrugged I whispered something to him he looked across the to where Dimitri had just walked in his hand wrapped in a towel. He sat down and started to play Pinks Sober. I started to sing myh voice stronger than it had ever been with all the practice I'd had.

I don't want to be the girl that laughs the loudest  
Or the girl that never wants to be alone  
I don't want to be that call at 4 o'clock in the mornin'  
Cause I'm the only one you know in the world that won't be home  
Ah Sun is blindin'  
I stayed up again  
Oh, I'm findin  
That's not the way I want my story to end  
I'm safe up high, nothing can touch me  
But why do I feel this party's over?  
No pain inside, you're my protection  
But how do I feel this good sober  
I don't want to be the girl that has to fill the silence  
The quiet scares me 'cause it screams the truth  
Please don't tell me that we had that conversation  
'Cause I won't remember, save your breath  
'Cause what's the use  
Ah, the night is callin'  
And it whispers to me softly, "Come and play"  
But I, I am fallin'  
And if I let myself go I'm the only one to blame  
I'm safe up high, nothing can touch me

## It's in the accent

But why do I feel this party's over?  
No pain inside, you're like perfection  
But how do I feel this good sober?  
Comin' down, comin' down, comin' down  
Spinnin' round, spinnin' round, spinnin' round  
I'm looking for myself, sober  
Comin' down, comin' down, comin' down  
Spinnin' round, spinnin' round, spinnin' round  
Looking for myself, sober?  
When it's good, then it's good, it's so good til' it goes bad  
'Til you're trying to find the you that you once had  
I have heard myself cry 'never again'  
Broken down in agony, just tryin' to find a friend. Oh, oh  
I'm safe up high, nothing can touch me  
But why do I feel this party's over?  
No pain inside, you're like perfection  
But how do I feel this good sober?  
I'm safe up high, nothing can touch me  
But why do I feel this party's over?  
No pain inside, you're like perfection  
But how do I feel this good sober?  
Everyone was on there feet by the time I finished the song.  
"Well I think we can see why you guys are getting the chance you are and all of Riverveiw High is behind you" The principal smiled. We all walked off the stage I grabbed Kerion's arm  
"I'm going out this way I need to go spend time with Jess"  
"We'll cover for youâ I see you at the airport" I hugged him now the excitement was building and I pushed thoughts of Dimitri to the back of my mind as I got in my car and left school behind. My phone rang.  
Me \* hey  
Mirnada \* oh you should be here  
Me \* I have to see Jess  
Miranda \* I know but Dimitri has busted his hand open  
Me \* okay.  
Miranda \* over you  
Me \* what?  
Mirnada \* he said he saw you and tried to talk to you and you walked away.  
Me \* I was listening to my I-pod I didn't hear him  
Miranda \* it just took Jackson Niko and Xander to wrestle him in the car to get him to the hospital  
Me \* Miranda I'm sorry but I have one thing I have to do tonight and I'm good with people letting me down and walking over me but I'm not going to do it to Jessâ I tell himâ I tell himâ I in fact Miranda don't tell him anything"  
Miranda \* okayâ I'll see you in the morning at the airport.  
Me \* sure  
I hung up and rubbed the back of my neck, why the hell couldn't I shake the butterflies every time his name was mentioned. I dialed Alfie's number.  
Alfie \* hey Chris  
Me \* I need a favorâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 54: Alfie's a star

â îâ îâ îâ îâ îâ !.. Saying goodbye to Jess was the hardest thing I've ever had to do, I'd been and brought her a cell phone so that she could call me whenever she needed to, and a bracelet to match the slightly bigger one I had with our initials.

I pulled up at home and stepped out of the car And walked inside holding Jess's hand Mom and Dad we're in the living room talking with Alfie's parents and Alfie.  
"We're home" I called out  
"How was dinner?" Dad smiled picking Jess up and hugging her  
"I cried a lot and made Chris cry" she sniffed "But look what I got from her" she held out her arm showing her bracelet and then waved the cell phone at him. "I can call here every day"  
"See so it won't be so bad will it" he laughed I looked at Alfie.  
"You're a star you know this?"  
"Yepâ î and just so you know I have this fear of flying" he chuckled "Oh and Heidi said when we play in Belgium you have to send her a huge selection of chocolate you owe her"  
"Deal" I smiled,  
"You can use my car and leave it at Grandma's" Mom butted in  
"What?" I almost choked "You're actually letting someone touch your escalade?"  
"It doesn't get enough use and I can use your car and maybe trade it in for something better for you to try to make up some of theâ î" she trailed off realizing she was airing our dirty laundry in front of total strangers to her.  
"Niceâ î thanks" I grinned at Dad who was trying not to laugh.  
"We'll go load it up for you" he put Jess down he and Alfie's dad walked to my room to collect the bags as Alfie's Mom hugged me to her.  
"You have the time of your life and take in every minute of it" she grinned  
"We will" I nodded hugging her back as Mom stood awkwardly watching my nitation with my friends Mom. I turned to Jess and p[icked her up.  
"Call me as soon as you get up in the morning okay" she nodded her bottom lip trembling. "Don't cry okay think of all the times we can talk when I'm in different countries and you get to tell your friends you talked to





## Chapter 55: I'll be fine... I have to be

â lâ lâ lâ lâ ! The feeling of his lips on my neck sent me ridged, my heart was in my mouth. I was turned round and pressed against the wall Arron's mouth consuming mine. I put my hands flat on his chest and tried to push him away from me he caught my neck with his free hand stopping me.

"Now that's not nice" he chuckled his eyes burning into me "I think we need to talk a walk" he held my arm to the point tears sprang to my eyes as he dragged me away from the safety of the others who were sitting hooting with laughter. The cool Fall air hit me I was used to it being eighty degrees not fifty I shivered a little he pulled me to the back of the lot where his beat up old pick up was and pulled down the tail gate and histed me in to the bed of it.

"What the hell do you think you're doing?" I snapped trying to control how much fear was in my voice.

"Getting re acquainted with my soon to be famous girlfriend" He hopped in to the back and caught me round the waist as I tried to get out over the side "I missed you"

"You mean you missed your punch bag" I snapped punching him as hard as I could and hurting my hand more than him making him laugh.

"I worked damn hard on the farm this summer" he flexed his arm round me the muscle in him now was huge.

"Now Kyle has QB competition with the distance I can throw. He teeth grazed my neck I balled my fist and punched his jaw, his hand moved fast and slapped my face so hard I'm sure my brain rattled, he held my throat again making me choke "No what was it that you said about me not being good in bed" His hand was under my skirt as I kicked at him he moved and pinned it under his leg. "You always did like it a little rough didn't you?" he smiled still holding my throat The sound of his zipper on his jeans made me struggle harder. "Oh come on baby I want to be able to tell everyone I screwed a rock star"

Everything I did was useless against the sheer size and weight of Arron, I gave up fighting against him I was damned if I'd stayed in Florida and damned for coming here. How could half of my life be so good when the other half was so, so bad. The grip on my throat was lessend as Arron grunted and rolled off of me.

"Damn I've dreamt of having you again" he murmured.

"You're a sick son of a bitch" I coughed as the air raced back into my lungs "You're a rapist and a murderer" I looked at the torn underwear that lay to the side.

"Oh whatever you wanted me as much as I wanted you I could tell" he laughed "and as for that kid I did both of us a huge favor" he lit a cigarette and blew smoke rings at me.

"I hate you" my hand closed on the handle of the baseball bat in the bed of the truck I swung it in the limited space and connected with his head his eyes rolled back into his head for a split second giving e enough time to scabble out of his truck and get across the parking lot skidding to a halt at Mom's truck I got in and locked the doors and hid behind the seats peering over the bottom of the somkey window to see Arron staggering around in a daze. I pulled my phone from my pocket.

Alfie \* Chris please tell me you're not locked in the bathroom

I could hear laughing and jeering

Me \* No I'm not feeling so good right now I think the trip and the excitement has upset my stomach

Alfie \* you okay?

Me \* I'm in the truck can you make excuses for me and tell Emma I'll call her and then let's go to Green bay and meet the others

Alfie \* okayâ ! Chris you sound scared.

Me \* I'm sick that's all

Alfie \* 2 minutes then

I hung up and hid as Arron swayed past the car shouting my name a trickled of blood running down his forehead. Alfie came over to the car and opened the door. I slid into the passenger seat making him jump and squeal like a girl.

"Jeez Chris you scared the crap out of me"

"Lets goâ ! out of here turn right till you get to the junction and first ramp on the right will take us to Green bay" I said quickly my eyes not leaving Arron's retreating back as he wandered. Alfie started the engine

## It's in the accent

calling attention to us I slid down in the seat.

"Right I think you need to tell me what the hells going on?" Alfie snapped "Who was the monster sized dude shouting Chris in the parking lot?"

"My ex"

"The one that caused all the problems" I nodded.

Alfie eyed me as we passed under a street light. I turned away as the familiar countryside slipped by the window as we hauled ass the 75 miles to Green Bay. I fell into a pained sleep as my neck hurt my legs hurt and my face throbbed. I didn't wake until the humming from the engine stopped I looked out of the window as Alfie got out and opened the truck of the car and Kerrion and Pete ran through the doors with a cart for the bags. I took a deep breath and got out of the car.

"You guys made it" Kerion laughed hugging me you "should have been with us we had dinner with Nickelback" I pulled away from him and smiled weakly.

"I wish we had of now tonight was a bust"

"Rough time" Pete looked at me as Alfie closed the trunk and parked the truck.

"Like you wouldn't believe" I groaned walking was now hurting like a bitch the four of us walked into the bright light of the reception of the Radisson Green Bay.

"We have connecting rooms. The whole top floor has been taken over for Nickelback and all of the people working for them" Kerion explained as we got into the elevator. "holy Crap Chris what happened to your face" he put his finger under my chin and lifted it to the light Pete and Alfie pulled a face.

"Like I said rough night"

"Was this that dude" Alfie asked quietly

"Yeah, I used to be his punch bag and he picked up where he left off" I fought back the tears. "Look don't worry about it I just want a hot bath and sleep"

"But Chris"

"Pleaseâ I'm going to be fine" I stepped off the elevator. I had to be fineâ I had people relying on my right now and that was what matteredâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ;

## Chapter 56: Protected and secrets out

..... 'I don't like this' Pete hissed to the others as I walked into the other room and tried to find my things from my bags.

"Nor meâ ! You should have seen the size of this dude he was huge"

"Fat" Kerion peered round at the sound of the tub filling came through the door.

"No he was built like a brick shit house" Alfie whistled.

"I think we need to tell someone about this"

"She didn't even want to tell me I had to drag out the information from her" Alfie paced.

'Someone needs to stop this guy if he's hitting girls' Pete walked to the door.

"Where are you going?"

"To find William" he left the room. I walked in wrapped in a towel.

"Hey can someone get me a coffee or something?"

"Sure if you wait a few minutes you can take it in the bath with you" Alfie said quickly, catching sight of the marks on my arms and my throat

"Good idea" I walked back into the other room and rubbed my neck, trying to be happy when I hurt as much as I did right now was hard I pulled some P.J.'s from a case and put them on the bed.

"So you want to tell me why you have marks on your face and arms?" I jumped at the sound of William's voice

"What?"

"Chris are those finger prints on neck?" He walked to the door and turned on the main room lights "What the hell happened to you?"

"I ran into someone I was hoping to avoid" I looked down

"Her Ex" Alfie piped up from the doorway I shot him a look "Chris some dude hits you and you think we're going to keep quiet about it" the look of worry and concern on the faces of the five guys in the room made me break down.

"Christine this is wrong why the hell are you protecting him?" William crouched down by me 'I have a daughter a couple of years younger than you and if some guy was hurting her I'd want to know about it"

"Yeah well that's where being a good parent comes into play" I sniffed "I have career driven parents that forget birthdays" Pete sat next to me and put his arm round my shoulder.

"How much have you got bottled inside of you" William murmured.

"More than you'd believe"

"I want you to get checked out in the hospital" I shook my head. "Chris we're invested in your voice if he's crushed anything or damaged anything we have 3 weeks to make it right"

"Why are you so scared to go to the hospital?" Alfie looked at me.

"Because I'd have to tell them everything" I broke down

"This is beyond just getting knocked around" William stood up and pulled out his phone asking for the car to be brought round "Chris get dressed we going to the E.R." he walked out the room and made another call to Elena while I took my P.J.'s into the bathroom I knew it was no point arguing William was a guy that got his way. I put my hair up into a pony tail and came back out.

"You want one of us to come with you?" Kerion offered. I nodded he grabbed his jacket I looked at Alfie and Pete.

"I'm sorry you hooked up with a girl with baggage" I sighed

"Good job we don't care then isn't it" Alfie smiled "we're working and living together for the next almost two months we need to trust each other" I nodded.

"Lets go wait down stairs" Kerion opened the door for meâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !. William paced the room waiting for Elena to answer

Elena \* Elena Carpov

William \* Elena we have a problem

Elena \* problem with what?

It's in the accent

William \* Chris

Elena \* it's a teen thing my Dimitri hurt her feelings it'll work out.

William \* it's got nothing to do with himâ | I'm about to take her to the E.R. she got beaten by her ex tonight. I was hoping you could maybe shed some light on to what's the story she's clammed up like my ass on a rollercoaster.

Elena \* is she okay?

William \* she's got some good bruising on her neck and her arms and a slight scrape under her eyeâ | do you know if he's done this before?

Elena \* I don't know let me talk to Dimi and see if he knows anything and I'll call you back.

William \* thank you.

Elena ended the call

"You okay you look white Mama?" Niko asked taking a bite from the sandwich.

"Go get your brother" Niko didn't wait to be told twice by the look in her face he knew it was something serious. He took the stairs two at a time and pushed open Dimitri's door. Dimitri was leaning next to his window looking out rubbing the cast on his hand.

"Mama wants you and it sounds serious"

"But I haven't done anything" Dimitri groaned walking over to Niko

"I don't thik it's you she looks I don't know scared and angry I think" the two off them ran back down the stairs and intot he kitchen.

"Everything okay Mama?" Dimitri asked looking at her.

"What do you know about Chris's ex boyfriend"

"He was a loser and a totally douche" he shrugged breaking eye contact with his Mom.

"Dimitriâ | look at me" he looked up "Did he hit her" he looked at Niko and then groaned.

"Yes" he nodded

"He kept bugging her after she came here so I sort of got involved" I leant on his arms on the counter top. "I finally got her to tell me why she hated him so muchâ |"

"And it was because he was hitting her" Elena pushed.

"He raped her a few times and she got pregnant" Elena sucked inher breath as Niko put his hand on Dimitri's shoulder. "He got pissed about it and hit her hard enough in the stomach that she lost the baby" his eyes dropped again this time Elena let it slid "She only told her best friend who then went and screwed the guy" a tear ran down hs face "Till I got her to open up and tell meâ | I was the only other person that knew her deepest secrets and I screw her over when she trusted me" Niko pulled Dimitri into a hug.

"I just got a call from William" Elena said flipping open her laptop and scrolling through for flights "Chris had a run in with this guy again tonight" Dimitri pulled away from hs brother.

"Is she okay?"

"He's taking her to the E.R."

"Are you going up there?" Niko asked

"Yes I need to make sure she doesn't feel swamped by so many guys"

"I'm coming with you" Dimitri paced

"I don't thinkâ |" he cut her off sharply.

"Đ- Đ,ĐÑ . Đ Đ½Đμ Đ½Ñ Đ[Đ½Đ¾ Đ²Đ,ĐĐμÑ Ñ Đ Ñ Đ,Ñ "â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 57: Everyone knows

..... Kerion was pacing the floor while William made calls and sent messages. A police woman walked down the hall and went into the room I was in.

"How long does it take to check her out?" Kerion groaned as someone else walked into the room.

"I don't know" William sighed "I hope to god she's okay". After another 45 minutes the police woman and the other woman with the case walked out the police woman came over to William.

"Mr. Jones"

"Yes Ma'am he stood up"

"We need to retrieve the clothing that Miss Sommers was wearing tonight, and she said they were in the hotel where you're all staying". She asked bluntly.

"Yes you need to go to room 543 and her room mates will let you in"

"Thank you" she turned and walked away.

"I really don't like the sound of that" Kerion pulled a face as the doctor walked out. "Doc is she okay?"

"Miss Sommers isâ well one tough chick" the doctor smiled.

"Can you tell us anything?" William pushed.

"The bruising should go within the next weekâ her vocal cords look intact and fine but she'll have to take it easy for the next couple of days in case there's something under lying" She nodded

"Why would the cops need the things she wore tonight? Kerion asked

"Evidencâ hopefully there will be some fluid transfer even though she didn't have her underwear"

"Excuse me?" William almost choked up a hairball

"What?" Kerion leant on the wall

"You didn't know" the doctor looked shocked. "Christine was raped by this manâ and from her records and the statement she just gave to the officer, it's not the first time he did it to her"

"But she's been down in Florida for almost a month" Kerion said shaking his head in disbelief.

"The other rapes occurred around a year agoâ and the miscarriage"

"Baby" Kerion slid down the wall.

"She really told none of you any of this" Kerion and William shook their heads. "She needs her friends right nowâ and you can take her home the police have her number if the need to contact her" she walked away

"Wowâ what do you say to that" William scratched his head.

"I don't know" Kerion knocked on the door and waited for me to shout before he walked in. I was sitting on the bed my arms hugging my knees looking into the blank screen on the monitor at the edge of the bed. "Hey" I looked round and smiled at the two of them.

"The doctor said I'm okay to leave" I got off the bed and took a breath.

"Chris I need to ask you one thing" William said softly. "The doctor told us what happened tonight and in the past" I turned red and looked down "Honey don't be ashamed of us knowing we're friends" I swallowed hard

"But I need to know if you want to go home to your family and tell them.

"Hell noâ they knew nothing before they don't need to know nowâ I went through it alone last time and came out stronger for it I can do it again" I said quickly.

"Big difference though" Kerion butted in "This time you're not alone" I smiled at him. He was right I didn't have to hide my true feelings on the days when I felt numb with what happened to me. we went out to the car and got in I fell asleep within minutes my head resting in Kerions' shoulderâ lâ lâ lâ .

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. the sound of the T.V in the other room stirred my dead sleep along with the feeling of being held in someone's arms I jumped up falling off the bed onto the floor in the process

"It's okay" I stopped moving at the sound of Dimitri's voice then the unmistakable giggle the Niko had came drifting through the connecting door that was open about an inch. "Chris it's okay" Dimitri repeated.

"What the hell are you doing here?" I hauled my aching body from the floor and walked over to the window opening the curtains letting the sun light illuminate the room "and why the hell are you in my damn bed?" I turned and glared at him.

It's in the accent

"Mom got a call from William saying about you getting beaten by Arron" he got to his feet and walked over to me and lifted my chin "Damn Chris" he frowned and looked like he was about to cry.

"I'm fine" I stepped back from him "Shouldn't you be out with Abbyâ | sorry Reba I almost lost track" I snapped.

"Stop being a bitch Chris"

"I haven't even started if you think I'm being a bitch Dimitri" I poked him in the chest. "You raped me in a whole different way to the way Arron did itâ | He raped me physically you did it mentally I trusted you and you used me you must have enjoyed laughing at me with Rebaâ | getting the screwed up band kid into bedâ | making me fall in love with youâ | making me trust you with my biggest secretsâ | for you to tell me as soon as I felt good about myself like my life was turning round that we were doneâ | you're a mean son of a bitchâ | at least after getting raped by Arron last night I managed to hit him with a base ball batâ | you're not even worth it" he looked like I'd slapped him as we stood glaring at each other.

"Đ Đ½Đμ Đ¶[Đ°Đ»Ñ ... Đ Ñ Đ,Ñ Ñ Ñ ĐμĐ±Ñ Đ»Ñ Đ±Đ»Ñ ... Đ¿Đ¾Đ¶[Đ°Đ»Ñ Đ¹Ñ Ñ Đ°, Đ¿Đ¾Ñ Đ»Ñ Ñ Đ°Đ¹Ñ Đμ"

"Enough with the damn Russian if you can't talk to me in English then don't bother" I grabbed the hoodie off the end of the bed and walked out of the door slamming it behind meâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ |.

## Chapter 58: Meathead

..... I walked down the hallway and hit the button on the elevator I heard running footsteps behind me.

"I'm sorryâ Chris I love youâ Please listen" he stood right behind me his hands loosely on my arms "That's the translation" I closed my eyes.

"Sorry doesn't cover it Dimitri" I hung my head "If I didn't have this one shot at doing what I loveâ I wouldn't go on" I turned to look at him. "You want to know the reason I drove up here?" I didn't wait for an answer I knew Jackson Xander and Miranda were going to be at the airport to say goodbye which meant there was a possibility you were going to be there and I didn't want to have to face you or see you"

"Why didn't you listen when I called you at school" he asked

"Because I didn't hear youâ and I don't know even if I had I would have listened" I fought back the tears "I thought for one really dumb assed moment going home to Wausau would be good to see faces and places I loveâ I guess I forgot how small it is and that Arron would have found out somehow I 'd be there" I wrapped my arms round myself realizing the hoodie I was wearing was actually Dimitri's.

"So I basically forced you back here to face him" he turned away from me and paced a little as the door to the elevator opened and some of the sound guys got off and smiled at me I nodded back a greeting. "Chrisâ !" I looked at Dimitri "When we got in last night no one was awake other than William and Mom wanted to talk to himâ what you said in the room just about him raping you" I nodded.

"He took me out side when I was about to go to the bathroom and threw me like last season's hunting doe in the bed of his truck and raped me" I snapped bluntly he sat in one of the two chairs that faced the elevator and put his head in his hand. "To cut a long story short I was told I needed to go to the hospital because he tried to choke me and William wanted to make sure my chords were okayâ everything spilled out I gave the police a full statement and everything they needed" I couldn't hold the tears in anymore "I don't want to be that girl that's too scared to say things to people anymoreâ I'm sick of having no one" Dimitri got up and went to hug me I backed away from him. "I'm sick of finding guys that use me when I love themâ and you have no idea how much I loved you"

"Hey Chris you want to get some breakfast?" Pete walked down the hallway toward us.

"Sure" I called the elevator again this time the doors opening immediately

"Guys hurry up the Elevators here" there was a sound like stampeding cattle as the guys ran down the hall Niko pulled Dimitri inside with us we were jammed in Dimitri's hand touching mine he stroked his fingers lightly down the back of my hand I so wanted to pull my hand away and either punch him or push it in to the pocket of his hoodie I was still wearing, but somehow it felt strangely comforting. We walked out on the to floor which held the restaurant half of it was sectioned off for all of the Nickelback group. Elena was sitting with William and the band Chad leant across the table and said something. Elena got up and came over.

"Christine" her face was how a mothers looks when she's worrying about one of her kids something I hadn't seen in my mother face for a long time. I felt the lump hit my throat as she hugged me to her the tears streamed silently down my cheeks. "It's okay Baby" she soothed "No man will hurt you again".

"Hey Chris" I looked up as Chad walked over his was pained. "How's the voice?"

"I haven't tried it yet" I sniffed wiping my eyes on my sleeves "Look I'm so sorry you guys have to deal with my crap" I was standing in front of one of the biggest rock stars in the world apologizing for getting beaten and raped.

"It's not crap Chris" his tone was sharp "When you come on tour with us he looked round at the guys who were listening "you become part of a slightly crazy dysfunctional family" the smile cocked on his face "I already said to Will that we'd treat you guys like little brothers and sisters" he hugged me "don't be afraid to come to any of your big brothersâ come to the gig tonight and see if it helps take your mind off it"

"Thank you" I nodded he winked and walked over to where dimitir was sitting and crouched down.

"Dude okay one you're an idiot for letting her go. Two do everything you can to get her back she is going to make it huge with these guys" he pointed to Pete and the others. "But you need the security of people you love to keep you grounded and to make this job a little less lonely" he got up and went back to his table and sat

## It's in the accent

down, I poured a coffee and felt a nudge. I looked at Niko.

"Okay so if two brothers sort of kind of wanted to go to a town west of here you got any idea how to do it?"

"Don't Niko" I begged.

"Chris someone needs to teach this dude a lesson and there's two Russian ready to do it"

"Niko he's not worth it" I sighed.

"Okay I guess we can use the GPS" he shrugged "Don't forget he has no idea who the hell we are"

"No but the police are already after him you guys beat the crap out of him and I might as well have just let him rape ma and get away with it again" I put my hand on his arm "I want my friends not meat heads"

"Jeez When you put it like that" he sighed "I was ready to kick the crap out of someone as well"â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 59: Alfie's turn

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. I sat down opposite Dimitri and wrapped my hands round the coffee cup. I could feel him watching me, William walked over.

"You think you might want to try out the voice a little?" he asked leaning on the back of Dimitri's chair.

"Sure" I nodded. "I'll go take a showerâ ! I still haven't done that yet" I shuddered a little remembering that I didn't even remember getting into bed last night. "Excuse me" I got up and walked out of the restaurant.

"You want to still go there?" Dimitri asked Niko in a low voice.

"She doesn't want us to"

"I don't really care he crossed the line once too often" Dimitri looked down at his cast.

"Dude she's made a police report" Alfie said putting down his fork "You guys go there and beat the living shit out of him and then whatâ ! the cops look at it less because he's been beaten my Chris's EX boyfriend and his brother" Alfie couldn't help but emphasize the ex as he looked at Dimitri. "Let the cops deal with it"

"Spoken like the son of a policeman" Pete chuckled from across the table

"Yeah well" Alfie smiled a little "don't you think we should be worrying more about Chris and trying not to screw her over again"

"Are you done?" Dimitri looked at Alfie

"Noâ ! Why did you come here Dimitri?" he turned in his seat to look at him "I mean don't you think you did enough to hurt herâ ! telling Reba of all people about her lifeâ ! telling her you only told her you loved her to get into her pants?" Alfie was on a roll he'd never been a guy to stand up to the Jocks before. "I might be selfish right now but if you screw her over again and ruin herâ ! our shot with the chance we have it shows you're no better than the scum that raped her" Alfie got up from the table "I think I lost my appetite".

"Alfie" Dimitri got up and ran after him catching up to him by the elevator "Alfie"

"What?"

"I'm sorry" Alfie raised his eyebrows "You want me to admit I'm the words second largest douche after Arron then I admit it I am" Dimitri held out his hands "You think I let her go because I don't love her" he sighed "I liedâ ! I lied because I'm stupidâ ! I lied because I was feeling like I was going to be left behindâ ! I fel..."

Alfie held up his hand

"Don't you think I'm the wrong person to be tellingâ ! if you're sorry you need to grow some balls, man up and tell her the truth" Alfie snapped "and then let her decide what she wants" the elevator doors opened Alfie got in "but think about what you're going to say and control your temperâ ! right now she deserves to be a bitch" the doors closed leaving Dimitri standing in the hallwayâ lâ lâ lâ !..

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.. I pulled on my jeans and a hoodie and pulled the brush through my hair catching sight of the bruises on my neck. I turned away from the mirror as my phone rang.

Me \* hey Jess.

Jess \* I tried calling you last night and you didn't answer

Me \* I'm sorry, I was stuck doing some stuff

Jess \* are you singing today.

Me \* I think so in a while we all just had breakfastâ ! so what are you doing today?

Jess \* Mom's taking me to get a haircut and then to the mall to get some new clothes and then I'm having a sleepover with my friends.

Me \* wow, you sound like you're going to be busy

Jess \* I know and I'm going to try out for the swim team

Me \* nice

I heard the other door open and Alfie leant on the door frame to the connecting door and smiled at me.

Jess \* can I call you later?

Me \* you know you can and leave me a voicemail if I don't pick up

Jess \* I willâ ! Chris I miss you

Me \* I miss you too, Love you.

Jess \* Love you

## It's in the accent

The phone went dead as she hung up I sighed and put my head down.

"that was hard trying to act normal when talking to a seven year old" I looked back at Alfie.

"I think I just got away without getting the crap knocked out of me" he chuckled.

"What?"

"I sort of went off on Dimitri and told him what I thought of him" I smiled at him.

"I don't know what to do about him?" I got up and put my phone on my pocket.

"You're still in love with him aren't you?"

"I can't help it. How can you love someone and hate them at the same time?"

"I don't know" he shrugged "but don't jump back in without thinking about first" I nodded. The room door knocked I walked over to it and pulled it open Elena was standing there. "You guys can come to the arena with us all now for a sound check and see how you're voice is holding up"

We left the hotel the cool air making the Florida boys shiver

"Jeez how the hell do you live in the cold?" Pete groaned as we got on the bus to take the 5 minute trip to the arena

"This is still warm" I laughed it felt good to have people know and not make a fuss "Give it another few weeks and then you'll need to put on a jacket"

"I want one now" Kerion said pulling a face.

"Oh I think we need to come to my parent's cabin in January and then you can feel true cold" Dimitri was on the bus sitting at the back with Niko and Elena talking in Russian his eyes kept flicking back to me. I turned away and put my earphones in to listen o our songs againâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ;

## Chapter 60: Hot tea and talking

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !. I walked out onto the stage as it was being set up. William was standing with the sound engineer.

"Okay Chris let's see what we've got" I started to sing my throat hurt a little the strain all too obvious in the sound. I stopped and shook my head. "It's okay the doctor did say to take it easy for a few days" He walked over to the front of the stage. "you can either stay here or go rest up at the hotel.

"I'll stay here and try to" I ran my hand through my hair.

"Go get some hot tea and see if it helps the rest of you guys can still rehearse some of your songs" William walked back to the sound engineer as Alfie and the others started to play. I walked off the stage mouthing the words to the song as I went.

"Tea?" Dimitri was waiting at the foot of the steps with a steaming cup of tea.

"Thanks" I took it from him.

"Chris can we please talk?" he asked.

"Fine" I walked to the exit and out into the loading bay I leaned against the side of one of the trucks and looked at him.

"Will your voice be okay?"

"The doctor thinks so. I just need to rest it" I sipped the tea. "So Alfie tore you a new one, Niko and Xander fought with you" I smiled

"They were trying to knock some sense into me I think" He rubbed his cast.

"I take it your senior year playing football is done" I lifted his hand.

"That and basketball" he nodded. "But I don't care about the Jock thing it's not what's important to me"

"I really don't want to talk about Reba" I moved away from the truck.

"Chris I'm talking about you dumbass not her"

"So she just happened to be on the bleachers with you after you walked out and left me on stage" I shrugged I was determined he was going to hear all the douche bag stuff he'd done to me before I let him back in to my life. "Does she like the thing you do with your thumb on the back of her neck?"

"I didn't call her she was driving home from dropping Abby off with the guy that knocked her up" he ran in front of me to stop me from walking. "She saw my truck and stopped"

"So you decided because you'd so sweetly dumped my ass you'd have a laugh and tell her about me crazy ex and what he did to me"

"I told no one" I held up his hands.

"I'm American, I can scrape by with minimal Spanish you need to stop with the Russian, it's not a turn on any more" I groaned. Dimitri took a breath and closed his eyes before opening them and stepping closer to me

"I swear to god, you need to listen to me" he almost whispered "Christine I promised you that I wouldn't tell anyone and I didn't" He pulled me to the side as someone pushed a huge equipment case toward the arena.

"She found out the same way Niko did when you were on the phone to Arron outside she'd followed you to try to wind you up over something and instead you give her the perfect ammunition" he let go of my arm. "I didn't tell her a thing and I lost it with her when Niko took you home" I drank the rest of my tea and threw the cup into the trash can next to me

"I lost it with Niko for him taking you home when it should have been me" I sat down on the ground and tried to take in what he was saying about Reba, he sat down with me "I saw how hard it was for you to tell me what you did" Chris I never stopped loving you. I love you to the point where I can't sleep because of what I said and did to you" he stroked his fingers down the side of my face. I turned away. He dropped his hand to his lap

"So why did you do it?" I looked back at him "Why did you say the things you said to me?"

"I overheard what Chad Kroeger said to you about guys come and go only the true ones stick around" he looked down "It made me think that I wasn't good enough for you that you needed a guy like Alfie or Pete someone that you could talk to about music and stuff not some dumb Russian jock that has a reputation for his temper and taking girls to bed"

## It's in the accent

"Are we talking you or Niko here" I rubbed my temples, Dimitri chuckled a little.

"Okay Maybe my brother's the bigger man whore" he nodded.

"Nikolai's a sweetheart to me anyway" I sighed.

"Yeah you've had a strange effect on him" he's a little over protective of you like his your big brother"  
Dimitri smiled. "But Chris I was wrong I was really wrong" Dimitri became serious again. "I can be there for you I can listen to you" I can love you and hold you at night when you're exhausted, I can be the guy to protect you"â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.



It's in the accent

"Ð Ñ ÐµÐ¼Ð½Ð¾Ð¼ Ð°Ð¼ Ð¼Ñ Ð¼Ñ Ñ Ñ Ñ Ð¼Ñ Ñ ÐµÐ¼Ð½Ð¾Ð¼,  
Ð¼Ð¼Ñ ÐÑ Ðµ Ð² Ð¼Ñ Ñ Ð½Ð¾Ð¼ Ð±Ð°Ñ Ð°Ð±Ð°Ð½ Ð²Ð¾Ð¼Ñ Ñ Ð¾Ð° Ð³Ð°.  
Ð½Ð¾Ð¼»Ð¾Ð¼ Ð½Ñ Ðµ, Ñ Ð½ÐµÐ¼Ð¼Ð½Ñ ÐµÑ Ð²ÐµÑÑ Ñ Ñ ÐµÑ Ð½Ð½Ñ Ñ Ñ Ð»ÐµÐ³Ð°Ð°,  
Ð Ð°Ñ Ð¼Ð½ Ð½Ð¾Ð¾Ð¾, Ñ ÐµÐ»Ð°Ñ Ð³Ð°Ð¼Ñ ÐµÑ ÐµÑ Ð½Ð½Ñ Ñ  
Ñ Ð¼»Ð¾Ð¼ Ð½ÐµÐ¼Ð½ÐµÐ¼."

"In its dark prison cell benighted,  
The heart in drunken rapture reels.  
Cold, snowy blooms your lashes lightly,  
Your peaceful, silk-soft lashes seal." I looked at Niko he shrugged "some words don't quiet translate the same  
but this is basically what he's saying"

"Ð Ð°Ð° Ð¾Ð¼ Ð½ Ð½ Ð°Ð° Ðµ Ð²ÐµÑÑ Ñ Ñ Ð¾Ð¼ Ð¾Ð¼»Ðµ  
Ð-Ñ Ð¾, Ð°Ð°Ð° Ð¾Ð¼ Ð±ÐµÐ¼Ð¼Ñ, Ñ Ñ Ð¾Ð±Ñ Ð½Ð°Ñ Ð°Ñ Ñ Ñ Ð°Ñ,  
Ð-Ð¾Ñ Ð¼Ñ Ð½Ð° Ð±ÐµÐ¼Ð¼Ð¼Ð½Ð½Ð¾Ð¼Ñ Ð²ÐµÑÑ Ð¾Ð¼  
Ð Ñ ÐµÐ¼Ð¼Ð¼Ñ ÐµÐ¼Ñ Ð¼Ð¼Ñ Ð²Ñ Ñ Ð°Ñ Ð¼Ð-Ð¼Ñ Ñ Ð½ÐµÐ³Ð°"

"Like one by wild winds overpowered  
That as he runs begin to blow,  
I seem to see a lifeless flower  
Before me rise from out the snow.."

"Ð Ñ Ð°Ñ Ñ Ð¾, Ð¾Ð¼ Ð½Ð°Ð°Ð¾Ð¾, Ð¾Ñ Ñ Ð¾Ñ Ð¾Ð¼Ð½Ð¾,  
Ð Ð¼Ñ Ð¼Ð¾Ð¾Ð¾Ð¾ Ð¼Ð¾Ð¾Ñ Ñ Ð¾Ñ Ð°Ð° Ñ Ð°Ð¾Ð»Ñ Ð-Ð¼Ñ  
Ð Ð°Ð° Ð¼Ñ Ð³Ð°Ð¼Ñ Ð½ÐµÐ³Ñ Ð-Ð°Ð¼Ð¾Ð¾Ñ Ð¾Ð¼Ð½Ð½Ñ Ñ Ð ÐµÐ¼Ð¼Ñ Ñ Ð¾Ð°Ð°  
Ð Ñ Ð°Ð¼Ð½Ðµ Ð¾Ð¼Ñ Ð¼Ð¾Ð¾Ð¼ Ð¼Ñ Ð¾Ð¾Ð¼Ð°Ñ Ð¾Ð¾Ð¼ Ð±Ð°Ð¼Ð¼."

"And often, however gently,  
The name of my Snow Maiden slips  
Like soft snow from a frozen petal  
In secret from my trembling lips." Niko released his arms from round my shoulders. I felt the tears on my  
cheeks as a breeze blew through the arena.

"Excuse me" I walked away from the guys and round to the back of the stage as Dimitri walked down the  
stairs.

"Whereâ ! howâ ! it's" I put my hands on his face and kissed him. He was so uncomfortable with what he just  
did, it made me ralize how far he was willing to go to apologize to meâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 62: There's a huge difference

“Where did the romantic Dimitri come from?” I murmured not taking my hands from his face  
“And where did that poem” he put his finger on my lips.

“It's a poem my Grandpa used to recite to my Grandma when we were all little and I've always loved it” he shrugged “I'll do anything to get you back, to earn back your trust” He kissed me again “I love you”

“We need to take it one step at a time” I laid my head against his chest as he wrapped his arms round me “I have”

“Hey guys we're heading back to the hotel to swim” Niko butted in and put his arms round the two of us “You guys coming”

“We'll come back with you but I'm not swimming” I nodded

“I can't swim with this” Dimitri lifted his cast.

“Jeez you two suck” he laughed we all walked out of the Arena and went back to the hotel the guys got changed and disappeared. Dimitri was lay on my bed watching me as I walked round the room picking up my stuff.

“Why don't you take a break and take rest like you're supposed to?” he sighed. He moved over on the bed I say down on my side and looked at him.

“So are you really okay with me being on stage?”

“Hell yeah” he smiled “That wasn't the problem it was the whole you leaving me thing”

“I'm still going to be doing that” even if we do get or are back together I'm not giving up this chance”

“I'd never ask you too” he pulled my arm from under me so I fell flat before he pulled me to lie across his chest “I was dumb for thinking you'd leave and forget me” I guess I'm still smarting from what Abby did across me” I sat back up and looked at him.

“You mean having sex with another guy?” I bit my lip as he nodded. “What do you think rape is?” he sat up and pulled me on to his lap taking my face on his hands.

“There's a huge difference” you didn't want to have sex with Arron last night she wanted to screw this guy” he had tears in his own eyes “Was the sex you had with him anything like the times we were together” I shook my head “did he kiss you the way I kiss you” did he make you moan the same way I did”

“No” I whispered as he kissed me so lightly it felt like he just breathed on me

“Does he tell you he loves you?” I shook my head as he kissed me again “Do you know I'd never do any of those things to you that he did?” I nodded in response “then don't ever compare cheating to rape. He lay back down and pulled me with him my legs still over his.

“I feel like I shouldn't feel” I shouldn't be getting turned on”

“With him or me?” Dimitri looked down at me.

“You” being turned on was not anywhere close when he was near me” I rubbed my hand over Dimitri's chest through his t-shirt.

“I'm not expecting like I said to get right back into bed with you” he kissed the top of my head. “I need to earn that” I snuggled into him, I groaned as my phone started to ring. Dimitri got off the bed and picked it up. I took it from him and answered it.

Me \* hello

Arron \* you bitch” you god damn bitch

The color blanched from my face

Arron \* I'm on a \$20,000 dollar bond because of your lies

Me \* what lies? I told them the truth and they have the evidence you raped me

Dimitri got off the bed

Me \* where the hell did you get this number from

Arron \* I saw the report on the cops desk.

Dimitri took the phone and held me against him

Dimitri \* I think you just violated your bond dude” and you ever call this number again and I will find you and I will take you down.

## It's in the accent

The growl and the strong Russian accent in his voice scared me a little as he hung up the softness returning to his face as he put my phone down.

"Come on" he pulled me back onto the bed "See if you can get some sleep and I'll call the cops and let them know who just called you" he kissed me gently and began reciting the poem to me softly as he held me close to him my eyes becoming heavier as his voice became more distantâ lâ lâ lâ ;

## Chapter 63: No rush

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ! I woke up and stretched, I looked round the room there was a murmuring coming from the other room. I got up and pulled open the connecting door all of the guys were in there playing video games.

"Hey you" Dimitri looked up and smiled at me.

"How long have I been asleep?"

"Sleep we thought you were using a chainsaw in there" Kerion laughed.

"Funny" I stuck my tongue out. "I'm going to go get curds anyone if anyone wants to come?" the five of them all looked at me "What?"

"Curds?" Niko pulled a face. "What the hell is that?"

"Something good and yummy" I smiled.

"It doesn't sound yummy as you put it" Alfie pulled a face.

"Do you guys trust me?" they all looked at each other "Hey"

"Okay fine" Pete got up "where do we need to go?"

"Any restaurant in Wisconsin"

"Now food I like the sound of that" Pete grinned.

"We'll meet you down stairs I just need to talk to Chris" Dimitri walked over to me and linked his fingers with mine. The guys grabbed jackets and walked out.

"Everything okay?"

"I called the police when you went to sleep" he pulled me over to the bed and sat down with me.

"What did they say?" I nervously chewed the inside of my lip.

"They've revoked his bond and have locked him up in the county jail till he goes to court" he smiled 'he's locked up, he can't touch you or get to you" I felt a wave of relief wash over me. I closed my eyes and put my head in my hands. Dimitri rubbed my back.

"Finally" I sighed "Thank you"

"For what?" he smiled getting up and pulling on his hoodie.

"Talking to the cops" I stood up and put my thumbs through the belt loops on his jeans.

"Well you've been through enough" he stroked his fingers down the side of my face "and you were exhausted" he lifted my face to his and kissed me in a way to make my whole insides shiver. My hand reached for his belt. He pulled back and looked at me breathlessly. "What happened to one step at a time? He bent his head and kissed along my jaw.

"I don't know" I moaned as his teeth caught my ear and tugged gently.

"I think we need to go to the others" he chuckled low because the last thing we need is for one of them to walk in" I looked at him and hung my head "And I'm sorry"

"For what?"

"I don't want to rush you back into bedâ ! not after" he held my face in his hands "And I shouldn't have kissed you like that"

"It freaks you out doesn't it" he tipped his head and looked puzzled "The fact I was raped. I took a step back and ran my hand through my hair.

"Noâ ! I swear" he caught my hand "Chris I hurt you and I didn't think I'd manage to get you back and I have. I want to show you that I'm willing to make you my number one, I'm not going to do anything to screw it up, I want to go back to how we were before only with you as the rock star you're going to be, but I'm not going to just take you to bed for the sake of it"

"Believe me it's not for the sake of it" I smiled "You just do things to me when you kiss me andâ !"

"Hey are we going to eat and go to the gig or are we going to sit in the lobby looking like a bunch of idiots" Niko had his head round the door.

"We're coming" he disappeared again. Dimitri reached for my hoodie and handed it to me.

"Its fifty nine degrees it's not cold" I laughed

"I'm trying to be a sweet boyfriend" he winked.



## Chapter 64: Realizing a dream

I'm so sorry this is so short but i am struggling like hell with this at the moment so i'm ending it in a way that i can come back to it at some point int he near futrue i hope you don't get to mad with me

\*\*\*\*\*

..... Watching the show from the side of the stage rocks as much as watching it from in front of the stage. It didn't matter if it was me singing or someone else the music took me to the place I felt the most alive, the most relaxed and almost the most happy. I was singing along without even realizing I was doing it. I looked at Dimitri who was watching me.

"What?"

"You're in love aren't you" he chuckled "with what you have the chance of doing?"

"It's a dream that can come true" I nodded "I have a fairy godmother somewhere" he shook his head and reached into his pocket and pulled out the necklace he'd brought for my birthday.

"How about a guardian angel instead?" he smiled fastening it round my neck.

"I love you" I put my hands on his face and kissed him.

"You sure you love this Russian?"

"I'm sure" I felt a tap on the shoulder and looked round.

"I'm sorry to interrupt but you have to do this in you're home state" Chad took my hand .

"I can't my voice" I squeaked.

"You've been singing along admit it" he looked to Dimitri for help.

"You have and you sounded good" Dimitri nodded

"See come on I've heard these Wisconsinites can riot when not happy" he tugged me out into the bright lights of the stage. "Okay you guys are awesome" he smiled grabbing the microphone "No I did this to the poor girl down in Florida last week" He dropped my hand and put his arm round my shoulders. "This girl is one of your own for a few miles away from here" I took the microphone from him.

"Wausau" I laughed as the crowd roared.

"Okay" he took the mic back "You heard her she's a cheese headâ ı but now you guys are in for a treat because you're going to get to really hear her as she gets ready to support us on the European leg of the tourâ ı Guys Christine Sommers" he backed away as they started to play Far away for me.

This was it this was now my life. I was going to make it I glanced across to the side of the stage Dimitri was watching me, his head resting on something a smile on his face. Yes he'd screwed up and yes he was a stubborn Russian that had to learn how to handle his emotions without either lashing out or totally withdrawing. But he was my stubborn Russian that proved he could step out of his comfort zone for me.

It was going to be hard to deal with being away from him but I knew I was up to it and I just hoped that he was tooâ ıâ ıâ ıâ ıâ ıâ ı.

It's in the accent

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