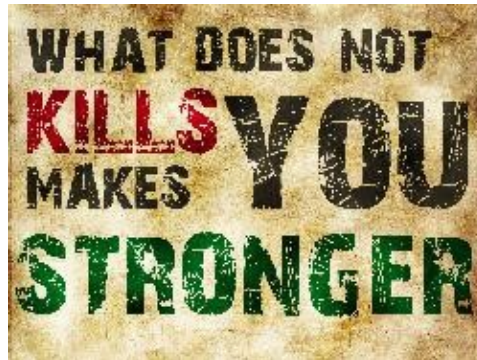


What does not kill you makes you stronger

What does not kill you makes you stronger

By : StephandBrutusandIzzy

It has a couple different generation of people in it. It begins out as Lexie being 17 almost 18, her dad died of cancer a few years back, so she's struggling with that and the normal things of a teenager, school, work, love life, her future. She has a crush on her best friend Austin, he has one on her but they are in the friend zone. She plans on leaving the state for college, will he tell her how he feels before it's too late? Chapter 34-so on until otherwise noted is in Kelsey's Pov. Lexie's Daughter. She is struggling with school, friends, and work. She falls for this guy name Chance, her friends warns her about him, she doesn't listen. She gets raped by him, and ends up pregnant with twins. Now she has to struggle with that, having her friends by her side and her family. Her little sister passes away, her older brother is in the Army, what will happen?



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What does not kill you makes you stronger : Chapter 1

i½

I'm looking around and all I see is a beautiful meadow, a ton of flowers some that I know and others that I'm not so sure about. I'm wearing a white short dress, my knee length strawberry blond hair was flying behind me. My icy blue eyes were sparkling from the sun reflecting its sunshine towards me. I walk hopelessly through the meadow and I find a nice spot and I sit down. A tall man who had dark brown hair and icy blue eyes sees me and makes his way over to me. He's wearing khaki shorts and a baby blue polo. The baby blue shirt brings out his icy blue eyes. He looked to be in his mid-thirties and he smiled at me. He sat down next to me and placed his hand on the small of my back. I smelt his cologne and smiled at him, it was a strong smell but it was his scent. This man I'm sitting in the meadow with is my father. He died five years ago tomorrow due to lung cancer, he didn't smoke. "Lexie-boo." My dad said rubbing my back "I'm not sure why daddy." I said choking back my tears "Honey, it's okay baby girl." He said "But this is my last summer at home pretty much. I'm a senior when school starts." I said "Lexie-boo, things will be okay." He said "I hope you're right." I said and he smiled at me, from time to time I have dreams with my late father.

i½ I woke up the next morning after my weird dream and rolled my icy blue eyes. It was five thirty in the morning, June 11th 2012. Yesterday was my last day attending Stuart High as a junior, when I begin up August 25th I will be a senior in high school. My name is Alexis Nicole Summerland, my birthday is August 15th, I will be eighteen this year. I live in Stuart, Florida with my mom Karen, Step-dad Aaron; I have three full-blooded siblings, and three-half siblings. My parents spilt up ten years ago, and my mom remarried seven years ago. Jake is sixteen years old, Connor is fourteen years old, Colleen is twelve years old. Then with my half siblings it's Josh who is six, Alicia is four, and Katie is two years old. On my dad's side I have two half siblings Jason is ten, and Amber is eight years old. You see Jason is really the reason why my parents spilt up.

i½ I found my cheerleading shorts and the cheerleading t-shirt to go with it. I found my pumas and a clean pair of socks. I pulled my hair into a sloppy ponytail and grabbed my Ipod armband; I placed my Ipod touch in the armband and wrote my mom and step-dad a note. My dad was diagnosed with cancer six years ago, and died five years ago today due to the cancer. Amber doesn't remember her daddy and Jason kind of does but not even. I headed down my street and started jogging. We lived in an expensive neighborhood about a block from the beach, so we live in the better part of Stuart. My dad lived in Port St. Lucie which was the next town over.

i½ I made it home around seven and my mom and Aaron was in the kitchen. Aaron was in his suit and my mom had on dressy black pants and a cute dressy shirt. Her strawberry blond hair was in a glossy ponytail. "Morning Lexie." My mom said "Morning mom. Morning Aaron." I said sitting down at the table "How was the jog Lex?" Aaron asked me "it was good actually." I said and he smiled at me "Are you looking forward to the summer?" Aaron asked me and I rolled my eyes "My summer consists mainly of work." I said and he smiled at me "That's the beauty of growing up." He said and again I rolled my eyes at him and my mom laughed. "When do you go in today?" My mom asked me "Um let me check." I said pulling out my phone and looking at my work schedule "I go in at two." I said "Jake works eight to one." My mom said and I nodded. I work at Publix, Jake works at McDonald's.

i½ Jake came down in his uniform and looked at Aaron "You ready for work?" Aaron asked Jake "Yup. Bye mom. Bye Lex." He said waving good-bye to us heading out to the car already. He has his license but he doesn't have a car just yet. He's saving up for his car. My mom smiled at me "Have a good day sweetie. When do you get off?" My mom asked me "Seven tonight. I asked to get off early. Then going over to Amy's." I said referring to my step-mom's and she nodded at me. "Pick up

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Colleen she's been wanting to go." My mom said and I smiled at her "Okay mom. Have a good day at work." I said and she smiled good-bye.

Josh, Alicia, and Katie made their way in here followed by Colleen and Connor. I made breakfast and joined them at the table. In between Katie and Alicia. "What are your plans for the day?" I asked Connor first "going over to Adam's for the day." He said "Is somebody picking you up?" I asked and he nodded "Austin." He said and I smiled at that name, Austin is my best friend also Connor's friend older brother. I looked at Colleen "You sissy?" I asked "Yup. Abby's house." She said and I smiled her sister is my best friend Nicole. "I'm picking you up around seven." I said "Why?" She asked me "I'm going to Amy's." I said "Okay." Colleen said and after breakfast and they went to get ready. I had just gotten the girls dressed and the doorbell rang.

I jogged to the door and Austin was standing there wearing khakis and a white t-shirt. "It's summer Lex." He said and I rolled my eyes until I remembered I'm wearing my cheerleading work out uniform still. "I haven't changed yet." I said "Duh." He said smiling at me "Connor!" I said "Coming." He said "Plans for the day?" Austin asked me "Baby-sitting until work." I said "Bummer. Look there's a beach party tonight. Want to come?" He asked "Sure." I said and he smiled "I will text you the details." He said and I smiled "Bye Connor. Behave." I said and he smiled at me. I walked to my room and got changed into denim shorts and a hot pink tank top. The doorbell rang again and I answered the door to see Nicole in a cute summer dress "Hey Lex." She said Abby smiled at me and I motioned to Colleen's room. "Baby-sitting today?" Nicole asked me and I picked up Katie who wanted up "Until work." I said and she smiled "Same. See ya at two?" She asked "Yup." I said and she flashed me her smile and headed to her car.

"Park?" I asked Katie, Alicia, and Josh "Yes!" They all said in unison and I smiled at them "Okay, sounds like a day." I said packing a diaper bag full of snacks and drinks. I placed Alicia in her stroller and Katie and Josh grabbed on to each side of the stroller and we walked the block to the playground. They go off to play leaving Katie with me. She goes on the slides and smiles at me when she slides down. I see a cute guy who was in my class and he had a little boy and a baby girl with him. "Hi Noah isn't it?" I asked "Yes. Lexie?" He asked "Yeah." I said "Great day to spend at the park, isn't it?" Noah asked me "Yup. I'm stuck baby-sitting my three siblings and didn't feel like being at home." I said "I'm taking care of my kids and didn't want to be in the house." He said and I smiled, that's right he got a fellow senior pregnant in ninth grade. Ashley Holmes, she had her baby boy the end of ninth grade so he is now two years old and he has a little girl who is six months old. They spilt up about four months ago and they have joint custody but they mostly stay with Noah. "What are their names?" I asked I was semi-friends with Ashley but we never talk anymore. "He's Brent and she's Caylee." He said and I smiled "I love babies." I said "You want to hold her?" He asked me "Sure." I said and he handed Caylee over to me. She had his brown curly hair and her green eyes. "She's beautiful." I said and he smiled, I noticed that Brent was playing with Alicia and Katie. He smiled at that, we sat down and started talking, actually getting to know each other rather than just knowing each other's names. I looked at my phone and realized it was twelve thirty. "I have to get ready for work." I said and he nodded "See you around." He said and I smiled "Yeah." I said and got the kids gathered up and we made our way home.

Jake made it home around one fifteen giving me forty-five minutes to take a shower, get dressed and get there. I'm a teenage girl so we all know that it was going to be cut close. I took a fifteen minute shower, got dressed in five minutes giving me twenty-five minutes. It takes fifteen minutes to get there. "I'm getting off at seven." I yell to Jake who was already watching the kids, I packed a change of clothes in a bag giving me twenty minutes. I kissed the girls good-bye and rushed to my car. I made it to work with three minutes to spare. Nicole was already at her register and rolled her eyes at me. I clocked in and took my position as her bagger. "You going to the party tonight?" Nicole asked me "Yeah. I will be there at ten though. I have to go to Amy's." I said and she nodded "Spending

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the night with me?" Nicole asked "Yup. That's what I told my mom." I said and she smiled "good so I didn't lie to mine." She said and I smiled at her, we discussed the last day of school yesterday and our plans for the summer while we didn't have customers. "Lexie you're needed on register two." My manager Scott said around four and I nodded good-bye to Nicole and made my way to register two where I was the cashier.

I clocked out at seven and went to Nicole's and picked up Colleen and then went to Amy's. She was smiling at us when we walked up to the door. They were on the porch, Jason and Amber smiled at us "Hey Lex and Coco." Amber said "Hey Amber." I said sitting down next to her, they have our daddy's icy blue eyes and his dirty blond hair color. "How is everything?" I asked all of them and Amy smiled at me "good. We're doing good." She said "Mom is thinking about dating again." Jason said "Is that so?" I asked and Amber nodded with wide eye. "If she does, remember to keep your mind open. Don't be too hard on the man." I said "What if he tries to replace daddy?" Amber asked me "I have a step-dad and he knows he can't replace daddy. That is impossible. Daddy was a great man." I said and Amber smiled "What would he be doing today?" Jason asked me "Let's see its baseball season, so he would gather up his boys and if he have any tomboys and take us to the baseball game." I said and Jason smiled "I remember going to a baseball game." Jason said and I smiled "He even took Amber to a couple games. Even got your mom to go." I said and they smiled at me, even Amy was smiling at me. "Hey Coco, want to play Just Dance?" Amber asked and Colleen smiled at them and they went into the house.

"Thanks Lexie. You are always like a daughter to me." Amy said and I smiled at her "I know, and you're like a second mom to me." I said and she smiled at me "I do miss your father. Don't get me wrong." Amy said "I know Amy. It has been five years." I said "I don't know how the kids will take it." She said "They will be confused at first but they will understand." I said and she smiled at me "Thanks Lexie." She said and I smiled at her, five years ago I was twelve going on thirteen years old but I still took care of her and my half-siblings and my siblings when I needed to. I went inside and made her a cup of tea and brought it to her. "Thanks Lex." She said and I smiled at her and saw that it was nine and she nodded "Thanks for stopping bye." She said and I smiled I went in and hugged the kids good-bye and Colleen followed me hugging Amy good-bye.

Nicole pulled up just when we did and she smiled at us. Colleen was spending the night with Abby. We went into the house and we changed into something better than our work clothes. I had on a short skirt, and a low cut pink strapless shirt. She smiled at me and we got in my car and headed to the beach. Austin saw me and smiled "Hey Austin!" I said and he smiled "Lexie!" He said smiling at me, picking me up and spinning me around. We're friends, we're in that friend zone and always will be. "Glad you could make it." He said "I know. I'm the life of the party." I said teasing him and he smiled at me "You sure are the prettiest." He said and I just rolled my eyes at him. Nicole grabbed my arm and we made our way to the group. Her crush Chad was there and smiled at Nicole, so she excused herself with me and went to flirt with him. I make my way to the second group and see Ashley and she smiled at me. "Hey Lex." She said and I smiled "Hey Ash." I said and she patted the ground next to her.

"Noah told me he ran into you today." She said "Yeah, at the park. I was taking my little sisters and brother there." I said "He's a nice guy Lex." Ashley said and I smiled "I know." I said "You should give him a try." She said smiling at me "He's sweet and all but isn't my type." I said "Lexie, give him a chance if you want. But keep in mind he has two kids and they mean more to him than anything." She said and I nodded "I know. Are you seeing anybody new?" I asked "Kyle." She said and I smiled "He's good to the kids. But nothing like Noah is." She said and I smiled, Kyle came over and I used that as my ticket to leave and Austin caught my arm. "Walk the beach?" He asked me "Sure." I said and we headed down the beach.

He's my best guy friend so I tell him about running into Noah, and now about Ashley trying to hook me up with her ex-boyfriend the father to her two kids and

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Austin just laughs at me. "Lexie, give him a try." Austin said and I rolled my eyes "I don't know." I said "Lex, you have dated multiple guys. What is it going to hurt?" He asked me "Are you telling me I get around?" I asked and he just laughed at me. His baby blue eyes sparkling, his brown hair was in his eyes and he smiled at me. "I don't know you." I said pretending to pout and he smiled at me. "Yes you do. I'm your best guy friend. Has been for years." He said "sixteen years." I said and he smiled at me "Exactly. Our dads were best friends, our moms are best friends." Austin said and I just smiled at him, "I will beat you back to the group." Austin said "You're on. Loser buys the winner a soda." I said "Deal." He said "I prefer Root Beer." Austin said "Ready.. Set.. Go.." I said and we took off, I was ahead but he came up from behind me and grabbed me by the waist and picked me up. "Not fair!" I squealed and he just laughed. I wiggled my way out and ran to the group and he rolled his eyes.

"I prefer Dr. Pepper." I said "tomorrow. I can't buy one here." He said and I smiled at him "Deal." I said and he just laughed, I caught Nicole looking at me but I just smiled at her and rolled my eyes. I look to the road and I see Noah walking up, Ashley and Kyle are sitting around the bonfire. "Hey Noah." Ashley said and he smiled "Hey Ash." Noah said and I made my way to the water and sat on the edge of the water. I hear somebody next to me "Hey Lexie." Noah said "Hey." I said flashing him a smile. "Can I join?" Noah asked me "Yup." I said and he sat next to me. We were lying on the sand looking at the stars when he sits up "I want to take you out tomorrow." Noah said I sat up and looked at him, I pulled out my phone "I work 8-6." I said and Noah smiled "How does eight sounds?" He asked me and I smiled "Perfect." I said and he smiled at me. "I always thought of you as a stuck up snob. A prep. Since you're on the cheerleading squad." He said "I always thought of you as a jerk. Since you do baseball." I said and he smiles at me "shouldn't judge a book by the cover." Noah said and I smiled "I see that now." I said giggling and he smiled at me. "You have to be the prettiest girl on the beach tonight." Noah said

Chapter 2

and I could feel my cheek turn red. "You're blushing!" Noah said "Am not!" I said but he just smiles at me and I knew I couldn't deny it so I didn't even attempt to this time.

Nicole and I made it home around two and we stayed up until four talking. Nicole has a date with Chad tomorrow night and I tell her about having a date with Noah. "Noah Lyons?" Nicole asked me and I just smile at her "Yeah." I said "He has two kids. Be careful Lex." Nicole said "I know Colie. I'm not going to do anything like that. It's one date. Austin told me I had to give him a chance." I said and she just smiled at me "I knew Austin would." She said and I rolled my eyes at her again. "Just keep your guard up Lex." Nicole said and I smiled at her "I know Nikki. I know." I said and she flashed me her million dollar smile. "We need our sleep. It's four o'clock." Nicole said and I rolled my eyes at her going inside my sleeping bag.

My phone, Nicole's phone, Nicole's alarm clock went off at seven in the morning. We both rolled our eyes at each other. We both slowly got up and then got dressed in our work uniforms, it was now seven twenty. We had forty minutes before we had to go to work so we went downstairs and her mom was making breakfast. "Morning girls. Heading off to work?" Mrs. Wakefield asked us "Yes mom, soon." Nicole said "Have fun Nikki. I've missed seeing you around Lexie." She said to me "I will come around more often." I said and she smiled at me. Mr. Wakefield came in and kissed Nicole's forehead and smiled at me and kissed Mrs. Wakefield's lips softly and smiled at us. "Beautiful day isn't it?" Mr. Wakefield said and we smiled "Indeed it is." I said and they smiled at me.

It's around five thirty and I'm at my register and I had no customers but I just stood there daydreaming. Austin came up with two sodas and a candy bar. "Check me out, checkout girl." Austin said and I rolled my eyes at Austin "Welcome to Publix. How are you?" I asked using the required line "Fine thank you." He said and I rung up his three items and he handed me the Dr. Pepper "What is this?" I asked "The soda I owe you." Austin said and I just smile at him "Thanks Austin." I said "How was work?" He asked me "It's still going but slow. How was your work?" I asked and he rolled his eyes at me "Productive. When you work in the bait store with your father it's productive. Drilling you about work and school and college." Austin said and I flashed him my smile. "I'm sorry Austin." I said and he rolled his eyes at me. "Any plans tonight?" Austin asked me "Noah is taking me out." I said "Sounds like fun. I'm going out with Rosie." He said "Who?" I asked him "A chick down here visiting her grandparents for the summer." Austin said and I rolled my eyes at him "Have fun." I said and he smiled. "What are you doing tomorrow?" Austin asked me "My morning/afternoon is free. I close tomorrow night 5-closing." I said "Video game challenge?" Austin asked me "My place, noon." I said and he smiled at me.

I clocked out at six and so did Nicole. "Have fun on your date. Call me tonight or tomorrow." Nicole said "You better tell me about it." I said and she smiled "You know it girlie." Nicole said and I smiled at her. I made it home to see my mom and Aaron home they smiled at me. "Plans tonight?" Aaron asked me "Going out with a guy." I said and my mom smiled at me "Have fun. Plans tomorrow?" My mom asked me "Well assuming I don't go in until five baby-sitting. But Austin is coming over at noon for a video game war." I said and my mom just rolled her eyes at me. "You're such a confusing girl." My mom said and I smiled at her "I need to get ready." I said and she smiled at me again.

I turned on my radio to the mix station and turned on my water in my bathroom. I found my white short dress and my brown leggings. I found my favorite bra and thong set and went back into the bathroom. I got in the shower and washed my hair and washed my body, I shaved and then let the water hit against my back. I got out and wrapped my hair in the towel, and then wrapped the towel around my body. I did my makeup and then I got dressed in my outfit and took my towel off of my head. I brushed the tangles out of my hair, and I braided my bangs and clipped it back and left the rest of my hair down. I found my brown rainbows and

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walked downstairs. It was seven thirty when I walked downstairs and my mom smiled at me.

Josh, Connor, Jake, and Aaron were playing the Xbox 360 while Colleen, Alicia, and Amber were playing tea party. "You got stuck into it?" I asked Colleen who rolled her eyes at me "Yes." She said and I laughed but sat next to her and Alicia handed me a teacup and I pretended to drink my tea. The doorbell rang at exactly eight and Jake being a younger but protective brother went to answer the door and Noah walked in. I got up and smiled at Noah who was wearing khaki shorts and a baby blue polo. "Mom and Aaron this is Noah." I said "Nice to meet you Mrs. Summers and Mr. Summers." Noah said "Nice to meet you too Noah." My mom said "Do drugs? Drink? Smoke? Sexual active?" Aaron asked Noah "No sir I do not do drugs, no sir I do not drink, no sir I do not smoke. I am sexual active." Noah said and my mom looked at Aaron "Be careful with Lexie. She's our pride and joy. Don't do anything stupid." Aaron said "I will be careful, I won't do anything stupid." Noah said and I looked at them "We're going now." I said "Bring her home the way she left. Pure." Aaron said "Yes sir." Noah said and I felt myself blushing "Bye." I said and I took his hand and led him out the door.

He opened his car door and I got in and he shut the door and walked to his side of the door. "I'm so sorry." I said as soon as we pulled away. "No don't be. They're just being protective." Noah said and I smiled "You look nice tonight." I said "Thanks, you look beautiful." Noah said and I smiled at him "Thank you." I said and he drove into town to a 50's style restaurant and we sat down in a booth and he was across from me. "Welcome to Lily's. What can I get you to drink?" Our waitress asked us "Dr. Pepper." Noah said "Dr. Pepper." I said and she wrote that down. "I will be out shortly." She said and I smiled at her.

I ordered a hamburger and chili cheese fries, he ordered a double cheese burger and chili cheese fries. "You know I have been watching you since we were in the seventh grade." Noah said "Really?" I asked him "Yes. I had a major crush on you. Then Ashley came in the picture and you know." Noah said "Yeah I know." I said "But I have had a crush on you ever since then." Noah said and I smiled "I've been watching you since tenth grade." I said which honestly I have been but didn't see myself with him.

We shared a milkshake and then left, he took me to a different beach and we sat down at the water. He works at the car wash where his dad owns it, he takes care of his kids mostly, and does school. He is a huge baseball fan, his favorite team is the Yankees like mine. "I have tickets for the game this weekend. Do you want to go?" Noah asked me "Sure." I said "I'm taking Brent and Caylee." Noah said "Okay, that sounds like fun." I said and he smiled at me. I looked at him and felt myself blush. "You are honestly beautiful." Noah said "Thank you." I said and he smiled at me "You're handsome." I said.

Chapter 3

We were staring up at the stars and he looked at me and smiled at me. "Can I kiss you?" Noah asked me and I smiled "Yes you may." I said and smiled because he was the first guy who actually asked if he could kiss me. He tilted my chin up and kissed my lips softly, the kiss was sweet and tender. His lips are soft, he has to be by far the best kisser that has kissed me. We didn't pull away, the simple kiss turned into a French kiss. I finally broke away and he smiled at me "I'm sorry." Noah said "Don't be Noah. You're wonderful." I said and now it was his turn to blush. "I'm sorry." I said and Noah smiled at me. He had brown curly hair, and baby blue eyes, he was muscular from doing baseball, he was tan as well.

We got up and he wrapped his arm around my waist and pulled me close to him. He smelt good, I love his scent. I kissed his lips softly and pulled away from him, Noah opened my car door for me and I got in. We pulled up to my house and I smiled at Noah, I kissed his lips softly and he got out and opened my car door. He walked me to the door and I kissed his cheek and smiled "I had a wonderful time. Thank you." I said and he smiled at me "I had a great time as well." Noah said and I watched him walk to his car and drive away before I went in. My mom and Aaron were sitting on the couch waiting for me, "Did you have fun?" My mom asked me "Yes I did." I said and Aaron looked at me "Did he try anything?" Aaron asked me "No sir." I said "Is he the guy with the kids?" My mom asked me "Yes he is. But I don't care what you say. I won't do anything I don't want to do." I said and before they could say anything I excused myself.

I changed into my baggy t-shirt and short shorts and crawled into my bed. I had my laptop on my lap and saw that nobody I knew was on. So I quickly logged off after updating my status and went to bed at a decent hour. I woke up at six to my alarm clock going off, I forgot to cancel it so I got change into my cheerleading outfit and pulled my hair into a sloppy ponytail and found my pumas and went jogging. I got home at seven and hopped in a shower real quick and got changed into a baby blue tank top and my black short shorts. I braided my hair into two, wore little to no makeup just enough to be consider as wearing makeup.

I handed the girls their coloring books at their little table, Josh was playing touch football with Connor. Jake was at work already today, Colleen came down and smiled "Beach with Abby." She said and I smiled at her "Have fun Coco." I said and she smiled at me "Will do so." She said I saw she had her bathing suit on under her t-shirt and I smiled at her. Mrs. Wakefield pulled up and Colleen smiled good-bye and walked out the door. Around eleven thirty, I made Pizza rolls, buffalo wings, sandwiches, and got the bags of chips out. I gave the kids chicken nuggets for lunch and a juice box they were happy with that.

Austin arrived at exactly noon and smiled at me, he brought Adam with him and Adam went out to the pool with Connor who was still playing with Josh. "Ready Lex?" Austin asked me "You're on." I said and he smiled at me. We spent until three playing video games, he won like two games and I won all of the rest. "Lexie cheated!" Austin said "No! It's called having a guy best friend, three brothers, a stepdad." I said and he just laughed at me. "Austin!" Amber said running up to him and he picked her up. "How are you Amber?" Austin asked "good. I've missed you." She said "Well if your sissy didn't work all of the time then we could see each other more." Austin said and I stuck my tongue out.

For the next hour Austin was talking about his date with Rosie and I only touched base on my date with Noah. "I'm seeing her again Friday." Austin said "I hope you have fun." I said and then realized tomorrow was Friday. "I'm sure I will Lexie. Hey, who knows maybe if things become serious with Rosie and Noah then we can double date." He joked and I just rolled my eyes at him. "You never know." I said and he smiled at me before he went home with Adam. I skipped the shower part and got dressed, Jake came home and I smiled at him "How was work?" I asked him "Good. Have a good time at work." Jake said "Yeah, I close tonight so I doubt it." I said and he just smiled at me. "You never know sis." Jake said and I rolled my eyes "See ya later." I said walking to my car.

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I clocked in and made my way to my register. My mind went back to five years ago, I was twelve and so was Austin. It was the night before my birthday and I was still bummed out about my dad dying since it was not long before my birthday. We were in the meadow watching the clouds like kids do from time to time. Austin propped himself up by leaning on one elbow and I had my knees brought up to my chest staring up at the sky. "You had your first kiss?!" I asked him "Yeah, by Ashley Holmes." He said "No way!" I said "Yes. It was like kissing my best friend." He said "How would you know?" I demanded "Because it meant nothing to me. Like it would if we kissed." Austin said "Want to bet?" I asked "Sure." Austin said "So um what do we do?" I asked him "I kiss you. Close your eyes or keep them open." Austin said "Close." I said "Good idea." He said and he leaned in and our lips met, it was sweet and soft, tender like. The kiss lasted about thirty seconds "Just like that." Austin said but he was flushed, I knew I was blushing as well. "Let's never speak of this again." Austin said "Agree." I whispered and went back to looking at the clouds.

I came back to reality and saw Noah coming up to my register, he had a grocery cart full of groceries, he had the car grocery cart with Brent and Caylee in the seat. "Hey Lexie." He said "Welcome to Publix. How are you?" I asked feeling myself blush, I was feeling guilty thinking of Austin. "I'm fine, thank you. How are you?" He asked me "Fine." I said and he smiled at me "Hey Brent. Do you want a sticker?" I asked "Sissy does too." Brent said "Alright. Sissy will get one." I said and Brent just smiled at me as I placed a blue one on Brent and a pink one on Caylee's shirt. He paid and smiled at me "Looking forward to Saturday." He said "Me too. I can't wait." I said and Noah smiled at me.

When midnight came along and we finished closing up I headed out the door. Tomorrow I work 8-closing because I actually had Saturday and Sunday off from work. I smiled good-bye to Nicole and got in my car. I drove home and sat on the couch, Jake was playing video games again. "Hey sissy, how was work?" Jake asked me "Good. I work tomorrow 8-closing because I'm off all weekend." I said "Bummer for tomorrow. I'm off Sunday, we should hang out." Jake said "Yeah. Mom was saying something about a family beach trip though." I said "Great. All those hot girls and I'm with my family." Jake said and I rolled my eyes at him. "You're growing up to be a pig." I said "Am not Lex!" He said and I smiled.

I excused myself and went to my room. I got dressed in a baggy t-shirt and just that. I crawled into my bed and curled up under my covers. I had my laptop on and was instant messaging Nicole, and Austin until about two in the morning when I dozed off on them. I woke up at five to my cell phone going off. "Hello?" I asked half-awake "Lexie there was an accident." Nicole said her voice sounded foggy "Who's hurt?" I asked "My daddy is. He's in the hospital. Broken bones is all I know." She said "I'm on my way." I said hanging up the phone and throwing on a pair of shorts. I didn't bother with my hair I just left it down. I drove to the hospital and met Nicole at the door and I hugged her. "How is he doing?" I asked "not sure." She said and I walked with her. She knew I had to go to work but I was going to cover for her today.

I stayed there for an hour and had to go home, and got ready for work. I made my way to work and told the manager about Nicole's situation. He understood and I took my position at my register. I took my break at 4 in the afternoon and called Nicole "How is he Nikki?" I asked "Good. He's doing better. Broken arm, leg, two cracked ribs. But he's okay. He is in his own room." Nicole said "that's good. Scott understood Nikki." I said "Thank god." Nicole said and I smiled "I need to head back in. I will check by tomorrow." I said "Thanks Lexie." Nicole said "No problem." I said and hung up.

Back at my register my mind went back to my memory lane. It was five and a half years ago, right around the time we got told daddy only had six months to live. I was outside in the meadow and Nicole came up and wrapped her arms around me "You okay girlie?" Nicole asked me "Nikki, he's dying." I said "Oh Lexie." Nicole said hugging me "I'm going to miss my daddy. I need him. He can't die. Colleen, Connor, and Jake needs daddy, Amber and Jason needs daddy." I said sobbing and Nicole held me. "I'm your best friend. I'm helping you get through this girlie. Enjoy the six months with your daddy." Nicole said "Thanks. I'm here if you need me." I said and Nicole smiled "I'll hold you to that." She said and I smiled, the day my dad died I

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was with him and I ran to Nicole's house where I spent the night crying.

It's midnight again and I closed and went straight home to my bed. After texting Nicole to see if he was okay, I went to bed. It was twelve thirty when I fell asleep, I woke up at ten am and got up and got dressed in a pair of denim shorts and a t-shirt. I pulled my hair up into a ponytail and smiled at my mom and Aaron. "Going to the hospital." I said and they nodded Nicole was sitting in the waiting room chair falling asleep "You need coffee." I said and she nodded, "he has to stay until Monday and then he can come home. I'm off this weekend as well but going to make up for yesterday over the week." Nicole said "I understand." I said "You have a date tonight?" Nicole asked me "Yes I do." I said "Better tell me the details tomorrow." Nicole said and I smiled at her.

I went to Austin's house and he was outside washing the cars. "Hey Lexie, want to help?" He asked me "Sure." I said and he smiled at me "Okay." Austin said and I smiled at him as I helped him wash the cars. "How did your date go last night?" I asked Austin "good." Austin said "is she a good kisser?" I asked him "Maybe." Austin said "better than me?" I asked and he rolled his eyes at me "I don't remember how good of a kisser you are." Austin said "Too sad." I said and he smiled at me. He turned the water hose on me and I squealed. Mrs. Blevins came out and smiled "Hey Lexie!" She said "Hey Mrs. Blevins!" I said and she smiled at me.

She came out and handed us a towel and laid out some lemonade. There's Austin, Callie who is sixteen, Adam who is fourteen, Brittany is twelve, and Kelly is ten years old. Callie came out and smiled "I'm going to change real quick." Austin said and I nodded, Callie looked at me "I like you better than Rosie. Why won't you two date?" Callie asked me "We're friends Callie." I said and she rolled her eyes.

Chapter 4

I went upstairs and knocked on his door "Come in. I have shorts on Lex." He said and I smiled and sat on his bed with a towel. He was shirtless, his muscular and dark tan showing. He has dirty blond hair and baby blue eyes. He sat next to me and rolled his eyes "You're wet on my bed." Austin said "I know. But I don't care." I said "I do!" Austin said and I rolled my eyes. "Lexie, do you want to stay for lunch?" Mrs. Blevins asked me "Sure." I said and Austin smiled at me. We were called for lunch and I realized it was two in the afternoon. We ate as a huge group, Mr. Blevins was telling me how much he missed seeing me around here.

For the next two hours I spent time with all of them, Austin walked me to the car. "Tell Nicole I hope her dad gets better." Austin said "I will. Thanks for today. I needed it." I said and Austin smiled at me "No problem. I needed it too." Austin said and I rolled my eyes "See you around." I said getting in my car and driving home. I was being picked up at six tonight, so I had two hours to get ready. But my mom made me spend an hour with all of them and I rolled my eyes. "I need to get ready mom." I said at five and excused myself to get dress. I found my cute pair of denim shorts and my Yankee T-shirt and my Yankee baseball hat on.

Noah arrived at six and I waved good-bye to my family and walked to the car. He was wearing blue jeans and a Yankee T-shirt with a Yankee baseball hat on. I ended up leaving my hat at home, and I looked back to see Brent and Caylee in a Yankee outfit as well. "Too cute." I said and he smiled at me. "Thanks. You look beautiful." Noah said and I smiled at him "Thanks." I said and we talked about our week and weekend on the way to the game. When we arrived I volunteer to get Caylee. I placed her on my hip and we walked to the stadium. He had Brent on his lap and I had Caylee on mine. I stole Noah's hat and placed it on my head and he smiled at me.

We won the game and after the game we went to McDonald's. Brent got his happy meal and he was happy. I placed Caylee in the booster seat and Noah smiled "You're really good with her." He said "Thanks, my sisters are young." I said and Noah smiled at me. "I know." Noah said and I smiled at him when we got done with dinner Brent went on the playground so we were sitting in the playground room talking about the game and our plans for tomorrow. He was working, and Ashley was getting the kids for a week. I told him I had to go into work to get my schedule for the week. "We should plan a date this week if you would like." Noah said "Sure thing." I said "Maybe we could get a group of couples and go to the skating ring." Noah said "Sure. I know two people who are dating someone who would want to come." I said and he smiled "I know a couple as well." Noah said and I smiled.

When I went home I went straight to bed not worrying about anybody else. It was eleven when I went to bed and I woke up at seven. I got dressed in my denim shorts and a blue t-shirt. I made my way to work and got my schedule for the week Monday: 8-2, Tuesday: 4-closing, Wednesday: 7-closing, Thursday 12-8, Friday: Off, Saturday: Off, Sunday 7-4. I made it home and everybody was waiting "Get ready for the beach." My mom said and I nodded, I got dressed in my bathing suit and a t-shirt over my body.

After we spent all afternoon at the beach, we went to a seafood shack near the beach and ate dinner. "How was your week?" My mom asked us "good." We all said and that was pretty much the end of it "In two weeks can you two take off of work?" Aaron asked us and we looked at him "Family vacation to New York for a week." Aaron said "Okay." I said and Jake nodded in agreement. We were finally going to do something this summer.

When we made it home it was eight, so Alicia and Amber got tucked in. Josh wasn't too long after that from having a hard day at the beach. So Connor, Jake, and I spent until ten playing video games. I then did Colleen's hair until eleven and made it in time to my room for my phone to be ringing. "Hello?" I asked "One sec. Let me get Nikki on the line." Austin said "Okay." I said and heard him dial somebody "Hello?" Nicole

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asked "Hey Colie." I said "Lexie and Austin. What's up?" Nicole asked "What are you guys doing?" Austin asked us "Just sitting in my room." I said "Same here. Getting things ready for daddy to come home." Nicole said "Oh yeah, he comes home tomorrow." I said "Yup. My work schedule this week is going to be busy." Nicole said "I bet. Are you off Friday?" I asked "Yes I am." Nicole said "Austin, you and Rosie good?" I asked "Yes we are." Austin said and I smiled "Do you guys want to do a group date?" I asked "Sure." They said together and I smiled "Friday, skating ring." I said "Sounds like fun. I will run the idea with Rosie." Austin said "I will run the idea with Chad." Nicole said "Alright." I said and we talked about nonsense stuff until one.

I woke up at six, went jogging for an hour and then got dressed for work. "When do you get off?" My mom asked me "two." I said "Sounds like fun Lexie." My mom said and I smiled at her "Then going to see Mr. Wakefield for a bit at Nicole's." I said and my mom nodded "Sounds like fun sweetie." My mom said and I smiled. I made it to work and saw Nicole there already "I work 7-7 today, 7-closing tomorrow, 7-8 Wednesday, 8-8 Thursday, off Friday and Saturday then 4-closing Sunday." Nicole said "Sounds like a pretty pay check." I said "Pay day is Friday!" Nicole said and I smiled at her.

I got off at two and waved good-bye to Nicole. I skipped going to see Mr. Wakefield since Nicole wasn't home and went to Noah's work place. He smiled at me "hey Lexie." He said "hey Noah. When is your break?" I asked "Now actually. I have half an hour." He said and I smiled "Want to take a walk?" I asked "Sure." He said and he grabbed my hand and we went for a walk. "You just getting off?" Noah asked me "Yeah, when do you?" I asked "Four." Noah said "Sounds like fun. Doing anything afterwards?" I asked "Nope. Why?" Noah asked me "Want to have dinner at my place?" I asked "Sure." Noah said "See you at five?" I asked "Okay." Noah said and I kissed his lips softly.

I went to Publix again and got things for dinner and while I was doing that I called to let my mom know that I invited Noah to dinner. She said that was fine so I didn't argue with her. I got home and got the things for dinner on the counter. Noah came by early and hugged me "hey." I said "Hey." Noah said smiling at me. I started cutting the onions and he came up behind me and wrapped his arms around my waist. "This is nice." I said and he smiled at me, I started boiling water and got things ready. I started cooking the meatballs and then made the garlic bread. When the food was done we all sat down at the table. My mom and Aaron was asking Noah all kind of questions over dinner, after dinner it was Colleen's turn to do the dishes. We set up a family game of twister after dinner and had fun doing that.

Noah and I escaped to the back yard where there was a playground area. I sat on the swing and he pushed me. "I'm enjoying my time getting to know you Lexie." Noah said "I am too. I love Brent and Caylee." I said "I can tell. Brent talks about you all the time." Noah said and I smiled at him.

The week went by quick and it's now Friday. Nicole and I are getting ready at my place. My mom and Aaron are going out on a date tonight as well, so Jake is watching the kids. I'm not sure how my mom is liking me dating. I'm either with Nicole or Austin or Noah or I'm working I'm never spending much time at home but I know on the New York trip I will be spending enough time with them to make up for it. I wore a pair of denim shorts, and a cute tank top. I braided my hair in one and found my pumas and put them on with socks.

We arrived at the skating ring at the time we said we would be there. I notice Noah, Chad, Austin and a girl, then two more sets of couple. "Hey Lexie, hey Nicole." Noah said and we smiled, I recognized the other two couples Stacy and Sam, Jack and Grace. We all had fun skating and then went to Pizza Hut and all pigged out on pizza. Laughing and cutting up, Noah had his arm around me. Rosie had brown hair and brown eyes, she was pretty.

June quickly ended and it was July 15th. The New York trip went good, we all had fun. For the past month I have been dating Noah, hanging out with Nicole and Austin and working. But this month I have spent more

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time with my siblings including Amber and Jason. Noah and I are getting closer and closer as the days go on. I'm made a picnic basket and drove to Noah's, he got in my car and I drove him to the meadow. I haven't taken him to the meadow yet, and it's a special place to me. I went down to memory lane and remembered the first time at the meadow. I was four years old and it was my daddy and I time together. We had just left a Yankee baseball game where we won, and he drove to the meadow and we got out. "Lexie isn't this beautiful?" He asked me "Yes daddy." I answered "It's my special place. But since you're my special girl I wanted to share it with you." He said "Thank you daddy." I said and he smiled at me he led me through the flowers to the middle, there was a beautiful creek ten feet away. It was a beautiful site "I love this place daddy." I said "I know you do Lexie-boo. I love it too." Daddy had said.

I came back to reality and smiled at Noah he was amazed by this place. "How long have you been coming here?" Noah asked me "For fourteen years almost. My dad took me here when I was four." I said "It's amazing Lexie." Noah said and I smiled I grabbed his hand and led him to the middle and he was amazed at the creek. I laid down the blanket and we sat down, I set out the container of food and we enjoyed the meal. I curled up into his arms and laid my head on his chest listening to his heartbeat. "This is nice Noah." I said "I know it is. I really like you Lexie." He said "I really like you too Noah." I said and he smiled at me. I kissed his lips softly, not pulling away at first.

It's August 14th now, a Friday. I'm at work 7-closing. Tomorrow is my birthday and my birthday party. Noah and I are a couple, we officially decided that two weeks ago since we have spent all weekend together. I'm going to a party after work for a little bit and then I'm going home. Nicole worked 8-3 today and waved good-bye to me. We are both off tomorrow and I'm excited about that. When I got off of work, I went to the bathroom and changed into my summery dress and drove to the beach where the party was. "Lexie!" Austin said when he saw me "Hey Austin." I said smiling at him "Can we go for a walk?" Austin asked me "Sure." I said "Happy Birthday Lexie." Austin said and I smiled "Thanks." I said and he smiled at me. "I screwed up my life Lex." Austin said when we were far away from the crowd. "What happened?" I asked him "Rosie is pregnant." Austin said "What?!" I asked "We lost our virginity together six weeks ago. She's pregnant with my child." Austin said "No way!" I said and saw that Austin wasn't joking. "Oh Austin." I said hugging him "My dad is going to be upset." Austin said "I know." I said and I looked at him "What is Rosie going to do?" I asked "Keep the baby. She's eighteen so she's moving down here where her aunt lives." Austin said "I'm here for you Austin. I love you." I said we always say that in a joking way but he looked at me weird "I love you too." He said and we went back to the group now instead of walking more.

When I went home I couldn't sleep, it was three am when I got home. I told my mom I would be out late, there was a beach party and she said that was okay. I fell asleep at four not able to sleep due to what Austin told me and woke up at six. "Great on my birthday too." I mumbled getting up and finding my cheerleading shorts, and cheerleading shirt. I put my pumas on and pulled my hair up into a ponytail and wrote my mom a note. I went jogging around the neighborhood and then went jogging on the beach. I saw a coffee place and went in and ordered a coffee. Nicole passed by the shop and came in and sat next to me. "What are you doing?" I asked "Last minute shopping. My mom forgot to get you something." Nicole said and I smiled "How sweet." I said and she looked at me "What happened? Are you and Noah together still?" Nicole asked me getting worried "It's dealing with Austin." I said and she looked at me "Oh god." She said and I looked at her "Did you finally realize your feelings for him?" She asked me and I realized last night that I did. "Yes I did. But it's too late." I said "It's never too late. I knew you loved him, you have for so many years." Nicole said "It is." I said "Why?" She asked me "Rosie is pregnant." I said "Oh my." Nicole said "I know." I said and she hugged me.

I made it home around nine and went straight to shower. I found my favorite summer outfit, my denim shorts, and a flower print strapless shirt. My outfit is showing off my dark tan that I got over the summer. I brushed my knee length hair and left it down, I was thinking about getting a haircut. I applied my makeup and went downstairs. "Lexie!" Katie said and I picked her up and spun her around "Happy birthday sissy." Katie said

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"Thank you." I said "Happy Birthday." Alicia said "Thank you sissy." I said "Happy birthday." Jason said and then Colleen, Connor, and Jake said it. My mom smiled at me "You ready to get everything set up?" My mom asked me and I nodded, my birthday party is a pool party theme.

It begins at five but Nicole's family and Austin's family arrived. Nicole hugged me "Happy Birthday girlie." Nicole said and I smiled at her. They placed the gifts on the table. Abby was hanging with Colleen, Adam was hanging with Connor, Austin's little brother who's six Colby was playing with Josh, Nicole's brother who is sixteen was hanging with Jake. Austin, Nicole, and I were sitting on the grass we could feel the tension. "Colie knows." I said "I figured. My parents found out today." Austin said "How did they take it?" I asked "My mom is crushed, dad is mad. But they will be supportive." Austin said "Good." I said and I saw that all of our parents were talking.

Noah came with Brent and Caylee, Caylee is now eight months old. Aaron saw that and frowned but my mom smiled. I talk about the kids all the time and it was her first time meeting them. Brent ran up to me and hugged me "Happy birthday Lexie." He said "Thank you." I said smiling at Brent returning the hug. Nicole smiled at Brent, Noah made his way to me and Caylee held out her arms for me to take her. "Hey Caylee. I missed you." I said and she giggled at me. "Happy birthday Lexie." Noah said "Thank you." I said he sat down on the ground next to me, Brent went off to go play with Alicia and Katie. "She's adorable." Nicole said "Thanks Nicole." Noah said and I smiled "Can I hold her?" Austin asked "Sure." Noah said and I smiled Austin and Noah were becoming decent friends since I'm friends with Austin.

Amy, Amber, and Jason arrived not long after. Amber and Jason ran up to me and hugged me "Happy birthday sissy." They said "Thanks." I said and they smiled at me. "This is Amber and Jason." I told Noah and he smiled. Jason went to play with Josh, and Amber went to Colleen. My mom and Amy became friends over the years so it wasn't awkward of anything. My other friends started coming now Casey from work, Kyle from work, Lindsey from work, Henry from work, Holly from school, Haley from school, Harry from school, Ashley, and Taylor from school. "Happy birthday Lexie!" They said and I smiled at them "Thanks." I said they all set their gifts on the table and joined us over in the grass.

I saw that my mom served the little kids dinner first and then yelled "Dinner is served." We all slowly got up, I was holding Caylee again. Ashley was smiling at me "You are really good with them." She said as we were in line "Thanks." I said and made my plate while holding her and sat down at the long table. I had Caylee in my lap when my mom came out with the highchair for her. "Thanks." I said and she smiled "No problem." She said and I smiled. Noah was beside me and he was helping Brent cut up his food.

After dinner we all sat around talking for half an hour. "Pool time!" I said we all went into rooms to change. We spent a couple hours in the pool, all of us. At around nine I opened my gifts and then my mom appeared with a huge cake. They sang happy birthday to me and I blew out the candles. After cake and around nine thirty Amy came up to me. "Happy Birthday Lexie. Come by tomorrow?" She asked me "Yes. You guys leaving?" I asked and she nodded "Goodnight Amber and Jason." I said and they smiled at me.

After all of the friends left leaving it to just Noah, Austin, and Nicole here with me. Noah hugged me goodnight. I walked him or should I say them. I kissed him good-bye and went back to Nicole and Austin. "My family is leaving." Austin said "Bye Austin." I said and he smiled "Happy birthday Lexie." He said kissing my cheek good-bye. "Can I spend the night?" Nicole asked "Let me ask my mom." I said "Mom can she spend the night?" I asked "Yeah, we already assumed that. Actually her parents already left." My mom said and we smiled at her.

We spent the night watching romance movies, talking about how quick this summer has gone by. She brought up the Austin situation around two and I rolled my eyes. "I love Austin, but I have strong feelings for Noah. I'm starting to fall for Noah." I said "But you have already fallen head over heels for Austin years ago." Nicole

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said "Yes. But we have a strong friendship. I don't want to ruin that because I like him. I don't want to hurt Noah either Nikki." I said and she smiled "I know Lexie. You will do the right thing girlie." She said "I sure hope so." I said and she smiled at me. "How are things with you and Chad?" I asked "Not so good. I don't think we will be together for much longer." She said and I looked at her "I think he's cheating on me." Nicole said "Oh Colie." I said "It's okay. I'm fine. I want to prove it first."

Chapter 5

For the next ten days before school began on the 25th, I was either working, spending time with Nicole, Noah, or my family. I was avoiding Austin, I figured it was best to avoid him until I made up my mind about what to do. Rosie is eight weeks along on the 25th. We were at Wal*Mart shopping for school supplies, I'm a senior, Jake is a Junior, Connor is a freshman, Colleen is a seventh grader, Josh is a first grader, Alicia begins Pre-K leaving Katie to go to daycare. Alicia got all Tinkerbell stuff for Pre-K. While we were going grocery shopping as well we ran into Austin and his family. "Hey Lexie." Austin said and I waved at him. We went to pay and then left, not once did I speak to him. They were all discussing the fun for tomorrow and I just rolled my eyes. Jake's birthday is December 18th, Connor's birthday is January 3rd, Colleen's birthday is October 8th, Josh's birthday is September 11th, Alicia's birthday is November 15th, and Katie's birthday is April 15th.

I told my mom when we got home I was going to the mall and she nodded. I told Noah the night before I was going to cut my hair and he said I would look good with a haircut. I went to the hair salon in the mall and cut my hair to shoulder length. My hair was short compared to how it was before. I made it to Noah's and he smiled at me "You look beautiful Lexie." He said "Thanks." I said and got a phone call "One sec?" I asked and he nodded "He cheated on me Lex." Nicole sobbed "I'm on my way." I said and hung up. I kissed Noah lips softly. "Nicole needs me. I'm sorry." I said and he smiled "no problem baby." Noah said and I kissed his lips softly and drove to Nicole's.

I stayed until ten comforting Nicole and hugged her good-bye. "You look good with short hair Lex." Nicole said when I was leaving "Thanks." I said and made it home. My mom was mad when she saw the hair cut "Alexis bed." My mom said and I nodded and went to my bedroom but didn't go to bed. Instead I got online and Austin sent me an IM but I blew it off and logged off and laid in my bed.

I woke up at five and took a shower. I got dressed at six wearing my new dark blue jeans, a cute baby blue t-shirt, and my rainbow flip-flops and packed my cheerleading bag in my cheerleading workout clothes and pumas. Tryouts are today, tomorrow, and Wednesday. I got my backpack, purse, and cheerleading bag at the door. We all sat the breakfast table, wearing the new first day of school clothes. Aaron and my mom both took Alicia, Katie, and Josh to school. Alicia and Josh go to the Elementary school and Katie goes to day care. Elementary is 7:30-2:30, Middle school is 7:30-2:30, high school is 8:00-3:00. Colleen's bus came and she waved good-bye. "Come on." I said opening my trunk and putting my backpack and gym bag in and they put their backpacks in.

We pull up in a parking space and I smiled at Connor "Have a good first day." I said and they both nodded. Nicole came up to me and smile, Austin even joined the group "Hey girls. Ready to begin senior year?" Austin asked "Yeah." We said "love your hair cut Lex." Austin said "Thanks." I said and he smiled "How busy have you been?" Austin asked me "Super busy. Sorry I haven't talked to you." I said "It's okay." Austin said and I smiled at him and went to my locker, I put my gym bag in my locker and went to homeroom.

For the first Semester I had Chemistry, American Government, Yoga, Calculus. After lunch was Yoga. Nicole was in all of my classes, Austin was in all my classes but Yoga. But I didn't pay much attention to him. During lunch I sat with Noah at a small table, not even sitting with the group. "I missed you at lunch Lexie." Nicole said and I looked at her "Sorry , wanted to spend it with Noah." I said "Austin told me how you have been avoiding him." She said and I rolled my eyes "I just didn't want to see him until I made up my mind." I said "Well you need to still be his friend. He needs you Lex." Nicole said and I rolled my eyes "You're right. Now let the fun of Yoga begin." I said and she smiled at me.

Okay, now is when I should say that I had forgiven my sudden interest in admitting my feelings towards Austin and we're friends again. But I haven't done that, it's now September 11th which is a Saturday and I'm

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off and we're having Josh's birthday party. Since Austin's little brother Colby is friends with Josh and a friend of the family they all came over. Josh has a ton of little kids here today so I'm trying to avoid them. Austin came up to me, I was on the swing and he sat down. "We need to talk Lexie." He said "Okay." I said "You have avoided me since your birthday." He said "I have not." I said hoping I'm doing a good job at lying. "Lexie I have known you since day care. I know you can't lie." Austin said so I rolled my eyes "You want to know what's up?" I asked "Yes." He said "I like you. Okay?" I asked and before he could answer I stormed off leaving the yard and going off into a jog. I had on flip flops so it wasn't good. I ended up going barefooted and running to the meadow it wasn't far from the house.

I didn't care about being tough. I just let the tears fall. I brought my knees up to my chest and laid my head on my knees. My hair was growing back quickly, it was an inch longer now. I heard footsteps and didn't bother to look up. "Lexie we need to talk." Austin said "Why?" I asked "You can't just admit to a guy you have feelings for him and then run off." Austin said "What does it matter? You're with Rosie, having a baby. I'm with Noah. We're best friends." I said "Okay fine you're right. But we're still going to be friends Lex. Like we always have been and always will be." Austin said "Okay. You sure?" I asked "Yeah, you're with Noah anyways." Austin said smiling at me "Ready to head back?" I asked "Yeah. Did you know that pregnancy is tough?" Austin asked "I heard." I said smiling "Morning sickness for her?" I asked and he nodded "Poor Austin having to take care of her." I said and he rolled his eyes. "I'm tired can you give me a piggy back ride?" I asked Austin who only smiled and nodded.

It's now October 8th and I'm working 8-2. Colleen's birthday dinner is at five so I have just enough time to pick up Amber and Jason and get a last minute gift. Colleen is now a teenager, I can't believe that. Austin and I are still best friends, besides me telling him I like him in a more than friends zone. Nicole and I are still really close; she's dating a guy name Mark now who's on the football team. We're on the cheerleading squad, we have been since ninth grade. Noah and I are still dating, Caylee is now ten months old. Caylee's birthday is December 5th, Brent's is May 14th.

October flew by quickly after her birthday party and it's now November 15th which is a Sunday, I'm off today. Alicia is five years old today and we're having a huge party for her. School is doing really good for me, I have all A's in my four classes, then I have cheerleading practice after school, then work, and then family time, then homework. My weekends are booked with cheerleading practice, work, family, friends, and Noah. This year is flying by quicker than I thought it would. Rosie is almost four months along, and Austin is being really supportive of her. He's right though, nothing has changed between us we're still really good friends.

Chapter 6

It's December 5th now and I'm out at dinner with Noah, Ashley, Kyle, Brent, and Caylee to celebrate her first birthday. Our last day of school is December 18th and we don't go back until the 3rd. We have finals next week, so when I'm home I'm constantly studying so I can do good on my exams. After dinner Noah took me home and kissed my lips softly "I had fun tonight." I said "I did too Thanks for coming. The kids adore you." Noah said "I adore them. They're amazing. Goodnight." I said "Goodnight." Noah said and I smiled at him kissing his lips softly and going in.

"Christmas break will be spent in California with Aaron's parents." My mom told me as soon as I walked into the living room. "When do we leave and come back?" I asked her "We leave on the 20th and come back the 31st." My mom said "I go in to work tomorrow so I will let Scott know." I said and she nodded. "How did the dinner go?" My mom asked me "Good. Caylee was so beautiful. Hard to believe I met her six months ago." I said and my mom smile "time flies by Lexie." She said and I smiled "I know. I mean did you image the day I would be eighteen, a senior in high school?" I asked her "I never thought that day would come so soon." She said "Me either momma. Would daddy be proud?" I asked her "So proud of you four baby girl. And of Amber and Jason." She said and I smiled. I watched a movie with her and then went to bed.

It's December 18th and we're slowly getting the move on for our last day school in the semester because we get our final grades, our schedule for next semester. "Happy birthday Jake!!!!!" I said hugging him "Gross Lex." Jake said but he was smiling "You're seventeen! Can you believe that? I remember when you were seven." I said "And you were eight." He said and I just rolled my eyes at him "But still you're seventeen! My baby brother is seventeen." I said and he just rolled his eyes at me. We head off to school and go our own ways. "It sucks that you miss most of the practices this break." Nicole said "I know. But California with my family." I said and she rolled her eyes "You're so lucky." She said "Hey Austin, when's the big day?" I asked "On the 20th is when we find out." Austin said and I smiled.

We're in Calculus and we get handed our final grades for each class on our report cards. Chemistry was a 98, American Government was a 100, Yoga was a 100, Calculus was a 94. First period for next semester will be English Four, second period is Spanish two, third period is Psychology 2, and the final period is Civics and Economics. I compared it with Nicole's and smiled, and with Austin's and we all smiled. "All the same classes!" I said and we high fived. After cheerleading practice I head home and we celebrate Jake's birthday and our first semester grades.

The next day after I was all packed and went to work I went over to Noah's. "Merry early Christmas." I said kissing his lips. "Merry early Christmas to you too." He said kissing my lips softly. "Where are the kids?" I asked "With Ashley for a little while. It's just me here for a couple hours." Noah said and I smiled "That's awesome." I said and he smiled at me, I kissed his lips soft and tenderly, I didn't pull away. Our tongues found their ways in each other mouths and we end up having a make out session. I pull away "Your room?" I asked and he took my hand and led me up to his room. I sit on his bed and he sits next to me. I kiss his lips with more passion this time; I moved closer to him and sat on his lap. He started rubbing my back; I could feel his bulge in his pants. "I want to make love to you." Noah whispered in my ear and I let out a sigh. "Do you have protection baby?" I asked him and I got off of him. "No." He said and I could tell he was disappointed, so was I. "My parents do though." He said.

He got up and left and then came back in a few minutes later. He sits down and I sit on his lap again. I start kissing him touching his chest, kissing his lips, his neck, nibbling on his ear. His bulge got harder and harder. Before we were aware we were both naked, he put the condom on and he took my virginity away from me. We're in his bed and he has his arms wrapped around me "You were amazing Lexie." He said "So were you." I said and kiss his lips softly and we heard the door bell, "It must be that time." He said and I smiled. He got

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dressed quickly and made his way to answer the door. I got dressed and waited until he shut the door again to walk down. My hair was back to knee length again and I didn't feel like cutting it again.

We opened the gifts we got each other, Brent made me a picture, he got me a multi-color monkey. Noah got me a necklace, a gold metal heart with a diamond. "I love it." I said "I'm glad. I love your gift." He said and I smiled and kissed his lips softly. I stayed with him until late that night and had a make out session on the porch before I left. "I love you." He said and I about fainted, that was the first time he told me that. "Okay." I said and rushed to my car. I didn't know what to say, I didn't feel like I was ready to say I love you to him.

I called Nicole when I got home and told her to meet me out at the meadow. It was eleven and it took her until midnight to meet me. "What is it?" She asked me worried "I lost my virginity to Noah tonight." I said "Oh my god. How was it?" She asked me "good for the first time. He was gentle with me. We had a condom on." I said "What's the problem?" she asked me "He told me he loved me and I told him okay. I didn't know what to tell him. I didn't want to say it if I didn't mean it." I said "I have strong feelings for him. But I don't love him." I said "Because you love Austin." Nicole said "What do I do?" I asked "See how things go when you get back. Tell Noah you didn't want to say it until you mean it." Nicole said and I nodded "He gave that to you didn't he?" Nicole asked and I nodded. We stayed over there talking until two. "You need to go." Nicole told me and I smiled "Have a good Christmas Colie. I love you." I said hugging her "You too. I love you too." She said and I smiled.

I made it home and got on my laptop, Austin was on and I IM'd him and told him about what happened but not the reason why I couldn't say it back. He calmed me down the rest of the way and we talked until three. I logged off and placed my laptop in my backpack, and got it ready. I was using my backpack, my cheerleading gym bag, and my small suitcase. I got on my bed and pretend to be sleeping when my mom came in at three thirty to wake me up. I got in the shower and got dressed, I brought my bags to the living room.

We loaded up the car not long after and headed out at four. We made it to the airport at four forty-five and checked in. I had Katie on my hip with my backpack on my back. We went to our gate and sat down. "I'm going to get some coffee." I said and my mom nodded "Okay Lex." She said I went to the Starbucks in the airport, got a cup and went back. I woke up six the morning before so when it's six I would have been up for twenty-four hours. We boarded the plane at five fifty and took off at six. We arrived in Texas at nine. We then switched planes and went for our other plane. We arrived eleven our time, but eight their time.

We pulled up to their house at nine in the morning which would be noon. I wasn't feeling up to talking to them or getting to know them. We went to all the tourist spots in Hollywood area and made it to a fancy restaurant it was six here and nine in Florida.

It's nine here and eleven in Florida and I went to bed because I couldn't keep my eyes close. On the 21st we went Christmas stopping with his mom and we spent all day shopping. I woke up at eleven o'clock my time but eight o'clock this time and they were anxiously waiting for me to get up to be ready. We spent all day shopping and at eleven I went to bed again because it was so late in Florida. I have been here two days and haven't talked to anybody yet. I woke up at eight to my phone ringing, I was already waking up but the phone was the final straw of trying to sleep some more. "Hello?" I asked "Are you awake?" Austin asked me "Kind of." I said "I know the sex of my baby." Austin said "What is it?" I asked him "A girl. Summer Lynn Wakefield." Austin said "Congratulations Austin! I know you will be a good daddy." I said "thanks Lex. Enjoying California?" He asked me "Kind of. I'm going to bed at eleven." I said "Well it's two our time, it's what you're used to." He said "true. Well I have to go to the bathroom. I will talk to you later. Congratulations Austin." I said and we hung up.

It's the day after Christmas now, Christmas was as I expected Josh, Alicia, and Katie got a ton of Christmas gifts from their grandparents and we got a gift card to a couple places. The next day we went to San Francisco

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for the day, and we had a blast we spent a lot of money. We ended up spending the 27th there as well. On the end of that day we went back to his parent's house. The next two days we spent getting to know his other family and again we were pushed to the side while everybody else got attention but it didn't bother me.

When I got home I got a call from Austin "Meet me at the meadow now." Austin said "Coming." I said hanging up and looking at my mom "It's urgent." I said it was three o'clock here and I had a party at Nicole's to attend tonight. I rushed to the meadow and he was waiting for me "Rosie lost the baby. But come to find out it wasn't mine. It was a guy she was cheating on me with." Austin said "Oh Austin." I said "It's okay. I was starting to love Rosie. But now I don't. Now I'm going to focus on school, getting into the college of my dreams." Austin said "That's perfect Austin said and I smiled at him. I handed him a bag he smiled at it, it was "My Best friend went to San Francisco and brought me back this lousy hoodie" With Austin's name on it in his favorite color. "It's amazing Lex. I love it." He said "Good, I have one for Colie and myself as well. But mine has my name on it, and on the back R.I.P Daddy. I love you." I said and he smiled at me. "Going to Noah's?" He asked me "Yes I am." I said and he smiled "Good luck." He said and I smiled "Thanks. See ya tonight?" I asked and he nodded.

I got home and got in my car and made my way to Noah's my mind was racing, I haven't talked to him since that day. I pulled up and Noah was actually outside playing with Brent and Caylee. "Hey Lexie!" Brent said running to me "Hey buddy. I got you something." I said and he smiled at me I gave him "I heart San Francisco" T-shirt, a red toy truck and he ran up to his daddy proud. I showed Caylee's her and then her I heart San Francisco monkey. Noah smiled at me "Take it in to Grandma, show her." Noah said and Brent took off.

"I'm sorry. I didn't say it back because I want to honestly mean it before I say it because I don't want you to get hurt and I don't want to get hurt." I said and Noah nodded "I know Lexie. I know you don't love me. I'm lying to myself, because honestly you never will love me fully. You love Austin." Noah said, "What do we do then?" I asked "Break up I guess Lexie. You will never look at me the way you look at Austin." He said "I'm sorry Noah." I said and handed him his gift "You want the necklace?" I asked "Keep it Lexie." He said and I smiled I kissed his lips softly and smiled at Caylee and walked to my car fighting back the tears.

I didn't even bother going home my mom knew I would be spending the night with Nicole. I made my way to Nicole's and her mom opened the door "She's in her room. You okay?" She asked me and I shook my head no and she hugged me. I walked up to Nicole's room and she knew right away. I had her gift in my hand and set it on the bed. "He broke up with me." I said "Oh Lexie." Nicole said hugging me tight "Because he knows I will never love him like I love Austin." I sobbed and she hugged me, she spent until nine comforting me. Then we spent the next hour getting ready for the party. People started arriving at ten thirty, Austin arrived at eleven and hugged me "I'm sorry Lexie." He said "Don't be." I said and he only smiled at me and went to hang out with some friends.

It was 11:58 and Austin, Nicole, and I are in the middle of the room. Mark was next to Nicole and the two minutes went by quick. "Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six. Five. Four. Three. Two. One. Happy New Years!" We all yelled I hugged Austin and he kissed my lips softly I pulled away and smile at him. I squeezed Nicole's hand and Austin "This is our year you guys!" I said and they smiled "Alright everybody! We're the class of 2013, it's now 2013 we can do this!" I said and everybody cheered. The party ended around one and everybody left. We set up our camping bags outside on the grass and sat on top of our sleeping bags. We sleep outside when Austin crashes as well with us. I talked about the trip until two in the morning and then we all fell asleep.

It's January 3rd and we're celebrating Connor's birthday at his favorite place to eat. "Daddy would be so proud of all of us." I said I was still wearing Noah's necklace, nobody asked about what happened to me and Noah I think they still think I'm with him. "How was your first day back to school?" My mom asked us "Good. I love my classes. English four mainly. Don't care for Spanish Two too much." I said and my mom looked shock I

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normally just do a good response "What are your other two classes?" Colleen asked me "Psychology two and Civics and Economics." I said "Are they good classes?" Aaron asked me "So far yeah. I love all of my classes mostly, Spanish isn't one of my favorites." I said "How was work Lex?" Jake asked me "Pretty good. Busy but good." I said and they smiled at me.

When we made it home I found Connor's favorite movie and sat down on my favorite chair. Katie took that opening and crawled up in my lap. "I love this movie!" Connor said and I smiled at him, Jake came in and sat next to Connor. Alicia came up and sat with me, Josh turned the guys and Colleen sat in another chair. Mom and Aaron came in and sat down with us "Who started this?" Aaron asked "Lexie did." Connor said and I could see my mom smiling. When the movie ended I lifted up Katie for my mom to take and Aaron took Alicia to bed. Jake carried Josh to bed and then it was Jake, Connor, and Colleen. We spent time playing video games until midnight "School in the morning kids." Mom reminded us. "Sorry." We said and slowly broke away from the game.

I woke up around four and went for a quick jog, I came home at five which is my normal time of waking up. I got in the shower and got dressed in my favorite rip jeans, a cute baby blue t-shirt and my hoodie from San Francisco and my Sperry's shoes and walked downstairs at six. I made pancakes for breakfast. Everybody came down and my mom smiled at the sight of breakfast "Thanks Lex." My mom said and I smiled at her.

School went by great and its lunch time. I'm sitting with my normal group and they are all talking and I'm just barely paying attention. I see Noah who is sitting with Ashley and I notice I don't see Kyle around. "They're back together; decided this break they had was long enough." Taylor said and I smiled "I'm glad. They're good together. It's good for the kids." I said and I smiled at them. Nicole and Austin were studying me "You okay Lex?" Nicole asked me "I'm fine." I said and they knew not to push it.

During cheerleading practice as we did the cheers we were actually having fun. Nicole and I went straight to work after practice. We changed in the bathroom and went to our registers. It was five and we work until ten. After ten I looked at Nicole "You off Friday night?" I asked "Yeah." She said "Girls night out, you, me, Colleen, and Abby." I said "Deal." She said and we smiled. I got home and did my homework until eleven. My mom walked in and smiled at me "Cookies?" She asked me "Sure." I said and she handed me a cookie "I talked to Brooke today. She told me something was bothering you on New Years Eve. Want to talk?" My mom asked me "Noah and I broke up." I said "Oh Lexie." She said "Because I'm in love with somebody else." I said "Austin." She said and I nodded "Things will be okay. If not you will always have Austin as a friend." She said and I smiled at her.

Wednesday school went good; we had a pop quiz in some classes. Cheerleading practice went good, and then work was good. At home I did my homework and it took me until one to finish and then went to bed. Thursday was the same thing but homework was done by midnight, and Friday after school we picked up the girls. We got our nails done, hair done, and then a mini-shopping spree. We went to watch a movie and then ate dinner at a good restaurant and after that we went home. We made it back to home and watched girly movies until Colleen and Abby fell asleep.

"You have been a different Lexie. Not your old single self, but a new self. You're like a robot, you do school, cheerleading, work, and then make time for your family, and your friends." Nicole said "I'm applying to colleges tomorrow. To go ahead and send them out." I said and she smiled "I know Lexie. Me too." She said and so we fell asleep and woke up at seven, called and called Austin for him to come over. We all applied to our colleges, University of Florida, University of Southern Florida, Florida State, Duke, UNC, New York State, and University of California.

It's now April 15th, Spring break was spent working most of the time or spending time with my siblings or friends. We took the SATs last year and we all got good grades on there. Close to a perfect score on it.

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"Happy birthday Katie!" I said and she smiled at me, today was also the last day to file taxes which I did mine a few days ago with the help of Aaron. After the birthday dinner, Katie wanted a birthday tea party with all of the females and so that is what she got.

It's May 6th two days before prom. "Ready to go dress shopping?" Nicole asked me and I smiled at her we found the perfect dress. On the 7th we did our nails, and on the 8th we got our hair done. We did our makeup and we got in our dresses with our shoes. Nicole was going with Mark since they were still dating, and since Austin was single and I'm single we're going to the prom together. Austin and Mark arrived on time and Austin smiled at me. He looked really good in his tux "You look beautiful Lexie." He said after a few minutes of silent "I was speechless when I saw you. You're incredible Lex." He said and I smiled, we were all made to get pictures taken. Jake was going to the Junior prom and he was going with a girl name Marissa.

Prom was amazing, I was Prom Queen and Austin was Prom King. I saw Noah and Ashley together and smiled at them. The next day was a Saturday and I got big envelopes in the mail from all of the colleges we applied to. "Nicole!" I said in the phone "One sec." she said dialing somebody "Austin speaking." Austin said "Are you busy?" I asked "No." They said together "I got the letters for the colleges so you guys did too. Hurry up and get them and come." I said "Okay." They said hanging up. I was in my I heart New York PJ bottoms, my blue tank top and my hair was up in a sloppy ponytail.

They quickly arrived with all of the same big brown envelopes "So we either got rejected or accepted. We all have the same type of envelopes." Nicole said and we all smiled "Let's open the University of Florida one first." Austin said "Okay." We said "Dear Miss Blevins, on behalf of University of Florida I am pleased to inform you that you are accepted." I read and we all said the same thing for each of them. "Mom! Mom!" I yelled and she came running down "What?!" She asked "I got in!!!!" I said and she squealed.

It's now June 10th and I'm getting ready for graduation which is in a couple of hours. For the past month we have been busy deciding on what college to attend. Last week was our finals and I aced all of them. I have managed since 3rd grade to have straight A all year for each grade. I was leaving my hair wavy for today and applied my makeup. My dress was a cute summer dress under my gown. Last night I had another one of those dreams where my dad was in it. "Lexie-boo, I'm so proud of you. You have had a weird year this past year. But you have overcome all of your obstacles and you're graduating tomorrow. I will be there in your heart. In spirit. I'm watching over you guys. I love you so much." He said and I smiled "What college?" I asked "the college of your dreams. Duke or University of Florida sweetie." He said and I smiled hugging him. I'm looking at myself in the mirror now, back to reality and realized that Austin and I will never happen so I'm done worrying about that.

Austin's Pov:

"Son, you are finally graduating high school. I'm so proud of you." My father was telling me "Thank you dad." I said "Which college are you going to?" He asked me "University of Florida sir." I said "Good Job son." My dad was telling me and I nodded "Now when are you going to tell Lexie how you really feel?" My dad asked me "What?" I asked "You know. The feeling you have felt for so long. You're in love with that girl Austin." My dad said and I nodded "Tonight, Nicole is having a graduation party for all of us." I said and he nodded "Now go." Dad said and I just rolled my eyes at him and got in my car. I called Nicole "Coke-a-cola I need to talk to you." I said using one of her old nicknames "What is it Austin?" Nicole asked me "I'm going to tell Lexie tonight." I said "You better. It's hard keeping a huge secret from your best friend." Nicole said and I smiled "Timing just hasn't been right. I just hope she still cares for me." I said "Oh Austin, she always will." Nicole said "You sure?" I asked "I mean she hasn't talked about you in a month but I know she still loves you and she always will." Nicole said "I sure hope so. Well I'm going to see you there so bye Colie. Thanks for all of this Coke-a-cola." I said "No problem Austin. See you there."

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Nicole's Pov:

I'm doing my makeup and Austin calls and of course it's about Lexie. I just want him to admit his feelings towards her, for them to be together and to finally be happy. I love them both dearly but this not wanting to admit their feelings toward each other. Lexie calls me "Hey Lex. Just applying my last of makeup. What's up?" I asked "Making sure my hair is perfect." Lexie said and I laugh "You're going to be wearing a cap." I said and she laughs "I know but still." She said "Can you believe though? We're graduating high school today." I said "I can't believe it. It seems like just yesterday we were graduating eighth grade." Lexie said "I know. I'm excited though. We get to go to college now." I said "I can't wait for that." Lexie said and then for a moment of silent "Hard to believe my daddy won't be there." Lexie said and once again I didn't know what to say. "I know Lexie. But he will be there in heart." I said and I know she was smiling "Thanks Colie. See you there."

Lexie's Pov:

"I have to go early! See you there!" I yelled and made my way to the school, this will be my last time walking down these hallways because our last day of school was yesterday. We will be returning the cap and gowns tomorrow but that doesn't count. I pulled up in my normal parking spot and walked into the high school main lobby, and made my way to my fellow high school students. I see Noah and Ashley and smile at them "hey you guys. Can you believe it?" I asked "No not at all. It seems like just yesterday we were graduating middle school." Noah said "I know right. Good luck after high school." I said "You too Lexie." Ashley said "Hey Lex, the kids miss you." Noah said "I miss them too. It's been too long." I said and he nodded "I will see you around."

I see my two best friends Nicole and Austin waiting for me. "Hey Lex!" They said bringing me into a group hug. "We did it!" I said and they smiled at me Nicole's baby blue eyes are sparkling, Austin's green eyes are sparkling, and I knew my icy blue eyes were sparkling with tears. "You are the class of 2013! This is your year! You were all a great class. I have enjoyed being your principal for the past four years. I wish you the best in your future after today." Our principal said and we all smiled. I squeezed Nicole's and Austin's hand and we all smiled. "No matter what friends forever right?" I asked "Best friends forever. Swear." Nicole said "Swear." Austin and I said together smiling at each other.

"Austin Blevins." Principal Woods said and Austin went up to get his high school diploma. More people went and now it's me "Alexis Summerland." He said and I made my way to the stadium and got my diploma, I shook his hand and smile at the crowd. After Nicole went up and the last few other people and now it was time to do a speech. "Lexie, Amy isn't here. You're the next in line." Principal Woods said "I don't have a speech." I said "Go with the wind." He said and I nodded. "Hello everybody, fellow classmates, family members, friends. We are all here today for one reason because we're graduating high school. We are the class of 2013 and this is the year! This is our year, we have made a difference in our life and will keep making a difference from here on out. Our teachers, and parents have made us who we are today. Taught us how to live, what we needed to know." I said and my last line "May the odds be ever in your favor!" I said and we all threw our caps up in the air, I squeezed Austin's and Nicole's hand and we made our way to our family.

We each went home for our family dinner; I was having fun with all of them. Amy, Jason, and Amber were even involved in the dinner. "We are all so proud of you Lexie. You have turned out to be an amazing woman." My mom said "Thank you mom." I said "College choice?" Amy asked me "Either University of Florida or Duke." I said "Duke." My mom said "UF." Amy said "NYU" Aaron said and I smiled at them. I spent time with all of them and wore my favorite summery outfit. I pulled my hair up into a cute ponytail and went to Nicole's. I was the first one there and then Austin showed up at me and I smiled at them.

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"College choice that you're going to?" Mrs. Wakefield asked all of us, we were enjoying a root beer float. "New York University." Colie said and I nodded that has been her dream since she was six years old. "University of Florida." Austin said "Duke or University of Florida." I said "You will make the right choice Lex." Mrs. Wakefield said and I smiled "Thanks." I said "This will be your last summer together as friends, if you go to Duke." Mr. Wakefield said and the reality hit me that he was right. "Okay daddy enough talk about that. Tonight is about celebrating graduating high school." Nicole said and he nodded "Fine." Mr. Wakefield said and we all smiled at him "We love you." We said giving him a group hug.

"Lexie you need to decide which college you want to go to as soon as you can." Mr. Wakefield said "Alright. Duke." I said and Nicole smiled at me "That's a good choice. I will be in New York, you will be in North Carolina and Austin will be in Florida." Nicole said and I smiled and that hit me hard in the heart, I would have to find new friends I would no longer have Nicole or Austin to talk to. But before I could think about that all of the guests arrived. Around eleven Austin looked at me "Can we talk Lex?" He asked me "Yeah, outside or inside?" I asked him "outside." Austin asked and I followed him outside. "What is it Austin?" I asked and he looked at me. Before I could say anything he lifted up my chin and kissed my lips softly. It felt better than kissing Noah ever did or ever could. When he pulled away I looked at him "What do you have to tell me?" I asked "Have fun at Duke. I hope you find a good guy." Austin said "Okay fine." I said and walked inside and smiled at Nicole but she shot Austin a look and he shook his head.

During the summer I spent it hanging out with Nicole, Austin, and my family. I was working over the summer to save up more money. Nicole is going to New York University, Austin is going to University of Florida, and I'm going to Duke. So just like Mr. Wakefield said we are all going our own direction, we won't be as close as we used to be. It's now August 3rd and I'm finishing up the last of my boxes that I was packing. I was bringing most of my clothes, some pictures, my laptop, my stuffed Turtle that I sleep with. I only packed four boxes that I was taking, I was leaving most of my stuff behind so I would still have something to come home to. My summer was pretty good I guess, spending so much time with Nicole and Austin as I could. We were all leaving on August 10th for our dorm rooms. School for us begins August 16th, while my siblings begin school on August 25th again this year. They're excited.

Chapter 7

Austin's Pov:

It's August 9th in a couple of hours for the last time I will be hanging with Nicole and Lexie until we see each other again on a break. I chickened out on telling Lexie how I really feel about her so I blew my chance with her. I hope she will find a good guy in Duke, I know I will never get over her. I thought about begging her to go to University of Florida because I know I can't imagine how I'm going to be without Lexie with me. I had just finished packing the last book and my phone started ringing it was Colie. "Hey Colie." I said "Hey." She said "Are you ready for tonight?" I asked her "No. Lexie and I are going to be having emotional breakdowns." Colie said and I laughed "I think we all will." I said "You know if you would have told her your true feelings for Lexie she would be going to University of Florida with you." Colie said "How do you know?" I asked "She is in love with you. She wants you. Not some guy she is going to meet in North Carolina." Colie said "So I screwed up?" I asked "Big time! I would have went to a wedding this summer!" Colie said and I rolled my eyes at her "Well we have to get our act on." I said "No we don't. You do." Colie said and she hung up on me and I rolled my eyes at her.

Lexie's Pov:

I'm wearing my denim shorts and a tank top. I left my hair down and found my flip flips. I was going to load up my car tomorrow and head out early. I drive to our old favorite restaurant and saw Nicole and Austin sitting down. I was going to miss them so much; I was going to miss this so much. Austin smiles at me and Nicole smiles at me "This is so sad." I said and I hugged Nicole and we started crying and Austin hugs us "it's okay. We need to have fun you guys." Austin said and we both smile at him "You're right." I said and Nicole smiled at us "You guys we need to have fun tonight." Nicole said and I smiled "You're right about that as well." I said and she smiled at me.

We finished eating dinner, and then went to a movie, out skating, and went to the meadow. Austin smiles at me "Lexie I need to be honest with you." He said "okay?" I asked him "I love you. I have always love you. And I always will." Austin said and I was speechless again "Oh Austin." I said hugging him and wrapping my arms around him. "I don't know what to say." I said "I know Lexie." He said "Say it back." Nicole said "Oh Austin, I love you too." I said and I kiss his lips. "I don't know what to do." I said "I don't know either." Austin said "See how things go? During the school year?" I said and he nodded.

It was really late around midnight and Nicole yawned "I need to head home. My mom and dad are going to be freaking out." Nicole said "Okay Colie. I will miss you. I love you." I said and I hugged her "I love you too Lexie." She said hugging me and she hugged Austin good-bye "I love you Austin. I will miss you." Nicole said and Austin smiled at her "Bye Coke-a-cola." Austin said and we watched her walk away. "I love you." I said kissing his lips softly "I love you too." Austin said "if you would have told me the beginning of the summer I would have picked University of Florida." I said "I know Lex. I'm sorry." Austin said and I smiled at him. "We will call each other like crazy, Skype, and see each other on our breaks. In the fall I will transfer if things are going alright." I said and Austin smiled at me "I know we will Lexie." Austin said and I yawned but I didn't want to leave him.

I went home after hugging him good-bye and fell asleep crying because tomorrow would be a hard day for me. A hard day for all of my family for that matter, I don't want to picture it.

It's now August 15th and I am nineteen year old. I have two awesome roommates Callie and Allie. Callie is from California, and Allie is from Raleigh. "Happy Birthday Lexie!" Allie and Callie said and I smiled at them "Thanks." I said we have had five days to get to know each other and we're close friends already. I have

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a job at Harris Teeter; it's a local grocery store. "Do you work today?" Allie asked me "Sadly I do. Soon." I said "I'm sorry. We're going to hang out afterwards." Callie said "Okay. I have a Skype date tonight." I said and they smiled at me. "Austin is a cutie." Allie said and I flashed her a smile "I know. Well I have to get ready." I said and they smiled, when I'm changed into my new bra and pantie set I get a call request from Nicole "Hey Colie." I said putting on my white undershirt "Happy birthday Lexie! I love you!" Colie said "I love you too. Thanks." I said "Working today?" Colie asked me "Yes I am." I said rolling my eyes and she smiles at me "I miss you." Colie said "I miss you too." I said.

My schedule for the first semester is English 110 Monday: 7:00-9:00am, Wednesday: 7-9, Friday: 7-9. Algebra 110: Monday: 9-11, Wednesday 9-11, Friday 9-11, U.S History 110 Monday: 11-1, Wednesday 11-1, Friday 11-1. Psychology 110 Monday 2-4, Wednesday 2-4, Friday 2-4. Biology 110 Tuesday: 7-9, Thursday 7-9, Gym 110 Tuesday 9-11, Thursday 9-11. Creative writing 110 Tuesday 11-1, Thursday 11-1. Creative Photography Tuesday: 2-4, Thursday 2-4. You need 32 credits to graduate college.

It's now November 20th and I'm in my Creative Photography class "During this break I want you to take pictures of everything you see." My professor told us and we all nodded. I work 5-11 every night and on weekends its 7-closing but I get a Saturday or Sunday off from time to time. I have a ton of new friends up here, Allie, Callie, and I are really close friends now and we're glad for that. I made it back to my dorm and packed my gym bag. Thanksgiving is on the 24th, and I'm leaving tonight after work. And coming home on the 27th, classes begin up on the 28th again.

"Have a good Thanksgiving break." I said hugging Callie and Allie good-bye. I went to work and when I got off at eleven I plugged my GPS in and drove down to home. I arrive at my house around 11:30 and I take my gym bag and book bag to my room. Everybody is at school or work, so I lay on my bed. A room I haven't been in since August and it feels weird being in this room again. I wake up at three and walked into the living room. "Lexie!" Colleen said hugging me, she's an 8th grader now, Alicia is in Kindergarten, Josh is in the second grade, Connor is a sophomore and Jake is a Senior in high school. "I've missed you sissy." I said and she smiled at me, Connor and Jake came home with the little kids. "I've missed you." They all said "I've missed you too." I said and we spent time together until my mom and Aaron arrived.

That night after studying for some tests I have when I get back I walked downstairs to see my mom on the couch. "Come sit down Lex." My mom said and I smiled "How is everything?" Mom asked me "Good. I love Duke so much mom. I love school. I love work. I have some amazing friends, I have eight classes but they're really good. Easy actually." I said and she smiled at me "I've missed you Lexie-boo. It's not the same without you here." She said and I smiled "I bet mom." I said and she smiled at me.

The next day I woke up at five like my system is used to and I went jogging around the block and made it home. I made breakfast and after we all ate and they went to school and work I got dressed in my favorite pair of denim shorts and my Duke T-shirt and rainbow flip-flops. I go to the old restaurant Nicole, Austin, and I would hang out at and I see Nicole sitting down. She was wearing shorts and her NYU t-shirt. She got up when she saw me hugged me. "I've missed you Lexie!" She said and I hugged her back.

We spent the next couple hours talking about everything from the last time we saw each other to now. She has made some new friends, met a cute boy and is enjoying NYU but misses the warm weather. It's getting chilly up in North Carolina but nothing like it is in New York. We see Austin walk in and I run up to him and wrap my arms around his neck and I kiss his lips, I didn't even give him time to speak. "I love you." I said when I pulled away "I love you too." Austin said and we walked back to the table, he was wearing his UF shirt and we all caught up on everything.

Between catching up on time with Nicole, Austin and my family my week at home was so busy. Thanksgiving was filled with so many family members and everything. "Christmas is being spent with

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Aaron's parents again." My mom said on my last night in town "Well I don't want to come down for Christmas then." I said and she nodded "I understand baby, you're nineteen I can't push you." My mom said and I nodded. I spent a couple hours with Nicole and Austin before we all went our ways to our schools again. We're going to visit Nicole in New York for Christmas and I'm excited about that.

It's December 7th and I'm out of school until January 7th when I begin my second semester in college. I took my last final and I will get my final grades and schedules for next semester over the break. I was taking off December 23rd-January 2nd off of work and I would be working more after I got back. I'm in my dorm room cleaning my room and I get a knock on the door "Lex, somebody is here for you." Allie said and I got up and open my door to see Austin standing there in blue jeans, and the hoodie I got him last year for Christmas. "I've missed you!" I said hugging him and smiling "Allie and Callie this is Austin." I said and they smiled at him "I love you." I said kissing his lips softly "I love you too." Austin said and I smiled.

I was working 7-9 but when I got off of work I would spend it taking Austin around town and showing him everything I knew of. It's December 23rd and we drove up to New York and parked in a parking deck. Nicole was waiting for us in Times Square "You two look amazing!" Nicole said and I smiled at her hugging her. We were all wearing the hoodies I got when I went to California last Christmas. Nicole took us to her favorite Asian restaurant where we met her boyfriend Bryan who was really nice and amazing.

Christmas and New Year's Eve was amazing. Austin was going back on the 3rd. We had sex for the first time on January 1st 2014 and I loved it more than I did when I lost my virginity to Noah. "You're amazing baby." I said and he smiled at me "You are too baby. I love you." Austin said "I love you too." I said smiling at him kissing his lips. I fell asleep in his arms and woke up to him smiling at me. "I hate that you have to go to work." He said "me too." I said but I went to work 7-6 and spent Austin's last night here for the best time of his life visiting North Carolina. I kiss his lips softly good-bye "Have fun this semester. I will be down there for Spring Break." I said "I love you." Austin said "I love you too." I said.

Chapter 8

My schedule for this semester is Advance Calculus 110 Monday: 7-9, Wednesday 7-9, Friday 7-9, English 210 Monday: 9-11, Wednesday 9-11, Friday 9-11. Chemistry Monday 11-1, Wednesday 11-1, Friday 11-1. American Government 210 Monday 2-4, Wednesday 2-4, Friday 2-4. Journalism 220 Tuesday 7-9, Thursday 7-9. Communication 210 Tuesday 9-11, Thursday 9-11. Creative writing 220 Tuesday 11-1, Thursday 11-1. And my last class is Computer & technology 220 Tuesday and Thursdays 2-4. For all of my classes last semester I made a 93 in all of them as a final grade and I was excited for that.

It's now March 13th and I'm on my way to Florida until the 20th when I have to head back to Duke for classes. We're out for the summer May 25th and don't go back until August something. I'm going to transfer to University of Florida in the fall. I arrived late at night and made it home and snuck into my room and crawled under my covers. I was awoken at six to my mom shaking me "Mom I got in at four." I said and she smiled at me "Come drink coffee with me and then you can go back to bed." My mom said and I smiled. I got up slowly and drank a cup of coffee with my mom and telling her all about my classes and told her about my Christmas. We really don't talk on the phone but once a week and we barely touch base on many things. "I've missed this mom." I said and she smiled at me "I know you did Lexie. I have missed this too." She said smiling at me and I smiled at her.

My week back home was amazing, I spent two days with Nicole and Austin. They couldn't get away from their families enough to hang out. I couldn't get away, I spent a night at Amy's spending time with them. Amy is currently dating a guy name Jonah she has been dating him for the past year now. Amber and Jason approve of him but they miss our dad. Katie is four, Alicia is six, Josh is eight, Amber is nine, Jason is eleven, Colleen is fourteen years old, Connor is sixteen years old, Jake is eighteen years old, and I'm nineteen years old. Connor is working at KFC and he has his license, Jake still works at McDonald and has his license.

"Hey Jake." I said it was my second to last night home and he was outside in the screen in porch at the table with college applications. "Hey Lex." He said "What colleges are you applying to?" I asked him and he looked up "UNC, UF, University of California, University of Central Florida." Jake said and I smiled at him "Those are good choices. Which one do you really want to go to?" I asked Jake "None." He said and I looked at him "I'm considering joining the Army after I graduate." Jake said and I felt the room spinning around me. "You would make a good Soldier Jake." I said being a good big sister "You really think so?" He asked me sounding hopeful "Yes I do. I'm your big sister. I'm going to support you. I'm going to be worried sick about you but I will support you." I said "Thanks sissy. You know it's not the same around here without you." He said "I know. I have been told by everybody." I said and he smiled at me. "I love you Lexie. I know I'm a guy and I don't say it much to you. But you're my big sister and I love you." He said "I love you too Jake." I said and he smiled at me. Even though I'm in college I still have a close relationship with my siblings.

My last night we went out to eat and celebrated the joy of life. I went to the meadow before I left and I drove back up to North Carolina. On the way back to my dorm room still on the high way my mind was racing. Thinking about everything that has happened in my life, everything that is going on, thinking about Jake and the Army. I didn't want my little brother to go get killed, I need him.

It's May 4th, the next two weeks will be our final exams for our classes. My final exam date for Advance Calculus 110 is May 7th, My final for English 210 is May 8th, my final for Chemistry is May 9th, my final for American Government 210 is May 10th, final for Journalism 220 is May 14th, final for Communication 210 is May 15th, final for Creative writing 220 is May 16th, and my final for Computer & technology 220 is May 17th. My last day of classes is May 25th, where I will be in my Journalism class. My last day of work is May 26th. I'm putting my two week notice in on the 11th, and I'm leaving campus on the 27th. With the help of the counselor here I have officially transferred to University of Florida for next year.

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I'm in the living room of the dorm room and Callie and Allie are sitting in the two other chairs. We're all studying for our finals, we have been studying since we woke up at eight and it's now four in the afternoon. I shut my book and looked at them "It's four o'clock. We have been studying all day. We deserve a break." I said and Allie was the first to shut her book. "It's a Friday night. Let's go out and enjoy it." Callie said and so we all took turns showering and then we got ready for our night out. "Let's go to Raleigh. There's more to do." Allie said "Or Chapel Hill." I said "Raleigh." We all agreed.

That was our schedule for the weekend, study all day and enjoy our nights. We went to two parties on campus and enjoyed it. Now it's Sunday night, after work I'm in my pajama bottoms and my Duke tank top. I'm on my laptop reviewing some last minutes note for my Advance Calculus final and I get a Skype call from Nicole "Hey Colie." I said smiling at her she was wearing shorts and a T-shirt her hair in a messy ponytail. "I hate finals. I hate studying." Colie said and I smiled at her "Who doesn't?" I asked "But at least on the 27th we will on our way home." Colie said "I know. A good summer." I said "Kind of." Colie said "I know. I'm glad this is our first summer without a job." I said "Oh yeah. I know. I'm looking forward to the beach. I miss my tan." Colie said and I smiled at her "I know. I do too. It's warmer down here than it is up there but I still miss Florida." I said and Colie smiled at me. "Mark is coming to visit for the fourth of July he claims." She said and I smiled at her "I like him kind of." I said and she smiled.

We got done talking around ten and then Austin got on. He was wearing his gym shorts and no shirt. "Hey baby." He said "Hey babe." I said smiling at him "You ready for finals?" Austin asked me "As ready as I will ever be." I said and Austin smiled at me "I hear you girlfriend." He said and I laughed "You're a dork." I said "Yes, but your dork." Austin said "You know it." I said smiling at him "We will see each other again before we know it." Austin said "I know. I'm already ready to transfer to UF. Alyssa helped me last week with it." I said smiling and he smiled "I love you baby." Austin said "I love you too." I said and after a few more minutes of goofing off he ordered me to go to bed.

It's May 17th and I had just finished my last final and once you're done you can leave so I turned my paper in and walked out. I met Allie and Callie back in the dorm room. "No more finals." I said and we all smiled "We need to celebrate tonight." Allie said "Yes we do. But I go to work in an hour until ten." I said "We'll celebrate at eleven." Allie said "Yeah, because no classes tomorrow since they're grading our finals." Callie said "This is going to be amazing." I said going into my room to change.

I passed all my classes with a 95, I have all of my boxes packed and loaded up in my car. It's May 27th now. Allie is going to her home in Raleigh with her parents, Callie is going back to California today. "I'm going to miss you." Callie said hugging me "We have to visit each other. We have to Skype." I said hugging her "I'm going to miss you Allie." I said "We have to visit each other, we have to Skype." Allie said using my line and we all laughed. "I hope you two are roommates next year." I said "Us too." They said "You two were both wonderful roommates. I'm glad I met you." I said "Aw." They said and I knew we were going to start crying. "I'm glad I met both of you. I was worried about being so far away from home, on the other side of the country and you two made me feel like I was at home." Callie said "Because it was your home for nine months." I said "Oh Lex." Callie said hugging me. After we hugged some more and shed a few tears I got in my car.

After I left the gas station I called my mom "Hey mom." I said "Hey Lexie. What are you up to?" My mom asked me "Driving home." I said "Oh have fun." My mom said "I will mom. I just wanted to tell you that I miss you and I love you." I said "I love and miss you too." She said and we hung up, I guess she didn't realize which home I meant. They weren't sure when I was coming home. It's 3 in the afternoon so I should be home around four -five in the morning depending on the breaks I took. I called Nicole and we talked until six on the phone because we needed somebody to talk to on the way. I then talked to Austin from eight- eleven. He was already home around eleven that night and I was glad. Nicole would be home in the middle of the afternoon tomorrow.

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With the breaks I took because I was getting tired, I arrived around five in the morning. I didn't bother going to bed or unloading my car. I started a pot of coffee and started on breakfast. I made pancake, bacon, eggs, and sausage. My mom came down at six and her mouth dropped open wide "Lexie!" She said "I said I was on my way home." I said and she slapped me "Don't you ever do that again young lady." She said "but mom." I said smiling and she hugged me "I've missed you. I hate that it's a Monday." she said "I know mom." I said hugging her back. Jake came down with his backpack their finals were next week, and he was graduating June 9th. "Lexie!" He said and I hugged him, he told mom and Aaron about wanting to join the Army. Mom isn't okay with it but she is being supportive. "I've missed you Jake." I said "How long are you here for?" Jake asked me "Until August 10th when I go over to Tallahassee." I said and Jake hugged me "I can't believe it!" Jake said and I smiled at him.

During breakfast with everybody here we were all talking "Sissy are you working this summer?" Alicia asked me "Nope. It's family and friend time. All summer." I said and my mom even smiled. "I'm excited about this summer." My mom said "We're spending a week in California." My mom said "Okay. Callie lives near his parents mom." I said "Your old roommate?" she asked me "yeah." I said and they smiled at me "off to school." Mom said and they all groaned "Can't wait to be out." They said and I smiled at them.

When they left for school and work I went to my bed and fell asleep. I woke up at ten and went to my car to start unloading. Austin came up and I walked up to him and kissed his lips softly "I've missed you." I said "I love you." Austin said kissing my lips "I love you too." I said smiling at him, he helped me unload my boxes and unpack. "This is our summer." Austin said "I know baby." I said and he smiled at me. "We're hanging with Colie tomorrow?" He asked "Yup. Tonight I'm cooking dinner. You want to stay?" I asked "Sure." He said "Video game contest." I said "Okay." Austin said smiling at me.

Chapter 9

We played video games until they all got home from school. Katie ran up to Austin and hugged him. "I've missed you." Katie said "I've missed you too." Austin said and Katie smiled going up to me and hugging me. "Jake, I heard about the Army." Austin said and Jake looked worried "You will be a good soldier." Austin said smiling and Jake smiled "Thanks Austin. Are you two dating now?" Jake asked "We're friends." I said joking "Yes we're dating now." Austin said "It's about time." Colleen said and I smiled at her "So this is a big summer for you Coco." I said "I know. High school next year." Colleen said and I smiled at her.

Austin and I excused ourselves and went to the kitchen to start on dinner. Alicia and Katie are sitting at the table coloring. Josh, Connor, and Jake were playing video games; Colleen was in her room doing teenage girl stuff. "What's for dinner Lex?" Austin asked me "Chili cheese hot dogs, and chili cheese fries." I said "Sounds good Lex." Austin said and I smiled at him. I started the hot dogs and my phone went off "I have a text message babe. Can you get it?" I asked while making the chili and he smiled at me. He handed me the phone and I clicked on the text and smiled. "Allie is at her parents place. She spent the night in the dorm alone finishing her packing." I said and Austin smiled at me. "You really had a great year, didn't you?" Austin met me "I guess so. They're really good friends." I said and Austin smiled at me.

My mom came home and smiled at us "Hey Austin. It's been so long since you have been here." My mom said and Austin smiled at her "Hello Mrs. Summers." Austin said and she smiled at her "You cooked?" My mom asked me "Yes I did. Go get change." I said and she smiled at me and went upstairs. Aaron came home and smiled but went upstairs to change as well. "Dinner is ready." I yelled after setting the table and putting the food on the table. Everybody came in and we all sat down and ate dinner. After dinner I did the dishes and Austin helped me do the dishes. I kissed him good-bye on the porch and he went home.

I cleaned the house after dinner and sat outside on the porch on the swing. Colleen came out, she had her homework with her. "I need help." She said and I helped her and we just sat outside, I hugged her. "I've missed you. I've missed having you around here." Colleen said "I've missed you too." I said and I hugged her.

The next day I went jogging early in the morning and passed by the park. I see Noah and I smiled I walked over and Brent sees me and runs up to me "Lexie!" He said I didn't think he would remember me; he's almost four years old. Caylee is two years old now; I know she doesn't remember me. "Hey Lexie." Noah said and I smiled at him "Hey Noah." I said smiling at him "How are things with you?" I asked "Good." He said motioning for me to sit down and I smiled at him "Things are good with me as well." I said "How was Duke?" He asked me "good." I said and he smiled "Ashley and I are done for good." He said "I'm sorry about that." I said "It's okay. Are you with Austin?" He asked me "Yes I am." I said and he smiled at me "That's good." He said and I spent some time with him and hugged him good-bye. "It was good to see you again Noah." I said and he smiled "Yes it was." He said.

I made it home and I see Nicole sitting there "I've missed you!" I said running up to her and hugging her. "I have missed you too." She said and I smiled "So tell me everything!" I said "Mark and I broke up a week ago." Colie said "Oh Colie." I said and she smiled "It's okay. After the break I will find a better guy." She said and I smiled "It feels weird being home." I said "Tell me about it. I got home and spent time with them and then went to bed." Nicole said and I smiled "Tonight will be amazing." I said "I know it will. I can't wait." Nicole said and I smiled Austin's birthday is June 15th, Nicole's is July 15th, and mine of course is August 15th.

It's now June 9th and we're all getting ready to go to Jake's graduation. I'm wearing a cute summery strapless dress. I had on a cute pair of sandals and made my way downstairs. My hair was down and wavy, I was going to get it cut tomorrow. After Jake's graduation we go out to eat for dinner to celebrate it. This is his weekend

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to celebrate it, Monday morning he was going to sign up for the Army. I was going with him Monday to be supportive and I'm glad for that.

The next morning I woke up around six and put my hair in a sloppy ponytail, I got dressed to go jogging and went jogging. I went all around the neighborhood and then down the beach, it was beautiful. On my way back from jogging a couple miles down the beach the sun was rising so I watch the sunrise, it was beautiful. I made my way home, it was eight in the morning. I made breakfast and Katie and Alicia were the first ones up. "Morning sissy." They said "Morning." I said and they smiled at me "How did you sleep?" I asked "Good." They said and I smiled at them, Josh and Connor came out next and nodded. The last one to rise at nine was Jake "Morning." He said "Morning." We all said and we began eating breakfast.

"What are your plans for the day?" My mom asked everybody "Work. Then Adam's." Connor said "Work, and a party afterwards." Jake said "Going to my friends Caleb's house." Josh said "Going to my friend Lucy's house." Alicia said "I have a play date with Macy and Mandy." Katie said "Oh yeah." My mom said "Golfing with friends." Aaron said "Mall." I said "Can I come?" Colleen asked me "Sure. I'm getting my hair cut." I said "Can I mom?" Colleen asked "Sure." She said "What are you going to do?" I asked mom "After taking Katie, Alicia, and Josh places relax at home." She said and we all smiled as soon as breakfast ended the family spilt up.

I got changed into denim shorts, and a brown tank top. I brushed my hair and grabbed my wallet and sunglasses. We got in my car and I turned the radio up, I got this car brand new on my Sweet Sixteen. It's in great shape; it's the best car I could ever wish for. We made it to the mall and I see a bunch of people from high school there. I see Austin and Nicole hanging out I wave to them and they smiled. We went to the hair salon and signed in. Colleen was talking about school and her year while we waited.

Austin's Pov:

"Oh god there's Lexie. " I said when I saw Lexie and Colleen walked into the mall "Don't worry she doesn't suspect anything." Colie said and I sighed when she waved at us and went into the hair salon. "It's not like I'm cheating on her or anything." I said and Colie laughed "Of course not. You and I are friends." She said "Come on friend. We don't have much time. After their appointments she's going to want to hang." I said and Colie smiled at me "You're still the same boy." "What?" I asked "The same sneaky little boy." Colie said and I rolled my eyes at her "Well hurry up girlie." I said.

Chapter 10

We go to Jared's and she smiled at me. "These rings are beautiful." Colie said "I know. Help me find one." I said and she went to looking, and found the perfect one. "How much?" I asked "2400." Colie said and I walked over to her, it was on a gold band, sparkly, a ton of little heart diamonds around a huge diamond. "Lexie will love it Austin." Colie said sure of herself "it is beautiful." Austin said "Lex and I have the same ring finger." She said trying it on and I smiled at her, the guy behind the counter rung it up and I handed it to Colie to keep in her bag. Lexie would find it on me in no time and I wanted to surprise her.

I knew four years ago I wanted to marry her one day, and on my birthday I'm going to ask her to marry me. My dad and I were talking last night, and he said I was getting really serious with her and I said yeah, and he said so marry her. Don't let her go. And I'm not letting Lexie go, she is the best girl, the best thing that has happened to me and I don't want to screw things up with Lexie. Since her dad is dead I'm going to ask Aaron and her mom tonight when I go to pick Lexie up for her date.

Colie and I go back to the food court to hang out with some friends from high school. "Are you and Lexie a couple yet?" Taylor asked me, she has been a friend of ours since eighth grade. "Yes we are. Have been for a year soon." I said and our friend Brian looked at me "Didn't you attend University of Florida while she attended Duke?" He asked me "Yeah, we did a long distance." I said "How do you know she was faithful?" He asked "Come on we're talking about Lexie." I said "True." Brian said and our friend Brooke looked at Colie "Seeing anybody yet?" Brooke asked Colie "Not anymore." She said "Bummer. You three could double date again like old times." Brooke said "And?" Colie asked "You three have been friends forever. You haven't grown apart yet?" Brooke asked "No." Colie and I said together "It will happen. With you three being in different places during the year and all." Brooke said.

Nicole's Pov:

I'm sitting at the mall, in the food court with a group of old friends and Austin. He asked me to pick out an engagement ring for Lexie and we're waiting for Lexie and Colleen to get out of the hair salon. I'm tired of girls like Brooke who's sticking her nose in other people's business and it doesn't belong. "It won't happen. Unlike some people Lexie and Austin are true friends." I snapped back "Yeah right. Just wait. They will move in together and Nicole will be forgotten about." Brooke said "I doubt that." I said but wasn't out ruling that because it could be possible. "We will never forget Nicole. She isn't something that can be forgotten." Austin said "But she can be replaced." Brooke said "I'm not a dog." I said "Oh really? You're acting like one now." Brooke said "That's you." I said and getting up and leaving.

I know I haven't been honest with Lexie and Austin about something but it's hard. Last month, right around finals when I was studying I took a break and went out to eat. My ex-boyfriend Mark and a few of his friends met me at the corner and since I'm a friendly person we got to talking and I could smell alcohol on their breath. Mark whispers in my ear that he wants me and I told him I didn't feel like it. I was still a virgin and he knew it. But they all gathered around me his two friends who were all muscular grabbed me and made it where I couldn't fight back and shoved me in their van that they had. One by one they took their turns raping me. I was raped by four men that night, and was set free being told if I told anybody then I would be dead meat. I haven't even told Lexie and I'm scared. It was three weeks ago, and I think I might be pregnant and I'm worried about that. Due to that I was transferring to University of Florida for the fall semester and spring of course.

I storm off into a store near there and start looking through items. I didn't realize I went to the baby store. I quickly walked out went around the corner and ran into Austin's open arms. "It's okay Colie." He said "I know. I just don't like people when they say stuff like that." I said and Austin nodded "I know Colie. A lot of

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people are like that." He said and I felt really bad for lying to him and Lexie. I looked up and I see Lexie and Colleen walk out of the salon and feel a ton of bricks being pressed on my heart.

Lexie's Pov:

I got my hair cut down to my shoulders again, and Colleen got her hair cut down to her boobs. I walk out and I see Austin and Nicole. Austin was hugging Nicole and I'm instantly getting worried. I have a bad feeling that Colie is hiding something from me and I'm worried about her. "Is everything okay?" I asked "Yeah. Brooke is just being herself again." Colie said and I smiled "Want to get out of here then?" I asked "Nah, let's walk around." Colie said and I smiled "I'm going to find some friends." Colleen said "Okay, I will call you when I'm ready to leave." I said and she smiled and walked off.

"What are you guys doing here together?" I asked holding Austin's hand "Oh we're spending some quality time together. Since you hog Austin all the time this was his free time." Colie said and I smiled at her "Oh I'm sorry." I said smiling at her and she smiled back "Hey Lex, you want to crash at my place tonight?" Colie asked me "Sure. My mom shouldn't mind." I said and she smiled "She shouldn't." Colie said and I nodded. "I have to leave early though. I'm going with Jake." I said "Okay, I understand." Colie said and I smiled at her.

Colie's Pov:

It's later that night and Lexie and I are in my room on my Queen size bed. We're painting each other's nails and I figured now was a perfect time to tell her the truth. "Lexie I need to talk to you." I said and she looked up from my nails "Okay what's up Co?" She asked me " On May 5th I was raped by Mark and a couple of his friends." I said and I go into the story about what happened and she just hugs me. I tell her about my fear of being pregnant and she goes into her strong trooper mood.

Lexie's Pov:

Colie just told me that she was raped and might be pregnant. "You need to go to the doctor's tomorrow." I said "Will you go with me?" Colie asked me "Yeah. Tomorrow morning make an appointment for afternoon." I said and Colie nodded. I know she thought I would be hurt that she didn't tell me until now but it's not something you Skype or text and we have been busy the past couple weeks. "Your hair looks nice Lex." Nicole said and I smiled at her "Thanks Colie." I said and we spend the next couple of hours just talking "If you are will you keep it?" I asked her "Yes." She said without a question "Why?" I asked "Religious answer. God allowed the bad of me getting raped, because he had a purpose. And the purpose would be a baby." Colie said "Serious answer. Because the baby deserve a chance at life. The baby didn't ask to be conceive by rape, but by the act of love." Colie said and I smiled at her "You're right Colie." I said and she smiled at me "Now let's go to sleep." Colie said and I nodded.

I wake up at six to my alarm clock on my phone and Colie stirs barely and groans "I'll see you later." She mumbled going back to sleep and I kiss her cheek and walk out. I go to my car and drive home. Today makes seven years without my dad, eight years ago that he was diagnosed with cancer. I park in the driveway and walked up the steps and walked in. My mom and Aaron were at the breakfast table eating breakfast and drinking coffee. "Have fun at Nicole's?" My mom asked me "Yes ma'am." I said and sat down. I talked with her for a few and then went upstairs. I took a shower and found my white dress, with my brown leggings. I left my hair down and put a clip in my hair. I found my rainbows and walked back down.

Jake and I were at the building around eight and we went in for his appointment at nine. The recruiter was nice, he was funny, and he joked with Jake a lot. He took the test that was needed, the fitness test and signed the paper. "Congratulations Jacob you just enlisted in the United States Army. You are now a piece of the Government." He said and Jake smiled at him, after that we went to Denny's for breakfast. "I'm proud of you

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Jake." I said and Jake smiled at me "Thanks sis." He said and then he looked at me "I go to boot camp on the 14th." He said "It's the 11th." I said "I know sissy." He said and I smiled at him. "Seven years." Jake said "I know Jake. I miss him too. Daddy would be proud of you." I said and he smiled at me "I know. We would joke about me joining the Army when I was younger." Jake said and I smiled "Just come home." I said and he smiled at me "I will."

We threw him a good luck party on the 13th. "Promise me you will come home a man." Aaron said "I will." Jake said and we all smiled at him. And when he was leaving we all watched him walk out. "I love you." I said hugging him good-bye. "I love you too Lexie." He said and I smiled at him. Tomorrow is Austin's birthday. So I'm going shopping with him after Colie's appointment, they didn't have one on Monday so she has one today instead. "Miss Wakefield you are not pregnant." The doctor said and Colie smiled at me.

While we were at the mall we ordered a huge pizza to celebrate her not being pregnant. After we got Austin's gift that was. We're eating a slice and Austin walks up and takes one. "How does it feel around the house?" He asked me "Weird." I said "Image when you leave too." Austin said "Poor family." I said and they laughed at me. He would be done on the 25th, then a week at home. He would be graduating from A School on August 14th and I'm going to that even though I will already be in Tallahassee. "I got some amazing news." Colie said "What is it?" I asked "I'm going to UF this year." Colie said "Oh my God!" I said hugging her and we're smiling. "Maybe we can be roommates." I said and she smiled. "We could be." She said we go to UF August 7th, classes begin August 18th. But we want to unpack and get a job.

That night I'm going through old pictures of everything and I come across the picture of when Colleen was born. I was sitting on daddy's lap, Connor was on his other knee and I was holding Colleen. I was four years old, Jake was three, and Connor was two years old. I looked at a picture next to that Colie and I we were two years old in matching dresses. The next one was the same day and Austin was in a cute little tux. I look at multiple pictures over the years and compared them. "Wow." My mom said walking in and seeing all of the pictures. "I think this year I'm taking these." I said "Okay. But Lexie, let's enjoy summer first. Jake is already gone, we don't want to rush you." My mom said and I smiled.

The next day Nicole and I spent it with Austin at the beach because that is where he wanted to spend it on his birthday. He dropped Nicole off first and then me saying he would pick me up in a couple hours for a special date tonight. I got in the shower to wash the sand off and let the water beat against my back for a few minutes. I got dressed in my new white strapless summer dress, it was to my knees so I didn't need any leggings and it showed off my dark tan I already had. I found my classy brown sandals and slipped those on. I did my makeup and braided my bangs to clip back. I was staring at a picture on my desk and smiled, it was my daddy and I. It was right before he was diagnosed with cancer I was eleven years old, and we were attending a father-daughter dance so we were all dressed up. My hair was down to my knees and in super curls.

Around six when I was still fixing my hair and makeup to make sure they were perfect for this special date. I made sure I wasn't too dressy or not enough dressy for whichever event happens first. I walk downstairs and Austin smiled at me, he's wearing khaki shorts and a black button down shirt and Sperry's so I wasn't sure which type of place we were going to. "Ready to go my love?" Austin asked me and I smiled "Yes I am." I said smiling at him and I wave good-bye to my family. He opens my car door for me and shuts it and gets in on his side and starts to drive. He gets on the highway and drives to the Fort Pierce exit and gets off. He drives to the downtown Marina and parks in the parking deck. He gets out and opens my door; we go to their Italian restaurant and order. After dinner he takes me for a walk through the Marina and smiles at me. "This has been so nice." I said "I thought so. It was simple but special. Just like you." Austin said and that made me smile and blush.

"Ever since I met you I was getting feelings for you, I really had a crush on you in fifth grade. I fell head over heels for you in ninth grade. I have been in love with you ever since then Lexie." Austin said "Oh Austin." I

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said "I can't think or focus when I'm not with you. I'm always thinking about you. You're all I can ever dream of when I sleep. You're always on my mind no matter what I'm doing. When you talk to me or look at me or near me my palm gets all sweaty, I get nervous, my heart beats really fast because you're amazing." Austin said.

Austin's Pov:

After dinner at a restaurant in Fort Pierce, I'm walking Lexie down the marina and I'm about to propose to her. I tell her ""Ever since I met you I was getting feelings for you, I really had a crush on you in fifth grade. I fell head over heels for you in ninth grade. I have been in love with you ever since then Lexie." Austin said "Oh Austin." I said "I can't think or focus when I'm not with you. I'm always thinking about you. You're all I can ever dream of when I sleep. You're always on my mind no matter what I'm doing. When you talk to me or look at me or near me my palm gets all sweaty, I get nervous, my heart beats really fast because you're amazing." I said and she smiles at me, her icy blue eyes are sparkling now. "I love everything about you Lexie. You look beautiful no matter what you do. You have killer icy blue eyes, I melt in those eyes every time I look at you. You are my reason for living. You make me the luckiest man in the world to have you as my girlfriend." I said "Oh Austin." Lexie said I could tell she was about to get emotional. "I want to change that though Lexie." I said "What?" She asked me getting nervous, I could see she was about to panic. I remember when her dad died, that day I found her in the meadows crying and I wrapped my arms around her. I promised her dying dad I would always take care of Lexie. I remember our first kiss, when we were younger; it wasn't supposed to mean anything but it meant the world to me. She has always meant the world to me, no matter what girl I was dating. On her Sweet Sixteen when I gave her the Ipod she was speechless, she was beautiful then and is beautiful now. I go back to reality and see Lexie being confused and I smile at her. "I want to be more than your boyfriend Lexie. I want to be your husband." I said "What?" Lexie asked still confused, she can get confused at times and stay confused for awhile. I got down on one knee and pulled out the ring box. I got it back for Colie earlier today when I dropped Lexie off first. She was in the car and hopped up to the passenger seat "Here you go. Good luck Austin. I'm proud of you. You make her happy. Don't hurt her. Or I will have to kill you." Colie demanded and I smiled at her but I knew my best friend was serious.

I open the box, and the ring is sparkling in the box against the moon light. I noticed people have stopped to stare at us. "Alexis Summerland, will you do the honors and become Mrs. Blevins?" I asked her "Yes I will." Lexie said I smiled at her, people were clapping. I slid the finger onto her ring finger and she kisses my lips with passion. I'm now engaged to the most beautiful girl in the world. We walk along the marina, she was just admiring her ring and kissing my lips softly. "I love it. How did you pick it out? It fits perfectly. How did you know?" She asked me and at the same time we both said "Colie." She smiled at me and kisses my lips. "I love you." I said "I love you too." Lexie said, I love her smile it's breath taking. "I'm the luckiest girl in the world to have you as my fiancÃ©" Lexie said and I smiled at her "I bet so." I said and I kiss her lips.

It wasn't easy sneaking around Lexie to ask her mom and Aaron. Nicole had to take Lexie to a baseball game in order for me to ask. Colie isn't big into baseball but Lexie is, so it was hard for Colie to do but it was the right thing. When Colie texted me saying they were there I went to Lexie's house and her mom and stepdad was outside on the porch. "She isn't home Austin." Her mom said "Yes ma'am I know. I came to talk to you and Aaron." I said "Okay Austin what is it?" She asked me "I want to marry Lexie. But I want your blessing first." I said and her mom looked at Aaron who looked at me "Welcome to the family son." Aaron said and I smiled "Thank you sir." I said "I want to see the ring." Her mom Karen said "You have to wait until I propose. Colie is keeping with her so Lexie won't find it." I said and she smiled "smart idea. Lexie will know you're up to something." She said and I smiled.

I'm back to reality now and Lexie punches me "I knew you were up to something. When I saw you with Colie at the mall. And when Colie went with me to the game, and your dad all of a sudden needed you when you aren't even working with him this summer." Lexie said and I smiled at her "but you love me." I said and Lexie

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smiled at me "Very much." Lexie said smiling at me and I kissed her lips softly. "You make me feel like I'm in heaven." I said "Oh Austin, you're so sweet." Lexie said and I smiled at her. "You are wonderful." I said kissing his lips again softly "I love your kisses. I have loved your kisses since our very first kiss." I said and I see her blush again "I love your blush. It's so adorable." I said and she rolls her eyes at me again and I smile at her "I love you Alexis." I said being all serious with her.

Chapter 11

Lexie's Pov:

I'm engaged to Austin as of a couple hours ago, we just walked around the Marina and sat down and did the mushy love talk. I'm now on my way home, I love my ring, it's the gold band with a huge diamond in the middle, and heart diamond all around it. I'm letting the moonlight sparkle it while we're driving. "It's amazing baby. I love it. And I love you." I said and he smiled at me, I kissed his cheek since he was driving and I looked out at the window "Can we go to the beach rather than home? I'm not ready to go home yet." I said and Austin smiled at me "Okay Lexie." He said driving to the beach instead of to home.

I see Colie and I smile at her when we walk on the beach towards her. "Want to walk with us?" I asked and Colie smiled "Uh-oh somebody is holding a secret from me!" Colie said giggling, I show her the ring and she smiles "It's perfect on you." Colie said and I smile at her, we all find a nice spot and sit down. "I have an idea." I said and they looked at me "On Monday to Sunday we go to the beach." I said "Just us three?" Colie asked "Just us three. We can split the money that is needed." I said "Sounds like a good idea." Colie said "I agree. I want to do it." Austin said and I smile "We can ask our parents tonight." I said "We're twenty years old and nineteen years old. We just need to tell them where we will be not asking permission." Austin said and I smiled "You're right." I said and Colie smiled at me.

I went home and my mom was gushing over my ring and started complimenting me about it. "Mom, Colie, Austin, and I decided to spend next week at the beach." I said and my mom nodded "Just let me know which beach you're at and make sure I'm not a grandmother." My mom said and I smiled at her. "No worry about it." I said and she smiled at me "I'm going to bed mom." I said and she smiled at me "I love you Lexie." She said and I smiled at her.

It's Sunday afternoon now and I'm packing my gym bag and backpack. We rented a house on the beach in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Colleen walks in and smiled at me "I hope you have fun sissy. I'm going to spend some time with Abby. Three days at Abby's. They're going to Miami." Colleen said and I smiled at her "That's good, I hope you have fun." I said and she smiled at me "I hope you have fun as well." Colleen said and I smiled at her. "Connor is going to Adam's because they're going to Savannah, Georgia." Colleen said "Jake is going with Tanner to Daytona Beach." I said "Aaron's parents are visiting for a week, so Alicia, Katie, and Josh are going to be spending time with them. So it's just mom and Aaron." Colleen said and I smiled at her.

Monday morning around two in the morning and I carry my bag to the front step and walked outside leaving a note for my mom. Austin pulled up and got out, he took my bags and loaded it in the car and I got in. We went to pick up Colie and she was waiting for us, Austin got out and put her bags in the car and we head to Cocoa Beach. We arrived around seven and the Landlord was waiting for us. We all signed the lease and went in. "You and Colie or you and me?" Austin asked, there were only two bedrooms. "Both, in between." I said and they smiled at me.

We unloaded the bags and then went exploring. We walked downtown and enjoyed the view. We went to the grocery store and got groceries for the week around \$60 since that was our budget. Austin got on the grill and cooked hamburgers and hotdogs for us for dinner. Two guys came up to our back deck and nodded. "Hey I'm Sam and this is my friend Kevin." The brown hair, brown eyed boy said and I smiled. Kevin had green eyes and brown hair. "I'm Austin, and this is Lexie and Nicole." Austin said "There's a party going on tonight. If you guys want you can join." Sam said "Thanks. We will be sure to be there." Austin said and he nodded heading back to the other house. This house is directly on the beach.

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We freshen up after dinner and when we heard the music playing and people arrive we got out and walked next door. "Austin, Lexie, and Nicole right?" Sam asked yeah "Listen up you guys, this is Austin, Lexie, and Nicole. Make them feel welcome." Sam said and we all smiled at each other. We mingled with the crowds and Austin was handed three beers. "Want to try it?" Austin asked "Sure." I said and Nicole nodded, we haven't tried any alcohol yet this will be our first time. We all took our first sip at the same time. "It's decent." I said and we all finished our beer and went to hang out with some people we just met.

We left around two and Colie went to her room and we went to ours. We were all feeling kind of tipsy. I kissed Austin good night and he wrapped his arms around me and kissed my forehead and we fell asleep like that. I woke up at six and felt like throwing up. I had a headache and my stomach was hurting me. I knew it was the beer that I had last night. I was still in Austin's arms, I know I should be enjoying this but I was itching to go jogging on the beach. I slowly got up and found some decent clothes for jogging on the beach. I tiptoed out to the living room with my tennis shoes in my hands. I put them on and Colie came out and smiled at me "I'm tagging along. I hope you don't mind." She said "Not at all. I will enjoy the company." I said and she smiled at me and we went out the door.

We jogged until about seven on one direction and on the way back we got to talking. "So today tan out on the beach til two?" I asked "Yup. Then we will explore the town some more." Colie said and I smiled "Hopefully Austin is okay with all of this." I said "he should be. He got you to himself last night." Colie said and I smiled "Don't worry we didn't do anything." I said "If I was you guys I would do it now. Enjoy it, because your parents will be over protective." Colie said and I nodded "I know. Aaron is worse than I think my dad would be." I said "I doubt that Lex." Colie said and I nodded in agreement.

When we made it back to the rental Austin was just waking up, it was eight in the morning. He smiled at us "Morning ladies." He said and I started a pot of coffee for all of us. Colie got to making us breakfast and Austin started straightening up the house a little bit. He sat down at the table and I gave him his cup of coffee. "What is the plans for the day ladies?" Austin asked "Beach until two, then more exploring." I said "Excellent." Austin said and I couldn't tell if he was serious or be sarcastic. "I know it is." I said and he winked at me so I knew he was being serious.

After breakfast we got dressed in our bathing suits. I put on Austin's T-shirt and grabbed the beach bag. It had our towels, tanning oil, water bottles, sunglasses, and a foam football. We walked out our back door and walked to the beach. We set out our towels, with me in the middle of Austin and Colie. Austin wrapped his arms around me took off my shirt and lifted me up, he ran to the water while having me in his arms kicking him. He got to his waist and threw me in as far as he could. I came above water and gave him a death glare. He did the same thing to Colie so it was okay, we got our revenge by tng to drown him. We're throwing the foam football back and forth in the water and Austin looks over and smile "Yo Bryan and Blake come on over!" He said "They are cousins. They were my roommates this past school year." Austin said and we nodded, the two guys swam up "Dude. What are you doing here?" They asked Austin "Spending quality times with my fiancÃ©e and our friend." Austin said "That's cool." One guy said he had dirty blond hair and baby blue eyes, the other had brown hair and baby blue eyes. "This is my fiancÃ©e Lexie and our friend Nicole." He said and they smiled "This is Bryan and Blake." Austin said, Bryan had the dirty blond hair and Blake had the brown hair.

Since Austin's college friends came we were ditched so we went to our towels and sprayed ourselves with the tanning oil and laid out. We spent half an hour on each side and then got in the water for a bit then another hour tanning, splitting the time between our back and stomachs. "We should get matching belly button rings." Colie said "You're right Colie we should." I said and we both sat up right for this. "We should do that today." Colie said "We should." I said "So let's do it." Colie said and I smiled "Needs to wait for Austin." I said "You're right." Colie said and I smiled at her. Austin came out at two and looked at us "Ready to head in?" He asked "sure." We said and we walked to our rental house. We all showered and got changed. "We're getting

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our belly button pierced." I said "Okay. I'll tag along." He said "We need to find a tattoo/body piercing shop." I said "Okay. I will GPS it now." Austin said and I smiled.

He came in five minutes later "Found one. You guys ready to go?" Austin asked us "Yup." I said and Colie nodded in agreement. We got to the tattoo place and they had a matching belly button ring and we got it pierced. Austin was looking at the tattoos when we finished "Find any you like?" I asked him "This one." He said pointing to an Eagle one and I smiled "it's nice." I said and he smiled at me "I want a tattoo Lexie." He said "I know you do." I said "Can I get one?" He asked me "Sure." I said and Austin smiled at me. He got a tattoo of an Eagle on his arm with his Grandma's name on it. She was his role model and she passed away three years ago.

We got back to the rental and I got to cooking shrimp and Austin made some more seafood. We sat out on the porch outside and started eating drinking sweet tea with it. Austin's friends Bryan and Blake showed up when we were finished and Austin waved at them. "What's up?" Austin asked "We're throwing a party tonight. We're three houses down do you guys want to come?" Bryan asked us "Sure." Austin said "when is it?" He asked "nine o'clock." He said "We will be there." Austin said and they nodded "See you guys then." Bryan said and we all nodded.

Colie's Pov:

I just did a fishtail with my hair, letting it lay against my shoulders. I'm wearing a short denim skirt and a cute pink tank top. I had my rainbow flip-flops on and walked out into the living room. Lexie and Austin were waiting for me. Lexie had her hair in two braids, her hair was still down to her shoulder. We walked to Austin's friends rental house and Bryan his one friend looked at me and smiled. "Colie right?" he asked me "yeah it is." I said and he smiled at me. I looked at Lexie and she grabbed Austin's hand and led him over to where Blake was so I could talk to Bryan without them around. "Where do you go to school at?" Bryan asked me "Was NYU. In the fall I'm going to UF." I said "That's cool. Austin has told me a lot about you over the school year. Of course it was mainly Lexie but he brought you up as well." Bryan said "That's sweet of him." I said smiling at him "You look beautiful tonight." Bryan said "Thanks." I said and he smiled at me "Do you want to take a walk?" I asked him "Sure." He said and I smiled at him.

Our walk was nice; I got to know all about Bryan. He's twenty years old, he lives in Daytona Beach, Florida when he isn't at school. He has five siblings, his parents are still together, and he's majoring in business. We made it back to the group and we hung out with Austin, Lexie, Bryan, a guy name Mike, a girl named Jasmine. They all attend UF so Lexie and I was already making friends for the school year.

The rest of the week, we would spend the morning/afternoon at the beach, the afternoon/evening with Bryan, Blake, Mike, and Jasmine. It's now Sunday morning and we know we need to head back. The night before I spent alone time with Bryan, it was nice. It gave Lexie and Austin their alone time while I had my alone time with Bryan. He kissed me, or more like we made out. We told each other we would get in touch with each other. I gave him my cell phone number and he gave me his. I really like him and I can tell he really like me.

Lexie's Pov:

We loaded up the car around ten and left around eleven and made it home in the evening. Connor, Colleen, Josh, Alicia, and Katie were all home when I got home. Our parents were still out so I still had time. I did a load of all of our laundry for the past week and re-cleaned my room. I had my laptop up and got a Skype IM from Allie to see if we could video chat "Hey Allie." I said she was in her bedroom wearing a Duke shirt and brown shorts. "Hey Lexie. How was the beach?" She asked me "It was really good. I had fun." I said and she smiled at me "I had a good week at the mountains." Allie said "That's awesome. I got my belly button pierced." I said "I want to see." Allie said so I lifted up my shirt and she smiled at it. "I love your engagement

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ring." Allie said "Thanks, I do too." I said and Allie smiled at me. I got a knock on my door about half an hour later "Lexie mom and Aaron is home." Colleen said "Gotta go Al." I said "Bye Lex." She said and we ended the call and I walked downstairs.

They set the dinner down on the table, it was KFC we all sat down and began eating "How was your week?" she asked us it started from the youngest and now to me "it was really good." I said "Just good?" she asked "We spent the days at the beach, evening with some of Austin's friends from college." I said "I got my belly button pierced." I said "oh Lexie." My mom said but that was the end of it because she knows she couldn't have stopped me anyways.

We all went to the living room and watched a couple movies as a family and then everybody went their own separate ways. I got a phone call from Austin "Did your parents flip?" I asked "Nope. My mom got teary eyed. My dad was fine with it. Did yours?" He asked me "I got a piercing not a tattoo. But she did the Oh Lexie bit and left it at that." I said "She's disappointed in you." Austin said "Oh well." I said and Austin smiled "you don't really care do you?" He asked me "Let's see, I'm almost twenty, college student, engaged I don't have to answer to my mommy for things like this anymore." I said "Oh Lexie." He said "Don't oh Lexie me." I said and I heard him laugh at me "I love you Lexie."

Chapter 12

It's July 2nd now and we're on the plane to California for the fourth of July, we leave on the 7th so I have five days of being ignored by Aaron's parents but that's okay. We arrived around nine in the morning their time and noon our time. I spent the day with the group and told my mom that the next day I would be meeting up with Callie if that was okay and she said to spend until the night of the fourth with Callie but to be home by five the next day.

I woke up at seven here, since it was ten my time. Callie texted me at 7:30

Callie: Hey Lex, are you up?

Lexie: Yup

Callie: Can I come in ten minutes?

Lexie: Sure. I'll get dressed.

Callie: See you then.

I got dressed in my white short shorts and a cute belly shirt that I bought at the beach to show off my belly button ring. Callie was right on time so I stepped out and got in her car. "You look like a true beach bum." Callie said and I smiled, she had her natural deep tan going as well. "You do too." I said "Thanks." She said and I smiled at her "Where to?" I asked "The beach. It's a different beach than the one you went to. It's one that only true Californian people know of." Callie said and I smiled at her. She took me to her house first so I could borrow a bathing suit and so she could change. "You look good." I said "You do too." I said and we caught up on about what has happened over the summer so far. "Love your engagement ring." Callie said "Thanks. I like it as well." I said and she smiled at me.

The beach Callie took me to was beyond beautiful. If I wasn't happily taken I would have enjoyed the view. There was a ton of cute guys at this beach. We stayed until about two and then she took me back to her house so we could change. She took me to her favorite place to eat and I loved the food. That night she took me to a club, needless to say I had a fun adventure filled night with Callie. We didn't get home until four in the morning and that was seven my time. We slept in until seven when her mom woke us up. So we had three hours of sleep, we spent this day at her house in her pool spending time with her family.

I spent the fifth and sixth with Callie. She dropped me off before we had to be at the airport. I hugged her good-bye. My mom just shook her head when I got back and I just rolled my eyes at her. "Lexie when we get home I need to talk to you." She said "Okay." I said and she just went back to focusing on the kids and getting them ready. I sat beside Colleen and Connor on the flights back. That night my mom came into my room "While you are under my house you will follow by my rules. I don't care if you will be twenty next month. You have little sisters and brothers who look up to you. You're not setting a good example. You need to have a better control over your life. You're going to be wasting it away." My mom said "I am not." I said "Lexie. You need to tell me where you are, who you're with. Your curfew is midnight. I don't like the fact that you're not working this summer." My mom said "I'm sorry." I said and then looked at her "But I'm living my life the way I want to my mom. If you don't like it then I'm sorry. Nobody stopped you from living the way you wanted to." I said "I got married when I was eighteen; I got pregnant not long after. I don't want you to do the same." She said "I'm almost twenty, engaged. Not married. Not pregnant." I said "I don't know you anymore Alexis. All I know is I want you out of my house by tomorrow night before I get home." My mom said "Alright fine." I said and when she left I called Colie. "I got kicked out." I said "Hold on." She said putting the

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phone down "Mom said you can stay here until college." Colie said "Thanks Colie." I said "I will be over there tomorrow to help." Colie said "Thanks Colie. I owe you." I said and we hung up.

The next day we packed up all of my stuff and with Austin's dad's pick up truck and with two loads we made it with all of my stuff. I left my bed, dresser, book case, and desk. I hugged Connor and Colleen good-bye and went with Colie and Austin. I know in a way my mom was right but she kicked me out and I don't really care about that anymore. Colie laid out an air mattress for me and I put my comforter and pillow on my fake bed and we did the chores around the house. We even cooked dinner. Mrs. Wakefield, Mr. Wakefield, Abby, Taylor, and Casey were all pleased to see me.

It's now July 15th and we're celebrating Colie's birthday. Whenever Colleen is over we spend time together, I meet Connor at the mall a lot and we spend time together. Our curfew is midnight and we're always home by eleven. And we're up when they leave and we do the chores, I have been nothing but nice. We follow their rules that they have and we're sweet angels towards everybody.

Colie's Pov:

I woke up today to see everybody standing above me with a platter of breakfast on a tray. "Happy birthday Colie." They all said and I smiled at them, Lexie set the tray down in front of me and I smiled. I have been so lucky to have Lexie move in with me, she has been nothing but helpful and plus I get to spend more time with her now. We're working on being roommates this year in college and I'm excited about that. I have been talking to Bryan every night that he isn't working, it's really nice.

We're at the mall and I'm sipping on my smoothie from the local smoothie place in the mall. Lexie excuses herself and Austin follows her and so I'm just sitting here commenting on my posts from all of my friends. Next thing I know I feel hands cover my eyes "Who is this?" I asked I could tell that it was man's hands I knew they weren't Austin's. Next thing I feel is a kiss on the cheek. "Happy birthday." A male voice whisper and I smiled "Bryan." I said and he kissed my lips softly. Austin and Lexie came up with a cupcake "Surprise!" Lexie said hugging me "We will leave you two alone." Austin said and I smiled. "You guys are the best." I said and they walk away.

Bryan sits next to me and I share my cupcake with him since I didn't want to eat all of it. He took my hand and we went walking through the mall for a little bit. I ended up taking him to my house and my mom, Abby, Taylor, and Casey were home. "Mom this is Bryan." I said and she turned around and smiled at Bryan. They got to talking and of course I had to spend some time with the whole family and Bryan. "Can he come to my birthday dinner?" I asked "Sure." She said and I smiled.

We got back in my car and I dropped him off at Austin's since that is where he was staying. "I will see you later." I said kissing his lips "You sure will." He said returning the kiss and getting out of my car. I smiled at him and drove home to get ready. Lexie was already in our room getting ready. I ran up to her and hugged her "I love you Lexie." I said smiling at her "I love you too. Glad I made your day special." She said "How?" I asked her "I brought it up with Austin and he got ahold of Bryan who agreed with it." Lexie said and I smiled at her again "Thanks Lexie. You are amazing. I love you again." I said and she smiled at me. "Happy birthday Colie." She said hugging me and I smiled at her.

I wore my brown strapless knee length dress; I had Lexie's silver sandals on with my hair down and super curly. I did my makeup and was done. "You look beautiful Colie." Lexie said and I smiled at her, she was wearing her baby blue dress like this, her hair which was already down to her boobs was down and curly. "Thank you, so do you." I said and Lexie smiled at me "Ready to go?" I asked and she smiled so we walked downstairs where my family was waiting for us. "Lexie you are part of the family." My mom said to Lexie and she smiled. "Ready to go?" Abby asked and I smiled at her "Yup. I love you." I said "Love you too

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Colie." She said and we all loaded up in the van.

Austin and Bryan were at the restaurant waiting for us and I smiled at Bryan, he was wearing khaki shorts and a baby blue polo. "You look beautiful Colie." Bryan said and I smiled at him "thank you. You look handsome." I said and he smiled at me. He had a little box in his hand and slid it to me. I put it in my purse and followed my family to our table. I sat beside Bryan and my ten year old sister Casey, my sister Taylor is thirteen, and Abby is 15 years old soon. We all ordered and we talked about everything pretty much. My dad was asking Bryan all kinds of questions, what he was majoring in for college, his plans after college. "Isn't that something though?" My dad asked "What daddy?" I asked "Just last year you, Austin, and Lexie had to say good-byes for you three going to different colleges and now you're going to the same colleges." Daddy said and I exchanged glances with Lexie and Austin "We just couldn't stay away from each other sir." Austin said and my daddy smiled at him "You and Lexie are the truest friends Colie-bug." My dad said and I smiled at him "Daddy stop it." I said and he smiled at me. "What? I remember the day you were born. You were so little, so precious. But that moment I held you for the first time I knew you would be spoiled rotten." My dad said and I knew I was blushing now. "Oh daddy." I said smiling at him. "Your father and I are both very proud of you Colie. You have come so far with your life." My mom said "Thanks mom." I said and she smiled at me, and we went back to small talk.

Lexie and I escaped my family when we finished dinner and got in the car with Austin and Bryan. "Where to girls?" Austin asked "Meadow or beach?" Lexie said "Meadow." I said we all swore to only take a special person to the meadow and Lexie smiled at me "You heard her Austin." Lexie said and he went towards the meadow. Lexie found this place eight years ago when her dad just found out he had cancer, and it's been a secret safe haven for all three of us ever since then. So many secrets have been shared at this very special spot.

We pull up to the dirt road and we park and all get out. Bryan is looking confused "This way." I said taking his hand and showing him the way to the meadow. When we arrived he was speechless "it's amazing. Who found this?" Bryan asked "Lexie did." I said and he smiled at me, I knew they would be a couple minutes. They wanted us to have some alone time. "Colie since we met you have been on my mind nonstop. I smile when I think about you. I want you to be my girlfriend." Bryan said "Fine by me. I have had a crush on you since then anyways." I said and he smiled at me. "Open your gift." He said.

Chapter 13

I did and It was a diamond necklace with the name Colie on it with diamonds on all the letters. "It's beautiful, but I can't accept it. It must have cost a lot." I said "Colie you're keeping it. That is your birthday present." He said "Thank you. I love it." I said "You're welcome." He said kissing my lips and we heard footsteps so we broke away. "So what do you think?" Lexie asked Bryan "It's amazing. What made you find it?" He asked Lexie "I lived like three miles away from this. I went for a jog one day and found this." Lexie said keeping most of the truth out of this. She went running the day she got the phone call that her dad had cancer, and went running this direction to get away from the news hoping she could out run it. She ran straight here not sure of what was around here and stopped at the amazement. She went by the little pond here and cried her eyes out. I only know this because she told me, and took me and Austin here a week later when she was stressed over everything.

Lexie's Pov:

After the couple of days with Bryan, Colie was on cloud nine. It was a Monday now and I woke up and had something on my mind. "Colie, you awake?" I asked "yeah." She said half-awake I know from that response she wasn't really sure about if she wanted to get up or not. "What is it Lex?" She asked me "I think I'm going to take Colleen to the meadow." I said and she looked at me "So much has happened in our lives; Jake is in the Army or working on it. Connor is a Junior, Colleen is beginning high school in the fall. It's a big adjustment. I'm in college. She needs this place to go to when stress of everything is so overwhelming for her." I said "You should do that." Colie said I know she was half awake so she wasn't really sure what I was getting at.

I did my chores and got dressed and Colie was still asleep so I wrote her a note and drove to my old house. My mom and Aaron were already at work, I texted Colleen telling her to meet me out front. She had to call our mom for permission and once she agreed to it she let me know she could come with me. She got in my car and I put the car in gear and started out towards the meadow "Where are we going?" Colleen asked me "I'm taking you to a special place. A place I found eight years ago." I said and she only nodded doing the math knowing what happened eight years ago and didn't want to push it.

I pull up on the dirt road and lead her to the meadow and she is speechless like everybody else was. "It's beautiful." Colleen finally said when she could speak. "This is where I would go when I needed to get away. This is where I still come when I need to get away. This is where so many tears have been shed, over daddy, over school, Aaron, boys, family. Not many people know about this. Mainly Colie and Austin. This has been our special spot, and since you're old enough I decided you should be let in on this." I said and Colleen smiled at me "I love the vibe it gives off." Colleen said and I smiled at her. "Let's sit by the pond, there's so much I want to tell you." I said and she smiled at me.

Jason is twelve years old; Colleen will be 15 on October 8th. My parents spilt thirteen years ago when Jason was conceived. So Colleen was two years old, sure we spent every other weekend with him, four weeks out of the summer, every other holiday she never really got to know daddy the way we did. He died when she was eight years old but still she wasn't around him much since she wasn't into sports. I motion for her to sit next to me and I smiled at her "You ready for this?" I asked and she nodded at me so I knew she was ready. "I'm going to talk about the forbidden subject. Here there are no forbidden subjects." I said and Colleen smiled at me. "Daddy?" She asked "You betcha." I said and she smiled at me.

"First off three months before he died, I took daddy to this very spot and I shared this with him and he was amazed by it. Told me that he will always love all of us, that he's sorry he never spent much time with us when we were younger and sorry that he wouldn't be there when we turn sixteen, go to prom, graduate, get

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married, have kids but he will be there in our heart. He told me never to worry that we are always being watched over. He told me how much he loved you, Connor, Jake and myself and how much he will miss us and hated that our time was cut so short." I said and Colleen was listening to me because she looked at me with sparkly icy blue eyes.

"One weekend when daddy had us, you were three Connor was five, Jake was seven, and I was eight still. Daddy took us to SeaWorld. You were on his shoulders the whole time. Jason was three months old; Amy and Jason were going with us. You were so amazed by all of the sea creatures. Daddy told us all kind of funny stories about all of the creatures. You were scared of the Dolphin but Jake and I ran straight up to it and touched you. You started crying and daddy walked over to the Dolphin and set you down telling you it would be okay that it won't hurt you. When you finally touched it you had the biggest smile on your face." I said and Colleen smiled at me "Another one?" She asked me "Right after he found out he had cancer he took us to the beach and that is where we attended a daddy-daughter dance. We looked our best and we had the times of our lives. Amber, you, and I we had fun. We went fishing the day after that as a huge family. Or on daddy's side anyways and we had the times of our lives with him." I said and she smiled at me.

We spent a couple more hours at the meadows and then I dropped her off and went to Austin's. "Hey baby." He said kissing my lips softly "Hey honey." I said smiling at him "How was your day?" He asked me "Emotional." I admitted "why?" He asked me "I talked to Colleen about my dad today. I took her to the meadows." I said "Oh Lexie." He said but he was smiling at me "When do you want to get married baby?" Austin asked me "Next summer. In July." I said "We will have graduated from college." Austin said and I smiled at him, we were all taking as many classes as we could. Eight in each semester so we could graduate two years early. "July 30th 2015." I said "Sounds perfect to me baby." Austin said kissing my lips. "Good." I said and Austin smiled at me "What are you doing tonight?" He asked me "Much needed girl time with Colie" I said and he smiled at me.

It's August 5th and we had just loaded up all three of our cars to make the trip to Tallahassee it was like an eight hour trip. I spent my day yesterday with Colleen and Connor telling them I would see them on the 13th. Classes begin on the 16th so I have to travel on my birthday. It's an eight hour trip so we're leaving at two in the morning. We hug Colie's parents and siblings good-bye and we get in our cars. It's Austin, me, then Colie following behind us.

We arrive at ten and we go to get our schedule and dorm room numbers. "Yes, we're roommates." I said to Colie who smiled at me, "I'm rooming with Bryan." Austin said and Colie smiled at him. As soon as he said Bryan we see him walking up Colie hugs him. The guys help us unload our stuff to our dorm room. We live the next building over from Austin and Bryan so that will be good. We begin to unpack our boxes. I put all my pictures up on my wall and make my bed, when I got unpacked I go to help Colie.

We walk out into the living room and see a beautiful girl looking around; she must be our other roommate. She had green eyes and strawberry blond hair, she was skinny and tan. She was wearing brown short shorts, rainbow flip-flops and a pink tank top. "Hi I'm Sky your roommate." She said smiling at us "I'm Lexie" I said "I'm Colie." Colie said "Are you guys' friends?" Sky asked me "Best friends. More like sisters." I said and Sky smiled at us "Are you guys from around here?" Sky asked Colie "Not really. Eight hours away. We're from Stuart, Florida. Where are you from?" Colie said "Kissimmee." Sky said and we smiled at us. "Are you a Freshmen?" I asked "Senior. This is my last year. You?" She asked "Junior, but we will be graduating this year." I said "Doubling up on classes?" She asked and we nodded.

It's August 13th now, and Austin, Colie, and I are at Colie's place. We're going to Jake's graduation tomorrow. I'm really proud of Jake; he has come so far and is doing really good. I'm wearing my white dress and my knee length hair is down and super curly, I'm wearing my sparkly sandals and I'm excited for today. We arrive at the graduation place and I sit with my parents and my mom didn't even bother to look at me. I'm holding

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Austin's hand during the whole thing, squeezing it. Afterwards when Jake made his way to us I run up to him and hug him. I have missed him so much, we were really close. "I've missed you sissy." Jake said "I've missed you too." I said and we walked back to the crowd.

We stayed until early on my birthday, we celebrated my birthday and Jake's graduation. "Call me when you find out when you're leaving." I said "I will. Even make a visit to you." Jake said and I smiled "I love you." I said hugging him "I love you too." He said and we make it home. We left at midnight exactly on my birthday and make it at eight. Nobody slept on the way home; of course Austin didn't since he was driving. "You okay?" He asked me when we were half an hour from the college "Yeah I am." I said and he smiled at me.

We all crash for a power nap and I woke up at ten for my interview at Publix, Colie's was later on that day. I wear my cute brown modest dress and had my hair wavy and down. The interview went good I believe "We will get back with you Alexis." The boss Kevin said and I smiled "Thank you sir." I said and walked to my car. We were going school supply shopping before Colie's interview. I meet up with them being Austin, Bryan, Blake, Colie, and Sky. Sky and Blake were hitting it off really good. I get my eight notebooks for my classes, two binders, back pack, new laptop case.

I go home and write my classes in my books and smiled. We got our textbooks for our classes already. English 330 is Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays 7:00-9:00 Liberal Arts 330 is Monday, Wednesday, Fridays 9-11. Chemistry 330 is Monday, Wednesday, Fridays 11-1. American History 330 Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 1-3. And Journalism 330 Monday, Wednesday, Fridays 3-5. Creative writing 330 is Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-9, Health 330 9-11 Tuesday and Thursdays, and Sociology 330 Tuesday and Thursday 11-1.

"Happy Birthday Lexie!" Colie and Austin said coming into my room with a cake. "Thanks you guys." I said and they smiled at me "You're twenty now! No longer a teen." Austin said "I know. I can't believe that." I said and Austin smiled at me "I know baby. But thanks you guys. Today has been great."

Chapter 14

I woke up at five thirty; I took a shower and got dressed into my favorite pair of ripped jeans, a cute gray shirt with a flower on the front with my Sperry's. I left my hair down but super curly. I was wearing the necklace Noah got me for my eighteenth birthday, Austin doesn't mind me wearing it. I'm wearing my diamond bracelet that my dad got me for my tenth birthday and my engagement ring. I walk into the living room with my heavy weighted backpack. I had my binder and textbooks for the classes I'm taking today and my laptop since I needed it for my English, American History and Journalism class. Colie and Sky came out and smiled at me.

Colie was wearing a cute denim skirt and a cute tank top and smiled at me. We're taking all of the same classes so we have the same schedule. We walked out and smiled, Austin is in all of the classes but the Creative writing, Journalism and health. Bryan is in our English, Liberal Arts, and American history class. We all walk to our English class and sit together, Colie beside me and Austin on the other side of me. We had a ton of work for the two hours, and we have to write a five page report on a topic that she had on the board for our homework.

The weeks went by and it's September 20th, I actually got the job at Publix and since it's a Saturday I'm working 7-7. I wake up at six; I get my khaki pants on and my green Publix shirt on. I pull my hair up into a ponytail because I didn't feel like having it down today. I wear my rainbow flip-flops, I go into the kitchen and make a one cup of coffee and enjoy my ten minutes of drinking it. I didn't feel like eating so I went ahead and walked out of the dorm room and out of the dorm building. I see Austin, Bryan, and Blake just leave their building. They are in their jogging outfits so they were going for a morning jog before work and everything.

"Hey Lexie." Bryan said waving when they walked off of the steps, Austin kisses my lips. "Heading to work?" Blake asked me "Yup." I said "Is Colie and Sky up?" Blake asked me "Nope still sleeping." I said and looked at Bryan "Make sure she is up before noon. She works the noon-closing shift tonight." I said and Bryan nodded at me I wave good-bye to the men. "Have a good jog." I said and they rolled their eyes at me. I got in my car and drove the twenty minutes to work and still had an extra ten minutes to kill before work began for me.

I go into Publix at six fifty-five and clock in already for seven. The manager Kevin walks in and clocks in as well. "Hey Lexie." He said "Morning Kevin." I said "You're on register two today." He said "Alright." I said going to the drink machine and getting a Dr. Pepper, I ring it up and pay for it. My mind goes back to the race I had with Austin the summer before our senior year, and he owed me a Dr. Pepper and he came into work the next day and bought me one. It's a slow morning until ten and then the customers started coming in more. "Welcome to Publix." I would say when a customer came in since I was right at the door.

At noon I was taking my twenty minutes break and Colie had just clocked in. "Register three." She said "Two." I said and she smiled at me "I can't wait to finish college and get an actual job Lex." Colie said and I nodded "We have been doing this for five years now. Ever since we were fifteen, we have been working at Publix or our grocery store where we went to college last year." Colie said and I nodded in agreement. I see a young man walk in and walk up to the front desk and they point in my direction. When the guy gets closer I notice those icy blue eyes first thing and the brown hair, he looked just like our father did at that age. I felt my heart sink, because I knew he had bad news for me since he is here visiting me.

"Hey Lexie." Jake said hugging me, he has been working on his grip is getting stronger, he's getting muscles. "Hey Jake." I said returning his hug, I wasn't feeling it though. "When do you get off?" Jake asked me "Seven." I said "I'll be back then." He said "Okay." I said nodding and watched him walk out of Publix. I go back to my register and I look at Colie who was staring at me trying to read my facial expression. I just smiled at her and went back to work, the seven hours until I got off felt like seven years to me. I go and clock out and

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gives Colie a reassuring smile and walk out, Jake is waiting by my car his car was next to mine. "Dinner?" Jake asked me "Good. I'm starving. I know the best place." I said and he got in his car and followed me to Denny's.

"How has school been so far this semester?" Jake asked me "Good. My eight classes are good." I said and he smiled at me "Still making straight A's?" He asked "Yup. Lowest grade would be a 93." I said "good I'm proud of you. Connor is doing good with being a junior, Colleen is taking the adjustment for high school good. She loves all of the cute older guys." Jake said and I smiled "Just wait until she starts dating." I said and he smiled "Jason is enjoying the seventh grade; Amber is liking the fifth grade." He said and I smiled he doesn't mention Josh, Alicia, or Katie. "Jake cut to the chase. What's the news?" I asked and he looked down "Eighteen month long tour. Six months in Germany for training and twelve months in Iraq. I leave on the 24th." Jake said and I felt like my heart was going to explode. "Promise me something Jake?" I asked "Sure thing sissy." He said even though we're not eight and ten, we're acting like it right now. "You will come home safe." I said we both know it's not a promise he can really make "I will do my best sissy." He said and I blinked back the tears.

The next morning I called into work and explained my situation and since Kevin has family overseas he understands so I'm taking the day off. Austin, Jake, and I are spending the morning together playing video games in the boys' dorm room. "This is the life." Jake said sighing and I smiled in agreement "Having your big sister beat you in video games?" I asked "Not fair." Jake said "I'm not cheating. Austin isn't letting me win. He's too competitive." I said and Austin held his head in shame because he knew it was true and I was winning big time.

Jake and I spent the afternoon together talking about our siblings, dad, and even mom. "She misses you." Jake said "I bet." I said "She really does Lexie. She just doesn't want you to screw up your life." Jake said "I'm finishing college early, I'm engaged not married. No kids, a job, I just wanted my one summer off from working. I have saved up all of my money since I was two. Not counting the money daddy left me for my college tuition and everything. I have been working since I have been the legal age, I have been baby-sitting since I was eleven." I said "I know Lex." He said "But right now all you need to worry about is getting home safe." I said and he smiled at me. "Thanks sissy. For believing in me." He said "I'm proud of you as well. I know daddy is." I said and he smiled at me.

He left at midnight on the 22nd since I had school the next day. I didn't go to sleep; I sat on my bed staring at my pictures on my wall. I have new pictures now, of Jake and I. Jake, Colie, and I. Jake promised me when he was able to he would call, write, and email me but he wasn't sure when all of that would happen and I told him I would understand and I do. I pulled my knees up to my chest and wrapped my arms around my legs. I rested my chin on my knees and stared at the picture of me as a toddler in daddy's arms holding Jake it was when he was just born.

I didn't fall asleep until four thirty and my alarm clock went off at five since I still had some homework I needed to do. I took a quick shower, got dressed in jeans and a UF shirt. Left my hair down and wet, I quickly did my homework the best I could and finished when the girls came out ready for their classes which means we had to leave soon. "Rough night?" Colie asked me and I nodded "He will be okay." Colie said and I nodded "he's supposed to text me when he gets to mom's and then call me tomorrow night before he leaves." I said "I know Lexie. Let's get to class." She said and I nodded at her.

Classes were over at five since it was a Monday and I had an hour before work. I had enough time to go to the dorm room and change into my work clothes and rush back out because I needed to get dinner since I haven't had breakfast or lunch. Normally I eat one meal a day now, so I've gone from a two to a zero in pants sizes now. I go to Subway get a six inch sub, a bag of chips, and a soda. I'm eating my dinner as quick as I could and rush to Publix where I clock in. I work 6-11 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Tuesday and Thursdays I

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work 2-11. Saturday is 7-7, Sunday is 12-9. I work 54 hours a week making \$918 every two week so \$1836 monthly.

It's the end of the semester which means finals. I go to class Monday for my final study guide, Wednesday is no classes unless you want to get an extra review in and Friday is the final. Tuesday is the final study guide, and review and Thursday is the final for those classes. I leave classes at five like always and go to work. I get off at 11 and go home to join Sky, Colie, Austin, Blake, Bryan, a girl named Kelly, a guy named Brent for a study guide session for the classes we have together.

Tuesday the study guide and final review went by easy. Wednesday I decided to spend all day studying my reviews and all my notes. Around 2 I get a phone call "hello?" I asked "Hey sissy." A male voice said it sounded so far away yet so familiar. "Jake!" I said and I heard him chuckle "How are you?" He asked me "Stressed with finals. You?" I asked "good. It's going really good over here Lexie-boo. I've made a lot of friends. Getting a lot of training in before we head out." He said and I could feel myself twirling a strand of hair like I normally do when I'm majorly stressed. "Is it scary?" I asked "Different, but yeah kind of. It sure makes you miss home a lot more. And the people in it." He said "I bet it does." I said "I haven't called mom yet. I wanted to make sure you're okay." He said "I'm fine." I said "Still engaged?" He asked me "Yes Jake I am." I said and he laughed we talked for a few more minutes and then he had to go. "I love you Jake." I said "I love you too sissy." He said and we hung up.

That night when I got off of work my phone started ringing I answered it without looking at the caller ID because who calls at eleven? "Hello?" I asked "Lexie?" Colleen asked me "Yeah. What's up? What's wrong?" I asked "I'm extremely stressed out over the finals. I don't think I'm going to pass my tests. I'm worried about Jake. I'm worried about you." Colleen said "Sissy take a break. Go to the meadows. It's late, I know but do it. Relax or if you want go tomorrow." I said "There's something else sissy." Colleen said and I know she doesn't call me sissy unless it's serious or she's really troubled. "What is it?" I asked "Come home for your break. I can't tell you over the phone." Colleen said "I will be there." I said although I didn't plan on going home for my break like I didn't for Christmas. I stayed and worked during it and that was a busy weekend itself. "I love you sissy." I said "I love you too sissy." Colleen said and we hung up.

Thursday was a very stressful day for me; I took all of my finals for those classes and then went to work on the edge. I couldn't sleep really due to the phone call; daddy came to me in a dream telling me things will be okay, not to be stressed out. Friday was stressful as well for those finals; work over the weekend was stressful. I haven't really spent any time with Austin this week unless it was school related and I don't count that. We have classes Monday and Tuesday and then we're off until January 7th Wednesday will be December 7th.

I passed all my classes with a 98 as my final grade in all of them. "Hey Kevin." I said going into work at 5:30. "Hey Lexie." He said "I didn't plan on it but I'm needed at home so can I have December 20th off through the 27th?" I asked "Yes Lexie." He said and I smiled at him "Thank you." I said "no problem. I kind of figured it was coming since Colie came in and asked for the same thing." He said and I smiled at him.

My work schedule from the 7th-20th on the weekdays is 12-5, and the same as it always has been for the weekends. I have been spending my mornings and evenings with Austin, Colie, Sky, Bryan, and Blake. Bryan and Colie are still going strong, Sky and Blake are together, and Austin and I are still engaged. Bryan and Colie are spending Christmas in two places her family and his family, she finally gets to meet his family. Austin is spending it at home with his parents since we're not spending it here together as a couple.

I arrive on the 21st at 8 in the morning and I go the meadow and just lay down and ended up falling asleep. My dream consisted of daddy again "Lexie, it's almost Christmas." He said sitting next to me we were at the meadow wearing Christmas colors. "I know daddy. Another Christmas without you." I said "I know Lexie-boo. You have Austin and your friends." He said "I know daddy." I said and he smiled at me. "I'm so

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proud of you Lexie. You're saving up your money, using \$200 monthly the rest is being saved, you have a job, you're a fulltime student doing double the classes to graduate early, engaged to a great man, not pregnant. Every father's dreams." He said and I smiled at him. Amber is now eleven, Jason is thirteen, Colleen is fifteen, Connor is almost seventeen, Jake is nineteen now. Katie is five, Alicia, is seven, Josh is nine years old now.

"It's tough though daddy. Struggling school, work, friends, and family all at once." I said "But you're making straight A's. One of his best workers, a good friend and family member to the people who need you the most." He said and I smiled at him "I'm planning on seeing Jason and Amber for Christmas." I said "I figured that. But you need to see your mom and them as well. You need to make things right with your mom. You never know how long you will have her for." He said and I smiled "I know. I had to write Jake a letter to tell him happy birthday. He worries me daddy." I said "But he's making us proud. He's a good soldier. He's good at what he does Lexie." He said "I know daddy, I know." I said and he kissed my forehead "Time to go my love." He said "I love you daddy." I said "I love you too." He said and I woke up to see Colleen standing over me "Sorry sissy didn't mean to wake you." She said and I smiled "it's okay. Just a dream with daddy in it." I said and she smiled at me "he occurs in my dreams sometimes too." She said and I smiled at my little sister, I love her so much.

"How often do you come here?" I asked her when she sat down next to me and I wrapped my arms around her hugging her. "Three times a week. More if I'm really stressed." She said and I hugged her. "What do you need to tell me?" I asked "It's something only Abby and one other person knows." Colleen said "Okay sissy. You can trust me." I said "I know." She said and I could tell she was fighting back tears. "You know how in my emails I would write about this guy name Chase? How he's a junior, he was flirting with me, how I had a crush on him?" She asked me and I nodded, she would write about that late August-September. "Well he asked me out for home coming, we started dating afterwards, right?" Colleen said "Yes sissy." I said not sure how to piece this story together. "Well in early November like the 2nd, I was over at his house we were doing homework together. It was just him and I, and he kissed me. You know how kissing leads to making out, making out leads to more." Colleen said "Yeah." I said still confused "Well we went all the way. And I'm pregnant." Colleen said and the pieces finally fell together. "Oh Colleen." I said "I'm scared. Chase has mixed feelings; one minute he wants me to keep the baby then the next abortion it. But he says he will support me no matter what I decide." Colleen said "I'm pro-life. I say keep it sissy. The baby has a reason to be alive, the baby deserves a chance. Adoption is an option sissy. But keep in mind you might need this baby as much as the baby needs you." I said and she nodded wiping away her tears "how far along are you?" I asked not feeling like doing the math in my head. "Seven weeks exactly." Colleen said and I nodded she would be showing soon, morning sickness will be occurring soon. "You need to tell mom and Aaron." I said "I'm scared to sissy. Will you come?" She asked me "Sure." I said and she hugged me.

I drive Colleen to the house and I see mom out on the porch, Alicia and Katie are playing in the yard and so is Josh. I get out and Katie and Alicia run up to me and hug me. I haven't seen them since the summer. They go on and on about school all the way to the porch where my mom is still sitting but closely watching me trying to figure things out. "Well hello there stranger." My mom said "Hi." I said "You should have called." She said "I'm sorry. Is this a bad time?" I asked "No sweetie. It's perfect." She said "Sit down Lexie. Tell me how you have been." She said "Pretty good mom. I have my moments where I'm stressed with work and school but I'm doing well in both." I said "I'm glad to hear that. Where are you working at?" She asked me "The local Publix. I make a decent amount, most is being saved" I said "That's good Lexie. Do you want to stay for dinner?" She asked me "Can I take you, and Colleen out?" I asked "Sure thing." She said and I smiled "Thanks mom. I will be over at five to pick you two up." I said "where are you staying at?" She asked me "Austin's, in their guest room." I said and she smiled at me.

I go back to Austin's and Mrs. Blevins smiled at me "We're all so excited to have you in the family soon." She said and I smiled at her "Thank you so am I." I said and she smiled at me, Adam and Colby were playing video games. "Plans for tonight?" She asked me "Taking my mom and sister out for dinner, if that's okay?" I

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asked "Sure thing Lexie." She said smiling at me "Is Austin back yet?" I asked "Yes he is and he's in his room." She said and I smiled at her "thank you." I said and I walk up the steps to Austin's room. He's on his bed with his laptop; he motions for me to come to him so I do.

Chapter 15

"What is it?" He asked me putting his laptop down and motioned for me to sit beside him. I lay my head on his chest and he plays with my hair. His dirty blond bangs about cover his baby blue eyes but he still looks good. "Colleen." I said "What about her baby?" He asked me "The last word." I said and he looked at me until he pieced it together "She's pregnant?" he asked me and I nodded "how far along?" He asked me "Seven weeks. She wants me to be there with her when she tells our mother, so I'm taking her and mom out for dinner tonight." I said "Okay baby. I'm here for you if you need me." He said "Thanks Austin right now I need to go change." I said "okay baby." He said kissing my lips softly, not really sure what else he could say to cheer me up. "I love you." I said returning the kiss and going to get ready.

I wore my denim skirt with brown leggings, my brown cami, my hot pink low cut shirt and I had my hair down and super curly. I smile at myself and walk into Austin's room where he was getting ready, they were going out to eat. He was already in khaki shorts so it was safe for me to be in here. "You look beautiful." He said "Thanks baby." I said "Good luck." He said "Thanks baby. I love you." I said "I love you too Lexie." He said and I said my good-byes to Mr. Blevins and Mrs. Blevins before I got in my car and made the two mile trip to the house. Colleen was wearing a denim skirt, white leggings, a cute white cami, and a low cut baby blue shirt her knee length hair was down and wavy. "You look good." I said not noticing a baby bump so I knew she was safe.

Our mom walks out wearing a cute dress and sandals. "Where to my darlings?" My mom asked us. "I have been craving Italian." I said "which place?" My mom asked "I'm thinking the one in downtown Fort Pierce? It's Christmas time, so they have the Christmas lights at the Marina and I love that." I said "Sounds fine to me." She said and I do my best to make small talk with my mom all the way to Fort Pierce and that was a forty-five minute drive. I knew on the way home it would be a silent ride and I didn't want to make things worse for Colleen when she tells my mom the news.

After we order our meals my mom looks at me and Colleen. "This is nice. Spending time with my two older girls. Not having to worry about cooking or for the time being cleaning the kitchen." My mom said and I smiled at her "I see your father in both of you girls. You have his strength and courage Lexie. Colleen has his sense of humor, his sense of pride. She's a determine girl, she doesn't give up and neither do you Lexie." My mom said and that took me off guard she never talked about daddy especially since he cheated on her.

I talked about some of my classes for the past semester and how I'm going to be graduating in June and they need to be there. "I wouldn't miss it for anything in the world." She said "I'm proud of all of my kids, I'm proud of you two. You guys have been through so much yet you don't give up no matter what, you keep going." She said and I smiled at her "My wedding is July 30th, 2015." I said "That's good that you have a date set." My mom said and went on about the other plans that need to be made. Like how we need to book a church now so it will still be there.

After dinner we're on the marina walking around looking at the Christmas lights. And we sit down on the brick seawall. I look at Colleen and nod which meant it was time to tell her. "Mom I have some important I need to talk to you about." Colleen said "Okay honey. What is it?" She asked her getting a little worried about her daughter. "I'm seven weeks pregnant." She said "You have to be kidding me." She said "No ma'am I'm not." I said "This is a joke." She said "No ma'am I'm not joking." Colleen said and I could tell her feelings were hurt. "Mom she really is." I said "Oh Colleen." My mom said finally believing her. "You are not getting an abortion. You are keeping this baby. Adoption is out of the question. You had sex, you will pay the price." My mom said being serious now "Yes ma'am." Colleen said "I will be here for you." My mom said and Colleen smiled at her "Thanks mom." Colleen said.

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The 22nd was spent with Colleen and Connor at the mall doing some Christmas shopping for everybody. The evening I had dinner with Austin and his family and Austin and I went walking through the meadow. "It is still beautiful here." Austin said and I smiled at him "Yes it is." I said sitting down by the pond and Austin sat next to me wrapping his arms around me. "You're worried about Colleen aren't you?" Austin asked me "Of course I am. She won't even be sixteen before the baby is born. She's going to be a really young mother." I said "But good mother." Austin reminded me "let's wait a few years before we become parents." I said "no problem Lexie. I love you, I love kids but I want to make sure we're stable first." He said "I know. I feel the same way." I said and he kissed my lips softly.

The 23rd was spent with Amy, Amber, and Jason. "Momma is getting married." Amber said and I smiled they have daddy's icy blue eyes and brown hair. Amber has curly brown hair and Jason looks like daddy did at that age. "When?" I asked "March 15th." Amy said "My spring break is that week." I said "You should come. I would love to have you there." Amy said and I smiled "I will make sure I'm there. Can I bring a date?" I asked "Yup. Who?" She asked "Austin." I said "When is your wedding?" She asked me "July 30th." I said and she smiled at me "I better be invited." She said "You all will be." I said and I handed them all their gifts.

The 24th was spent with Austin, Colie, and Bryan for our little Christmas. We were at the meadows for this and we had a blast. That evening of course was spent with Austin's family for Christmas since tomorrow we would be with my family. During dinner my phone rings and I apologize until I listen to the custom ringer "God Bless the U.S.A" "I'm sorry. Excuse me." I said getting up and going to Austin's room. "Hello?" I asked "Well Merry Christmas sissy. Or it's Christmas for me anyways." He said "Merry Christmas Jake. How are you?" I asked "I'm good." He said "how have things been going?" I asked "Good. With you Lex? How did your finals go?" He asked "good. I passed all my classes." I said "Like always Lexie." He said "I miss you." I said "I miss you too Lexie." He said "how are things back at home?" He asked "Good." I said "I just talked to mom and them and I know." He said "I'm worried Jake. She won't be sixteen." I said "But she has us to help her." Jake said "You're right." I said "I'm going to be able to get on Skype midnight your time." He said "I'll be on." I said "I love you sissy." He said "I love you too." I said and we got disconnected I walk back downstairs and they looked up at me "is everything okay?" Mrs. Blevins asked me "Yes ma'am. I'm sorry. It was Jake calling, he's overseas so I barely hear from him." I said "Don't be sorry. He's doing a great thing. Your father would be so proud of his kids." She said and I smiled at her, we went back to dinner and then opened up a few gifts tonight. They would be saving the rest for tomorrow when they wake up while we will be at my mom's. I curl up with Austin when we're watching a Christmas movie as a family and he rubs my back for me.

Chapter 16

It's eleven fifty-eight and I'm on Skype. I'm wearing my pink polka dots pajamas bottoms with a white cami as a tank top. My hair is in a braid on the side; Austin is on my bed asleep he fell asleep waiting up. Jake's name appeared on my contact list as online and he instantly does a video call. "Hey sissy." He said "Hey Jake." I said he looked older now, he is clean shaven, and he looks wiser beyond his years. He's more muscular now than he was before, he's more mature looking. "Merry Christmas." He said "Merry Christmas Jake." I said "Did he try waiting up?" Jake asked "Yeah. This break is draining him. Spending time with Colby and Adam." I said and he laughed. "Happy belated birthday." I said "Thanks sissy. I got your care package on the 23rd. You sent it in November." He said "Yeah." I said and he smiled at me. "Wake him up." Jake said so I shook Austin who jerked up "What is it?" He asked looking worried "Hi Austin." Jake said "Hi Jake." Austin mumbled "Merry Christmas." He said "Merry Christmas." Austin mumbled.

Colleen got online "I'll add her to the call." Jake said "Connor just got on." I said "Add him to the call." Jake said so we now have four people on the call. "Merry Christmas Connor and Colleen." Jake said "Merry Christmas Jake." They said, they were in their bedrooms with the door shuts. "I'm going to kick this Chase's dude butt when I come home Coco." Jake said "Okay." Colleen said giggling and Austin sat up for that "I will help you Jake." He said more awake now but still barely. Colleen rolled her eyes "Go back to bed Austin." I said "Nah." He said sitting up now and trying to wake him up. We all stayed on until one when he had to get off. "I love ya'll." He said and there were three different "I love you too." Before he got off.

Austin got up after kissing me goodnight and went to his room. I closed my laptop and went to bed. This wasn't a dream with my daddy in it; this was a weird but good dream. I was in a kitchen, my hair was knee length and down. I had on sweatpants and a tank top. I was doing the dishes, Austin comes in looking about the age of 22 and he wraps his arms around my waist. "How is the baby?" He asked me "She or he is doing really good. Kicking up a storm." I said and Austin turned me around, kissed my lips and kissed my swollen stomach. I looked to be around four months pregnant. "I can't believe you're pregnant." Austin said "I can't either. And our baby is growing inside of me. I feel it daily." I said and Austin smiled at me "I can't wait to hold our baby, I hope whatever we have the baby has your killer eyes." Austin said kissing my lips "okay Mr. Blevins." I said giggling "alright Mrs. Blevins." He said kissing my lips softly.

I woke up around seven to my phone ringing. "Hello?" I asked "We're all waiting for you and Austin." Connor said "I slept in. I'm on my way." I said hanging up and getting out of bed. I shook Austin when I went in his room and we just went as were in our night clothes. We arrived at 7:10 and my mom smiled at me. "Merry Christmas Lexie." She said "Merry Christmas mom." I said and she smiled. We were all in our pajamas. We had breakfast as a family and then went to the Christmas tree to open gifts. This was the first Christmas since my junior year in high school that we were at home for Christmas.

After we opened gifts we watched a few Christmas movies. I walked out to the swing set and Colleen followed me. "How are you feeling?" I asked "Fine. Nervous. On Wednesday is my second month appointment First Ultra sound." Colleen said "I would love to be here for you but I have to work on the 28th." I said "I understand. I will Skype you on Wednesday night." She said "Sounds like a plan to me." I said and Colleen smiled at me "It was nice to have you here for Christmas. It's strange with you and Jake gone." Colleen said "Pretty soon Connor will be, then you will be." I said "I know. It's scary. Growing up." Colleen said "In the next seven months, you have to mature, you have to grow up." I said "I know sissy." She said and I hugged her. I see a teenage boy walk up and I see Colleen blush. "Merry Christmas Chase." Colleen said "Merry Christmas Colleen." He said and she smiled at him getting up.

Colleen's Pov:

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I'm sitting outside on the swing set talking to Lexie my older sister and Chase walks up and acts like nothing has happened. Lexie looks at me "I'm going to see if mom needs help with dinner." Lexie said "Okay Lexie." I said "Nice to meet you chase." Lexie said "You must be Lexie?" He asked "Yes I am." Lexie said and she walked off before Chase could speak another word. "She seems nice." Chase said and I smiled at him "Thanks." I said and I get up and we walk to the side of the house where he pulls me close to him, wrapping his arms around my waist. "I love you Colleen." He said "I love you too." I said "I told my mom and dad about the baby." Chase said "What did they say?" I asked him "They said if you keep the baby they will be supportive and I won't be one of those guys who runs away from the problem." Chase said "I want to keep our baby. This baby needs us." I said "Okay then we're parents." Chase said "I really do love you Colleen. I'm not just saying that either. I won't leave you. I will support you and our baby." Chase said and I smiled, he places his hands on my stomach where the baby is and he gently touches it. He turns me around and kisses my lips softly.

Lexie's Pov:

I'm grossed out by seeing my little sister kissing her boyfriend, the one who has made it where soon she will be puking her guts out, gaining weight, feeling tired, and sore all the time. Austin just rubs my back trying to calm me down. "He's a nice guy Lexie. We went to school with Lance his older brother." Austin said "I know. He looks a lot like Lance. I just don't like the idea." I said "Honey, she's already pregnant." He said "Don't remind me Austin." I said and he shut up real quick knowing not to push it. I actually go to see if my mom needed help and went to my old room and sat on my bed. So many memories of Colie, Austin and I together in this room, of Colleen and I. Jake and I and I break down into tears.

Austin comes in and wraps his arms around me. He's holding me close to him "Let's leave here for a bit. Dinner won't be for awhile." He said and I only nodded. He wiped away my tears and kissed my cheek. "I'm taking Lexie on a walk before dinner." Austin told my mom who nodded and he took me to the meadow. He dialed Colie's number "Coke-a-cola come to the meadow. Leave Bryan though." Austin said "Coming." She said and she pulled up within five minutes. I was at the pond sobbing so bad I was shaking. Austin didn't know what to do or say. Colie came up on one side and hugged me while Austin hugged me on the other side.

"It's just so hard. I'm the perfect daughter. I mess up too. I don't know how to help my little sister. I'm eight hours away from her. She won't be sixteen before the baby is born. Yet she looks up to me for answers. I don't know what to say to her, I don't know how to help her." I said and then I went on "I'm worried about Jake. I know he's fighting for our freedom but I want him home safe and sound. I miss my dad more and more." I said "Connor, he's the good one. He works and goes to school." I said and they looked at me. "I feel like I'm such a bad friend to you two. Like a bad girlfriend to you Austin. And not a good enough best friend to you Colie. I mean I didn't even know about the incident last year until it was past that." I said and Austin wiped away my tears and Colie was rubbing my back. "It's hard to be so strong all the time Lexie. You can't be unbreakable all your life. You have had a hard life yet you have come so far." Colie said "it's okay to come to us for help or advice. Everybody will take some getting used to Colleen being pregnant." Austin said "We love you Lexie." Colie said and Austin nodded in agreement.

It took them an hour to calm me down to make me finally understand them and then Austin and I went back to my mom's and Colie went back to her parent's house. You could tell I have been crying but nobody asked anything. Colleen was kind of sticking to herself but she smiled at me, Alicia was the talker tonight. Aaron's parents were here so Connor, Colleen, and I felt out of place so we stuck to ourselves. I hugged everybody good-bye and squeezed Colleen telling her I would see them tomorrow. We're leaving on the 27th since I have work and so does Colie.

That night around one Austin snuck into my room and got against the wall and I crawled into his arms. I was still feeling bad about myself and I couldn't help the tears that were falling. Austin held me tight, soothing me,

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kissing away my tears. "I love you so much baby." Austin said "I love you too." I said "I don't like seeing you like this honey." Austin said "I know baby." I said feeling worse. I finally stopped crying around five and he snuck into his room after a quick make out session.

I spend the next day with Colleen and Connor at the mall. Telling Colleen she better keep me posted between now and my spring break. She better stay healthy, keep the baby help and do good in school not giving up. Told Connor he better keep an eye on our little sister and he nodded. "If you're too stressed call me. But go to the spot." I said and Colleen nodded "I hate that you're so far away." Colleen said "Trust me now I do as well. But I will be home in May. I'm living in this area if Austin agrees to this." I said and Colleen smiled "good." She said and I hugged them good-bye.

We got back late on the 27th and I just crashed at Austin's after making love. Blake wasn't there, Bryan and Colie hadn't gotten back yet so it was safe. I woke up at eight and kissed Austin good-bye and went to my dorm room. On the counter was our mail, I had to pay my insurance bill and phone bill by the 30th so I did that real quick. I had my schedule for the spring semester in my hand and I sat down at the table to read it. I figured if I knew now then I could tell Kevin when I went in to work.

Final Algebra 440 Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays 7-9, English 440 Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays 9-11, Civics 440 Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays 11-1, Earth-Space science 440 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1-3. Creative writing 440 Tuesday and Thursday 7-9, Journalism 440 9-11, Psychology 440 11-1, and Communication 440 Tuesday and Thursday 1-3. I figured we would go shopping for school supplies again before the 7th when the semester began. Our spring break is March 11th- March 18th. I go to work and give my schedule to Kevin who nodded "I now have you penciled in Monday-Friday 4-11, Saturday 7-7, Sunday 12-8." He said "thank you Kevin." I said and he nodded at me.

Chapter 17

I get home at eleven and as soon as I walk into my dorm room and shut my door to change my phone rings. "Hello?" I asked "Lexie?" Colleen asked "Yes Coco. How did it go?" I asked "Amazing. My baby is so small." Colleen said "I'm glad did Chase go with you?" I asked "He did and he fell in love with the baby Lexie." Colleen said "I'm glad about that sissy." I said "I love you sissy." She said "I love you too." I said and we hung up.

March 9th and 10th was spent doing midterms since we were in the middle of the semester already. Colleen is now eighteen almost nineteen weeks pregnant. She's almost five months pregnant which is when she will find out the sex of her child. She calls me twice a week, and we Skype three times a week. She's a nervous wreck going through this, her emotions are all out of wack. Chase is being really supportive of her. It's the 11th and I'm taking off of work the 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th so I will be in Stuart the 14th, 15th, 16th, and coming home on the 17th.

I have one term paper to write over the break so that will be exciting for me to try to figure it out. Because school begins on the 19th, and I'm working all day on the 18th. I managed to write a paragraph of it on the 11th, 12th, and 13th so I had some of it done already. Austin had to work all of the spring break, he couldn't take off. Colie was taking off to spend it with Bryan at the beach so it was just me going to our hometown. I kissed Austin good-bye after I got off of work at seven because I was leaving. I left at eight and arrived there at four in the morning and waited for my mom or Aaron to wake up to go in.

I spent the morning working on my term paper and then Colleen came out of her room finally. "Sissy!" She said smiling at me "Hey Coco. How are you feeling?" I asked "Good. The baby is fine too." She said "good I'm glad." I said and she smiled at me "I've missed you sissy." Colleen said "I've missed you too." I said and put my laptop down. I had two more paragraphs to do and then I was down with my term paper for my class.

Colleen will find out the sex on the 22nd, and she is due around August 2nd. On the 15th, Connor, Colleen and I got all dressed up and went to Amy's wedding to Mark a guy she has been dating for the past year. Amy walked up to all of us and hugged us "I'm so glad you come make it." She said and I smiled at her "It's the best we could do." I said and Connor smiled "We want to keep Amber and Jason tonight, and tomorrow night." Connor said "They would love that." Amy said "I leave on the 17th and I wanted to spend time with all of my siblings. All but Jake since he's not here." I said and she smiled at me.

Amber, Jason, Alicia, Katie, Josh, and Connor are outside in the yard playing. I'm painting Colleen's nails, my mom is reading a magazine and Aaron is cooking out on the grill. "It's nice having you to ourselves." My mom said and I smiled "Only because Austin had to work. And before I leave tomorrow I have to go see Mrs. Blevins, and Mrs. Wakefield." I said and my mom smiled at me.

A black Jeep pulled up slowly and we all turned to look. I have heard about this, seen this in movies but never witness this until on. Two men in uniform walked out and headed up toward the porch. "Are you Karen Summers?" He asked my mom and she nodded "I'm afraid I have bad news." He said and we all looked. Jake was in Iraq now, his six months was up for being in Germany. "There was an accident. Your son Private Summerland is in a hospital in Germany." The soldier said and my mom looked at him "Is he okay?" My mom asked "He's in surgery now for his leg. He has broken many bones in his right leg, damaged some muscles in his legs, he might not be able to walk again." He said and my mom broke down into tears.

The soldiers shook my mom's hand and then walked back to their car. Leaving us to mend our broken hearts to try to piece together the terrible news we were just told. My mom went inside to get the phone. She spent the night calling everybody she could if she thought she could get information out of them. She had no luck

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that night and went to bed crying, I had to put on a strong act for my little siblings. The next day my last official day here I took all of my siblings including Colleen to the beach where we spent the day out at the water. Nobody asked me what was going on, I didn't want to tell Colleen anything because of her baby.

After we dropped Jason, Amber, and Connor off I took Colleen to the meadows because I thought we could use a break before we go home. "Do you think he will be okay?" Colleen asked me when we made it to the meadow. "I think so." I said which really I did because I didn't want to think any bad thoughts about him not being okay. We sat in silent for a few minutes and Colleen rubbed her stomach "Do you think I will make a good mom?" Colleen asked me "I do Coco. You will be a great mom." I said and she smiled at me "What do you want?" I asked her "A little girl, but if I have a boy I'm naming him after daddy I don't care what Chase says." Colleen said and I smiled at her "You will do great with either one." I said and Colleen smiled at me.

The night was the same, no results of finding out information. I was on the porch with my knees up to my chest looking up at the stars and my mom walked out and sat down next to me. "Do you think he will be okay?" My mom asked me "I think so." I said giving her the same response I gave Colleen and Connor when they asked me earlier. She gave me a half-smile, "When you're here I don't have to worry about you. But tomorrow you will be on the road and I will have to worry about two of my children." My mom said "I'm sorry mom. But I've spent my spring break here, Christmas break here. I have to go back to school. School is almost over mom. Graduation is May 25th." I said and she smiled at me.

The next morning I went over to Mrs. Blevins where Mrs. Wakefield was and had some tea with them. Telling them that their children send their love. "You have turned out to be such a wonderful woman. You're not the same little baby I met so many years ago." Mrs. Blevins said and I smiled at her "Thank you ma'am." I said and she smiled at me. I stayed until eleven and then headed out. I got back at the college around seven and went to Austin's dorm room first. He smiled at me and I kissed his lips softly. "How was your trip?" He asked me "Fine." I said "What happened?" He asked "Jake is hurt. He might not be able to walk." I said and Austin held out his arms for me and I walked into his embrace and he held me tight.

It's now March 22nd and I get a phone call for Colleen after my last class was over. "Hey Lexie." Colleen said all cheerful "Hey Coco." I said "I went to the doctor's appointment a little while ago." She said "How did it go?" I asked "Good. My baby is healthy and I'm healthy." Colleen said "Didn't you find out the sex today?" I asked getting excited; I was walking down the hall with everybody else. Austin, Bryan, Sky, Blake, and Colie were all walking next to me. "Yes I did." Colleen said "So what are you having?" I asked "A baby girl." Colleen said "Oh my god! That's wonderful news!" I said "I know. We have a name picked out for her." Colleen said "What is it?" I asked "Alyssa Hope Woods. I'm engaged to Chase." Colleen said "I love the name. And you can't be. You're fifteen." I said "I'm fifteen and pregnant. It's only right." Colleen said "Don't be doing it for Alyssa, do it because you want to." I said "I want to sissy. He treats me right, he loves me." Colleen said "Then I will support the marriage." I said "Good. I'm getting married June 10th." Colleen said "I will be home then." I said "I have to go. We need to go tell his parents the news." Colleen said "Alright. Be careful Colleen. I love you." I said "I love you too." Colleen said and then she hung up.

Austin and Colie looked at me "She's engaged. My little sister is engaged and will be married before I am, she will be a mother before I am. She's having a girl." I said "She will be fine Lexie." Austin said "There isn't a day that goes by that I'm not worried about my little sisters and brothers." I said "I know Lexie." Colie said "This year needs to hurry up and fly by. So I can be home and know my sisters and brothers are safe." I said and they smiled at me. "How many siblings do you have?" Sky asked me "Eight. Three full-blooded siblings and then five half siblings." I said and Sky looked at me in amazement.

It's April 3rd and I'm at work, just clocking out and my phone rings. "Hello?" I asked "Hey Sissy." Jake's voice said he sounded sleepy. "Jake! How are you?! Where are you?!" I asked "I'm good. I'm at Duke. They flew me in two days ago. I was getting an infection in my leg, and they wanted me to be at one of the best

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hospitals." Jake said "Oh Jake." I said "I will be home in May. They want me to be in rehab until May 4th so I can get used to walking again." Jake said "Oh Jake." I said "I'm fine sissy. No need to worry." Jake said "I know." I said "If things don't improve I will have to get a medical discharge." Jake said "Oh Jake." I said "I know sissy. I haven't called mom yet so I need to." He said "Yes you do. Call me when you can. I love you Jake." I said not realizing I was still at Publix "I love you too sissy." He said and he hung up on me.

I go home and look at my schedule, next weekend I was taking off of work and going to visit Jake if he calls me before then. Which he did, so Austin and I are now driving up to North Carolina. We left right after our last class and made it at a decent time. We go straight to the hospital and Saturday I spent all day at Jake's side. Helping him eat and everything. He explained about the attack that took place, and how the doctors believe he will get a medical discharge, because he won't be able to do what he used to with this leg.

I drop by Duke University on Sunday and see Callie and Allie. They haven't changed much, just look another year older. "We have missed you so much." Callie and Allie said "I've missed you too." I said and they asked why I was here so I explained to them the reason behind it. Austin was with Jake while I was spending time with them. We were leaving in a couple of hours to head back so we could make it to our class in the morning. "You better come to my wedding." I said "July 30th. We have the date on our calendars." Allie said and I smiled at them.

I went back to Jake's room and spent an hour with him. I hugged him good-bye "You better recover Jake. I want to see you at my graduation." I said and Jake smiled at me "You will count on that."

Chapter 18

Jake said and I hugged him. I kissed his cheek "I love you Jake." I said "I love you too sissy." Jake said and I smiled at him.

I talked to Austin the whole drive home about how I was worried about Jake, and how he would take the medical discharge, how I secretly hope he does get it, how the Army has made him look older than he should, how much he has matured. How much fun I had the few hours with Callie and Allie, how I was worried about Colleen. Austin just listened and gave me his input when he thought I needed it which I loved because he didn't want to tell me to shut up like I should have been told.

The weeks went by and it's now May 20th, we have taken all of our finals and made sure we have met the requirements to graduate. I gave Kevin my two week notice and he is sad to see Colie and I leave. Bryan proposed to Colie last week and she said yes to him, she doesn't want a long engagement so she's thinking August for it. We're all at a diner eating dinner the four of us "You are moving back to Stuart right?" I asked Colie "Yes. I told Bryan we had to and he's okay with it." I said and Bryan nodded in agreement "I couldn't tell her no." Bryan said "I know the feeling." Austin said and I smiled at him. "Can you believe we're twenty almost twenty-one, graduated from high school, graduating for college and we're still best friends?" I asked "I honestly can't. My dad had me so worried that we wouldn't be friends. That you guys would have moved on without me." Colie said "That is impossible. We have been friends since we were two since we can't remember before that." I said and Colie smiled at me.

The next five days we spent packing up our dorm room since we were leaving right after the graduation to go home. I'm staying with my mom and them until Austin and I find a place and we get married. On the day of graduation I make sure my hair is super curly and I'm wearing my white strapless summer dress, my cute sparkly sandals and my black graduation gown and cap. I walk out to see Colie smiling at me. "You look beautiful." We both said at the same time and smiled at Sky who was also beautiful.

We made our way to the huge football field and went with the other graduates. Bryan and Austin smiled at us when we caught up. I kissed Austin on the cheek and made my way in line. Bryan's last name is Johnson. I see some of my friends that I have made throughout the year and smiled at them and stood in line. "Alexis Summerland." Was finally called and I made my way up the stage and shook the Dean's hand and got my diploma. I took my seat with my fellows students "Nicole Wakefield." Was called and Colie walked up on stage and smiled, she walked back down and sat down.

After the ceremony we found our parents together and our siblings. "I'm proud of you honey." My mom said hugging me "Thanks mom." I said and I smile at Jake, Connor, and Colleen standing together. "We're proud of you sissy." They said and I hugged them. "Medical discharge papers were filed last week. I'm not improved enough." Jake said "I'm sorry Jake." I said "I'm 60% disabled." Jake said "Oh wow." I said "Yeah, but I'm doing PT daily so I'm improving on that slowly." Jake said and I hugged him.

We went out to dinner in a huge group, Colie's family, Austin's family, and mine. Bryan was there as well. His mom and dad didn't stay long so he was having dinner with us. "You three have impressed me so much." Mr. Wakefield said "How so?" Colie asked "Still friends after so much." He said and we all smiled. "Friends until the end." We all said and our parents smiled. "You all have come a long way. Finished school now off to start a career and a family one day." Austin's mom said "Not for a couple more years." I said and our parents smiled "That's a good idea. I don't need no rush to be a grandma." Austin's mom said and I smiled at her. "No worries then." I said and they all laughed.

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We loaded up a U-Haul with all four of our stuff and made it back to Stuart with the family. It was Colie's family first, Austin's family, my family, Colie, Bryan, me and then Austin. All one line on the highway to Stuart. We spilt off when we made it to town and everybody went home. Bryan was staying in Austin's guest room until he found an apartment or small house for rent.

The next week after applying to the local newspaper areas to be a Journalist since that is what Colie and I both majored in, English really. It was spent going dress shopping and getting everything else I will need for my wedding. We are having it on the beach with a lot of guests. Colleen and Chase are just going down to the courthouse to get married that way instead of an actual wedding.

It's June 1st and I get a phone call "Hello?" I asked "Is this Alexis Summerland?" A male voice asked "Yes sir this is." I said "I'm calling on behalf of Stuart Times. You have an interview scheduled on June 2nd 2015 at 11:00 am." He said "Okay thank you sir." I said and hung up smiling. Colie called me "I have an interview at one for Stuart Times." Colie said "I do too. At eleven." I said "Awesome!" Colie said and I smiled.

Austin came over around two and we looked up places for rent. We found a two bedroom house, \$500 a month. It was a Duplex but it was still cute. It was five miles away from here. We went and looked at it and signed the lease. I made a check for the deposit, and went ahead and called to have the lights and water turned on. Cable was schedule for next week. We went shopping at Good Will and got a table and chairs, couch and a loveseat, TV stand, TV itself, a computer desk. A queen size bed, dresser, and all the stuff we needed.

My interview with the man named Alan went good I thought so. Colie called and told me they got a place. I asked where and busted out laughing. "What's so funny?" Colie asked me "We're neighbors." I said and even she laughed. "Good." Colie said and I smiled at myself. I got home to see all of my boxes gone "Austin went ahead and took them over to your place." Colleen said and I smiled at her, we had a futon in the spare room for when we had company over.

"Are you ready to get married?" I asked "Yes I am." Colleen said and I smiled at her "Good. Are you excited for August?" I asked "More than you know." Colleen said and I smiled at her "I can't wait to see my new niece." I said and Colleen rolled her eyes at me, "you're going to spoil her rotten." Colleen said and I smiled at her "You know I will." I said and she smiled at me.

June 8th was their last days of school, Connor will be a Senior next year and Colleen will be a Sophomore next fall. I got a phone call on the 9th "Alexis, when can you begin working?" Alan asked me "tomorrow." I said "You're hired, can you begin on the 11th at 8:00?" Alan asked me "Yes I can." I said "Excellent. See you then." He said and we hung up. "I got the job!" I said to nobody but Colie knocked on the wall. "Sorry." I said giggling and she laughed. "I did too Lexie." She yelled at me "You're amazing." I said. And when Austin came home I wrapped my arms around his neck and kissed his lips. "I love you." I said "I love you too Lexie. How are you?" I asked "Good. I got the job." I said and he kissed my lips softly. Austin works as a manager at his dad's shop; he has a diploma in business and history. He's making \$1100 every two week I will be making \$1500 every two weeks so we should be doing fine.

I was one of their witnesses at the court house when they got married. I didn't care for it but I had to be supportive to Colleen. Us siblings are secretly betting on how long they will last. Chase will be staying at our house for now since they are married. Austin and I had hotdogs and hamburgers that night. "Are you excited for tomorrow?" Austin asked me "Yes I am." I said and he smiled at me. "This is really good." I said "I know, isn't it?" Austin asked and I smiled. "Look at us; we will be married next month. We live in our own home now, we have good paying jobs." Austin said and I smiled at him "You're right." I said

It's July 25th and we're rushing to make sure everything is okay for the wedding on the 30th. On top of that we're making sure that Colleen has everything she needs for Alyssa. The next five days went by fast and I'm

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standing in one of the rooms at the church getting ready for my wedding. Our friends from high school, college and work were there; both sides of the family for us were there. I got ready and we went to our spots on the beach. I walked up the aisle with Jake, he was the one who was giving me away his leg is doing better now, and he's walking more on his own. He's going to a community college around here so he could stay at home in August.

The weather is nice; it's evening now so the sun is fixing to set. I look ahead and smile at my soon to be husband standing up under the thing with the priest. I see my family and Austin's family standing up looking at me. All of our friends and everybody else, I walk up with Jake and he kisses my cheek and steps aside. We did the normal I do's, our vows and he places my ring on my finger and I do the same. It was a sunset when we got to the "I now announce you husband and wife, you may kiss the bride." I wrapped my arms around Austin's neck and he kissed my lips and we looked at the crowd who was all cheering for us.

Our party was on the beach as well since we all love the beach. I took my shoes off since we were on the sand. We got greeted by all of the family members and friends. We're mingling with the crowd and the DJ announced "It is now time for the father-daughter dance." He said and my heart skipped a beat. I didn't have a father for this dance; my daddy isn't here to give me away, to give me this dance. "I'm in your heart. In spirit." A voice in my head said, I remember the dream I had last night about him saying he would always be here. "Shall I have this dance?" Jake asked me "Sure." I said and he took my hand and we danced. It was half a song since his knee was hurting him. "Daddy would have been proud." Jake said "I know. He would have approved of Austin." I said "He always has sissy." Jake said and Austin cut in "May I have the rest of this dance?" He asked and I smiled Jake walked to the table and sat down. Austin spun me around, and I felt like it was just Austin and me in this world without anybody else or any troubles in the world. "I love you Lexie. I am the luckiest man in the world to have you as my wife." Austin said "I love you too. I'm the luckiest woman to have you as my husband." I said and he kissed my lips softly . We danced away the night, spending it with family and our friends. We spent the 30th, 31st, and 1st in Savannah, Georgia and came home due to a phone call about Colleen.

Chapter 19

Colleen was in labor on August 1st 2015. We are five hours away from where she is. We paid for dinner and went back to the hotel. We checked out and started the drive to the hospital in Stuart. We arrived to see Aaron, and Chase's parents in the waiting room. Jake and Connor were there as well, Josh, Alicia, and Katie were spending a couple days with their grandparents so they weren't even in Florida. "Has she had her yet?" I asked "Still in labor Lexie." Aaron said and I nodded at that and sat down. Two hours later it was midnight now, so it was August 2nd my mom walked out. "Alyssa Hope Woods was born at 12:00 am weighing six pounds five ounces, 19 inches long." My mom said and we all smiled. "She wants to see Lexie first." My mom said and I smiled, I know we had to wait a few minutes before we could go in.

I walked in and smiled at my little sister, she looked older now holding Alyssa. Older than fifteen which I still can't believe. "She's beautiful." I said and Colleen smiled at me, she had our icy blue eyes and Chase's curly brown hair. "Do you want to hold her?" Colleen asked me "Of course I do." I said smiling at her and she handed Alyssa to me. "Hey Alyssa. I'm your Aunt Lexie." I said smiling at Alyssa. I already loved my niece so much.

It's August 15th now, Alyssa is thirteen days old and is doing really good. Things aren't so good between Chas and Colleen. He doesn't want to help out, he doesn't want to get a job, or change her diaper so they are constantly fighting. We are all at my mom's house for my birthday. Colie and Bryan did a small wedding last Saturday. "Happy Birthday Lexie." They all said and I smiled "Thanks." I said "We're going out tonight." Austin said "Have fun you guys." My mom said and I smiled at them, "I know this is my birthday and all but Colleen I'm babysitting Alyssa next weekend. Friday-Sunday." I said "Thanks Lexie." Colleen said and I smiled at her.

That night wearing my favorite pair of ripped jeans, a sparkly tank top, and my hair down and super curly. I had on my birthday sash and birthday crown on and everybody smiled at me. We went out to one of the local bars. I got a mixed fruity drink and liked it, ended up trying vodka, tequila, Whiskey, and a Jell-O shot. I was drunk as a skunk when we got home, and I was all up on Austin and kissed his lips. We had sex that night; we were both drunk that night so he didn't wear a condom.

I woke up the next morning with a banging headache, my stomach killing me. I felt like throwing up. I was not going to be drinking a lot. Austin walked in and gave me a half-smile, "no more partying like that." He said sitting up on the bed with me "Deal." I said and he smiled at me. "I say let's have a picnic at the Meadows today with Colie and Bryan." Austin said and I smiled at him "Sounds like a plan." I said and he kissed my lips softly.

Colie and Bryan agreed to our lunch-plan so we were meeting at two. They were bringing drinks and desserts while we had the main dish and sides. I was wearing my bathing suit under my summer dress and had my rainbow flip-flops on. My stomach was still kind of bothering me but I didn't really care. I hugged Colie when I saw her; it's so weird at work. I have to remember to call her Nicole like she has to remember to call me Alexis. "It's been nine years." I said looking out at the water. "It has, hasn't it?" Colie said "I know he would be proud of all of us." I said "Yes he would. He always made us feel welcome. Like we were his kids as well." Austin said "He encouraged for us to be friends, for you two to date." Colie said and I smiled. "He was a wise man, wasn't he?" I asked and they smiled. Bryan looked confused "Her dad would throw parties for the kids in the neighborhood, he would volunteer for field trips and school dances. He was involved in their life, even when her parents spilt. Only when he found out he had cancer did he stop. He made a difference in everybody's life that knew him. All of the kids loved him. He was the most popular parent." Colie said to Bryan "You would have liked him man." Austin said and Bryan smiled "He sounds like a great man." Bryan said and we all smiled.

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The work week went by slow and long for Austin and I. We would get home at five, cook dinner and relax by watching TV. We would then go to bed where we spent time talking. I would wake up at six; go jogging for half an hour. Make breakfast, we would eat at seven, and then get ready together for work. It was finally Friday and the work day was slower than all week. When it was finally five o'clock I got off and drove to my mom's. Colleen was outside with her textbooks, they were in school already. "Hey Lexie." Colleen said she wasn't in a very good mood. "How are you?" I asked "Exhausted and dealing with Chase's crap." Colleen said "I'm sorry. I'm here to save you for a weekend." I said "Thank you so much for taking Alyssa for the weekend. It's so stressful sissy. I have a test to study for, and I have to talk to Chase and figure things out." Colleen said "You can do it sissy." I said and she smiled at me "Thanks." Colleen said "I'm going in to see mom." I said and Colleen smiled at me "I'll be in a minute to get Alyssa ready." Colleen said "Okay sissy." I said and I walk inside, I see Jake doing homework.

"How's the college life Jake?" I asked sitting down with him "Good sissy. Things are going good. I've made plenty of friends, even found a cute girl I like." Jake said and smiled, it's the 21st he began on the 17th, and Colleen and the others began on the 18th for their first day of school. I smiled at Jake "How is your leg?" I asked him "Good, it's improving." Jake said and I smiled at him. "I try to help Colleen out with Alyssa. But I can't stand being around Chase for long. He treats her like crap." Jake said "I hope she makes the right choice but we can't force her." I said and Jake nodded, my mom walked in and smiled at me.

Colleen came in a minute later "I'm going to get her ready now." Colleen said and I smiled at her "No rush." I said and Katie, and Alicia came in. "How's the first grade? How's the third grade?" I asked "Good." They said and sat down to tell me all about school, Josh came in "fifth grade is amazing." Josh said "I remember that grade. It feels like so long ago." I said and he smiled at me. Colleen is a sophomore and Connor is a senior. Connor came in and smiled at me. "Hey sissy." Connor said "Hey." I said "I have to compare up to you and Jake." Connor said "I'm sorry. But you're doing good right?" I asked and he nodded "Yeah I am." He said and I smiled at him, Amber was in the fifth grade, and Jason is in the seventh grade.

I heard some raise voices upstairs and I look at Connor and Jake "Chase and Colleen." Jake said and I nodded at him. Colleen came down a few minutes later with the diaper bag, and stroller. "I'll load it up in the car." Connor said and Colleen smiled at Connor. "You have a play pen?" Colleen asked me "Yup, set up in the guest room for when you or just Alyssa visits." I said and she smiled at me. "Give me a second to get Alyssa." Colleen said and I nodded. Chase came down with Alyssa in her car seat already "here you go." Chase said handing it to Colleen "Wow, you actually did something." Colleen said and he shot her a look. "Bye Alyssa. Mommy loves you." Colleen said and I smiled "I will bring her back Sunday."

Chapter 20

I load Alyssa up in the car and I drive to Publix because we needed groceries. I get out and got her car seat and placed it in the buggy. I went throughout Publix and got the groceries need, I see someone that looked familiar and smiled. He walked over to me and smiled at me, it has been so long since I have seen him. Two years to be exact, I saw him once when I was visiting my first year in college. Brent is now five going on six and Caylee is three years old now. He had Brent and Caylee with him. I haven't heard much about him or Ashley so I'm not sure if they are together or not. "Hey Lexie. Long time." Noah said and I smiled "Very long time. How are you?" I asked "Good, and you?" He asked "Good." I said "Is that your daughter?" He asked me "No, my niece." I said and he smiled at me. "Hey Brent and Caylee." I said and Brent smiled "Hey Lexie." He said "They have grown." I said and he smiled "They're a handful." Noah said and I smiled at him. "We should get together sometime." I said and he smiled at me.

I make it home and Austin smiled at me and helped me with the groceries and Alyssa's stuff. I got her out and lifted her up. "I ran into Noah today." I said "he works at my dad's shop." Austin said "Is he with Ashley still?" I asked "He's a single parent. She left him and the kids two years ago and moved away. She doesn't have anything to do with them but she sends child support." Austin said "I want to have him over for dinner one night." I said "We could have a group of friends over." Austin said and I smiled "I only like him as a friend." I said "Honey, I don't have anything to worry about. You're my wife." He said and I smiled at him.

The weekend was very eventful with Alyssa. She was such a well behave baby, but she was a handful. When Colleen came to pick her up I could tell she has been crying. "What happened sissy?" I asked "We're getting a divorce. I'm a single mom now." Colleen said "You still have family, and us." I said and she smiled at me "thanks sissy." Colleen said and I smiled at her. "Mom's waiting in the car." Colleen said "Did you drive?" I asked "Yeah. I'm excited out my birthday. I can get my license." Colleen said and I smiled.

It's October 15th now and I'm cleaning the house. "I want a dog baby." I said "Why?" He asked "I'm starting to feel lonely. I want either a dog or a baby." I said "Let's go get a dog." Austin said and I smiled at him. "You sure?" I asked "Yes, I am." He said and we heard a knock on the door "I will get it." I said and Austin smiled at me. "Hey." I said when Colie was at the door. "I have major news Lexie." Colie said "What is it?" I asked "My dad got a job offer." Colie said "Where at?" I asked "Cocoa Beach." Colie said "So they're moving?" I asked "Yes. But don't worry, we're staying here." Colie said and I smiled at her "good. I don't want to lose my best friend." I said and she flashed me a smile.

We go to the pond and pick out a female Saint Bernard puppy, I named her Sassy. We went to PetSmart and got her puppy food, leash, collar, toys. Austin went over to the cats and looked at the kittens. "I want to get one Lexie, can I?" He asked me "I don't see why not." I said and he found the perfect one an orange tabby kitten. We went back to getting the cat food, cat toys, litter box, litter. When we got home, we set up the litter box in the bathroom, the cat food and dog food down in the kitchen with a water bowl. I get a phone call "Alexis you need to come home right now." My mom said "Okay mom. I'm on my way. I'm bringing Sassy." I said and hung up "my mom needs me." I told Austin and he nodded. "I'm going to visit my family." Austin said "Okay. I love you." I said "I love you too."

I arrive to see Jake on the porch with his text book. "Huge cat fight." Jake said "Ugh. I'm needed for this." I said and he smiled. "Hey, is that a dog?" He asked "Yes, it's better than a kid." I said and Jake smiled at me. I walk in the house and I instantly hear the yelling. "I'm home." I said "Kitchen." My mom yelled I left Sassy with Alicia, Katie, and Josh to love all over. "What's the problem?" I asked "She's not properly taking care of Alyssa. Making it seem like it's my job. She doesn't want to get a job. Slacking off on school. A huge sass. Worse than you ever were." My mom said "Okay mom." I said "I can't take it. Your sister needs to stay the night with you." My mom said "Alright mom." I said I quickly called Austin and he agreed.

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Colleen stormed off to get hers and Alyssa's stuff for the night. "Mom, she's having a tough time." I said "So? She shouldn't be taking it out on all of us. You don't leave here; you don't know the worse of it." My mom said "Okay mom, I understand." I said and went into the living room where Sassy was licking Josh. "I love her." Josh said "I do too Josh." I said and he smiled at me. "I miss having you around." I said "I miss you too." I said and he smiled at me. Colleen came down with her bags, I took her bags to the car and tell place Sassy in the car. Colleen gets the bottles, and place Alyssa in the car and we drove home.

I found out Connor was staying at a friend's house, Jake was staying at Adam's, Alicia, Katie, and Josh were staying with their aunt so my mom really wanted the house to themselves. But some of what my mom said was true. She was slacking off on school because of being a teen mom; she was applying to as many jobs as she could. We're sitting out on the porch so Sassy could be out and Colleen was holding Alyssa. "I can't believe Abby is moving." Colleen said "I know sissy." I said and she smiled at me, Austin came out and smiled "Can I hold her?" Austin asked "Sure thing." Colleen said and handed her over. Austin had a huge smile on his face, he was lifting her up in the air and she had a baby smile on her face.

"He's really good with a baby." Colie said and I smiled I didn't realize they were on their porch. "He is, isn't he?" I asked and she smiled. "But we have a puppy and a kitten so that's enough." I said and Colie smiled at me "we got a German Shepherd puppy. Angel." Colie said and I smiled "and a kitten!" Bryan said and I smiled at him "You men are such a girly-boy." I said and they laughed at me. "Alyssa is enough for me. She's my favorite thing. I can spoil her and send her home." I said and Colleen smiled at me. "You're right. She loves her Auntie Lexie." Colleen said "I know." I said "uh-oh somebody did a stinky." Austin said "I have it." Colleen said and I smiled at her. She took Alyssa from Austin and went inside.

We woke up at seven the next morning to Alyssa crying. I walk out to see Colleen trying to feed her. Alyssa finally took the bottle and was happy. "Sorry." She said "It's okay. Sassy needs to go out anyways." I said and she smiled at me, I took Sassy out and heard the phone ring. Austin came out with the phone "It's for you." He said "Okay, I'm coming." I said I jogged to the phone "Hello?" I asked "Is this Alexis Blevins?" A male voice asked "Yes sir." I said "I'm calling on behalf of the Stuart Hospital. There was a car accident involving your mother and father." He said "I'm on my way." I said and walked in. "Coco come on. Austin, watch Alyssa?" I asked "Sure thing." He said and we walk to the car in silent. I didn't tell Austin what was wrong but he understood. We drove in silent to the hospital.

Chapter 21

"What happened?" Colleen asked me "Mom and Aaron got in an accident." I said "oh my." Colleen said "I know." I said and when we walked in, I saw Jake, Connor, and the kids. Jake and Connor had an emotionless expression on their face. "How are they?" I asked "they wanted to wait until you and Colleen got here." Jake said and the doctor came out "Alexis and Colleen?" He asked "Yes sir." I said "Your mother and father died in a car accident. We did all we could and couldn't save them." The doctor said and I felt my heart skip a beat. I lost my father nine years ago and my mother today. Jake is of age, Connor will be of age soon, Colleen won't be.

Over the next week we were working on plans for everything. The funeral already happened, my father died on June 11th, and my mom died on October 16th. Jake will be twenty on December 18th, Connor will be eighteen on January 3rd, Josh is ten, Alicia will be eight next month, and Katie will be six years old April 15th. It's Austin, Connor, Jake, and I at the table outside Colie and Bryan came over. "Aaron's parents want custody of Alicia, Josh, and Katie." I said "Who was given custody if they died?" Colie asked "You're talking to her." I said "what are you going to do?" Colie asked "Give them the custody of them. I can't take care of them, Colleen and Alyssa." I said "What about Jake and Connor?" Bryan asked "Jake is twenty almost, Connor will be eighteen soon. They're staying in our old house. Mom and Aaron left plenty of money. Colleen and Alyssa are moving in here." I said and Colie smiled at me.

It's November 15th and I'm in way over my head. Still dealing with the fact of my mom dying, leaving me with custody of Colleen. She has been a major sass. Austin and I are fighting, and we never fight. I'm feeding Alyssa before I go to work and Austin is getting ready for work "I'm tired of her mouthing off to us. She's sixteen and a mother." Austin said "I will talk to her." I said "you better." Austin said "She's my sister." I said "you're my wife. You're twenty-one. We didn't want any kids right now." Austin said "I know that. I can't help that my mother died." I said "But you can control her." Austin said "I will talk to her tonight." I said "Fine." He said and he stormed off. "Colleen! School now! Don't forget to drop Alyssa off at day care." I said and she came in nodding "Alright." She said.

I came home from work and Alyssa was crying "Just shut up Alyssa! I'm trying to change you." Colleen said. "Colleen Lynn Summerland. You do not scream at her. She's a baby." I said "I'm stressed." Colleen said "You're stressed? I took in a spoiled brat, who's majorly sassy and her baby girl. I'm working. I'm fighting with my husband over it. I'm twenty-one years old. I don't want to regret my decision. But you need to change. You need to be back to the Colleen I know." I said and she bust out in tears. "I'm sorry." She said "I'm making you an appointment to see a shrink." I said and she nodded. "I'm really sorry." I said. "Don't be. You're doing the best for me." Colleen said.

Colleen makes dinner for us and Austin is busy playing with Alyssa. I'm working on a piece at the kitchen table. Austin came in with Alyssa "When we have kids I want a little girl." Austin said "Not a son?" I asked "nope. A little girl." Austin said "I still want to wait baby." I said "I know Lexie." He said but he was smiling at Alyssa "I can make her change her mind just wait and see." Austin said "oh Austin." I said and he smiled at me. Colleen set the food on the table "taco night and tater tots." Colleen said and we sat down at the table. "I'm so sorry for everything." Colleen said and Austin smiled "it's okay."

After dinner Colleen does the dishes and Austin gives Alyssa a bath and spends time with her watching a little kid's show on TV. Colleen sits at the kitchen table with her textbooks. "I need help." Colleen said "Which class?" I ask "English two." She said and I help her with her homework and then we went into the living room with Austin. "Can I have my daughter back?" Colleen asked "No." Austin said but he was smiling he handed her over to Colleen and she smiled at Alyssa. "Mommy loves you." Colleen said and Alyssa gave her a baby smile. "It's bedtime baby girl." Colleen said, going into the kitchen to get a bottle ready.

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It's Christmas and we're all in California to spend it with Alicia, Josh, and Katie. They are taking it hard losing their mom and dad and not being near their siblings. Jake celebrated his birthday with his friends and girlfriend Shelby. "This is nice." I said we were all at the beach as a family, the one Callie took me to. "This has been Alyssa's best first Christmas ever." Colleen said "I bet it is, she's with her family." Colleen said "How is school?" I asked Josh "Good." He said and I smiled they all said school was good.

We went home on January 2nd and celebrated Connor's birthday since he had school on the 3rd. I wasn't feeling too good so I went to bed early. I woke up at six and went to do my jog with Sassy who has gotten bigger. "You're mommy baby." I said and Sassy wagged her tail. I got home and made breakfast, the smell of the food made me feel sick to my stomach. "I think I'm coming down with a cold." I said to Austin who came in with his work clothes on. "I hope you feel better baby. But you need to stay away from Alyssa until you know for sure." Austin said "You care more for her than you do for Mr. Prince." I said referring to his male tabby kitten. And he just rolled his eyes. "Morning Colleen and Good morning Alyssa." Austin said "See! She gets a morning, Alyssa gets a good morning." Colleen just giggles "You guys are amazing." Colleen said and I smiled at her "I try to be" I said and she laughed.

It was around lunch time, and my stomach was still hurting, I felt like I was going to throw up. I gave my boss my writing piece and he looked at me. "Alexis take the rest of the day off. You don't look too good." Michael said and I nodded "Thank you sir." I said and walked to get my purse. I went to the car and went home. I curled up on the couch with a blanket and Sassy and Mr. Prince curled up with me. Colleen came home with Alyssa "You might want to stay at home, for a couple days. I don't feel too good and don't want Alyssa to get whatever bug I have." I said "Okay Lexie. I'll pack my bag." Colleen said "I'm wanting the best for Alyssa and don't want her to get sick." I said and she smiled "I understand."

It Friday now and I'm still not feeling good. "Go to the doctor's today Lexie." Austin said "Okay." I said "I miss not having Alyssa around." Austin said "oh Austin." I said feeling sick to my stomach so running to the bathroom to throw up. I called and got an appointment at nine and got ready to go. I made it to the doctor's where I have gone all of my life and when I was called they took my weight "120 pounds." My nurse said and I was thinking I gained ten pounds since my physical three months ago. "First to be on the safe side we want you to take a urine test." My nurse said so I did so. I was waiting in the exam room and my doctor came in.

"You don't have a cold or a virus." Doctor Woods said "I don't?" I asked "Nope, you have a case of pregnancy." Doctor Woods said "What?" I asked "You're pregnant Alexis." He said and I felt the room spinning. I can't be pregnant; we were going to wait a couple years not a couple months. Plus with taking Colleen and Alyssa in we have no room for the baby. "When was the baby conceived?" I asked "November 15th." He said and I nodded I remembered that night but I could have sworn we had protection on. I made my appointment for the 15th, and that is when I will find out more, get to see the baby. But he prescribed me the vitamins I needed to take during the pregnancy.

I go to work since I know what's wrong and apologize to my boss. He nods in agreement and I go to work. He comes up "Here's your next task Lexie." He said and I smiled "Okay." I said and read over what my next job was and went off to go to the meeting. I ask the questions I needed to during the interview, I take down notes and go back to the office. "If you keep up the good work you will be a columnist." Mike said and I smiled "Thank you sir." I said getting on my laptop and start to working on my piece. "Alexis another big piece, I want you and Nicole to go cover it." He said and I nodded it was around four so I knew I would be working late. "Your car or mine?" Colie asked me "mine." I said "Come on." Colie said and I nodded. We went to the art museum and got all the information we needed and ask the questions we needed. On the way back to work Colie looked at me.

"What's up? Why have you not been at work?" Colie asked me "Just a bug." I said "Alexis Nicole Blevins. I know you better than you think. Remember?" Colie asked me "I'm pregnant." I said "Uh-oh! Somebody's

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plans didn't work!" Colie said "Austin doesn't know yet." I said "Girl to girl talk?" Colie asked me "Sure." I said "I'm pregnant." Colie said "Uh-oh! Somebody's plans didn't work!" I said and she smiled at me. "He doesn't know yet either. Our baby was conceived on November 14th." Colie said "mine was on the 15th." I said and she smiled at me.

We work until nine on the paper because we finish it and walk to Mike's office where he was sitting doing work. "Why don't you go home?" I asked "Why go home when there is so much work to do? I live with my mother." Mike said "I'm sorry Mike." I said "How long have you known each other for?" Mike asked "Forever. Since we were babies, but we always say since we were two." I said and Mike smiled. "True friends are hard to find. Don't lose touch." Mike said "We won't." I said and he smiled "Girls, go home to your family. Don't take them for granted." Mike said "Don't have to tell me twice." I said and he smiled at me.

We make it home at the same time "Good luck." Colie said "Thanks. Good luck to you too." I said and she smiled at me. I walked in to see Austin helping Colleen with her homework; he was holding Alyssa and feeding her a bottle. "Hey Lexie." He said "Hey Lexie." Colleen said "hey you guys. Sorry I was feeling better and then I had to work late." I said "It's okay." He said and I put my stuff down and begin on my piece. I didn't even notice when Austin set my dinner down next to me until the food smell make me want to throw up. I ate it slowly and finished my writing piece. Colleen was finished and in her room with Alyssa for the night.

I take Sassy out on the porch and Austin follows. "How did the doctor's go baby?" He asked me "Really good baby." I said and I kiss his lips softly. "What did you find out?" He asked me "I love you." I said "Lexie, should I be worried?" He asked me "No honey you shouldn't be." I said "You are a good father-figure for Alyssa. You are really good with her." I said "I know I am honey. I can't wait to have one of our own." Austin said and I smiled at him "What is it Lexie?" He asked me "I found out why I wasn't feeling good." I said "um why Lex?" He asked me "Because I'm pregnant." I said "Are you kidding me?" He asked me and I looked him in the eye "I would not toy with your emotions." He said and I smiled at him.

"Oh my god Lexie! I can't believe that baby! I'm so excited." He said and I smiled at him, I'm glad he's feeling really good about the baby. "When are you due?" He asked me "my birthday baby." I said and he smiled at me. "You're not mad?" I asked him "no! I'm going to have a little boy or girl. Hopefully a girl. But a son would be nice." He said and I smiled at him "Honey let's go in." I said and he smiled at me "Okay baby." He said and he led me inside. "Should we tell Colleen?" He asked me "in the morning. I'm tired." I said and he nodded leading me to the bedroom. I wore Austin's T-shirt to bed and crawled in bed falling asleep instantly in his arms. I woke up in the morning to him staring at me. "You're beautiful. You're going to be beautiful when you're showing more." He said and I smiled at him "I thought I was just gaining weight." I said "Now we know." He said and he lifted up my shirt. "I can kind of see a small tiny baby bump." He said and I smiled, he kissed my stomach. "I'm going for a walk." I said "I'll come with you." He said and I smiled we went for an early morning walk and came home to Colleen feeding Alyssa. She had both of them dressed and ready for the day. "Sissy, I have big news." I said "What is it?" Colleen asked me "I'm pregnant." She said "Uh-oh! Congratulations!" She said and I smiled at her.

During our lunch break Colie and I are eating at a Deli in town. "This is really good." I said taking a bite of my BLT sandwich and Colie smiled at me "my salad is really good as well." Colie said and I smiled at her. "Did you tell Bryan?" I asked "Did you tell Austin?" Colie asked "Yes I did." We said at the same time and smiled. "Bryan is really happy." Colie said "So is Austin. We just need to move again." I said "How about your old place? Let Jake and Connor move in here." Colie said "You're right." I said making a mental note to talk to Austin and Jake and Connor about this. "Can you believe that the last of my daddy's and mom's kids is sixteen?" I asked "I can't believe that. I still can't believe Abby is sixteen." Colie said "Can you believe that we're twenty-one?" I asked "No, I still can't." Colie said and we smiled.

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When I got off of work I went home to pick up Sassy, Colleen, and Alyssa so we could go to Jake's house. Austin arrived right when we were leaving so we waited so he could get in. "This is nice having dinner with your siblings." He said "We will go to your parent's this weekend and tell them the news." I said and he smiled, Austin had me switch out with him so he could drive and I didn't have to. We arrived in no time at my old house, the house where I grew up in. It would be perfect for all of us to live in.

"Hey come on in. We haven't had much time to clean the house. It's pretty big for two people." Jake said and I smiled "it's okay. I know how men are." I said and he rolled his eyes at me. Colleen had Alyssa asleep in her arms after dinner and I decided now would be the best time to talk about it. "How would you like to switch places? Austin, Colleen, and I move in here and you move into our Duplex?" I asked "Sounds like a good idea." Jake said and I smiled in agreement. "You are pregnant, aren't you?" He asked me "Yes I am." I said "Congratulations." Jake and Connor said and I smiled at them.

Chapter 22

That weekend we moved our stuff into both houses. Colleen got her bedroom back and Austin and I moved into my parent's old room. We would make my room the baby's room. There are seven bedrooms in here and three baths. Our first night back home I walked into my old room, I still had my bed, dresser, and desk in my room. It was still my pink with lime green zebra stripes wall color and I smiled at the memories. "Lexie?" Austin asked "In here." I said and he walked in and smiled at me "This room brings back a lot of memories, doesn't it?" Austin asked me "It sure does, a lot of sleepovers, arguments." I said and Austin smiled at me and motioned for me to come to him. I did and he wrapped his arms around me and I kissed his lips softly.

"Are you excited about what's going to happen?" I asked Austin "I am baby. Are you?" He asked me and I smiled "Excited yes, prepared no." I said and he smiled at me. "We will be good parents. We're doing a good job with Colleen and helping her with Alyssa." Austin said and I smiled at him. Alyssa is now five months old, she's giggling more, smiling, holding herself up. We walk into the living room and Colleen is on the couch with Alyssa in her swing. She was texting but keeping an eye on Alyssa. "Who are you texting?" I asked "Chase. He's claiming he wants to see Alyssa." Colleen said "do what you think is best." I said "I don't want her to have a father like him in her life, but I don't want him to get upset and fight for custody." Colleen said and I nodded in agreement.

It's now January 15th and we're at the doctor's for my second month appointment. The second they showed us our baby I knew we were in love with our child. I was going to an event after this to do a piece on it. Afterwards since I didn't need to go into the office until tomorrow I went to the meadows. I sat down at the tree and dozed off.

I'm in the meadows again in my dream but wearing all white. I see my daddy and my mom sitting on the ground. "Hey Lexie. Fancy meeting you here." My mom said and my dad smiled at me. "So you know the big news, don't you?" My daddy asked me "About being pregnant?" I asked "Yes." My dad said and I smiled. "I hate that my child won't meet their grandpa or grandma on my side." I said and they smiled "It feels so weird being without both parents. I no longer have my mom to turn to and I know I don't have my dad." I said "Everything happens for a reason Lexie." My mom said "with daddy we all had time to prepare, with you we didn't. Colleen feels so bad, the night before having a huge fight with you." I said "I know. I see her cry herself to sleep a lot. Alyssa looks more and more like Colleen every day." My mom said and I smiled at her "She's a sweet heart." I said "I know Lexie. Austin is good with her baby girl." My dad said and I smiled at him. We spent what felt like hours in my dream catching up, telling me that I will be okay. That everything will work out.

I woke up to Colleen and Alyssa standing above me. "What time is it?" I asked "four thirty." Colleen said "Dang." I said knowing I have been here since one. "How is everything?" Colleen asked me. "Good. I fell in love with the baby instantly." I said and Colleen smiled at me "I felt the same way as well." Colleen said and I smiled at her "I really can't wait to find out the sex." I said and she smiled at me. "That will be a great day. What do you want sissy?" Colleen asked me and I smiled at her.

"I want a boy first, so he can be protective of his little sister when we have another." I said "And Austin wants a girl." Colleen said "Yup." I said and she smiled at me "hand me my niece." I said and she smiled at me. "Are you excited that Connor is graduating this year?" Colleen asked me "I can't believe that." I said "I know. I will be soon." Colleen said and I smiled at her "I still can't believe that either." I said "It's hard to believe how fast life is going, isn't it?" Colleen asked me "Yeah it is." I said and she smiled at me "it seems like just yesterday Alyssa was born and she will be six months old next month." Colleen said and I smiled at her. "Let's go home." I said and Colleen nodded at me.

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It's now February 15th and I am three months pregnant. I can't hide the fact that I'm pregnant, I have a visible baby bump. The third month's doctor appointment went good the baby and I are both very healthy. My doctor wants me to continue walking daily like I do so my labor process will be easy. I am now a columnist at my job so I'm making more money and Austin is making more money now so we are going to be able to afford this. At home it's kind of tough right now, Alyssa is teething and we are all kind of tense right now.

Colie and I are eating lunch at home today since we had another piece where we had to go out and interview the people. Colie's bump is about the same size as mine. "I still can't believe this." Colie said "I know. But at least you have your mom to talk to." I said and she smiled "I know and I'm sorry about that. Who else do you talk to?" She asked me "I talk to Amy about it. I still go and see the kids since they are my siblings. I need to talk to my other siblings more." I said "Agree." Colie said and I smiled at her "I feel bad for Colleen, Alicia, Josh, and Katie they're younger than eighteen and without both parents." I said "I know. That's so sad." Colie said "It's difficult for me, but I'm married and now soon to be a mother so I have to be strong." I said "You still have Austin and I to talk to Lex. We are still your friends." Colie said and I smiled at her "Thanks Colie." I said and she smiled at me.

It's March 15th now and I'm at my fourth month's appointment with Austin. "Your baby is still healthy. You are healthy as well Mrs. Blevins." She said "Thank you." I said "Next month you will find out the sex of your baby." She said and I smiled, I'm now in my second trimester of the pregnancy. I go to work and then went home at four to see Jake on the porch. "I'm on spring break as of today and I'm going to Myrtle Beach with Zoey and her friends." Jake said "Zoey, is she your girlfriend?" I asked "Yeah." Jake said "bring her over tonight." I said "One thing" He said "What is it?" I asked "She's a mother. Twins, boy and girl. They are two years old." Jake said "bring them as well. We can't be down on teen pregnancy." I said "She's twenty Lex, like I am." He said and I smiled "So she was eighteen. No big deal." I said and he smiled at me.

I let Austin know when he got home and he nodded in agreement. "Sounds fine to me, two- two years old." He said and I smiled at him "Crazy, right?" I asked "Yeah. But I want more than one." He said "One day it will happen." I said and Austin smiled at me. Colleen came home "We're having company tonight." I said "Who?" She asked, she had Alyssa in her car seat. "Jake, Zoey, her kids, and Connor." I said "Alright. Did you want me to cook?" I asked "No, you go ahead and do your homework." I said and she smiled at me. Austin went to the table and took Alyssa out of her car seat and held her.

Chapter 23

Its six o'clock now, Colleen is doing her homework which is study guides since mid-terms are next week and then it's her spring break. I'm making dinner which is Lasagna, green beans, and garlic bread for dinner. We get a knock on the door and I go to the door with Austin, Alyssa was in her swing watching a little kid's show or what should be. "Hello." I said when they walked in. His girlfriend had her daughter on her hip and Jake had her son on his hip. Connor came in next and smiled at me, "I'm going to go help Colleen with her homework." Connor said and I smiled at him "Have fun." I said and he walked into the kitchen.

Zoey had long brown hair and baby blue eyes. Her kids have brown hair and baby blue eyes as well. "Zoey this is my sister Lexie and brother in-law Austin." Jake said "It's nice to meet you." Zoey said "Same here." I said smiling at her. Austin squatted down where her kids were clinging to Zoey's legs. "And who are these two cuties?" Austin asked Zoey "Braden and Holly." Zoey said "Hey Braden and Holly, I'm Austin." He said "hi." Holly said first breaking out of her shell "Hey." Braden said and before we knew it Austin had both of them playing with Sassy.

During dinner we all got to talking "How far along are you?" Zoey asked me "four months." I said "I remember that. You look wonderful by the way." She said and I smiled. "Are their father's in the picture?" I asked "No, he wanted nothing to do with them when they were two months old. But he sends child support monthly for both of them." Zoey said "Same thing happened with me." Colleen said "Alyssa is adorable." Zoey said "Thanks." Colleen said smiling at her. After dinner Colleen did the dishes and we went out on the porch to talk.

Austin was still having fun with Holly and Braden, "It took them a week to get use to Jake." Zoey said and I smiled "He's really good with little kids." I said and Zoey smiled "I can tell. He's going to be a good dad." Zoey said and I smiled. "Jake, she seems to be a good catch for you." I said "Thanks Lex I really like this chick." Jake said and I smiled and so did Zoey. It was around nine and Holly and Braden were falling asleep. "We need to head on out Lex. It's their bedtime." Jake said "Okay, night Jake, Connor. Nice to meet you Zoey." I said and he smiled at me.

It's April 2nd and it's colleen's first day of Spring break. Alyssa is eight months old today; she's starting to crawl around. "Have a good day." I said, Colleen was up feeding Alyssa her bottle with cereal in it. "Thanks. You too." She said "I should be home around one." I said "Okay. I'm going to go to the mall and maybe hang with some friends." Colleen said "okay. You haven't done that in a while." I said "I know. It will do some good for Alyssa to get out of the house." Colleen said and I smiled.

Colleen's Pov:

It's my first day of spring break and I'm feeding Alyssa as Lexie leaves for work. I pick up Alyssa after I burp her and go back to my room. It's weird living here, with just my sister, her husband and my daughter without my parents. I'm glad Chase hasn't had anything to do in Alyssa's life because he isn't really a good father figure. I mean he left when she wasn't even a month old yet. I lay on my bed with Alyssa. "Come on baby girl, let's take a nap." I said and she happily did so sucking on her pacifier. "Mommy loves you baby girl." I said dozing off for a quick nap before I went to the mall.

I woke up at ten after a two hour nap to a smelly diaper. "Phew you stink." I said and Alyssa just smiled at me. I got up and changed her diaper and got her dress in a spring dress with a cute matching boomer and a cute hat. I found my denim shorts and a cute flowery dressy shirt. I had my rainbows on and pulled my knee length blonde hair up into a ponytail. "Let's go out today baby girl." I said and she giggled at me. I made her diaper bag and got it ready and put it at the door. I got Alyssa in her car seat and walked to my car. It was

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Lexie's old car, her first car and now it's my first car. I get Alyssa buckled in and we drive to the mall.

I get Alyssa's stroller out and put her in it. She had her stuffed monkey in her grip and her pink pacifier in her mouth. I placed the diaper bag in the bottom of the stroller. I made it to the food court and saw my group of friends. Most importantly I saw Abby, Colie's little sister and my best friend. "Colleen!" Abby said smiling at me "How have you been?" I asked "Good. You?! Is that Alyssa?" Abby asked and I smiled her "Yes it is." I said and she smiled at me. "Can I hold her?" Abby asked and I smiled at her. I sat down with the group and took her out of her stroller and handed her to Abby who had fun playing with her. All of my friends enjoyed gushing over her; I haven't really taken her out much.

Abby, our other best friend Amanda, and Carly, and I went off from the group to actually go shopping. I spot Chase and he sees me and smiles. He walks over and smile at Alyssa "How have you been?" He asked me "I've been good. And so has your daughter." I said "She's beautiful." Chase said "Yeah she is." I said "Now if you will excuse me, I'm going to go." I said and the group followed me to Abercrombie & Fitch and we went to the girl side. "I can't believe that." I said "I know." They all said and I smiled at them.

We went to a baby store in the mall after we hit all the preppy stores. "I could so see Alyssa in this!" Carly said and I smiled at her "Really?" I asked and she smiled. Alyssa was happily sucking on her pacifier staying quiet. I bought her a couple new dresses and a new toy and then we went back to the food court. I went to the bathroom, with Alyssa on my hip and my diaper bag on my shoulder. I finally went in and changed her diaper. Abby was in line so I handed Alyssa to her and went to the bathroom. I got out and took Alyssa back so she could go.

We went walking back to the group at the table and I held Alyssa in my lap. I got out Alyssa's baby food and her baby spoon. "Here you go baby girl." I said and she opened her mouth for the food. After she ate her bottle of baby carrots I burped her and put her pacifier in my Dr. Pepper and gave it back to her. She was sucking on it with content. "I love her." Abby said and I smiled at her "I love her too." I said and she smiled at me. "Can you give me a lift to your place? My family and your family are eating dinner tonight." Abby said and I smiled at her "Sure." I said and we walked to my car. I placed Alyssa in her car seat and got in, we weren't even out of the parking lot yet and Alyssa was asleep. "You're such a good mom." Abby said "Thanks girly." I said and she smiled at me. "I have missed you. It's weird not having you around." I said "It's weird not being around. I have made a couple friends but they are never you. They don't compare to you Coco. I miss living here." Abby said and I smiled at her "This feels like old time." I said "I know, doesn't it?" Abby asked and I smiled. She looked back "Alyssa is still asleep. She's adorable." Abby said "Thanks, I love her. She's my world. She's so spoiled." I said and she smiled at me. "I can tell that. She's beautiful." Abby said and I smiled at her this felt so natural.

Chapter 24

Lexie's Pov:

I'm at home now since I have to work on my column and Kevin said to do it at home. I saw Colleen's note and I went to working on dinner. Since Colie and her family are coming over for dinner, Jake, Zoey and her kids, and Connor are also coming over for dinner so we were going to have a house full. The kids will enjoy their time in the pool since we live in Florida and it's April so it's warm enough. I made the Potatoes Salad, Macaroni salad, shrimp, and a salad. Austin was going to cook the meat on the grill.

Everybody is over and we are all out back in the yard. Colleen, Connor, Abby, and Taylor are in the pool. Alyssa is being passed around by Mrs. Wakefield, Zoey, Colie, and I. "She has grown so much." Mrs. Wakefield said and I smiled. Amy, her husband Mark, Jason, and Amber just arrived. "Hey you guys!" I said Amber and Jason ran up and hugged me but went into the pool with the others. "Pregnancy suits you and Colie good." Amy said and I smiled at her. "This is really weird, not having your mom and Aaron here." Amy said "I know. But I'm sure they are having a fun time up there." I said and she smiled at me.

It's now April 14th and Austin and I are doing our taxes since we have been so busy we forgot to do it until now. "We should get money back this time." Austin said and I smiled at him. "Good we need it baby." I said and he smiled at me "Are you ready for tomorrow?" I asked Austin "Yes I am. I'm really excited." Austin said "I am too." I said rubbing my swollen stomach; I couldn't hide the fact that I'm pregnant. He kissed my stomach and then kissed my lips. "I love you Lexie." Austin said "I love you too." I said and he smiled at me.

We woke up the next morning and walked into the kitchen. I see Colleen going over her notes and feeding Alyssa at the same time. "You are a great mother." I said "Thanks sissy. Good luck today. Have fun." Colleen said and I smiled "Thanks sissy." I said and she got Alyssa in her car seat and went to school dropping her off at day care first. Austin looked at me and smiled "See you later baby." He said "I love you." I said kissing his lips. He went his way to work and now it's my turn to go to work. Our appointment isn't until at three today so I'm going to work.

"Morning Alexis. Do you have your column?" Kevin asked me "Yes sir. Give me one second to print it." I said "Okay Alexis." He said walking past me and going to his office. I print it and walk to his office and hand it to him. "Thank you, I have one big piece I want you to work on today. President Obama is in town, doing a press conference. I want you to go." Kevin said "when?" I asked "Now." He said "Okay. I have an appointment at three." I said "You'll leave from straight there then." He said and I nodded going to my car.

From nine to two I had to listen to our president, people asking him questions, I had to ask him questions and wrote down all of my findings and his comments. I asked a few people what they thought about it and then knew I had my piece. I left around 2:20 and make it to my appointment at 2:50 Austin was already inside. "Sorry baby, he had me working on a big piece." I said "I understand. I got worried so I called Colie and she said she hadn't seen you since she went in. So I was worried about you."

"Alexis Blevins." The nurse said and we got up and walked to the back. She took my blood pressure, temperature, heart rate and wrote it down. Then she had me get on the scale and I winced at the weight 125, I gained fifteen pounds but I was underweight anyways. We went back to the room and my doctor came in and smiled. "Today is the big day, huh?" He asked and we smiled. He did his normal things and then put the gel on my stomach and our little baby appeared on the screen. He turned on the sound so we could hear the heartbeat. I was smiling at Austin, he was holding my hand. The doctor printed out a snapshot of our baby when it was in full view.

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He stepped out and got it copied into a bigger picture. He put it up on his board and motioned for us to walk to him. "Can you see the head?" He asked us "Yes sir." I said and he took his laser down naming out the body parts that we saw. "You are having a girl." He said making the laser point at where we could tell what we were having. "Thank you sir." I said "Looking forward to seeing you next month." My doctor said and I smiled at Austin, we didn't say anything when we took the picture and made our appointment for next month at noon. He walked me to my car and kissed my lips softly. "I know you wanted a boy first but I'm happy." Austin said "I am too baby. I'm glad we're having a daughter." I said and he kissed my lips. "See you at home." Austin said "I love you." I said "I love you too." Austin said walking to his car.

I went back to the office and got to working on my piece. I didn't realize it was seven o'clock until Austin was calling me. "Meet us at Golden Corral. We're hungry." Austin said "Okay." I said saving my document and closing my laptop. I see Kevin at his desk who motioned for me to come in "Yes Kevin?" I asked "How did the appointment go?" He asked me "it went really good. We found out the sex today." I said and Kevin smiled "I have three kids of my own, one's 20, 16, and 12. I know the feeling you are feeling now. I already asked Nicole but since you two are different people I want to ask you." Kevin said "How long do you plan to take off with your maternity time?" Kevin asked me and I looked at him. Austin and I have been discussing this for weeks, I say four weeks he says six weeks. But we finally agreed on six weeks. "Six weeks sir." I said and he nodded "Perfect time. Because then your daughter or son will be able to be in day care." Kevin said and I smiled. "I will see you tomorrow Kevin." I said.

I meet up with Colleen, Austin, and Alyssa outside of Golden Corral. We go in and we get seated. "You go ahead and get your plate. I will sit with Alyssa." I said who was in her high chair waiting for her food. "Thanks Lexie." Colleen said getting up "Bring back mashed potatoes." I said and she nodded. I pulled out the baby food and started feeding it to Alyssa. "Yummy right?" I asked and she just stared at me. Colleen came back and looked at me "Feed your daughter the mashed potatoes. She can eat it." I said and Colleen nodded.

After Austin and I both sat down with our plates Colleen looked at us. "What are you having?" Colleen asked "Guess." I said "A boy?" She asked me "Nope. A girl." I said and Colleen smiled "Poor Austin, four girls to one boy." Colleen said and I laughed "We have her out number." I said and she smiled at me. After dinner when we all went home I got a phone call for Colie "Can I come see my best friend? You were too busy working when I was leaving." Colie said "Yeah, come on over." I said and we hung up.

Chapter 25

Austin and Bryan went to watching the baseball game; Colleen is in her room with her door shut studying. Colie and I are sitting on the porch enjoying a bowl of ice cream. "How did your appointment go?" I asked "good. We're having a little girl." Colie said smiling "Our daughters will be best friends." I said "You're having a girl?" colie asked and I nodded. "When I told my mom the news she was excited. And brought something up." Colie said "What is that?" I asked "How she sees you as a daughter, how sorry she feels. And then that Austin & I will be twenty-two before the kids are born and then you will be twenty-two the day the baby is due." Colie said and I smiled "Bryan is an odd ball." I said "I know. A May 20th birthday." Colie said I smiled, Austin's is June 15th, Colie is July 15th, and mine is August 15th. "You know if Austin never would have told me, then I would have found somebody else. But my point is if we weren't married, our three kids would be best friends like we are." I said and Colie smiled at me.

"There was that incident with Rosie." Colie said "He said she had a miscarriage and it wasn't his." I said "She moved away so nobody really knew for sure. Austin could have been misled." Colie said "Okay. I trust him." I said "Any names for your daughter?" Colie asked taking the subject off of that before we got into a fight. "Not yet. You?" I asked "Lyndsey Nicole Johnson." Colie said "After you?" I asked "No after you." Colie said and I smiled at her "Nicole Lynn Wakefield-Johnson." I said "Alexis Nicole Summerland-Blevins." Colie said and we smiled at each other.

Since the next morning was a Saturday I woke up at six and took Sassy on a walk around the neighborhood and took her to the meadows. I walked home around seven and sat on the porch at seven thirty. Austin came out and smiled at me "Morning baby." Austin said "Morning." I said smiling at him. "I'm thinking Kelsey as a first name." Austin said "Kelsey Lynn Blevins?" I asked "Perfect." He said "We could go shopping today for the baby stuff." I said "I know we could. We could use some of Alyssa's old stuff to save on money." Austin said "Yeah, they're all in the attic. Including the car seat we will need." I said "We just need to buy a crib, changing table, a rocking chair, diapers, and new bottles." Austin said and I smiled at him.

"I got a phone call yesterday from Rosie." Austin said after a few minutes of silent "Oh really? What did she want?" I asked "to be completely honest with me." Austin said "What about?" I asked "She got scared. She didn't want to make me suffer. So she moved back home with her parents. She didn't have a miscarriage. She carried the baby full term, and the baby was born healthy. She wants to see me today. I told her I had to check with my wife." Austin said "That whore. Lying to. She said it wasn't yours." I said "I want to get a DNA test to prove it." Austin said "understandable." I said "The baby is almost four years old Lex. I've missed four years of its life." Austin said "I know." I said and I hugged him.

While he went to the mall to meet Rosie, Colleen, Alyssa, Colie, and I went to the mall for baby stuff. We would meet up with Austin afterwards to find out how things went. We ordered a crib, changing table, a rocking chair, I got a pink baby blanket set, some cute new clothes. In her room it's already a girly color since she's in my room. Her dresser already has Alyssa's old clothes. I bought some new pacifiers. Bought Alyssa a couple outfits and then we went shopping for Colleen's summer clothes. I got a phone call around two that it was safe to meet him at the food court for lunch.

We all sat down and Austin was smiling at Alyssa. "How did it go?" I asked "Well even though I want a DNA test for sure there is no denying him." Austin said "A boy?" I asked "Yes. He has my baby blue eyes, my brown hair, my nose, and my facial expressions. His birthday is March 15th." Austin said and I smiled at him, he has a three year old son with another woman. "What is his name?" I asked "Bryce." Austin said and I nodded "I invited Rosie over for dinner tomorrow night." Austin said "Okay." I said and Austin left it at that.

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Colleen and Alyssa spent the night at her friend Carly's house so it was just Austin and I. I'm in Kelsey's room sitting in the rocking chair rubbing my stomach. Austin comes in "Are you okay?" He asked me "Yeah." I said "You don't sound it." Austin said "Well I'm fine." I said and he nodded "You're upset?" He asked me "She lied about Bryce, claims he wasn't yours. Now all of a sudden she wants to make things right." I said "I don't know why." Austin said "We will find out tomorrow." I said "Okay Lex." Austin said dropping it at that. I stayed in her room for a while and then went to bed claiming I was tired, I over did it during the day.

I woke up and got the house clean and ready for Rosie and Bryce. I was making dinner, tacos and tater tots and they arrived. "Hey Rosie, and hey there Bryce." Austin said "Hey Austin." Rosie said "Hi." A little boy said. "Lexie, can you come in here?" He asked me "One sec." I said I was still mad at him over everything. Believing her, falling for her games again. But when I walked in I knew Bryce was Austin's son. I've seen pictures, I have pictures of Austin as a little boy and they look exactly alike. "Hi Rosie, it's nice to see you again." I said "You too Lexie. How far along are you?" She asked me "Five months." I said "Boy or a girl?" She asked me "A girl." I said and she smiled at me.

After dinner we're sitting on the porch so Bryce could play on the playground we have. "Why are you here?" I asked "Lexie." Austin said "No, it's fine. I understand her point of view. You two are married, expecting your first child. Your old girlfriend comes back, after saying she had a miscarriage and the baby wasn't even yours." Rosie said "I'm here because I did Austin wrong and I want Bryce to know his real dad." Rosie said and I nodded "I have Leukemia. I want Bryce to know his father so when I go he will have a parent." Rosie said and that knock me down. "I'm so sorry." I said "Don't be. You couldn't have known." Rosie said "I still want the DNA test tomorrow." Austin said "That's understandable. But Bryce is already going to be given over to you if I don't respond to this chemo. I have had Leukemia since Bryce was two months old. I was in remission for a couple years, now its back and it won't respond to the first round of chemo." Rosie said "I know the feeling." I said and she looked at me "My dad died, almost ten years ago due to cancer." I said and she nodded. "I'm determine to win this battle but you never know." Rosie said and I nodded.

The next day while I'm at work, Colleen is at school, Alyssa is at day care Austin is at the hospital getting the DNA results. I finish my article that I was working on over the weekend and I begin working on my column for the week. My mind keeps going back to how cruel I was towards Austin because of Rosie and now she's sick. "Alexis, can I see you in my office?" Kevin asked me "Yes sir." I said getting up and walking over to his office. "Your piece is excellent Alexis. You are a talented writer." He said "Thank you sir." I said and he dismissed me after that. I looked at Colie and smiled she smiled back at me.

Chapter 26

During our lunch break, we're eating outside and my phone rings. "Hold on." I tell Colie and answer it "Hello?" I asked "Well I'm Bryce's father." Austin said "Good. How are things?" I asked "good. I'm hanging out with Rosie and Bryce now." Austin said "That's good. You need to baby. You need to enjoy your time." I said and we hung up. "He's the father of Bryce." I said "I don't care if she does have cancer she shouldn't have kept Bryce from him." Colie said "I know Co. I know." I said and she smiled at me though.

The month of May came and went and it's now June 8th, Connor's graduation. Austin has been spending a lot of time with Rosie and Bryce instead of with me. I'm getting ready in my maternity dress and brushed my knee length hair, I know I need to get it cut before August. When we do spend time together we're tense. We have everything Kelsey will need set up and everything is good. On my six month appointment Kelsey and I are still both very healthy. My seventh month, which is my third trimester, is on Austin's birthday which is a Friday.

"You ready?" I asked and they nodded, Colleen was wearing a cute summery dress, Alyssa was dressed in a cute summery dress and Austin was ready. Finals were last week and all last week Alyssa refused to sleep throughout the night. Colleen still aced her finals and is now on her way to junior year. Alyssa is now ten months old. She has more teeth now, and her hair is getting longer. We got in the car and met up with Jake, Zoey, Braden, and Holly at the graduation. Colie and Bryan were out of town since one of Colie's sisters was graduating as well.

"Connor Summerland." Was finally announced and Connor walked up the stage. He saw us and smiled at us and went back to his group. Afterwards we went out to his favorite place for dinner. "Where are you going to college at?" Austin asked Connor "University Of Southern Florida." Connor said and I smiled it wasn't that far away. Jake was attending the community college because he didn't want to go to an actual university. In one year he got two years' worth of credits, and he's doing summer classes so he will be done by the end of the fall semester.

"Lexie, tomorrow can you and Austin baby sit Braden and Holly?" Jake asked "Sure." I said and Austin nodded. "I want a special date with Zoey." He said and I smiled, Zoey wasn't able to go to dinner she needed to go home since her little sister Brooke graduated as well. "What's the special date?" I asked "He's going to ask Zoey to marry him. Last weekend he took me around town to help him find an engagement ring." Connor said and I smiled "I'm sure she will say yes." I said "I sure hope so. I love her with all my heart. I love Braden and Holly like they were my own." Jake said "You're a good father figure to them." I said "Thanks Lex." Jake said "Connor, daddy and mom would be so proud of you." I said "I know. Now in two years we will be attending my college graduation and Colleen's high school graduation." Connor said and I smiled "That will be here before we all know it." I said "Don't remind me." Colleen said and I smiled at her. She was bouncing Alyssa on her lap who was giggling. We all went home afterwards. Colleen has a summer job, and after school job now. Working at the day care where Alyssa goes. She was starting her first day of work tomorrow and she was excited. She gets to spend half a day with Alyssa, she also applied to Publix and got that job. She is determined she doesn't need Chase to help raise Alyssa. She isn't sure what college she wants to go to know but she knows she can do it.

On Austin's birthday after the appointment where we found out I'm healthy and so is our daughter. We're going to Rosie's aunt house because Austin gets to have Bryce for the weekend, he's having him every weekend now Friday-Sunday. He's holding my hand but I'm looking out the window not saying much of anything. "I can't wait to spend the weekend with Bryce. I can talk him to the park, we can take Sassy." Austin said "That's good." I said "Are you jealous?" He asked me "Nope. I'm happy for you." I said and he nodded driving in silent the rest of the way to her aunt's house.

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Rosie's cancer wasn't responding to the chemo. She was outside with a blanket wrapped around her. She had already lost all of her hair and wasn't looking too good. I felt bad suddenly, for still giving her a hard time mentally for how she did Austin. I mean he has obviously forgiven her and he isn't even my son so I should forgive him. "You ready to go buddy?" Austin asked Bryce "Yes daddy." Bryce said grabbing his bag. Austin took it "go give your mom a hug." Austin said "Good-bye mommy. I love you." Bryce said "I love you too Bryce. Happy birthday Austin." Rosie said and he smiled at her.

With the booster seat in the car and we drove to the day care to pick up Alyssa. Colleen's shift at the day care is 7-12 and her Publix shift is 1-7 and the day care closes at 6 so we're picking Alyssa up. I go in and get Alyssa and put her in her car seat. Bryce starts talking to Alyssa and playing with her and then he looks out the window. We pull up to Publix since we need groceries. Austin walks up and gets the buggy where two kids can sit in it. Austin puts Bryce in the buggy first while I'm getting Alyssa out and then he pushes the buggy. We get the food we need and then we go to Colleen's line. "Hello welcome to Publix." Colleen said and Alyssa turned her head to see her mommy and held out her arms. "I can't baby. I'm working." Colleen said Alyssa still did the hands thing. "Hey Bryce." Colleen said "Hi Coco." He said he didn't feel like calling her Colleen says he will when he's older.

I'm cooking dinner at six thirty and Colleen comes in at 7:10 when I'm setting the table she picks up Alyssa and kisses her cheek. "How was both jobs?" I asked "Good. It's getting stressful but they're still good. Tomorrow I'm off at the daycare at least and I work 2-closing though." Colleen said "I remember those nights." I said "Can you watch Alyssa?" Colleen asked "What kind of Guardian would I be if I said no?" I asked "Not a very good one." Colleen said "Exactly. Austin plans on taking them to the park around two anyways." I said and she smiled "He's such a good father." Colleen said "He is. He adores Alyssa though. " I said "I know. I'm scared she's going to call him daddy when she speaks." Colleen said "I hope not. Although he would be touched." I said and she smiled at me.

Every weekend up until July 14th consisted of Bryce being over here, now it's July 14th a Friday and Austin gets a phone call. "Rosie died." Austin said "Oh Austin." I said and I hugged him. "Bryce is without a mother." He said "I grew up mostly without a father." Colleen said "And now she's without a mother." I said "She was so young." Austin said "I know." I said our appointment was today and it went good. Austin wasn't in a talkative mood. "Honey you knew it was coming." I said "I know baby. She's in heaven though. They want me to get Bryce tomorrow." Austin said "I can't help. Colie's party tomorrow night." I said "I know. I'll be fine." He said and I kissed his lips softly. He kissed my stomach "One more month for you baby girl." Austin said "I know, I'm excited about it." I said, Jake is now engaged to Rosie, or was they got married on July 5th, and he has custody of Braden and Holly. He adopted them.

Chapter 27

It's July 30th and Austin and I have been married for one year as of today. Things have been crazy the past two weeks. Getting Bryce settled in, Colleen and her crazy work schedule, our work schedule. We transferred Bryce over to Colleen's day care. On our anniversary we're helping Colleen plan Alyssa's first birthday. Abby was in town visiting Colie so she was coming to the party. Colie and them were coming to the party. Chase's mom has something to do with Alyssa so she's coming along with his sister. Jake and them, Connor is coming. He's going to college on August 5th though, which is three days after her first birthday party.

"Go out tonight. I will watch Bryce. You have watched Alyssa many times. They will be fine with me alone." Colleen said "Thank you. Austin should be please." I said and she smiled at me "Go get ready. Austin is home." Colleen said so I slowly waddled my way upstairs and I got dressed the best I could and then walked downstairs. "You two had it set up didn't you?" I asked and Colleen smiled "Maybe so." Colleen said "What are you doing tonight?" I asked "McDonald's. Bryce wants to go. Alyssa likes it." Colleen said and I smiled at her "You're the best little sister in the whole wide world." I said "Thanks. You two kids have fun. Be home whenever." Colleen said "Thanks sissy." I said and she smiled at me.

Austin opens the car door for me and I get into the car. He takes me to the place where he asked me to marry him at. "I love it." I said and he smiled at me "I figured we could use a break away from the kids." Austin said "You're right. Can you believe it has been a year?" I asked "It's hard to believe Lex. The best year of my life." Austin said "You're amazing. We have had our ups and downs, faced more than we should have but we're doing good." I said "I know Lex. Before long we will be holding our little one." Austin said "I know babe. I love Bryce though. He reminds me so much of you." I said "My mom tells me the same thing as well." Austin said and I smiled at Austin.

We finished our meals and went walking through the marina and sat down on the brick wall. "You look so beautiful Lexie. You are the most beautiful woman in the whole wide world." Austin said "Thanks baby. I love you." I said "I love you too." He said and I smiled at him "You make me feel like I'm the luckiest woman alive." I said "Thanks baby." Austin said and I smiled at him. Tonight has been amazing with my husband and only my husband.

Colleen's Pov:

So after I finally sweet talked Lexie into getting ready for her date with Austin. They have been married for a year today and Austin wanted to do something special for her. So I volunteered to watch Bryce tonight. Lexie helped me plan Alyssa's first birthday since I wanted her first birthday to be amazing because it really means a lot to me. After they leave for their date I get Bryce and Alyssa ready to go to McDonald's. When we arrive and I get Bryce his kid's meal and my meal and I had Alyssa on my hip as I filled our drinks. "Get the high chair for Aunt Coco please." I said "Okay." He said pushing it and I got Alyssa in it and took control over it. I pushed it to the playground area, after we ate dinner Bryce went to play on the playground with other kids. I'm playing with Alyssa and a cute boy walks out with two little kids. "Go play." He said and he looked my way and I smiled at him. "Hi." I said "Hi, you're Colleen right?" He asked "Yeah, and you're Nick?" I asked "Yeah." He said, he had dirty blonde hair and baby blue eyes. "Is that your daughter?" Nick asked me "Yeah, Alyssa." I said and he smiled at her.

I'm still bouncy Alyssa on my knee and Nick sits next to me on the bench. "Those are my niece and nephew. Not that I don't mind that you have a daughter." Nick said and I smiled "It's okay Nick. No need to explain." I said smiling at him and he smiled. "How old is Alyssa?" Nick asked "Almost a year old." I said and he smiled at me "She's adorable. Word was going around school.." Nick said "She's Chase's daughter. He just doesn't have anything to do with her." I said and Nick smiled at me. We got to talking and I found out a lot about

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Nick. Bryce walks over "Aunt Coco I'm tired." He said and I looked at my phone "It's nine o'clock." I said "Yeah. Can we go home?" Bryce asked "Sure." I said and Nick smiled "Put your number in my phone?" I asked and he did so and I put my number in his phone. I got Alyssa in her car seat and Bryce in his booster seat.

I made it home and placed Alyssa in her swing and I get Bryce to the bathroom. He goes and uses the bathroom pulls up his Spiderman underwear and I gave him his Scooby Doo's Pajamas and help him brush his teeth. I tuck him in bed and turn on his Scooby Doo's nightlight and then went to the living room. I fed Alyssa, gave her a quick bath, and put her to bed in her crib and she quickly fell asleep. I'm on the couch with my knees brought up to my chest and turn on The Notebook. I get a phone call "hello?" I asked "Hey is this Colleen?" Nick asked "Yeah it is." I said "Hey." He said "How are you?" I asked "good. Do you and Alyssa want to go out tomorrow?" Nick asked "Sure." I said "I will pick you up at four?" Nick said "Okay that's fine." I said smiling and we hung up.

I went to bed around eleven and woke up at eight to Alyssa babbling. "What is it sweetie?" I asked and she just blinked at me, holding her arms up for me to pick her up. "Let me go to the bathroom first baby." I said and she held out her arms for me. I quickly walk to the bathroom, and then went back to Alyssa. "Mommy is here now." I said and she held out her arms for me to pick her up. I place her on the changing table and change her diaper. I then place her on my hip and went downstairs. Lexie was up making breakfast and Austin was at the table with Bryce.

"Morning Colleen." Austin said "good morning." I said smiling and go the fridge. I get Alyssa's baby food and place her in her high chair. "I'm making oatmeal for her." Lexie said "Thanks Lexie. How did it go?" I asked "It went good. I had fun. Thanks again for watching Bryce." Lexie said "No problem Lex." I said sitting down and feeding Alyssa her baby food and then blowing on her oatmeal for her. After she ate I ate my breakfast giving her a piece of eggs that she chewed. I got her up and went to get dressed, I got dressed in shorts and a T-shirt and Alyssa in a cute outfit.

Lexie's Pov:

It's around three and Colleen is getting ready for her date and getting Alyssa ready. "What are you going to be doing?" Colleen asked me "Getting things ready for Kelsey." I said and she smiled at me "Have fun Colleen." I said and she smiled at me "Will do so." Colleen said and I smiled "I'm not looking to school." Colleen said "You will do fine." I said "Yeah, a junior in high school with a one year old." Colleen said "who may by then have a boyfriend." I said reminding her "It's our first date." Colleen said and I smiled at her "I know that. I'm glad you're going out and that he wants Alyssa to go." I said.

Chapter 28

It's now August 2nd and we're all gathered together to celebrate Alyssa's first birthday. Even Nick, Colleen's new boyfriend is here with us today. Jake came up to me and smiled "I can't wait to see my new niece." Jake said "I know. I'm anxiously waiting the arrival of her." I said "I bet you are. I love Braden and Holly like they are my own." Jake said and I smiled at him. "How's school?" I asked "good. I'm graduating after this semester is over." Jake said and I smiled Connor walked up "Looking forward to leaving?" I asked "Yeah, a fresh start from here. Too many memories Lexie." Connor said "You are right on that. I can't go past that street without tears." I said and they smiled at me "Hard to believe it has been a year since Alyssa has been born." Connor said "I know, I can't believe it either." I said "We have had a crazy year." Jake said "Yeah we have." Colleen said walking up and smiling at us.

Alyssa's birthday party was amazing, Austin and Colleen are cleaning up and I'm sitting on the couch with Bryce and Colie and Alyssa. "Best party of the year." I said "I know. She's adorable. I just love the birthday girl." Colie said and I smiled at her "I don't know of a person who doesn't love her." I said "Chase." Colleen said coming in and picking up Alyssa. She sits on the floor with Alyssa and Austin walks in afterwards. Bryan and Austin begins rubbing our feet, I'm video taping Colleen and Alyssa "Come to Uncle Austin." Austin said Colleen helped Alyssa up to her feet "Walk to Uncle Austin." She said and Alyssa took her first step, and then another. She fell once but got back up and made her way to Austin. "Alyssa you did it!" Austin said picking her up and she giggled. "Good job baby girl." Colleen said "Walk to mommy." She said and Alyssa made her way to Colleen and yawned. "I think we need to call it a night. Good night Lexie, Good night Austin, Colie, and Bryan." Colleen said "good night." We said and smiled at them.

August 10th, five days before my twenty-second birthday, five days before my due date and I'm out at a restaurant with Jake, Zoey, Holly, Braden, Colleen, Alyssa, Austin, Bryce, and Connor. Connor is leaving tomorrow to go to South Florida University. "I'm going to miss you Connor." I said "Lexie, I'm going to be three hours away." He said "I know. But that's so far away." I said and he just smiled at me. "I will be back when you have Kelsey. I'm not going to miss that." Connor said and I smiled at him "I love you Connor." I said "I love you too Lexie. Would dad be proud of me?" Connor asked on cue Jake and I both said "Yes." And he smiled at us "We're so proud of you Connor. You're going to college; you're following your dreams Connor. You're going to do well." I said and he smiled at me.

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I felt my first contraction as soon as they left and winced in pain. By noon they were close enough together so I knew to call Austin. "Austin, it's time." I said "I'm on my way." He said and when he got there my water broke. I screamed out in pain "Austin! Car now!" I said and he helped me to the car and we rushed to the hospital. It wasn't enough time yet so I was in my hospital room, squeezing Austin's hand. Six hours later at six pm it was finally time to give birth to my own daughter. "Push on three Lexie." My doctor said "One two three push! One two three push! One two three push! One more big push! One two three push!" He said and I gave my last push, as hard as I could and I laid my head back looking up at the ceiling.

After a minute later I heard a baby's cry. "Congratulations it's a girl." My doctor said while he was cleaning her up. Austin squeezed my hand and kissed my lips "I love you baby." I said "I love you too." He said going

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to the doctor and coming over with our daughter in her pink blanket. I looked into her icy blue eyes and smiled at my daughter. She had my icy blue eyes, my strawberry blonde wavy hair, Austin's nose, his cheek, his dimples, his ears, and my mouth. "She's beautiful." I said and he smiled at me "I got news that Colie had her baby the same time you did." Austin said and I smiled at Austin. I kissed Kelsey's forehead.

An hour later after we spent some alone time with Kelsey we let our family come in which was Colleen, Connor, and Jake. "She's beautiful." Colleen said "She's adorable." Connor said "She's an angel sent from heaven." Jake said "Thanks." I said and smiled "do you guys want to hold her?" I asked and they nodded, they took turn. Connor was only staying tonight since he had work tomorrow afternoon. His classes begin on Monday since today was a Friday. "Happy birthday Lexie and Kelsey." Jake said "Thanks." I said and smiled. Kelsey is twenty inches long, six pounds and three ounces.

On Sunday Kelsey was able to go home, Colleen has been watching Bryce for us unless she was at work and then Jake and Zoey was watching Bryce and Alyssa. Colleen goes back to school on Monday so she was going school shopping with Zoey since I wasn't in no place for going out anywhere anytime soon. I got Kelsey in her car seat and Austin held my hand the whole way home "it's a new beginning for us Lexie." Austin said "I know. I mean next summer, it will be just you, Bryce, Kelsey, and I." I said and he smiled at me. "She is our angle baby." Austin said "I know baby." I said looking back at Kelsey and smiling.

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Chapter 29

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Chapter 30

Austin came down with Bryce and I smiled at them, I had Kelsey in my arms still. Austin set Bryce down and took Kelsey from me. "Come here buddy." I said and he climbed up in my lap "Good night buddy. I love you." I said "Good night mommy. I love you too." Bryce said and I kissed his cheek "Let's go to bed buddy." I said and picked him up and carried him to bed, with Austin following me with Kelsey in his arms. "Good-night." We said kissing his cheek and tucking him in bed. I turned on his night light and we walked to our room. Austin placed Kelsey in her crib that we have set up in our room for the first two weeks and turned on the baby monitor. I walked to the bathroom and looked at myself, I was skinny again with a little bit of baby fat but not enough to tell that I was pregnant; you would think I was normal.

We walked outside to the porch so Sassy could go out. I sat down on the wooden swing we have and looked up at the stars. "I haven't been to the meadows in months." I said "I know you haven't." Austin said "I use to go there all the time in high school. Even when I got back on my breaks I went there." I said "I know exie. You should go there again one day." Austin said "Thank you for your permission." I said and he smiled at me, we heard the door open and I turned around. Colleen had her baby monitor on her hip. "You excited about tomorrow?" I asked "No, I am not. It's going to be another year of school. A long year. My first day of school without Abby there. Without mom to help me with her pep talk." Colleen said "Oh honey, mom gave me many of those. Even called me on my first day in college I'm sure I can give it to you." I said "I don't miss it." Colleen said quickly and I smiled at her.

I woke up at two to check on Kelsey to see if she was still alive after going to bed at midnight. She was sleeping peacefully so I went to the bathroom and went back to bed. I woke up at four to check on her and again she was sleeping peacefully. I woke up for the last time at six and she was sleeping peacefully. I decided to get up anyways and plus I needed to see Colleen off to school. My phone started ringing and I answered it "Hello?" I asked "Hey Lex. How is the new mother doing?" Connor asked me "Good. Have a good first day. Remember to befriend people. Parties are not cool. Don't get a girl pregnant. You're at school to learn not to have fun." I said "Lex, I don't miss mom talks. But thanks sissy." He said "Have a good day. Good luck. I love you." I said "I love you too Lexie." Connor said hanging up on me.

I made pancakes and Colleen came out with her backpack, diaper bag, and cheerleading bag. "I'm going to try out this year. Is that okay?" Colleen asked "If you think you can juggle cheerleading, work, school, Alyssa, family, friends, and Nick then sure." I said "I can handle it." Colleen said "I don't want you to be stressed out." I said "I'm not." She said and we heard a baby cry "Alyssa." I said "I'm coming baby girl." Colleen said rushing to her room and coming back with Alyssa who was all dressed nicely for day care.

They had just enough time for breakfast and then Colleen had to leave for school. "Love you." Colleen said "Love you too. Bye." I said and she walked off with everything she needed and Alyssa on her hip. I heard a low baby cry and I knew it was Kelsey. "Good morning sunshine." I said to Kelsey picking her up gently. I carried her to her room and placed her on the changing table. "Mommy is going to change your diaper." I said and she stared up at me, I changed her diaper and lifted her up and sat in the rocking chair, I decided six weeks ago that I was going to breast feed Kelsey. After I fed her and burped her, she fell asleep in my arms again. I carried her to the living room and put her in the play pen, we had the thing raised up so Kelsey come sleep in there without getting hurt. I took Sassy out and brought in the newspaper.

Austin was taking today, Tuesday, and Wednesday off of work and then going back to work on Thursday. "Good morning buddy." I said to Bryce who waked in "Morning mommy. Where is sissy?" He asked "Sissy is asleep." I said "Still?" He asked "She is going to be sleeping a lot buddy." I said "Oh." He replied and I smiled at him. "Let's get you some food." I said "Okay." He said smiling at me I gave him his plate, and his cup of orange juice. "Yummy mommy in my tummy." Bryce said "good. I'm glad you think so." I said and Bryce

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smiled at me, we saw no need in him going to day care until Austin goes back to work so he can spend time with both of his kids.

The weeks flew by and it's September 15th, two more weeks and I go back to work. It's Kelsey's first checkup. She lost the last of the cord last night and Austin freaked out about it, Colleen and I both laughed at him. I don't know how Colleen is doing it for she is working two jobs, while going to school, doing cheerleading, still taking care of Alyssa, spending time with us, her friends, and Nick. I woke up at six to Kelsey crying, she sleeps until six and then wakes me up every morning now. I change her and feed her, I set her in her playpen since she fell asleep and got Bryce up and ready for day care. Colleen came down with Alyssa in her arms. "I don't have time to eat." Colleen said "You have to feed Alyssa." I said "I know that's why I don't have time to eat." Colleen said and I smiled at her "Beauty of being a mom." I said and she rolled her eyes at me. "Come on baby girl, let's eat." Colleen said and Alyssa smiled.

Colleen got Alyssa and Bryce in the car, came back for her stuff and then left. She goes to school 8-3, cheerleading practice 3-4, day care 4-6, Publix 6:30-11. Austin came down and kissed Kelsey's cheek and kissed my lips. "I'm sorry I can't make it to the appointment but I have meetings all morning." Austin said "No worries baby." I said kissing his lips softly and walking him to the door. I pick up Kelsey and move her into her crib in my room. I then get dressed in my jeans and a cute T-shirt and brush my hair and pull it up into a ponytail, I have been meaning to get it cut since Kelsey likes to grab it and have a tight grip on my hair.

After I got ready I picked up Kelsey and gave her a bath, put her diaper on her and got her dressed in a cute dress with a cute bloomer. I got the diaper bag ready and gently placed Kelsey in her car seat. I carried her car seat, the diaper bag, and my purse to the car. I set the diaper bag, and purse down to get her in the car and then got everything else I needed in the car and got in the car and smiled at Kelsey who was asleep and sucking on her pacifier. My phone rings and the caller ID said Allie "Hello?" I asked "Hey. Happy belated birthday. How are you?" Allie asked "Thanks Allie. I'm good. How are you?" I asked "I'm good. I miss you." Allie said "I'm on my way to Kelsey's appointment." I said "Oh my, I want to see her. And you." Allie said "I know. You should visit." I said "I'm coming to West Palm Beach for an interview." Allie said "When?" I asked "Today. I'm on my way there now." Allie said "We have to get together. You have to come here to me." I said "Will do so. Callie is coming as well." Allie said "Okay, I'm looking forward to that." I said "I will let you go." Allie said "Okay, bye." I said hanging up and looking into my baby mirror to see Kelsey asleep still. I turned on my radio for the first time in awhile and listened to my favorite station. Kelsey was still asleep, when I arrived at the doctor's.

Chapter 31

After Kelsey's appointment and she got her first round of shots she needed and Kelsey didn't even cry at it. Instead of going home I drove to Colie's and smiled when I saw that Colie was home. I got Kelsey's car seat and walked to their house. "Hey." I said and Colie smiled at me "Come in, Lyndsey is asleep." Colie said and I smiled at her "Okay." I said "You can put Kelsey in her play pen with Lyndsey." Colie said and I smiled at her "Will do so." I said walking over to the play pen and smiling at Lyndsey, this was the first time I saw her. Lyndsey has Colie's baby blue eyes and Colie's dirty blonde hair. She has Bryan's facial features. "Kelsey is beautiful." Colie said "Thanks, Lyndsey is cute too." I said and Colie smiled at me.

Around four when I left I went to the day care and picked up Alyssa and Bryce. "Can I enroll my daughter for two weeks from now?" I asked "Take this form and we will take it when she's old enough." Sharon said and I nodded at her "Thank you ma'am." I said and walked to the car, I helped Bryce in and got Alyssa in her car seat. I went to the drive through of McDonald's and got dinner for everybody and went home. I got Bryce out and he carried the diaper bags to the house, I got Alyssa on my hip and Kelsey's car seat on my arm. I walked to the house and unlocked the door, Bryce let Sassy out so I set Alyssa down and she waddled into the house. I had Kelsey in her car seat still until Sassy went inside and then I took Kelsey out and changed her diaper.

Kelsey is the best baby I could have for my first child, she barely cries, she sleeps in the car, she is never cranky, sleeps through the night already. Austin came home and smiled at me, kissed my lips and picked up Kelsey. I tucked Alyssa in at eight and she fell asleep soon after to music playing, Bryce was in at eight fifteen, and Kelsey was in bed at ten since she wouldn't fall asleep. I stayed up at the kitchen table working on my article for my column since I was still able to do my columns and email it to Kevin while I'm at home with Kelsey.

At 11:20 Colleen walked in and set her book bag down at the table. "What did you guys have for dinner?" Colleen asked "McDonald's." I said "oh. I'll skip dinner then." She said "I got you something. I will heat it up. You get to school work." I said and she nodded. "You skip breakfast due to being rush, you eat lunch, and eat dinner late due to work." I said "I know, but I run off all the calories during cheerleading." Colleen said and she yawned "How much homework do you have?" I asked "American Government, English 3, Creative writing." Colleen said and I nodded "I have to write a research paper on a topic in Creative writing, do a work sheet in English 3, and answer questions on two chapters in American Government." Colleen said "Need help?" I asked "No, I'm good." Colleen said "Okay sissy. Good night." I said "Good-night." Colleen said and I went off to bed.

Kelsey actually woke up in the middle of the night crying "You hungry baby girl?" I asked and she blinked at me so I picked her up and walked into the kitchen, it was one in the morning and Colleen was up still doing homework "go to bed sissy." I said "I'm almost done." Colleen said "Bed." I said getting Kelsey's bottle ready and sitting down at the table. Colleen writes some more and puts her books down at the table. "Alright, I'm done. Good-night." Colleen said and I nodded. I burped Kelsey since she only ate half a bottle I put the other half in the fridge and we went back to bed.

Colleen's Pov:

I went to bed at one from doing my homework, I'm overdoing myself but I don't want to admit it because I love cheerleading, and I need the money for if Alyssa get sick and her clothes. I was awoken at five to Alyssa crying. "What is it baby girl?" I asked half-asleep but getting up and going to her crib she had a dirty diaper I could smell it from here. I picked her up and laid her on the changing table, she was looking a little flush and when I changed her diaper she had diarrhea. "Let me take your temperature baby girl." I said sticking the thing in her ear "Its 100.2 baby girl." I said and she did her baby cough. I changed her diaper and walked to

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the kitchen not sure of what to do. She hasn't been sick before, I have been lucky to have a healthy baby.

Her doctor office opens early so I called and a worker answered the phone "hello Doctor Love's office. How may I help you?" She asked "Yes, I was wondering if I could make an appointment for my daughter." I said "Name please?" She asked "Alyssa Summerland." I said "We can fit her in at seven thirty ma'am." She said "Okay I will have her in." I said and she hung up. I started a pot of coffee holding Alyssa in my arms, she was burning up. Lexie came in at six with Kelsey in her arms "I wouldn't have her near Alyssa. She's sick." I said "Okay." Lexie said grabbing the half of the bottle and walking out. After she fed and put Kelsey in her playpen she walked back in. "Did you make an appointment?" Lexie asked "Yes I did. Seven thirty. Hopefully she's healthy enough for me to go to school." I said and Lexie smiled "You're doing really good." Lexie said "Thanks. I'm going to go get dressed so I can make it on time." I said and she smiled at me.

I got dressed quickly and got Alyssa dressed and got her in my car and made it to the doctor's. "Alyssa has the flu." Doctor Love said writing out a prescription for some antibiotics. "Give it to her twice a day, she should be fine in a couple days." Doctor Love said and I nodded, it was eight now and my first period was beginning. I made it home and Lexie looked at me "Flu. I'm going to miss school and work until she's better." I said knowing it would hurt me "Okay." Lexie said "Have a friend bring you your make up work today for the rest of the week." Lexie said and I smiled at her.

I spent the day in my room with Alyssa curled up next to me on my bed asleep. Around four somebody was knocking on my door. "Come in." I said and it was Nick, he was in all of my classes. "Here is all of your makeup work for the rest of the week." Nick said "Thanks." I said "No problem, how is she feeling?" Nick asked "Okay I guess. She has been sleeping all day, she won't keep any food in." I said and Nick nodded. "I hope she feels better. But I have to get to work." Nick said "Okay baby. I love you." I said "I love you too." Nick said and he kissed me good-bye.

I went ahead and did my work for the rest of the week that night and woke up at six naturally to give Alyssa her medicine. I picked her up and laid her on my bed with me pulling the cover up and having my arms around Alyssa. Nick is more of a father to Alyssa than Chase is and Chase is her natural birth father. I walked out into the living room and ten and Lexie smiled at me, "How is she?" Lexie asked "Better. I'm going to make some soup, hoping she can hold it in." I said "Yeah, any school work left?" Lexie asked "Actually no, I finished it all yesterday." I said and she smiled at me. "Bring Alyssa out, if she is away from Kelsey then it's fine and I don't think she will be near her." Lexie said and I nodded.

Chapter 32

"I think you are right Lexie." I said after I came back in, I had Alyssa on the couch and I'm sitting beside her on the edge. "About you not being able to do two jobs, cheerleading, school, taking care of Alyssa, friends, family, and Nick?" Lexie asked "Yeah. I'm going to quit Cheerleading. And then I will get an extra hour with Alyssa in the day." I said and Lexie smiled at me "if that will work then let it work. But I'm proud of you Colleen." Lexie said and I smiled at her "Thanks." I said "Let's hope you don't get the flu next week because you can't afford to miss any more school or work." Lexie said and I nodded.

Friday night she was feeling better, moving up around and playing with Bryce so I knew I was able to go to work tomorrow at Publix. "Mama." Alyssa said "What?" I asked "mama" Alyssa said "Lexie! She said her first word!" I said and Lexie smiled at me, "I have it on camera and you saying that." Lexie said and I blushed. "Momma's baby girl. Come here baby." I said and she walked to me and I kissed her cheek.

I woke up at six and got ready for work, I arrived at seven and got off at midnight to make up for the past couple days because I really need the money. I found out Alyssa has said a couple more words today "eat, pee, poo, Au, Le, Bry." "If she mentions pee and poops then she is ready to be potty trained." Lexie said "I know. I need to work on that, I think she's ready." I said and Lexie smiled at me "Trust me, she is." Lexie said and I smiled at her.

A year later:

Colleen's Pov still:

Today I am graduating high school, Alyssa is two and a half years old, Kelsey is a year and a half year old, Bryce is five years old, Braden and Holly are four years old, Connor is graduating college tomorrow so we're going there for that. Nick and I are still together, we're going to college together in Tampa. Chase still isn't in Alyssa's life but that doesn't bother me. "Do you mind taking her? I can't have her with me because nobody will watch her." I said and Lexie nodded "Sure, go on. You look beautiful by the way." Lexie said "Thanks sissy." I said and she smiled at me, Lexie is twenty-three almost twenty-four, Jake is twenty-two, Connor is twenty, and I'm eighteen years old.

I make it to the high school and smile at Nick. "You look beautiful." Nick said and I flashed him my famous smile. "Thanks, you look good as well." I said and he kissed my lips. "Let's line up." He said and I smiled. "Colleen Summerland." Was announced and I walked up to the stage and got my diploma and walked back to the crowd. Afterwards I made my way to my family; Zoey is four months pregnant with Jake's first child but her third. Austin handed me Alyssa. "Mommy, I'm proud of you." Alyssa said "Thanks baby girl. I'm proud of myself as well." I said and she smiled at me, we saw Chase past by and he smile. Alyssa looks just like I did at that age, and Kelsey looks just like Alyssa mostly.

"Dinner tonight at the Meadows." Lexie said and I smiled, I'm taking Nick there tonight so he could finally see the magical place that Lexie found when our daddy died. "It's hard to believe it has been twelve years." I said "I know Coco but we're doing good. He's in heaven." Lexie said and I smiled at her. "I know thanks sissy." I said and she smiled at me. "I love you." Lexie said "I love you too."

Lexie's Pov:

This year has been crazy, it flew by. Kelsey is now a year and a half, Bryce is five years old, Alyssa is two and a half it seems like just yesterday for everything. Now all of the kids are running around the house. Colleen just graduated from high school; Connor is graduating from college tomorrow. We're in the car on our

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way to Tampa so we could make it on time. "I can't believe how fast this year has gone." I said "I know. It seemed like just yesterday Kelsey was a new born and now she's almost two." Austin said "I know. Honey, I'm pregnant." I said "How far along?" He asked "Eight weeks." I said "Congratulations baby." Austin said and I smiled "congratulations sissy." Colleen said and I smiled, Colleen and Alyssa were riding with us.

After Connor's graduation we helped him pack up his stuff and helped him load it up. "You best call when you get there." I said "Yes Lexie." Connor said "You need to. We will be worried about you." Jake said "I know Jake." Connor said "You be safe." Colleen said "I will Coco." Connor said "One big group hug?" Colleen asked and I nodded. Austin took a picture of Connor, Jake, Colleen, and I together. Connor since he graduated he is going to try to get a career over in Cocoa Beach, because he doesn't want to go back to Stuart. "Now is a better time to say this." Jake said and I looked at him "I got a job transferred. We're moving to Tallahassee." Jake said "Oh." I said and Colleen looked at me "Don't, I know you're going to Tampa but school." I said "Also to live. I don't want to stay in Stuart area either." Colleen said "Oh Coco." I said and she smiled at me at least.

I got news that Colleen is moving next weekend to Tampa, transferring to that Publix they already have a day care service for Alyssa, an apartment where they can live in. When we got home after I set Kelsey down for bed and Bryce went to bed I grabbed Sassy's leash and walked off. I couldn't jog since I'm pregnant again but I walked fast to the meadows. I sat down by the pond and started crying. Everything isn't the way it should be, everybody is going their own directions, nobody is going to be close anymore. All hours apart. "I miss you daddy. I miss you mom." I whispered. "Lexie, it's okay." I heard Colie's voice say. She walked up to me and hugged me, she was also pregnant. We have this thing of being pregnant at the same time. "Really? Everybody doesn't want to stay in Stuart." I said "Lex, can you blame them? You guys lost both your parents here." Colie said "Yeah you are right." I said "Our husbands have good news." Colie said and I looked at her "They are being transfer to Daytona Beach." Colie said and I stared at her. "He didn't tell you?" Colie asked "No. I took off before he could." I said and she nodded at me.

The next day, all of our families gathered at the meadows together for a lunch. "Promise me, every year on June 11th we come here? No matter what is going on." I said "Yes." Connor, Jake, and Colleen said. Kelsey walked up on my lap "Mommy, it's pretty here." Kelsey said "Yes it is, isn't it?" I said and she nodded. "Well we are all getting our new beginnings aren't we?" I asked and they smiled at me. "No matter how far we are Lex, we will always still be so close." Jake said "I know, it's just my pregnancy hormones." I said and Colleen laughed. "I'm going to miss you. Thank you for everything. You took me in and finished raising me and helped me with Alyssa." Colleen said and I smiled, Alyssa was in Austin's lap. "You better visit more. Alyssa will miss Austin and her cousins." I said and she smiled.

Chapter 33

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Chapter 34

Fifteen years later

Kelsey's Pov:

"Kids hurry up; we need to be getting on the road." My mom said and I smiled we were going to Stuart, Florida like we do every year on June 11th. I am sixteen years old almost seventeen years old; I just finished my sophomore year of high school and in the fall will begin my junior year of high school. I'm brushing my knee length strawberry blonde hair and pull it up into a ponytail since it's a three hour ride to Stuart. We live in Daytona Beach in a fancy neighborhood, our neighbors are my parent's best friends Colie and her family, and on the other side is my Aunt Colleen. I am best friends with Lyndsey, and Alyssa who is a year older than us.

I walk downstairs and smile at my family. Even my older half-brother Bryce is here. He is nineteen years old; he goes to University of Florida. It's Bryce, me, my little sister Summer who is 14, my brother Landon is 12 and my youngest sister Autumn is 10 years old. We load up in the car and head to Stuart. I put my headphones in my ear and turn on my Ipod. My parents were best friend growing up, didn't admit their feelings until right before they went to college which was different colleges the first year. My dad is a business manager and my mom is a writer at the local newspaper stand where she is the manager.

We arrive in Stuart and went to my mom's old house where we all stay at when we come since they never could put it up for sale. I actually sleep in my old room, which is my mom's old room. But I share it with Alyssa, Summer, and Autumn. Alyssa has three little siblings Brooke is 13, Macy is 10, and Corey is 8 years old. My mom and my dad are 39 and 38 years old, my mom and I have the same birthday August 15th. Uncle Jake is 37 years old, Uncle Connor is 35 years old, and Aunt Colleen is 33 years old. Uncle Jake has four children of his own and two step-children, Holly and Braden are eighteen years old, Jeff is 14, Samantha is 12, Amanda is 10, and Kyle is 8 years old. Uncle Connor has three kids Aiden is 8, Jasmine is 5, and Crystal is 3 years old. Their old house is a six bedroom, fitting four families in.

"Okay the room situation is Holly, Alyssa, Summer, Autumn, Kelsey, Brooke, and Samantha will be in my old room." My mom said and we began to take our bags up to the room. "Macy, Amanda, Jasmine, and Crystal will be in Alicia's old room." My mom said "Braden, Bryce, Landon, Corey, Jeff, Kyle, and Aiden will be in Josh's old room." My mom said "So we get our old rooms?" Uncle Jake asked my mom "Yes Jake." She said and they smiled "it will be like old times." Uncle Jake said and they all smiled. We went to our room and made the sleeping arrangement "Alyssa and Brooke will get the bed." I said "Okay." They said "I will get the window seat." I said "Okay." "I want the chair." Samantha said "Okay." I said "We'll sleep on our sleeping bags." Summer said and I nodded. "Holly?" I asked "Sleeping bag." She said and I smiled. "I'm looking forward to this weekend." I said "Me too." They said, since Holly, Alyssa, and I are the closest in age we're close friends. Alyssa and I attend the same school. "Grandpa has been gone for twenty-six years." I said "I know. Does Aunt Lexie talk about him?" Samantha asked and I nodded. "If we ask about him then she does and she smile about it. Daddy tells us not to bring it up much. I couldn't imagine losing my dad." I said "Me neither." Went around the room.

We go to the meadows that my mom found twenty-six years ago and we have our lunch and we enjoy the beautifulness of the meadows. My mom, Uncle Jake, Uncle Connor, and Aunt Colleen are on the grass talking. I walk up "Hey Kels." Uncle Jake said "Hey." I said "Am I interrupting anything?" I asked "Nope, just some sibling bonding time." My mom said "Come sit." Aunt Colleen said "You look so much like your mother and aunt." Uncle Jake said and I smiled "thanks." I said and he smiled "How is school? Or was school?" Uncle Connor asked me "it was good. I'm excited about next year." I said "junior is a big year." Aunt

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Colleen said and I smiled "Can you believe that Bryce is in college? Braden and Holly will be leaving in the fall for college, and Alyssa is a senior?" Uncle Jake asked and they all shook their heads. I decided to leave them and walked to my dad who was with the other non-family members "Hey sweetie." My dad said "hey daddy." I said "Kelsey you are turning out to be beautiful." Uncle Nick said "Hey!" I said but smiled at him. "You are beautiful Kelsey. Any boys chasing you?" Aunt Zoey asked me "Yes and no. I don't pay attention." I said and she smiled at me.

I have two best friends that I do everything with beside Alyssa. Lyndsey and Jared. Jared is my dad's old college friend Blake's son who is married to my mom's old college friend Allie. We have been friends for years, since Jared moved here. He's our age, which is something that shocked my mom but she was cool with it. We have been friends since we were four Jared and I. Lyndsey and I have been friends since we were born but from what we always tell people is since we were two. "Hey Kels, you should date Jared." Bryce said "Jared as in my best friend?" I asked "Yeah, he's cute isn't he?" Bryce asked "You're a boy." I said "I know, that's why I asked." Bryce said "No he's my friend." I said "Hey did your father or I ever tell you our story?" My mom asked coming up to us. "No ma'am." I said "We were best friends since we were two, Colie, your dad, and I. We did everything together. Throughout the years feelings occurred, I shared my first kiss with him which was a dare. We would play video games together, go out with other guys or girls and tell each other how it went. Our junior year I date a guy name Noah, we break up because I'm in love with another guy, and your dad here doesn't notices. Just like I didn't notice he was in love with a girl. We go our senior year being friends but distance because I tell him I like him and he just says he needs to focus on other things. But at the end when I'm already going to attend Duke, the night of our graduation party to be exact he told me how he really felt. So we had a long distance relationship our first year. But the point is we were best friends to begin with." My mom said "I love that story. But that isn't my case. I'm friends." I said and my dad walked up "Good, you are too young to date." My dad said "Oh daddy, I'm sixteen almost seventeen." I said "Still too young if I have a say in it." My dad said and I smiled "Okay daddy." I said kissing his cheek and walking over to join my cousins. I know in my daddy's eyes I was still his little girl and he didn't want me to get hurt.

Of course like these weekends normally are spent around the family we did huge family activates and ended the fun-filled weekend by having breakfast at Ihop. Aunt Colleen, our family will be returning to Daytona Beach, Uncle Jake to Coca beach, and Uncle Connor to Tampa. We had a huge table for all of us and we spent two hours eating breakfast and talking. Our good-byes were quick and simple and promising to see each other during the summer while us kids are on break were made. Half the time they are never followed through but we still do it anyways even though we already know.

Chapter 35

When we get back because it was around two in the afternoon after I helped unload the car I went next door to Lyndsey's house. Aunt Colie as we call her was sitting on the porch on her rocking chair "Hey Kels, she's in her room." Aunt Colie said and I smiled "Thanks." I said before walking into the house and walked up to Lyndsey's room. "Hey Lynds." I said "Hey Kels! Welcome home! Nice weekend?" Lyndsey asked "Indeed it was. Funny thing though, I got told I should date Jared." I said "Our best friend Jared?" Lyndsey asked and I nodded she laughed "Finally! Somebody agrees with me! I was just too nervous to say it out loud." Lyndsey said and I rolled my eyes at her "I'm friends with him and that is it." I said "Uh-huh. My mom told me about your parents, they were just friends." Lyndsey said and I rolled my eyes "Are you wanting to apply to Publix or not?" I asked and she smiled "It has to be better than the animal shelter like we have done for the past year." Lyndsey said "Then come on." I said and she grabs her bag.

We walk outside to see my mom and her mom talking "Where to girls?" My mom asked "Publix for job application." I said "Have fun." My mom said and I smiled "My car or your car?" I asked "Yours." Lyndsey said and I nod at her and we head to my 2015 Silver BMW that I got, it's older than I am but it runs great. We arrive at Publix and fill out an application "I need to get some groceries for dinner. My mom wanted me to pick something up." I tell Lyndsey "Alright no problem." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her. "What are you in the mood for?" Lyndsey asked me "We had seafood, burgers, and other fast food stuff. So nothing like that." I said "Fried chicken, potatoes salad, fruit?" Lyndsey asked me "Sounds good to me." I said so we got all the ingredients we needed and paid.

The next morning being a Monday, my mom and dad are up at six and walking around the house getting ready. I find my workout shorts and my yoga tank top and my tennis shoes. I pull my hair up into a high sloppy ponytail and walk downstairs. "Morning mom, morning daddy." I said "Morning Kels." They said they were eating breakfast and drinking coffee. "Plans for today?" My dad asked me "Morning jog, chores, pool, then the rest is unknown." I said "Have fun Kels." My dad said and my mom smiled "You are so much like I was at your age." My mom said "Thanks mom." I said and I know it's a good thing because I look up to her. "You haven't had to experience the awful things I did at your age." She said and I smiled at her. "But you are now the strongest, toughest woman I know momma." I said getting all southern with her. "Thanks baby doll." My mom said smiling at me. I put my armband on and put my Ipod in the protective case. "I'm off now." I said and they nodded. "Have a good day. I love you." I said "love you too." They said. I turned my music on when I got to the porch and began my journey this morning.

I ran around the neighborhood twice equaling two miles and then ran to the park which on the way back to the community was a mile so three miles and home was another mile. When I jogged up my street I saw Jared outside cutting the grass and he smiled at me "Morning Kels!" He said "morning!" I said jogging past him home. Aunt Colie and Uncle Bryan were at work now, my parents were at work. Bryce I'm not really sure about his plans for the summer since he's off now until the fall. I walked inside and took a shower. Getting dressed in denim shorts, and a tank top. I did my chores, vacuuming, sweeping, mopping, taking the trash out, and cleaning the bathrooms, cleaning my room. I finally sat down at the kitchen table to relax and the whole gang walked in from just waking up.

Bryce, Summer, Landon, and Autumn sat down at the kitchen table. I got up and made eggs, bacon, and sausage for them. "So Bryce what are your plans for summer?" I asked "Working at dad's shop in Tallahassee like always. I'm staying over there this summer to hang with college friends." Bryce said and I nodded, daddy's business went global, it's all over the country and he has multiple ones in Florida. Uncle Bryan is his business partner so that explains why we do a lot of family outings together. "When do you leave?" I asked "tonight. So I'm hanging with my little sisters and brother." Bryce said "There's a Yankees game this afternoon." Landon said "how many tickets do we have?" I asked "Dad, Bryce, me, you, and mom." Landon

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said "Girls?" I asked "Aunt Colie's." Summer said and I looked at Autumn "Aunt Colleen's." She said and I smiled. Lyndsey has three siblings as well Jessie is fourteen, Logan is 12, and Courtney is ten. Our mothers have this thing of getting pregnant around the same time.

Around one after we enjoyed a couple hours in the pool we knew it was time to get ready for the game. I wore my denim shorts, and my Yankees jersey, with my Yankee hat holding my hair up in a ponytail. By the time I was ready my parents arrived and got changed for the game. Summer was already at Aunt Colie's and Autumn was at Aunt Colleen's. "Ready kids?" My dad asked and we nodded "I love having three kids into baseball." My mom said and I smiled at her, "You are never too old are you?" I asked "I'm not old." My mom said and I smiled at her.

After the game which we won we picked up Autumn and Summer and went out to eat to celebrate life, and our last family dinner until birthdays. Bryce's birthday is March 15th, mine is August 15th, Summer's birthday is January 15th, Landon's birthday is May 15th, and Autumn's birthday is September 15th. Daddy's is July 15th, and momma is August 15th. We ate at Bryce's favorite place which is Red Lobster. "You kids are amazing, I am so proud of all of you." Momma said "Thanks mom." We all said and she smiled at us.

Bryce looked at my mom and dad "I'm not going to college next year." Bryce said "Why son?" My dad asked "I'm joining the Army. I want to serve our country." Bryce said and I looked at my mom's face which was color drained. Uncle Jake got hurt overseas when he joined many years ago. "If that is what you want then we will support you Bryce." Momma said and he nodded "I go to boot camp tomorrow, that's why I'm leaving." Bryce said "So you lied to us?" Saying you were working at daddy's shop." I said "To protect you. I know you girls would be a wreck." Bryce said and I nodded.

When we got home it was our time to say good-bye we wouldn't see him until September when he finishes everything he has to and we go to his graduation. He worked his way up from Autumn to me now "Be good Kels, don't give momma or dad a hard time. I love you sissy." He said "I love you too. Stay safe." I said and he smiled, he said his good-byes to momma and daddy and then got in his truck and drove off. It was still a decent hour around seven and the phone was ringing "I got it." Autumn said coming back out and looking at me "it's for you." Autumn said and I nodded. "Hello?" I asked "Is this Kelsey Blevins?" A male voice asked "Yes sir this is she." I said "I am Brad the manager at Publix. I'm calling to set up an interview with you ma'am." He said "Okay, when would be a great time?" I asked "How is tomorrow at nine miss?" Brad asked me "That is perfect sir." I said "Okay Miss Blevins I will see you then." Brad said and we hung up. My mom looked at me "Interview tomorrow." I said and she smiled.

Chapter 36

I woke up at six to my alarm going off. I forgot to disconnect my alarm since it's summer time now. I got dressed in my yoga shorts and yoga shirt on. I found my pumas and went jogging for an hour and jogged back home and pulled out my yoga mat and turned on relaxing music to stretch and enjoy the relaxation. "Kelsey!" Summer said walking out "What?!" I asked because she said it loudly and I jumped out of my skin. "I'm going to the mall, do you want to go?" Summer asked "No thank you. I have an interview at nine." I said and she smiled at me "Have a good time. Good luck Kels." Summer said and I smiled at her. "Thanks Sum, have a good time." I said and she smiled at me.

I went to my room and found my white summer dress, brown leggings, and my fancy sandals. I brushed my hair and left it down, putting my silver headband on my head. I walked downstairs and smiled at my sisters who were downstairs. "Landon is going over to Aunt Colie's right?" I asked "Yeah, he's already there." Summer said "Thanks, I will be back as soon as I can." I said "Good luck Kels." Autumn said and I smiled at her. I got in my car and turned my music on to my favorite rock station and enjoyed the ten minute ride to Publix and waited until nine.

I walked in and a man in his late twenties looked at me "Are you Kelsey Blevins?" He asked me "Yes sir. Are you Brad?" I asked "Yes I am." Brad said "Come this way Miss Blevins." Brad said and I followed him into his office. He asked me a few questions "I will get back with you Miss Blevins." He said "Thank you sir." I said and he smiled at me. I drove home and Lyndsey was walking out in her cute summer dress "Interview at Publix." She said "Just had one." I said and she smiled at me "good luck Lynds." I said and she smiled at me "Thanks." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her, she got in her car and drove off.

Around one I met up with Jared and Lyndsey at the best pizza parlor place in Daytona Beach for lunch. "How was your interview?" I asked Lyndsey "Good, yours?" Lyndsey asked me "it was good." I said and she smiled at me. "I have an interview with your dad tomorrow." Jared said "To work at the job?" I asked "Yeah, the car washing part." Jared said and I smiled at him. We ordered our mushroom, pepperoni, and sausage pizza. We ordered milkshakes and Dr. Peppers to go with our pizza. We got our milkshakes first and finished in no time. "This should be an amazing summer." I said "If we save up enough from the jobs we should take a road trip this summer." Lyndsey said "Where to?" I asked "Busch Gardens." Jared said "I have family near there we could stay there maybe." I said "Let's bring it up with our family tonight." Jared said "Okay." We said and smiled.

While I had a mouthful of pizza in my mouth and my phone started ringing. "Hello?" I asked "Is this Kelsey Blevins?" Brad asked me "Yes sir." I said "I am calling to inform you that you have the job." Brad said "Thank you sir." I said "Can you come in at four to get your schedule?" Brad asked me "Yes sir." I said and we hung up. I looked at Jared and Lyndsey and her phone went off "Yes sir." "Thank you sir." "Yes sir." Lyndsey said and I looked at her "We got the job!" And I smiled at her and Jared was smiling.

We didn't bother going home because it was three so we walked around town for half an hour and then made our way to Publix. Lyndsey was driving first and I was following her in my car. We arrived at the same time and I smiled at Lyndsey "Are you ready?" I asked "Yes I am." I said and she smiled.

We walked up to Brad together and he smiled "Let me guess best friends?" Brad asked us "Yes sir." I said "Okay well let me give you your schedule." Brad said "Okay." We said and he gave us a piece of paper, for this week it's Wednesday: 7am-2pm, Thursday: 8am-4pm, Friday: 7am-5pm, Saturday: 12-7pm, Sunday: 1pm-9pm. We went home and my mom and dad were on the porch drinking a cup of coffee enjoying the night sky. "I got the job!" I said "That's wonderful!" My mom said. "Lyndsey, Jared and I were talking and we were wondering if we save up our money, if the beginning of August if we could stay at Uncle Connor's." I said

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"We have to talk to Lyndsey's parents, Jared's parents. But we will get back with you." My mom said and I nodded at her.

The next morning I woke up at five, went jogging for an hour, got dressed and ate breakfast with my parents. I hugged my mom good-bye and kissed my dad's cheek good-bye. I got in the car and made it to work. I clocked in at exactly 7 and Lyndsey came in as well, we got a tour by Brad and were told what to do. To begin with we will be baggers but could work our way up to cashiers. Work was good, it went by quick and we clocked out. We met Jared at the pizza place and he looked at us "So?" Jared asked "parents have to discuss." I said "I know. They're having dinner out tonight, I have to babysit." Jared said "I do too." I said "Me too." Lyndsey said "We should all stay at my house then." I said "Okay." They said agreeing, Jared has four siblings VS our three. Cayla is fourteen, Caleb is twelve, Ally is ten, and Tori is two years old.

So it's my three siblings and I, Lyndsey and her three siblings, and Jared and his four siblings at my house. The three boys are playing video games; Cayla, Summer, and Jessie are upstairs in her room. Autumn, Ally, and Courtney are in Autumn's room. Leaving us with the sweet and adorable Tori. She loves me to death, she will follow me everywhere. "Who is that?" Tori asked referring to a picture of Sassy and Mr. Prince on wall, my mom's Saint Bernard and my dad cat. Mr. Prince is still alive, he's 18 years old, so he isn't expected to live much longer. But Sassy died three years old, she was my dog after I got old enough to know what she was. "Sassy and Mr. Prince. You have seen Mr. Prince." I said "Oh." She said and I smiled at her. "Daddy left money." I said and Lyndsey and Jared nodded they both had money from their dads. "Order a huge pizza from there?" I asked "Sure." They said, so we ordered three X-large pizzas for the kids and ourselves.

We spent some time outside with all the kids, Caleb, Logan, Landon, and Jared playing football. Summer, Cayla, and Jessie are painting each other's nails on the porch. Autumn, Ally, and Courtney are on the swing set swinging. Lyndsey, Tori, and I are in the sandbox that we had from when we were younger. "This brings back so many memories." Lyndsey said "I agree. I remember when we were little playing in this while our moms were holding summer, Jessie, and Cayla." I said and she smiled in agreement. A few minutes later the cars pull up. Lyndsey's parents pulled up to their house. "Lynds, Logan, Jessie, Courtney time to come home." Uncle Bryan said "Bye Lynds." I said "Bye Kels." She said "Come on kiddos." Uncle Blake said, Jared picked up Tori and carried her to the car.

I showed up to work at 8 and smiled Lyndsey was there waiting for me. "Dinner tonight, all of us." Lyndsey said "I know I got the news, I woke up to go jogging." I said "You already stay in shape." Lyndsey said and I smiled "This is why." I said and she smiled at me. I went to my spot and began.

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After dinner we were called to come out on the porch. We sat on the steps while the adults sat on the chairs. "Kelsey, Lyndsey, and Jared we decided that your idea for a road trip was a wonderful idea. But you need to call your uncle and ask him." My mom said and we all looked at each other, my mom handed me the house phone. "Hello?" Aunt Laurie asked "Hello Aunt Laurie, it's Kelsey. Is Uncle Connor around?" I asked "Hey Kels, how is it going?" She asked me "Really good. How are things with you?" I asked "Good Kels, hold on. Let me get him." She said "Okay thanks." I said and looked at my mom who was biting back a smile. "Hey Kels. What's up?" Uncle Connor asked me "Nothing much. I have a question for you." I said "Uh-on. Sounds serious. Am I in trouble?" He asked me "No sir." I said "Okay, go ahead and ask Kels." Uncle Connor said. "I was wondering if my two friends Lyndsey, and Jared and I could go visit you guys one of the first weekends in August so we could go to Busch Gardens?" I asked "Hmm, let me think. Is this the Jared that you have the crush on?" Uncle Connor asked and I felt my face turn beat red. "No sir." I said "Let me ask your Aunt Laurie." He said and he put me on hold. Everybody looked at me, my mom was trying really hard not to laugh now. He came back on the other line "It's fine with us. We have a guest bedroom for you two and a tent for Jared. I don't want no more nieces or nephews." Uncle Connor said and I could tell my face was beat red "Thank you Uncle Connor." I said "Let me speak to your mom?" He asked "Yes sir, sure." I said handing my mom the phone. After a few minutes she busted out laughing. "We love you guys too. Have a good one." My mom said hanging up.

"August 4th-6th you will be in Tampa, ask for the time off." My mom said and I nodded. We went for a walk and I knew my mom was telling them. "Why was your face so red?" Lyndsey asked "Was it? I didn't know." I said and she smiled at me. "Kelsey Lynn I will get the answer out of you." She said "maybe so." I said and giggled. "I know you oh so well." Lyndsey said "Is that so?" I asked and she smiled at me. "Try to catch me if you can and then I will tell you." I said "Okay fine!" Lyndsey said "One two three go!" Jared said and we took off running. I was running as fast as I could and I tripped over a rock and I couldn't move my leg. "Ow!" I said "Kelsey!" Jared and Lyndsey said running to catch up to me. "I think it's sprained or broken." I said "We'll get you home. You're all bloody as well." Jared said, each helping me up and propping me up. We walked the mile back home or they did and I limped. Our parents were still outside but when they saw us coming my dad rushed to me. "What happened?" He asked as he took me from them, lifting me up and carrying me like he did when I was little. "We were racing, I tripped over a rock." I said and my mom was already going to get the first aid kit.

"Can you move it?" My mom asked after cleaning it and putting stuff on it to stop the bleeding. "It hurts really bad when I move it." I said "Hospital or wait a little bit?" My mom asked Aunt Colie "I would say wait until morning unless it gets worse." Aunt Colie said and my mom nodded. "I'm going to lift you up and set you on the couch." My dad said and I nodded "Okay." I said and he did so, Lyndsey gave me a pillow to prop up my right leg with. It was throbbing right now; I couldn't move it, and all I could feel was pain. "You were running really fast." Lyndsey said and I nodded "I'm spending the night. My parents and yours said I could." Lyndsey said and I smiled. After Jared and them left my mom came in and sat next to me. "Are you feeling any better?" She asked "No ma'am, it still hurts like before." I said "You might not have broken it, but sprained it." She said and I nodded. "I have to go to work tomorrow though." I said "Not if you can't move it." She said and I nodded. Knowing I would be there.

The leg didn't improve over night, it was swollen instead. I could barely put any weight on my leg. But I acted like I could and went to work on it like it was; of course I let Lyndsey drive. At five after being on my hurt leg all day I was relieved to be going home. When I got home and changed into my comfortable shorts I looked at my leg, it was really swollen and hurt worse than it did. My mom came in to tell me we were going out to dinner but instead she called for my dad "Kels." My dad mumbled picking me up and taking me to the car. Everybody was already in the car "We have a quick detour before dinner." My mom said and they nodded in

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agreement.

We waited an hour to be seen and the doctor took X-rays of my leg. "It isn't broken. You're lucky on that. It's sprained big time. I will prescribe antibiotics for the pain; give you a splint to put your knee in." The doctor said and I nodded at him. He put the black splint on my knee where it was sprained at and told me to stay off of my feet for a while. I nodded saying I would until noon tomorrow and he nodded. We went to Wal*mart to get the prescription filled and went to Subway while we waited. "No more running for a while." My dad said "I know daddy." I said and he smiled at me "I love you cupcake." He said "I love you too daddy." I said enjoying my sub. We got my prescription and went home.

I had help to my bed, I propped my knee up like doctor ordered and started watching romantic movies, The Notebook, The Vow, The Last Song, stuff like that. I feel asleep at two when the medicine kicked in finally. I woke up at eight and knew I couldn't move so I turned my TV on to my favorite channel. I slowly moved at eleven and got dressed in my work uniform and slowly made my way downstairs. It still hurt but not like it did yesterday. I sat down at the kitchen table where my family was discussing plans for the day. "When do you get off?" My mom asked me "Seven." I said "Honey go easy on the knee." Daddy said "I will daddy. I'm going to get Lyndsey to drive." I said "Smart girl." My mom said and I smiled at her.

"Hey Lynds." I said walking up to her car "Need a ride?" she asked "Yeah, they don't want me driving." I said "I don't want you driving. Get in." She said and I smiled "So what happened the other night?" Lyndsey asked me "Nothing. My uncle just brought up something embarrassing. Something from the past." I said "Oh Kels, you can't lie." She said "Uh-huh if I really wanted to." I said "well you must not want to." She said "Okay, he brought up asking if Jared is the guy I like and he will be in the tent." I said "Do you?!" Lyndsey asked me "No! He's my best friend! That is it!" I said and Lyndsey smiled "Uh-oh you like him! You really like him!" Lyndsey said and I rolled my eyes at her.

During work I got a text saying they were going out to eat so I could go hang with my friends for dinner. After work I looked at Lyndsey "Are you hungry?" I asked "Starving." Lyndsey said "Pizza Parlor!" I said and Lyndsey smiled at me and drove the way. We met up with Jared who was sitting at our usual table since we told him to meet us there. "Cheers to us friends!" I said "Friends forever!" Jared said "Agree!" Lyndsey and I said "This will be an amazing summer!" Lyndsey said "Agree!" Jared and I said. "Best Pizza ever!" I said "I know. I prefer this pizza." Lyndsey said "I could eat this every night if I could." Jared said "Agree!" Lyndsey and I said. "When do you work tomorrow?" Jared asked "One to nine." We said and he smiled "We get our schedule for this week as well." I said "Awesome, I get mine from your dad tomorrow." Jared said "That's cool." I said smiling at my two best friends. "I love y'all." I said.

Chapter 38

The next day at eleven I'm outside at the park waiting for Jared. He texted me saying he needed to talk to me because it was urgent. "What's up?" I asked "Can we take a walk? If you are up for it?" He asked "Yeah, my knee is fine." I said "I have a crush on this girl. I have known her forever. We grew up together. What do I do?" Jared asked "Tell her how you feel. If she likes you then things should work. She would be a lucky girl to have you." I said and he smiled "Thanks Kels." Jared said "Who is this lucky girl?" I asked him "Lyndsey." He said and I felt my whole world turn upside down. "Our Lyndsey? Not Lindsey?" I asked "Yes, our Lyndsey." He said "Good luck with telling her." I said "Thanks. There is this party tonight. Do you think you can get her to go?" Jared asked "I will try Jared." I said "Thanks Kels, you are the best." Jared said and I smiled "Thanks, although I try not to be." I said and he smiled. "Don't tell her?" He asked "I won't." I said and he smiled at me. "You are a life saver." Jared said and I smiled at him.

While we were waiting for our schedule and to begin work I looked at Lyndsey. "We are invited to a beach party tonight." I said "I want to go! But can I?" Lyndsey asked "Our parents were young once." I said "True." Lyndsey said and smiled at me "Here is your schedule Lyndsey and Kelsey." Brad said and we nodded. Monday: 7-1pm, Tuesday: 1-7, Wednesday: 3-10, Thursday: 2-9, Friday: Off, Saturday: 7-2pm, Sunday: 2pm-10pm. After work we went home and asked our parents and were told yes. Had to be home at one though and we're excited about that.

I wore my cute summer dress and my rainbow flip-flops. When we arrived Jared smiled at us and winked at me. I saw my cute old Biology partner Chance and smiled at him. "Hey Kelsey. What happened?" He asked to me "I tripped." I said and he smiled at me. "Poor Kelsey, you need to be more careful." He said "Indeed I do." I said and he smiled at me "You are really beautiful." He said "Thanks." I said and looked up to see Lyndsey and Jared gone. "We should go out sometimes." Chance said "Yeah we should." I said "Are you free tomorrow night?" Chance asked me "Yeah, I am." I said "Want to go out tomorrow at seven?" He asked me. "Sure." I said and he smiled at me. We spent the time talking and I looked to see that it was close to one. "I have to find Lyndsey so I can go." I said "I can give you a ride." He said "Okay, let me text Lyndsey to let her know." I said and he nodded. I texted her warning her the time to go home.

Chance opened my car door and let me in. We went to my house and I smiled "Thanks Chance. See you tomorrow." I said and he smiled at me. "Bye Kels." He said and I smiled at him and walked inside. My dad was sitting up watching TV "Daddy, go to bed." I said "Couldn't sleep with you gone." Daddy said "Oh daddy." I said "How was the party?" He asked me "Good daddy. I um have a date tomorrow." I said "Uh-oh. I'm going to have to break his legs." Daddy said and I smiled "No you don't daddy." I said and he kissed the top of my forehead "baby girl go to bed." He said "I'm good daddy." I said curling up with him and he smiled at me. "You are never too old for this." Daddy said "No matter what daddy, I will always be your little girl. Your baby girl." I said "I know Kelsey. I know baby girl." He said "Good night daddy." I said "Good night Kels. I love you." He said "I love you too." I said. I went to my bedroom and changed into a T-shirt and crawled into bed. My alarm clock would be going off in four hours so I could begin work. I'm getting paid on Friday, my first paycheck and I'm excited about it. I would save most of my money so I could have money to spend on the Saturday of our trip.

I woke up at six since I can't jog for a while and I didn't feel like going for a walk because it doesn't wake you up. I got dressed and walked downstairs and smiled at my mom and dad "Your dad told me about your date tonight." My mom said and I smiled "I knew he would mom." I said and she smiled at me "When do you get off?" She asked "one." I said and she smiled "So you aren't working all day?" She asked me "No ma'am." I said and she smiled at me "Have a good day." She said and I smiled at her. "I'm getting a ride with Lyndsey." I said and they nodded.

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"Kelsey Lynn Blevins." Lyndsey said as soon as I walked to the driveway. "What?" I asked trying to act all innocent. "Not here." She said giving me the death glare and I rolled my eyes. When we got in the car and she pulled away we drove to town. "Jared asked me out. Are you okay with it?" Lyndsey asked me "Of course, I am." I said "Good. He's taking me out tonight." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her "That's good. Chance is taking me out." I said and she smiled at me "Chance Lynnwood?" Lyndsey asked me. "Yes him." I said "Oh my god! You are so lucky." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her. "I'm ready for work to finish." I said and Lyndsey laughed "We haven't even gotten there yet." Lyndsey said "I know Lynds." I said and she smiled at me.

We went to work and clocked in, and began working. I saw Jared go up to my line and smiled at the cashier but flashed a smile at me. "Have a good day." I said "You too." He said but he smiled at me and then went to get something so he could go to Lyndsey's checkout line. We clocked out at one and went to my house to hang out at the pool. All of our siblings are out at the pool as well so it's one big pool party. Alyssa, Brooke, Macy, and Corey were here as well. Alyssa is like one of our best friends but she's a year older than us and my cousin. "I have a date tonight." I said "Uh-oh with who?" Alyssa asked "Chance Lynnwood." I said "The Chance?" Alyssa asked and I nodded "He's a legend and he's an 11th grader now. The Lynnwood are very known. His older brother Gavin was a major legend, he graduated this year." Alyssa said "I remember hearing about him." I said and she nodded. "Just be careful Kels." Alyssa said and I nodded at her.

After we spent some time in the pool everybody went home, Lyndsey had to go get ready and I had to get ready. I took a shower, letting the warm water beat against my skin for a bit and then got dressed in my short skirt with gray leggings, a cute tank top, I brushed my hair and let the curls fall down. I wore my cute silver studded sandals and my Kelsey necklace and my diamond earrings. I walked downstairs and my mom smiled at me. "You look beautiful." My mom said "Thanks momma. I tried." I said and she smiled at me. I sat down next to my dad who rolled his eyes "You are too young." My dad said "Austin you were dating at her age, I was dating at her age." My mom said and I smiled "Still I don't like it Lexie." Daddy said and I giggled "I'm sorry daddy. I love you." I said "I love you too baby girl. I better approve of him." Daddy said "I know daddy. If you don't it won't last but one date." I said and my mom snorted. "That is not how it works. You will crave Chance's attention if we disapprove. I was your age once." My mom said "It's hard to believe." I said "Kels!" My mom said smiling at me. "Have fun Kels." Summer said "Thanks, hey when I get home you want to watch movies? Just us girls?" I asked "Sure Kels." Summer said "I'm in for it." Autumn said "If you can stay up late enough that is." I said and she smiled at me. I still had my knee splint on so my outfit wasn't that good looking like I was hoping for but I think I still look good enough for it. "You girls and Landon is growing up too fast." Daddy said.

Chapter 39

Right on time the doorbell rang and I got up to answer it. I had my antibiotics in my pocket in case I needed it. Chance smiled at me "You have to meet my parents/family before I go." I said "I figured that." He said I walked ahead of him and led him to the living room and my parents smiled at him "Mom and dad this is Chance. Chance these are my parents." I said "It's nice to meet you Mr. and Mrs. Blevins." Chance said "You too. Come in and sit." My dad said "Daddy." I said "No it's fine Kelsey. I understand. After all you are his princess, his pride and joy." Chance said and I knew that just got him some brownies point. "Ever drank? Smoked? Tattoos? A teen parent? Do drugs? Grades? Ever in trouble?" My dad asked "No sir I haven't drank, no sir I haven't smoked, no sir I don't have any tattoos and no sir I am not a teen parent. Never done drugs, grades are A's and B's sir, no sir never in trouble." Chance said "Your parents, who are they?" My dad asked "Kyle Lynnwood he is from Georgia but Ashley Holmes or was." Chance said "I was friends with your mom. You have two half-siblings. Caylee and Brent." My mom said "Yes ma'am." Chance said "Well he's done drilling you. So you kids go and have a good time." My mom said and I smiled at her "Bye mom, bye daddy." I said "Have her home by ten." Dad said "Okay sir." He said "Dad my curfew is eleven." I said "Have her home by ten Chance." My dad said "Okay sir, will do so." Chance said and my dad nodded.

When we got in the car and drove away I looked at Chance "I'm so sorry about my dad." I said "No need to be, first date?" He asked "That he knows of." I said and he smiled at me. "Still your dad was just doing his job." Chance said and I smiled at him, he took me to a Rave, a kid's club type thing. We danced for an hour, and then he took me to his dad's work. "I go here all the time! I'm a regular customer." I said feeling bad not paying attention to things. "No problem, he has amazing pizza." Chance said. The name of the place is Lucky's Pizza and Subs. Chance is Italian after all, it should have clicked.

We sat down at a booth and a waiter walked up to us "Welcome to Lucky's. Hey Chance and Kelsey." The waiter who is Adam Parker, he's in our grade. "Hey." We said "What can I get you to drink?" Adam asked "Coke." Chance said "Dr. Pepper." I said "Coming right up." Adam said walking off "What do you want?" Chance asked "Normally I get a supreme pizza with my friends." I said "We can get that." Chance said "Okay." I said "Cheesy bread?" He asked "The best." I said and Chance smiled at me. "Do you work here?" I asked "Yeah, tonight is my night off. My dad is hardest on me." Chance said "I can imagine. Will this business be yours one day?" I asked "Yeah it will." Chance said "Cool." I said "Do you work?" Chance asked me "Yeah, at Publix." I said "Cool story." Chance said "Favorite color?" I asked "Green, yours?" Chance asked "Orange." I said.

By the time Adam took our order and went to the back we knew everything about each other. We really hit it off, and I'm starting to form more of a crush on him. What? I have had a crush on Chance since the 7th grade, Jared since the 9th grade. But Jared has had a crush on Lyndsey since 6th grade and they are going out tonight. We ate our meal, I only had one slice and a piece of cheesy bread. Chance got a to go box and when we got in the car he handed it to me. "Take it home for your family." Chance said and I nodded "We have an hour left, head to the beach?" Chance asked "Sure." I said and he drove to the beach.

We sat down on a sand bank and he wrapped his arms around me. "This is nice." Chance said "I agree it is." I said, the stars were out and shining bright. It was like a dream date with a dreamy guy.

He looked at me "I really like you Kelsey." Chance said "I really like you too." I said and he smiled at me. He has a nice tan going on, green eyes and brown hair, he was a dreamy guy. He gently brushed a strand of my loose hair back and looked me in the eyes. "You have beautiful eyes." Chance said "Thanks." I said he smiled at me "Can I ask you something?" He asked still looking me in the eyes, he was so close I could feel his breath. "Anything." I said "Can I kiss you?" Chance asked "Yes." I said he leaned in and he kissed me. It was a soft and gentle kissed, he didn't pull away. Our tongues did dances around each other, in each other's

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mouths. I wrapped my arms around his neck and he wrapped his arms around my waist. We kept kissing for a few minutes and then he laid me down on the sand and got on top of me. We were still kissing each other and he was rubbing his hands on my back. He lifted up my dress and rubbed my back still, moving his hands around. He moved his hands to my bra and slowly made his way to my chest. He felt my boobs, gently touching them, and then he squeezed them. We were still kissing and I wasn't telling him to stop because I was actually enjoying it but I knew it was getting too far. He was playing with my boobs and I gently broke away "Stop Chance. I don't feel comfortable." I said "Okay Kelsey. I understand." He said and he sat next to me still with his arms around me.

"Let's get you home. I don't want to get either one of us in trouble." Chance said after a few minutes "Okay." I said and he held my hand and led me to the car. He got in on his side and he leaned over and kissed my lips softly. I returned the kiss, and neither one of us pulled away. He led his hands to my boobs again but I pulled away "You going to drive?" I asked "Yeah." Chance said and he drove me home. He got out, opened my car door and held my hand when we got to the door. It was 9:45 so I was home before ten. "I had a great time tonight." Chance said "I did too." I said "I will see you later?" Chance asked "Yeah." I said and I kissed his cheek good-bye, he walked to his car and when he finally drove away I went in.

I set the pizza on the counter and got the two liter of Dr. Pepper out and went up to my room. My parents were in their room with the door open after I set the pizza in my room I went to my parents door. "Momma and daddy can I come in?" I asked "Sure." Daddy said "How did it go?" My mom asked "It went good mom. I had fun." I said "Do you plan on seeing him again?" My dad asked "Yes sir, is that a problem?" I asked "No Kels." My mom said cutting my dad off and I rolled my eyes. "I'm going to go get the girls for our movie night." I said and my mom nodded.

I walked into Summer's room "Come on Sum." I said and she got up and raced to my room. I went into Autumn's room "Come on Autumn." I said and she smiled at me, and rushing to my room. We all got on my bed and pigged out on the pizza and cheesy bread. We watched one movie and Autumn fell asleep, Summer and I watched two more movies and she fell asleep. I laid in the middle of them and drifted off to sleep finally at three. I begin work at one and don't get off until seven so I had time.

I woke up at eight and slowly crawled out of bed. I walked into the kitchen to seeing my mom sitting at the kitchen table. "Morning." I said "Morning Kels. Come sit." She said and I did so. "What's wrong?" I asked "Your grandpa passed away today." My mom said "How?" I asked "A heart attack." She said "That is so sad." I said although I wasn't really close to my grandpa. "Your dad is flying to New York for it right now actually. He didn't want us to go." My mom said "That's so sad." I said and she nodded.

Chapter 40

I did my chores and around ten I went outside in my pajamas still and I saw Lyndsey outside and she smiled at me. She walked over to me and we sat down in the swings in the back yard. "How did your date go?" I asked "Good, we're going out again. Friday night to be exact." Lyndsey said "That's awesome." I said "How did your date go?" Lyndsey asked me "Good. I'm sure we will go out again, we hit it off really well." I said and she smiled at me, "did you kiss?" I asked "Yes we did. Did you guys?" Lyndsey asked "Yeah we did." I said and she smiled at me, "Well I will see you at work?" Lyndsey asked "Yeah." I said and she smiled.

After I ate lunch at twelve I went ahead and got dressed for work. Summer was being a drama queen acting all depressed, Autumn was acting sad, Landon was playing video games and I went outside to head on to work. My mom was sitting outside on the swing set with her knees brought up to her chest "How are you?" I asked "Good baby girl." My mom said "Are you sure?" I asked "Yeah. I just feel bad for your dad. He was really close to your grandpa. I was close to him." My mom said "I'm sorry mom." I said hugging her "It's okay Kels. When do you get off?" My mom asked me, "Seven." I said "Let's go out for dinner tonight. Just you and I." My mom said "When?" I asked "Seven thirty at Hope's?" My mom asked me "Sure." I said "Alright, I get off at seven so I will head up over there then." My mom said "Okay mom. I love you." I said "I love you too." I said.

I go to work and I clocked in and went to my station and began working. Around five Chance came in and went to my line. "You have any plans tonight?" He asked me "Yeah. Sorry, with my mom." I said and he smiled at me "Maybe another night." He said "Okay." I said smiling at him. I got off at seven and clocked off. I smiled at Lyndsey and went to my car. I got home and changed into my ripped jeans, with my knee splint, and a cute tank top. I went to my car and drove to Hope's. My mom was sitting outside waiting for me and smiled "I had time to change." I said and she smiled at me "Let's go in." She said and I followed her in. "How many?" A waitress asked "Two." My mom said "Right this way." She said leading us to our table.

"Hello, I'm Lacey and I will your waitress this evening. What can I get you to drink?" A girl around Alyssa's age asked. "Dr. Pepper." We both said "Two Dr. Peppers coming right up." Lacey said and walking to the back. My mom looked at me "What are you in the mood for?" She asked "A BLT. You?" I asked her "I'm thinking the Salmon burger." My mom said "We'll try the others?" I asked "You know it." She said and Lacey came back with our drinks "What can I get you? Or do you need more time?" Lacey asked "I will have a BLT." I said "I will have the salmon burger." My mom said "Coming right up. Hey, are you Kelsey?" Lacey asked "Yeah I am." I said "I go to school. I'm a senior though. I'm friends with Alyssa." Lacey said and I smiled at her.

"How do you think your summer is going?" My mom asked me "So far good. I mean it's still June but good." I said "Are you looking forward to August?" My mom asked "For the Tampa trip yes. For school not really." I said "Do you like working at Publix?" My mom asked me "Yes ma'am. I love it." I said and she smiled at me. "Do you like Chance?" My mom asked me "Yeah, I do." I said and she smiled at me. "This is good. Spending quality time with you." She said "I know mom" I said and she smiled at me. Lacey came back with our food and we smiled at her, she refilled our drinks.

I gave my mom my BLT and she gave me hers and we ate a bite. We traded back and smiled and took a bite of our owns. "I prefer mine." I said "I prefer my own." My mom said and I smiled at her. We talked more about the summer, about our birthdays, and talked about my future. We went to go see a local movie playing and went home at eleven. We spent time with Landon, Summer, and Autumn and then I slipped outside. "Hey Kels." Lyndsey and Jared said "Hey. Sorry I was spending time with my mom." I said "Understandable. I'm thinking of a double date Friday? At the skating ring?" Lyndsey said "I will check with Chance." I said "Cool." They said.

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I woke up at seven and went to Lucky's Pizza and Subs at eleven and saw Chance sitting at the table. "Hey Kels." He said "Hey." I said "When do you go in?" Chance asked "three." I said and he smiled. "Are you doing anything Friday night?" I asked "Nope, why?" Chance asked "A double date with Lyndsey Johnson and Jared Wiley?" I asked "Sure. Where" He asked me "Skating ring." I said and Chance smiled "Sounds like a good idea." Chance said and I smiled "Can I get you anything?" He asked "No, I'm actually going to eat at the food court with Lyndsey." I said and he smiled at me. "I will see you around." He said "Okay." I said smiling at him and walking out.

After lunch we went shopping for a few and then went home to get ready for work. We didn't buy anything since we didn't get paid until Friday. We went to work at three and it was actually busier and when we got off at ten there was teens around us. We go to work tomorrow two to nine and then we go to work Friday at twelve to pick up our checks. We spend the next hour at the park just talking about Jared and Chance and then about our summer plan "August 4th to the 6th." Lyndsey said "Yup." I said and she smiled at me.

I went home and saw my dad sitting on the porch "Hey daddy! Welcome home!" I said and I sat next to him and hugged him. "Hey Kelsey-boo." Daddy said and I smiled at him. "How did it go?" I asked "It was decent." He said "I'm so sorry." I said "He understands Kels, I understand baby girl." He said. "How are you doing?" I asked him "I'm hanging in there baby girl." He said "You know I love you daddy, right?" I asked "Yeah. Thanks baby girl." He said embracing me in a hug and kissed my forehead. "You are turning out to be a wonderful young woman, who raised you?" Daddy asked and I giggled "You did daddy. And momma." I said and he played with my hair. "When do you work tomorrow baby girl?" Daddy asked me "two to nine." I said "Okay baby girl. How's your knee feeling?" He asked me "It's feeling better." I said and he smiled. "Want to go inside and watch a TV show daddy?" I asked him "Sure." He said and we got up and walked inside. I just slipped my shoes off at the door and curled up next to him, laying my head on his stomach like I used to do when I was younger.

I ended up falling asleep to my dad playing with my hair. That was the last thing I remember, I woke up to my mom putting a blanket on me and my dad. "Lex, be quiet baby. You might wake her up." He said "Honey, it's two go to bed." My mom said "Lexie, I don't want to move her." He said "Okay, well I need my husband." My mom said "Curl up with us then." He said "Okay." She said snuggling up with him on his other side. "Good night. I love you." She said "I love you too Lexie. We raised some pretty good kids, didn't we?" He asked "Yes we did. Now fall asleep before you wake Kelsey up." She said and I had to fight back a smile because I didn't want them to know I was awake. This was so nice to me.

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I woke up at six to my dad slowly moving me "Sorry Kels." He said "It's okay daddy." I said "Morning sweetie." My mom said and I smiled at her "Morning mom. I think I'm going to curl up here for another hour or two." I said "Okay Kels." She said and I curled up, facing the side of the couch drifting back off again or pretending to. "Is she asleep?" My dad asked in the kitchen "Yeah, she's a fast sleeper. Always has been." My mom said "You want to know who she reminds me of?" My dad asked "Yes Austin I do." My mom said "She reminds me of you. Just like you. Her looks, her personality, how sweet she is, how smart she is, her love for her siblings, her dedication to work and school. She will make a man one day really happy." He said "I know, I thought so." She said. "I just hope she doesn't regret dating Chance." My mom said "Honey, Ashley raised him." My dad said "She was a teen mom, left her baby's dad with the two kids." My mom said "Chance could not be like him." My dad said "I want him over for dinner." My mom said "tell her that today." My dad said "I will. She should be up soon." My mom said "Yeah. I have to head off to work though. I love you Lexie." My dad said "I love you too Austin." She said.

I couldn't fall back asleep so after ten minutes I slowly got up. "Morning sweetie." My mom said "Morning mom. Coffee?" I asked "Yeah, here." She said handing me a cup. "I have something to ask you." She said "Yeah?" I asked "When do you work Saturday?" She asked me "Seven to two." I said "How about you invite Chance over for dinner? Your dad and I want to get to know him better." She said "Okay mom, I will do that." I said and she smiled. "Plans before work?" She asked me "Nope, hanging out with my sisters and Landon." I said "I feel bad for Landon being the only boy." I said and she smiled "I do too. I'm about to head off to work. Have a good day." She said "I love you mom." I said "I love you too dear." She said and hugged me good-bye.

I walked to the cabinet and got a box of cereal, a bowl, and the milk. I made myself a bowl of cereal and walked to the living room and turned on the TV. Looney Tunes were on and I decided to leave the cartoons on. I heard a knock at the door after I finished my bowl "Come in." I said and Jared walked in with Tori on his hip. "Hey Jared, Hey Tori!" I said and Tori smiled holding her arms up for me. I took her from Tori "Let's go watch the Looney Tunes Tori-bug." I said and she smiled. Jared followed "What brings you here?" I asked "I feel like we haven't hung out in a while. Since everything with Lynds." Jared said "Because we haven't." I said "Plus I want to go hang with Lyndsey without Tori. Can you baby sit?" He asked me "Sure." I said feeling my heart break into a million of pieces. "Thanks Kels. You're the best!" He said and I smiled at him. He stayed for a few minutes then left. "So it's you and I kiddo." I said and she giggled. "I need to get dressed but I won't." I said "Okay." She said "Let's go play outside." I said "Okay!" Tori said smiling at me. I put her on the swing and started pushing her. "Higher!" She said Summer, Autumn, and Landon came out. "Tori!" Summer and Autumn said, they went to play with them and I threw the football with Landon.

After a while of playing with all of them Jared came out. "Time to go home kiddo." He said "Kels!" Tori said "Kels has to get ready for work." Jared said "I do?" I asked "It's one." He said "I guess I'm skipping lunch." I said "Thanks Kels." He said "No problem. I had help." I said and he smiled at me. I went to go get ready, I had to shower which cut out my lunch time. By the time I left Lyndsey was already at work. I guess today is Jared's day off so he was stuck babysitting Tori today.

When I got off at nine I looked at my phone, I had two missed calls from my dad and a text from my mom. I called my dad "Hello?" I asked "You want to meet us at Lucky's?" He asked "Sure daddy." I said and hung up. I smiled at Lyndsey "Thanks for watching Tori for Jared today." She said "No problem. I'm heading to meet my family at Lucky's. I will see you tomorrow." I said and she nodded. I drove to Lucky's and saw my family at a table. They had pizzas, cheesy bread, buffalo wings, and drinks all around the table. "Gimme a slice." I said and Landon smiled at me giving me a plate with everything they had. "How was work Kels?" Daddy asked me "it was good. How was everybody's day?" I asked "Good." They all said "Do you have any plans tomorrow?" My mom asked "Other than picking my check up no plans." I said "You have a dentist

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appointment at one." My mom said "Alright. I will be there." I said "Oh, I do have a double date tomorrow night." I said "We all know about that." She said and I smiled at him.

When we went home we all watched a couple TV shows together, before Autumn and Landon fell asleep. "Are you excited about the new school year?" I asked Summer "More nervous than anything." Summer said "you will be a Freshmen, you will have a sister who's a Junior. You will have the upper hand." I said and Summer smiled at me, she will be fifteen in May, Autumn will be 11 in September. Autumn will be in the fifth grade this year, Landon will be in the seventh grade. Summer went to bed leaving my mom, dad, and I in the living room. "I'm going to go to bed." I said "Quick question." Mom said "Okay?" I asked "What do you think of Lyndsey and Jared dating?" She asked me "It's fine. They make a cute couple." I said "good night Kels. I love you." My dad said "I love both of you." I said smiling at them.

I went up to my room, changed into my Hello Kitty night shirt and my Hello Kitty pajamas shorts. I got on my laptop and got a Skype video call request from Chance. "Ugh." I said rolling my eyes, I had my hair braided into two. I hit accept, Chance was wearing gym shorts and nothing else. "Somebody is looking really cute." Chance said "Nice save. Although I know it's a lie." I said "I have two little sisters who are huge Hello Kitty fans." Chance said and I smiled at him "Are you excited for tomorrow?" Chance asked "Yeah, I get to see you." I said and he smiled at me. "What are you doing Saturday?" I asked "Work until five." Chance said "Do you want to come over for dinner?" I asked "Sure." He said and I smiled at him. "I love your smile Kels." He said "Thanks Chance." I said.

We stayed on Skype until one and then I went to bed. I curled up under my covers and heard a meow. I saw Mr. Prince jump up on my bed and rubbed up against me "Hey buddy." I said and he meowed at me. "I want to get a kitten." I said and he meowed at me. I rolled my eyes and drifted off into a deep sleep. I woke up at eight and made myself a bowl of cereal and did my chores. I got dressed in my favorite denim shorts from Hollister and my cute orange tank top from Hollister. I brushed my hair and braided it in one this time.

Around eleven forty I got in my car and made it to work around eleven fifty five. I saw Lyndsey in her denim shorts, and a pink tank top. "Hey Kels." She said "Hey, plans after this?" I asked "Taking my siblings to the movies." Lyndsey said "Dentist appointment." I said and she rolled her eyes "That sounds like fun." Lyndsey said "not really." I said rolling my eyes at her. Brad came up to us and handed us our checks. "You two are hard workers. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow." Brad said and I smiled at him.

We went to the bank and deposited our checks into our saving accounts. We made \$550.78 this payday and I'm excited about that. Afterwards we went our separate ways. I met my mom outside my Dentist's office and she smiled. "Sorry, yearly checkup. Your physical will be schedule on your next day off." She said and I nodded "Well let's go in." I said and we did. "Name?" The nurse asked "Kelsey Blevins." My mom said "Doctor Lyons will be with you shortly." We nodded and sat down. "What did you do with your check?" My mom asked "Put it in my bank account. Making my balance to \$650.90." I said "You're getting there." She said and I smiled.

After my appointment which went great we picked up Summer, Autumn, and Landon and went to downtown for lunch. "Can we window shop?" Summer asked "Please mom?" Autumn pleaded "Sure. You okay with it?" My mom asked Landon "Can I go to the library?" He asked "Music store?" My mom asked "Deal." He said, he's an easy kid to please. Landon ended up getting two CDs from window shopping. We passed by the pet store, and I saw a group of Ragdoll kittens in the display window. "Mom?" I asked stopping to stare at an all-white one. "Call your father." She said not saying no or yes. "Daddy?" I asked when he answered "Yes Kels?" He asked "Can I ask you something?" I asked "What do you want?" He asked "A ragdoll kitten." I said "We have Mr. Prince." My dad said "But he's old." I said "Put your mother on." He said and I went back to looking at them in the window. "Yes?" I asked when I got handed my phone "You buy it, you take care of it. Not us." He said "Yes sir." I said smiling.

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"Well go on." My mom said "We will be waiting in the car." She said "Can I stay with Kels?" Summer asked "It won't bother me." I said so my mom nodded in agreement. We walked into the pet store and the man behind the counter smiled "I have been waiting for you to come in. I saw you looking from the glass out front." He said and I smiled "Aubrey go help her." He said and a girl who was in my English two class walked up to me. "Hi Kelsey." She said "hi." I said "Which pet are you interest in?" Aubrey asked me "The white ragdoll kitten." I said "Perfect choice. I begged my dad to let me keep her." Aubrey said and I smiled. "Do you need kitten food? Litter box? Toys?" She asked me "no we are fine." I said "Okay right this way." She said going to pick up the kitten and carrying her to me. "Here you go, if you follow me we will ring you up." Aubrey said "Okay." I said "Your total will be \$200." She said and I gave her my debit card. "Here are her papers. She is a purebred." Aubrey said "Thanks." I said "is it true that you're dating Chance?" Aubrey asked "I guess you could call it dating. " I said "you're lucky others will say. But be careful Kels." Aubrey said "Okay thanks." I said and she smiled.

When we got home I got Summer and Autumn to go with me to Petsmart to go get her some stuff. We took her as well, so she could get use to me. "What are you going to name her?" Autumn asked me "I'm thinking about calling her Love." I said "I LOVE that name." Summer said and I smiled. When we got to Petsmart I gave them orders "Go get a collar for Love." I told Autumn who nodded, "Go get some toys and a bed, and a scratching post." I told Summer who nodded. I got the kitten food and put it in the buggy and met up with Autumn who showed me a cute collar, I got a carry bag and a stroller for Love. My total ended up being \$69.50 because items were on sale so I made a good deal.

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When we got home it was around four o'clock and my date was six o'clock. I carried Love into my room and set her on my bed. Mr. Prince was up there and he smelt her and started licking her. I found my favorite pair of ripped jeans, my cute Beatles shirt; I wore my Sperry's topsider shoes and unbraided my hair, then braiding it into a fishtail on the side. I got on my bed and rubbed Mr. Prince, Love was playing with a toy mouse Summer picked up for her. I heard a knock downstairs and then a "She's in her room." A few minutes later I had a knock on my door "Come in." I said "Hey Kels. Your mom let me in." Lyndsey said and smiled at Love "Is this what you got?" Lyndsey asked "Yeah, but from here on out. I'm only buying what I have to in order to go on the trip." I said "This is why our parents agreed they knew we couldn't keep our money." Lyndsey said and I smiled.

I helped her with her hair and makeup and then I set Love on the floor in her bed. "I'm going to go out tonight. I will be back my lovely." I said and Love meowed. I left my door open tonight and we walked to my car. "I'm driving tonight. My knee is feeling better." I said "Okay Kels." Lyndsey said and I smiled. We made it to the skating rink and saw Chance and Jared waiting for us. "Hi." Chance said smiling at me "Hey." I said "Okay, let's begin." Lyndsey said and I smiled. We got our rental skates and began skating around. "Can I do one lap without you?" Chance and Jared asked us girls "sure." We said and they took off. "I'm doing my best acting like I'm not a good skater." I said "if they get cocky before the end, I say let's show them." Lyndsey said "Agree." I said.

We ended up doing a couple laps with our dates holding our hands. "I say one more round and then we go out for dinner?" Chance asked "Yeah." We all agree "So let's have a race." I said "Did you girls get your memory back?" Jared asked, we were saying we haven't skated in a while so we forgot how to skate. "Yeah." We said "Let's go." I said and we skated past the guys and did a lap, I did a little spin at the end. "You girls played us." Chance said "Sure did." I said and we each got in one car which happened to be Chance's. We arrived at Lucky's Pizzas and Subs and ordered a supreme pizza and hot wings with a round of sodas.

We spent an hour eating dinner, drinking our sodas and talking. "It's nine o'clock we have two hours before our curfew." I said "Let's go to the beach?" Jared asked "Fine." We all said and we loaded back up after leaving a tip. We found a good spot to sit on the beach and started talking about our summer plans, talking about other things. We went back to the skating rink at ten thirty and went our separate ways. "See you tomorrow Chance." I said "Yeah, bye." He said "Bye." I said kissing his lips softly.

I made it home at ten fifty and sat on the grass in the backyard. I wanted to savor my night before I got bugged. I know my mom and dad saw me pull up and I know I would be bugged about my night. It was a great night, Chance is a great kisser; he's a great guy and I don't care about what my parent opinion on him is. I took a deep breath and walked inside my house and my parents smiled at me. "How did it go?" My dad asked "It went good." I said and they nodded. "I love your kitten." Daddy said "Where is Love?" I asked "Right here." My mom said pointing to a bundle under the blanket she had. "I'm going to go to bed, I have a busy day tomorrow." I said and she smiled at me. "Good-night."

Tomorrow work schedule is from 7 to 2 and then Sunday's work schedule is from two to ten. I picked up Love and she gave me a soft meow. I went up to my room and set her on my bed and she curled up next to Mr. Prince. I got changed into my baggy t-shirt and short shorts with my hair into a sloppy ponytail. I curled up under the covers and felt a paw at the blanket. I lifted it up and Love curled up to me at my stomach and fell asleep. I got woken up at two to her attacking my hair. "Love, it's bedtime." I said and she meowed at me, I gave her a toy and she was content with that. She woke me up again at four attacking my feet. "Love." I said and she meowed at me. Mr. Prince looked at me like shut her up. She did her meow crying and I rubbed her and she attacked my hand, "Baby girl, go to bed." I said and she attacked my hand some more.

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She finally fell asleep at five and I was finally able to go to sleep. My alarm clock went off at six and Love jumped out of skin making me jump. She meowed and I rolled my eyes. "You are like a newborn baby." I said and she meowed. I comforted her for a few minutes and then got her on her bed at the foot of my bed. I got my favorite pair of underwear on, and then my favorite bra that matches. I put my khaki pants on, and my green Publix shirt on, with my Sperry's shoes. I brush my hair and put it back in a braid on my back. I rubbed Love and rubbed Mr. Prince and walked out to the kitchen. It was so silent in the house. I had my knee splint on still since it still hurts and needs to heal. I made myself a single cup of coffee, drank it and went to work.

I work at my regular line and I barely pay attention to anybody. The person that works as the cashier smiled at me. I clocked out at two and so did Lyndsey "I'm going over to Jared's tonight for dinner with his family. At Six." Lyndsey said "Chance is coming over for dinner at six." I said "Uh-oh. That's never good." Lyndsey said "I know Lynds." I said "I'm going home now." I said and she nodded. Lyndsey and I didn't have a fight I just don't have much to say to her anymore. I walked to my car and got in, turning my station to the local mixed station.

I got home and my dad was cutting the grass, my mom was doing gardening. "How was work?" My dad asked "It was good." I said "That's good." My mom said "What is everybody doing?" I asked "Their chores." She said "I'm on it." I said and she nodded. I went up to my room and Love was in her litter box. "Mommy is home." I said and she meowed at me. I changed into my cheerleading work out shorts and the cheerleading work out tank top and cleaned my room. Love hid under the bed when I vacuumed but other than that she was fine. She helped me clean my bathroom when I needed it. I vacuumed the hallway and the living room. I swept the kitchen and mopped the kitchen.

After I got done with my chores which took me until three thirty I picked up Love and played with her. "Lynds is here." Summer said "Send her up." I said "Okay. Lynds!" Summer said and I heard footsteps. "Hey Kels." Lyndsey said "Hey Lynds." I said "Can we talk?" Lyndsey asked "Sure." I said "Are things fine between you and I?" Lyndsey asked "Yeah, why do you ask?" I asked "We barely hang out since I started dating Jared." Lyndsey said "Because I have been dating Chance." I said "it's like we never talk." Lyndsey said "I agree.. We need to change that." I said "Yeah. What are you doing tomorrow night?" Lyndsey asked "Nothing, you want to spend the night?" I asked "Sure." She said and I smiled. "I love your kitten." Lyndsey said "Thanks Lynds. I do too." I said and she smiled at me.

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At five I got dressed in my favorite pair of denim shorts and my pink tank top. I finally unbraided my hair and it was super curly now. I walked downstairs with Love and got to the porch where my mom was finishing up with her gardening. My dad was throwing the football with Landon I sat on the swing with Love in my lap. "When is he coming?" My mom asked me "He's coming at six." I said "Okay Kels. We are having fried chicken, potatoes salad, corn on the cob." My mom said "Okay mom." I said. My mom excused herself to go take a shower before he came and my dad continued to play football with Landon.

I'm still on the porch at six and Chance pulls up. He gets out and smiled at me he had flowers in his hands "These are for your mother." Chance said "Okay this way." I said picking up Love and taking him inside the house. "Mom?" I asked "Kitchen Kels." She said and I lead him into the kitchen "these are for you ma'am." Chance said "Why thank you." She said and I smiled at them. "Let's go in the living room." I said "Okay." Chance said and we went into the living room. I set Love down and she began attacking our feet "I love her." Chance said "That's why I named her Love. Because everybody loves her." I said and he smiled.

Summer and Autumn came down to give him their form of asking questions. Throughout the night everybody asked him questions, we did one game of Monopoly. "Mom, can we go for a walk?" I asked "Take Love with you." My mom said "okay." I said and I got her stroller and put Love in it. Chance smiled at me as he held the door open for me. When we got farther away I looked at him "I'm so sorry about them." I said "Kels, it's okay. My family will be like that. They want to meet you." Chance said "Whenever I don't work late I guess." I said and he smiled at me.

We got to a private area and sat down. Leaving Love in her stroller still who was asleep. He kissed my lips softly and I returned the kiss. We ended up making out and me on top of him, he took my shirt off leaving just my bra on. We're still kissing and he's rubbing my back, his hands goes to my boobs again and he's playing with them. He kisses my stomach and then kisses my boobs softly. His hands leads to my hips and he tries to unbuckle my pants. I pull away "Leave it like this." I said "Okay Kels." He said kissing my lips softly again. I take his shirt off and my hand goes up and down his chest. He plays with my boobs some more and tries the pants thing again and I get up.

We made out for a few more minutes and then we head back to my place. We spend some time outside with my parents and then he leaves to go home. I smile at my parents "What is your opinion on him?" I asked "He's decent." My mom said and my dad nodded. "I'm going to go to bed." I said and they nodded.

For the next two weeks my work hours was from 2-10 so I wasn't able to meet his parents just yet. But it's July 4th and I'm at a cook out at his house. He has four younger siblings beside his older brother Gavin. Chloe is fourteen, Maddie is twelve, Danielle is ten, and Julie is eight years old. Two older half-siblings. His parents were nice; his family is nice as well. "Let me show you my room." Chance said "Okay." I said and he led me up to his room. It was nice, he sat on his bed "Come here Kels." He said and I nodded with him. I sat next to him and he kissed my lips. The door was shut and I didn't like the vibe I was getting from him. I was starting to get a little worried about this.

"Let's have some fun. It won't be awhile until the fireworks." Chance said "I don't like the idea of it." I said "Let me rephrase that. We will have fun." Chance said "No, I don't want to." I said "You will." He said and he pushed me on the bed and pinned me down. He raped me for the next couple hours and when he let me up I hauled off and slap him. He grabbed my arm and twisted it hard, I could feel the bone break. "Don't you ever slap me." Chance said and I stared at him. "Now let's go. My parents will be wondering where we are." Chance said "Okay." I said trying to fight back the tears.

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When he dropped me off my arm was swollen "Just say you slipped Kels." He said and I nodded "You know I love you." Chance said and I nodded. I went inside and my mom looked at me, "We were going up the hill to look at the fireworks and I slipped and fell down the hill." I said "I think you might have broken your wrist." She said and I looked at her "Now what?" I asked "Let's say if it isn't better by tomorrow we take you in." She said "Okay mom." I said walking up to my room and laying on my bed and crying.

It didn't get better and by the 14th which was a day before my dad's birthday he hit me hard in the knee that I sprained and I fell down in pain. I had a ton of bruises on my body, from him. He would rape me constantly whenever I was at his house. "I only do it because I love you." He said and I nodded. I found out he was cheating on me and went off and that is why he hit me hard in the knee. "Okay." I said and he looked at me "What are your plans for the night?" Chance asked "Hanging out with Lyndsey and Jared." I said "You better be. I will be checking up on you." Chance said "Okay." I said.

That night Lyndsey spent the night and I had forgotten about my bruises when I changed in front of Lyndsey. She gasped "You can't tell anybody. Promise me." I said "I can't." Lyndsey said "Promise me." I said "I promise." Lyndsey said and we left it at that. We fell asleep and when I woke up Lyndsey was staring at me. We celebrated my dad's birthday after we all got home from work.

It's the 31st and my parents are in the house, Chance and I are outside on the swing. He's pushing me and I make a comment about something that got him mad and he pushed me off when he pushed the swing. I landed on my broken arm and cried out in pain. Lyndsey was outside with Tori because she was babysitting her. "Kels! Kels!" Lyndsey said running up to me and glared at Chance. My parents came running out "What happened?" My dad asked rushing up to me "I um fell." I said "No she didn't fall." Lyndsey said "You promised." I said glaring at her "Chance go home. You are not to be around Kelsey." My dad said and Chance just nodded going home. "Hospital now." My mom said "Lynds, watch the girls and Landon? Or send them to their aunt." My mom said "I will watch." Lyndsey said.

While we were waiting in the waiting room my mom was brushing my hair, playing with it. "Is there anything else we need to know?" My mom asked me "Ever since the 4th he would rape me." I said and I broke down into tears "I should have listened to you mom. I heard you say those things about Chance." I said "Honey you would have never known." She said and I broke down into tears. "Kelsey Blevins?" the nurse said. We all got up and I got my checkup done and they fixed the cast to go over the broken bones. They came back with the urine test results "Kelsey you are pregnant." The doctor said and I broke down into tears. "I can't be. I can't have this baby. I can't. I just can't." I said and we were allowed to go home. I was to report to the doctor's in a week for my first month checkup.

Chapter 44

When we got home I went into my room or more like limped and curled up under the covers. Love curled up against me, I broke down into tears. My mom came in with hot chocolate and cool whip on it. "Honey, it's okay." My mom said embracing me into a hug and I wiped my tears softly. "This baby needs you as much as you might need it. This baby deserves a chance at life Kels. Even if you want to put the baby up for an adoption." My mom said "I'm sixteen. I will be seventeen." I said "You will survive it Kels. You have your father, your siblings, your friends, and me to support you." My mom said and I started crying again. "I love you Kels." He said "I love you too mom." I said.

I called out sick from work for the next day and curled up under my covers to cry my eyes out. Aunt Colie knocked at my door "Come in." I said "How are you feeling?" She asked "Not so good." I said "Honey, I was in your place." Aunt Colie said "what do you mean?" I asked "I was raped in college by my ex-boyfriend and his group of friends. It's hard but you will survive it." She said "Thanks Aunt Colie." I said and she smiled at me "Your welcome. Lyndsey wants to see you." She said "Okay." I said and Lyndsey came in. "I'm so sorry. I shouldn't have told you not to tell anybody." I said "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have listened to you." Lyndsey said and I hugged her.

The next day I wanted to call out for work again but my mom refused to let me. This week my work schedule is 7-2. "Go Kels. If I have to drag you there myself." She said "I'm dressed mom." I said and going to my car and rolled my eyes. After work I got home to a note "Call me Kels." From my mom I called her "You have an appointment at three. At the behavioral center. You need a psychiatrist." She said "Okay mom." I said and went to meet her there. "Good luck baby girl." She said and I shot her a death glare.

"Hello, I'm Doctor Shaw. Or as you can call me Charlie." He said "Okay." I said "Come sit Kelsey." He said "Want to tell me a little about you?" He asked me "I'm Kelsey, I'm seventeen in fourteen day, I have a kitten named Love." I said "Why are you here?" He asked me "I am a victim of abuse. Sexual and physical. By my first real boyfriend." I said "How does that make you feel?" Charlie asked me "I was a cheerleader since sixth grade. I was somewhat popular, I have plenty of friends, two main ones Lyndsey and Jared. I had a good level of self-esteem, I wasn't insecure about myself. But ever since he raped me, and started abusing me I feel very insecure and my self-esteem is now very low. I feel like I deserve it. I deserve him when he hit me like I did something wrong." I said "Kelsey, you can never do anything to deserve being raped or being abused by anything. You are a beautiful young woman." Charlie said "Due to being raped I got pregnant." I said "what are you going to do?" Charlie asked me "Keep my baby. I can't abortion it. I'm prolife and I don't want anybody else raising my baby." I said "I have a job, I work at Publix. I save all of my money mostly. I have family who will support me and friends." I said "I feel like I won't be a good mom. I'm young." I said "Kelsey, you can be whatever you want. You can be a good mom if you want." Charlie said. "I feel like I let my parents down, they don't tell me that but I feel like I did." I said "I'm the second oldest in my family, I have two sisters and a younger brother that look up to me. What kind of example am I setting? Allowing a guy to abuse me, to rape me." I said "You showed them that you are strong." Charlie said "I'm in therapy for crying out loud." I said "To get better." He said "I feel like such a witch towards my family. When they're only trying to be nice." I said "Kelsey, tell them how you feel honey. You have to let them in." Charlie said.

After my hour was up I went outside and saw my mom reading her nook. She looked up and smiled at me. I walked up to her and I hugged her "Thank you mom." I said and she smiled "Your dad and I are taking you out tonight Kels." She said and I nodded "I'm going to go home." I said and she smiled. When I got home Lyndsey and Jarred were on my porch waiting. "Let me get Love." I said and Summer came out "here." She said and rolled her eyes "Troubles?" I asked "She is." Summer said and I smile at her.

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"Where were you?" Lyndsey asked me "A psychiatrist. I have weekly sessions until I don't need it." I said "I'm so sorry Kels." Jared said "It's okay. I shouldn't have been so scared. I shouldn't have made Lyndsey promise." I said "It's okay Kels. What are you going to do?" Lyndsey asked "Keep it. I don't want to abortion it." I said "I will support you." Lyndsey said "I will too Kels." Jared said and I smiled "When will you be due?" Jared asked "April fourth." I said and he nodded "That's most of the school year." Jared said "I know." I said "I'm not going to contact Chance." I said "I wouldn't." He said and I nodded.

It's August 14th and we are out at Wal*Mart going school shopping. We get new backpacks, binders, notebook paper, pens, and pencils, everything else we would need. Tomorrow my mom would be 39 and I would be seventeen. We went to Lucky's Pizza and Subs. I haven't been here since the incident. My first month's appointment went great, and so did my second visit with Charlie. "Hey Kelsey. Haven't seen you in a while." Kyle, Chance's dad said. "Chance and I are kind of no longer together." I said "I'm sorry to hear that." Kyle said and I nodded.

"What can I get you to drink?" He asked everybody but me got Dr. Pepper, I ordered water. After dinner we went home and spent time as a family playing board games. School begins on August 18th and ends June 8th this year. Lyndsey decided I should spend the night with her tonight and so I packed my work stuff and walked over to her house. We went up into her room and got on her bed, "This will be a tough year." Lyndsey said "junior year is always the hardest." Lyndsey said "Even harder when you're pregnant." I said and she smiled at me.

After work we met Jared at Lucky's for lunch and to celebrate my birthday just us three. Chance was our waiter. "Water." I said when he asked me "You're pregnant?" He asked "Yes." I said and he nodded going back to work. We ate our pizza and then walked out without giving him a tip. We went to the mall just Lyndsey and I. We went to the baby store and I smiled "I will be here a bit later." I said and she smiled. "You look like your showing a little." She said "Probably not." I said and she smiled at me. We went back home around four and when I went in I saw Bryce on Skype. "I want to beat his butt." He was telling my mom "We all do honey." She said.

"I'm home." I said "happy birthday Kels." Bryce said "Thanks. How's things?" I asked "good kiddo. How are you?" Bryce asked "good." I said and he smiled at me. "I'm going to go get ready." I said and my mom nodded. "She heard me didn't she?" Bryce asked "Probably." Summer said and I rolled my eyes at her. I went to my room where Love was on my bed curled up. "Mommy's baby learned how to climb!" I said and she meowed at me. "You aren't my only baby." I said and she meowed at me again. I turned on my radio and got in my shower to get ready for tonight. The family/friend dinner I should say anyways. Since it's my mom's and my birthday we do something like this yearly.

Chapter 45

When I got out and got dressed in my bra and thong set I looked at myself. My boobs were a size bigger already, and I did have a very small bump going. And I'm supposed to be able to hide the fact until my fourth or fifth month. I got dressed in my favorite summer dress and left my hair down and had it super curly. During the birthday dinner it went amazing, everybody was so nice. Lyndsey, Jared, Alyssa, and I excused ourselves from them and we went to a private place on the beach to talk. "I should have listened to you." I said to Alyssa "No, you were fine." Alyssa said and I nodded. She was gone all summer since then visiting Europe with Aunt Colleen. We did go to Tampa the weekend of the 4th to 6th.

The next day after work I went to my appointment with Charlie. Yesterday should have been my appointment but I didn't want to see him on my birthday. "How are you feeling Kelsey?" Charlie asked me "I'm doing better actually." I said and he smiled "I saw Chance the other day. First time since the last time he abused me." I said "how did you feel?" He asked me "Bad. I was bitter toward him. I wanted to go off. He knows I'm pregnant. I can't believe he is still acting so calm, like he hasn't done anything." I said "That's natural, sad to say." He said "My brother Bryce, the one in the Army was on Skype yesterday. He told my mom he wish he could beat up Chance's butt and my mom agreed. That made me feels bad, even though I dislike him." I said "Kelsey, that's natural. I'm sorry to say." He said "I guess I really did like him." I said "You did or do or you wouldn't have put up with it." Charlie said. "I begin school in two days. My junior year, and I'm really nervous. I know my classmates will talk about it. It will be a tough year." I said "You are strong Kelsey." Charlie said "Thanks. Love, my kitten is helping me through this. When I cry she head butts me." I said "Cats and dogs can help. They sense when you feel down." Charlie said.

The next day being the seventeenth we got our new work schedule from Brad Mondays: 5-11, Tuesday: 4-10, Wednesday: 5-11, Thursday: 4-10, Friday: 4-11, Saturday: 7-3, Sundays 1-7. We hung out with our friends at the mall and had a blast. "Are the rumors true?" Lacey asked "Yes." I said "You will be a good mom." Lacey said "Thanks." I said "I'm a senior but I will make sure your safe." Lacey said "Thanks." I said and Aubrey smiled "How's the kitten?" She asked me "Wonderful. Love is her name. Because everybody loves her." I said and she smiled at me.

I went to bed at eleven and woke up at five. I went jogging to see if I could but my knee was hurting too bad. I walked home and got in the shower. I got dressed in my ripped jeans since they still fit and a cute T-shirt that doesn't show my bump too much. I brushed my hair and straightened my hair. I walked downstairs to seeing everybody at the breakfast table. Autumn begin school at 7:30-2:30, Landon goes to school 8:30-3:30, Summer and I go to school 8-3. It's six fifty and my dad walks out with Autumn "Have a good day!" We said and she smiled. He waits at the bus stop with him and the other elementary students.

At seven thirty I put my backpack on my back, "Come on Summer." I said and she smiled at me, she had a gym bag with her backpack she was trying out for cheerleading this year. I put my backpack in the trunk and she does the same. We arrive at school around 7:45 giving us fifteen minutes to spare. When we made it to the front door "Want me to go in the same time? Or what?" I asked "Please?" Summer said "Yeah. I will walk you to your locker." I said and she smiled at me.

After I show her where her locker is she smiles "Have a good first day. Good luck Summer." I said "Good luck to you too." She said and I smiled leaving the hallway and going to where my locker was. I made it to my homeroom and realized what class it was: Spanish 2. For this semester I have Spanish 2 8-10, Algebra 2 10-12, lunch is 12-12:30, then study hall until one. English 3 1-3. I see Lyndsey and she smile at me. Jared isn't in our class, but Aubrey is and she smiles at me. I quickly befriend the girl beside me "I'm Molly Robertson." She said "I'm Kelsey Blevins." I said and we exchange schedules and realized we Spanish, lunch, and English 3 together.

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During lunch I motion for Molly to sit with us and she smiled at me. "How many rumors have you heard?" I asked them forgetting about Molly for a minute "That you're a whore, you raped him, you did it because you wanted to, you're a whore." They said and I rolled my eyes "Well I know the truth and so do you guys." I said and Lyndsey nodded. "Where are you from Molly?" Jared asked "Raleigh, North Carolina." She said "my mom went to Duke for a year." I said "That's my dream college." Molly said and I smiled. Our group table is Molly, Jared, Lyndsey, Aubrey, Alyssa, and Lacey. Alyssa and Lacey ended up with our lunch period.

We saw Chance and his group of friends walks by and Chance glanced my way but I focused on looking at Molly. She has knee length brown hair and baby blue eyes, she's pretty. "Is that him?" Molly asked me "Yeah. Don't date him. Not only is he a major jerk, he's a cheater, a player." I said "Lesson warned. I don't want to end up pregnant. No offense." Molly said "None taken. I don't want to be pregnant." I said and she smiled at me. "Do you do cheerleading?" Lyndsey asked Molly "Yeah, I'm trying out this year." Molly said "I am too." Lacey, Aubrey, Alyssa, and Lyndsey said and I smiled. "Summer is trying out." I said "Uh-oh, taking her sister's spot." Alyssa said "hey, I have work, school, this thing. I don't have time and I'm not able to." I said and she smiled. I also still have my knee splint on and my arm cast.

After study hall and English three I went to the gym to watch my friends and sister try out. There are eight new spots on the squad this year; the seniors if they make it will be on the senior squad that goes to every game. There was a ton of girls trying out so I was nervous about my friends but mainly nervous about Summer getting the spot. "Summer Blevins, you are up." The captain said, the head cheerleader was me so that is up for opening as well. She got up and walked over "Are you related to Kelsey Blevins?" Coach Blair asked "Yes ma'am." Summer said "Begin then." She said and Summer did the cheer that she was working on all summer and did many of the tough cheerleading moves and nailed them all.

After tryouts which ended at four I had enough time to drop Summer off and get on my work clothes. I got to work at five and clocked in, I began my shift and Brad called me over "Yes sir?" I asked "Is there something you should tell me?" Brad asked me "I'm pregnant." I said "Yes Kelsey that is the thing." Brad said "Saturday, forget about your work schedule." Brad said and I looked at him "You are being trained. You will be working the cash register, checking people out." Brad said "Yes sir." I said "Still come in at seven ma'am." Brad said "Thank you sir." I said "Go back to work Kelsey." He said "Yes sir." I said walking back to my station. I should not be showing this much so soon now I'm worried.

Chapter 46

I clocked out at eleven and made it home at eleven ten. I had English three homework to do. I did my Spanish 2 and Algebra 2 homework during study hall. My mom came out at eleven thirty when I was just beginning my homework "Kels go to bed. You need your sleep honey." My mom said "Homework." I said "Honey, wake up early. You need your sleep." My mom said and I smiled "Good night mom. I love you." I said "I love you too Kels." She said and followed me to my room to make sure I went to bed.

My alarm clock went off at five like always and I got dressed in my white leggings, my denim skirt, my brown cami, and my pink baby tee. I pulled my hair up into a sloppy ponytail and carried Love out and made the pot of coffee. I did my English three homework and finished at six when everybody walked out for breakfast. "If you made the squad I can't take you home." I told Summer "I understand, I can get a ride." Summer said "I get off at ten at least." I said "Honey, you need make sure you eat." My mom said "I know mom. I'm eating breakfast." I said putting a spoonful of eggs in my mouth.

My dad walked out with Autumn to the school bus and she told him to come back in so he did. "She's growing up Lex." Daddy said and I smiled "It's natural dad. I remember that day for me, but it did no good because Summer and Landon." I said and he smiled "I remember you were upset but didn't complain." He said and I smiled at him. "Come on Landon, let's go to school." Dad said "Okay dad." Landon said and they left. "Bye girls. If you get it just call me or text me." My mom said "Will do so." Summer said and she smiled at us leaving to go to work.

We made it at the same time yesterday, and I walked to homeroom. Lyndsey, and Molly was already sitting down. I pulled out my binder and my folders, "I'm kind of nervous if I made it or not." Lyndsey said "Brad will change your schedule, and I can cover for you today." I said "What did you two talk about?" Lyndsey asked "I'm being a checkout person, I guess he wants me to have the easier job." I said "You two work?" Molly asked "Yeah at Publix." I said "That's awesome. I need a job." She said "I think they are hiring." I said "I will go by there sometime then." Molly said and I smiled. Jared walked in and sat in front of Lyndsey "How was work? Tryouts?" He asked "Work was good. It was good watching them tryout." I said "Oh yeah." He said and I smiled at him.

"Good Morning Daytona High, this is your principal Mr. Campbell. This is our second day back to school. Let me remind you of our no violent policy, we are a smoke free school ground. The announcement for today would be the list of who made the Cheerleading squad, Football team, soccer team, cross country team will be posted outside of the main office during the first lunch period. Let's make today a successful day shall we?" He said and that was the end of it. Our Spanish teacher took out attendance and then collected our homework.

She told us we had a pop quiz she what we remembered from Spanish 1 and after that she went over the second chapter and gave us our homework assignment. We went to Algebra two and it was the same thing. After that we went to lunch "Ready girls?" I asked "Yeah." Molly and Lyndsey said, we put our books in the lockers and went to the front office. "I can't look." Molly said "Me either." Lyndsey said "Well I can." I said "Summer made it!" I said and looked down "Lyndsey made it! Alyssa made it! Molly made! Aubrey made it! And Lacey made it. Lyndsey you're the head captain!" I said and she smiled.

We sat at our normal lunch table for the school year with our group, Alyssa, Aubrey, Molly, and Lyndsey were all smiling about making the squad. "I will drop Summer off." Lyndsey said "I can, you have to head to work." Alyssa said and I smiled "Thanks." I said taking a bite of my hamburger. Jared sat down with us "I need to spend some time with some more people off of the Football team." Jared said "You made it?" I asked "Yes. So did jerk face." Jared said "I love you." I said and he smiled at me. "Summer made it, I'm so proud of her." I said "I have to tell your dad today at work." Jake said "Yeah you do. I can't do it for you. I'm already

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covering for Lynds." I said "How long have you guys been friends for?" Molly asked "well forever." I said "Really?" Molly asked "Literally forever." Alyssa said and I smiled.

During Study hall I was only able to do Spanish Two, because of my study hall people in my group wanting to carry on a conversation. We were assigned seats, but I still had Molly, Aubrey, a girl name Hannah, and a boy named Noah but he's gay so we're safe. "You will be a wonderful mom. I don't believe those rumors." Hannah said "Thanks Hannah." I said "I agree with Hannah here. Chance is a jerk, he deserve to get revenge." Noah said "His Karma will come you guys." I said and they smiled at me. Molly and Aubrey started asking me questions and I smiled answering all of them.

After Study hall was over and we made the quick exchange to classrooms Lyndsey came up to me. "I hate the arrangements, although I'm with Jared I want to be with you." Lyndsey said "I know. I was only able to do Spanish 2 today." I said and she laughed "I didn't do any." She said and I smiled at her. English three felt like the longest class, she gave us our first project telling us we need to team up, we need a group of at least five people. "Make your group now." She said Jared, Lyndsey, Molly, Aubrey, and I teamed up. She wrote down our names "Tomorrow and here out throughout the semester you will be sitting with your group. This is a project that is semester long." She said and we nodded. "But each week you will turn in a piece of it. I don't want you guys waiting until the last minute to do it." She said and we nodded. When the bell rang she yelled out "Read Chapter two and four, answer the questions at the end."

I walked to the gym with them and smiled at Summer "Congratulations sissy. Alyssa is taking you home. Good luck. Did you call mom?" I asked "Yeah, she said to see if Alyssa can bring me home." And I smiled "Live up to the Blevins name." I said "Already have to in my classes." She said "Sorry, but I will see you later." I said and she smiled at me. I made it home and got changed and walked to Aunt Colleen's who was home. "Hey Landon and Autumn are here until your mom or dad gets home." She said "I know, than you for that." I said "How are you?" She asked me "I'm good." I said "You want a snack?" She asked "No ma'am, I'm going to work early." I said "I love you Kels." She said "I love you too Aunt Colleen."

I made it at work at 3:45, and I got a bag of chips and sat at the table in the work room. "Lyndsey is going to be an hour late." I told Brad "I understand. I was in high school once. A football player. Did she make the squad?" Brad asked me "Yes sir." I said "When she comes in I will change her schedule around." He said and I nodded. I began work at four and Lyndsey came in and five and went over to him. She went to work soon after and smiled at me. We both clocked out at ten and she smiled "I work 5-11 every night on the week, not on different days." Lyndsey said.

Chapter 47

When I got home, my mom and dad was at the kitchen table helping Summer. "I will get you the leftovers." My mom said "And my vitamins?" I asked "Yeah." She said and I looked at Summer "Which class?" I asked "English 1, Algebra 1." Summer said and I put my binder aside and helped her. It took until eleven and she hugged me and went to bed. I pulled out my homework and worked until midnight, leaving me with a chapter in English left.

I woke up at five to my alarm clock, got dressed in my ripped jeans and my Beatles shirt. I finished my English homework and ate breakfast. It's August 20th, today and I work 5-11 today. It's a Wednesday at least. Spanish two went by quick, we got our grade back, a pop quiz about the homework, and homework assignment to read chapter three and four and answer all the questions. The first unit was chapters 1-5 and we have a test for the first unit on Friday. After Spanish we went to Algebra 2 and did that work, and was given a work sheet and told to do the third chapter and do the problems.

During lunch, I ate my lunch as quick as I could and began on my Spanish homework. I read the third chapter and did the questions and was halfway down with the questions for the fourth chapter. I was able to finish all of my homework up to English in study hall. I had my Ipod on to tune out the people at my table. At the end I had a few minutes to spare "You haven't been listening have you?" Molly asked "No, sorry. I work late tonight, and I don't want to do more than I have to in the morning." I said and she nodded.

After English I waited around for the hour doing my English homework and took Summer home at four, got dressed and worked more on my English. I checked over my Spanish and Algebra and helped Summer on some of hers. I went to work and did the six hours and went home and ate leftovers and went to bed. Love was curled up against me enjoying the time spent with me.

It's now Friday and the last half hour of English class. "We need to work on this over the weekend." Molly said "Tomorrow at four?" I asked "where?" Lyndsey asked me "My house?" I said "sure." They said and I gave them my address. I didn't wait around for Summer, I went home and changed into my work clothes. I had Algebra two homework that I didn't get to. I began working on that and stopped midway to go to work. After work which ended at eleven I went to Lucky's with Lyndsey and we went over the week. "I miss Bryce." I said "When do you see Charlie?" He asked "I need to next week. After we get our schedule Sunday, I need to make an appointment." I said and she nodded.

I stayed for half an hour and then went home. I finished my Algebra two homework which I finished at one. I drank some water and went to bed. Love and Mr. Prince curled up with me and I rubbed them both until I fell asleep. My alarm clock went off at six and I rolled my eyes. I got dressed and made myself a bowl of cereal. I made it at work, and during my work hours Brad trained me on how to do the cash register, how to check people out. "You will begin tomorrow." He said and I nodded. He gave me a few tips on how to do it, told me what to say when a customer comes up. When I clocked out at three Lyndsey smiled at me. "See you at four." Lyndsey said "Okay Lynds." I said and I went home. I told my parents about my friends coming over at four and they nodded. I changed into my Daytona High t-shirt and my cheerleading shorts. I pulled my hair into a sloppy ponytail and did my chores.

Lyndsey and Jared arrived at 3:45, "Take your books up to my room." I said I was still working on the kitchen. They came back and we sat on the porch with Love. Aubrey arrived a few minutes later "Hey you guys." She said "hey" we said. Molly arrived a few minutes later "Alright let's go in. Be warn, you will be stopped." I said and they nodded. My mom was on the couch and my dad was on the loveseat reading the newspaper. "Mom and dad we're going up to my room." I said "Okay." My dad said but my mom didn't do that. "if you guys need anything let me know." My mom said "Will do mom." I said "Oh mom this is Molly

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and Aubrey." I said "Nice to meet you girls." My mom said "nice to meet you too Mrs. Blevins." They said.

We worked on the project until seven since we have to turn in this piece on Monday. "We need a break." I said "Agree." Molly said "Let's go get pizza." I said "Where?" Molly asked "Lucky's pizza and subs." I said and they smiled. "Mom I'm going out." I said "Okay, pizza?" She asked me "Yes mom." I said "be careful." She said and I nodded. Today is the 23rd. We stayed there until nine and then went our separate ways to go home. I rode with Lyndsey here so on the way back we talked about work and school.

I arrived to work at 12:30 to get my schedule for next week. Monday: 6-11, Tuesday: 6-11, Wednesday: 4-10, Thursday: 4-9, Friday: 4-11, Saturday: Off, Sunday: 1-10. The day was good actually, working as a cashier Lyndsey was my bagger. I clocked off at seven and went home. I spent time on the couch watching TV with my family. Autumn went to bed at 8:30, Landon at 9, Summer at ten. The house phone rings "Hello?" My dad asked "We will make a mental note for that. We are looking forward to that." My dad said and he hung up. "Feel like a road trip this weekend?" My dad asked "Where?" My mom asked "Orlando. Bryce's graduation, and Saturday the soldiers and their family is a free day at Disney land." My dad said "Which means we have to leave on a Friday?" My mom asked "Thursday. Graduation is Friday." He said and my mom smiled "Sounds like a plan." My mom said.

The next day, during lunch I call Charlie's office. "Hello this is Daytona Behavioral center. How may I help you?" The lady known as Sally asked "I would like to make an appointment with Doctor Shaw at four for tomorrow if he is available?" I asked "Yes he is available. Who is the appointment for?" Sally asked "Kelsey Blevins." I said "He's been asking for you." Sally said "I'm sorry. Busy schedule." I said "You are down for tomorrow. See you then." She said "Thank you ma'am." I said and we hung up.

We talked about over the weekend during lunch. "Your mom is amazing." Molly said "Thanks." I said and she smiled at me. During study hall I did my Spanish 2 homework, and wasn't able to do Algebra two because Spanish 2 took so long. We turned in our assignment for English 3 and had very little homework tonight. Alyssa said after school she would bring Summer home so I went home right after school.

I did my homework until five and I was done with it. I got dressed and made a sandwich. Today is the 25th. My mom got home at 5:30 "No work today?" She asked "I begin at six." I said "have a good day at work." She said and I smiled. "I need to get off don't I?" I asked "Yes." She said and I smiled at her. I talked to Brad about the weekend and he understood and said he would switch things around and I could pick up my check Monday when I went to work. Lyndsey would give me my work schedule.

Chapter 48

School was the same thing as always. After school, I went to my appointment and did some homework in the car to kill my hour. I walked in at 3:45 and signed in and skimmed through my Facebook page with all of my friends. At 3:59 Charlie came out "Come on in Kelsey." Charlie said and I smiled "Okay." I said I had my work clothes on since I had to go to work after this appointment. "How have you been?" Charlie asked me "Stressed. School, work, family, and friends is getting to me." I said "Quit your job then." He said "I need the money. I'm going to be a single mom." I said "How was your first day of school? And school days from then?" He asked me "Good actually. I made a new friend named Molly, Aubrey and I became friends. Chance and I don't speak at all." I said "Lyndsey, Summer, Aubrey, Molly, and Alyssa made the cheerleading squad. That makes me feel a little down because normally I would be with them. But with my splint, broken arm, and baby I can't." I said and he nodded. "Rumors are still going on, that I'm a whore, I had sex willingly, it's not his baby, I paid him to do it." I said "How does that make you feel Kelsey?" Charlie asked me "it hurts. I would cry at night, but by the time I do everything I have to I'm too exhausted." I said "Let your emotions out Kelsey. It's not good to bottle it up." Charlie said "I know. It hurts to see Lyndsey and Jared so happy and I'm not. I am glad that they are happy. But I want to be happy as well." I said "I feel like my teenage life is gone. Like for the next seven months I have to grow up. I have to be mature." I said "Your dreams, and future is different now. I will admit that. Things won't be easy but you're strong." Charlie said and I nodded. We spent the rest of the time discussing things like that. I brought up my upcoming road trip and about Bryce before I left.

The rest of the week went like normal. School, dealing with the rumors, stares, but on Thursday none of that bothered me. At ten we're leaving to go to Orlando. During lunch they were discussing the project "I can't go to the meeting this weekend." I said "We understand. We'll put your name on it." Lyndsey said and I smiled. "Take pictures of Disney world." I said and I smiled. Next week I have four appointment, my second month appointment is on Thursday at 3:30, my appointment about my knee is on Tuesday at 3:30, Friday at 3:30 for my arm, Wednesday at 3:30 with Charlie.

After work, I got home and packed my clothes for the weekend and rubbed Love. Lyndsey would check the mail, and check in on the cats over the weekend. We got in the car and took the trip to Orlando and got in our hotel room. We all work up at nine, getting a few hours of sleep. Got dressed in our clothes for the graduation and went to Ihop for breakfast. Lyndsey got mine and Summer's assignment for today saying there was a family emergency and we had to leave town. We ate breakfast talking about our week and then went to the field.

After the graduation we went out to lunch with Bryce. He sat between me and Summer. "I get to stay at home until I get assigned to a unit and told where I'm going." Bryce said and we smiled "That's amazing news." I said "I know it is Kels." Bryce said and I smiled at him. He showed us around where he was staying this whole time and we met a bunch of interesting people.

Saturday was amazing! I couldn't ride many rides due to all of my conditions but the day was amazing. We enjoyed the firework and parade. Sunday we had fun with the area and then we went home. I had enough time to do all of my missed work on Friday and my homework from Thursday and still talked to Lyndsey about the project in English and she filled me in and came with my schedule.

Monday: 4-11, Tuesday: 5-11, Wednesday: 5-11, Thursday: 5-11, Friday: 5-11, Saturday: 1-9, Sunday: Off. I woke up at five and did my normal routine, getting showered and dressed. I have no appointment today after school just work. We turned in our part of the project and during lunch everybody caught me up on what I was missing over the weekend. "Bryce is home." I told Alyssa, Jared, and Lyndsey. "for how long?" Alyssa asked "Until he's assigned a unit." I said and she smiled at me. "I'm glad. You guys missed him." Alyssa said "yeah.

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He's doing the right thing." I said and she smiled at me.

English 3 was a weird class. We turned in our portion of the project. We began working on one piece for this chapter. Writing a two page essay about an article we read. "For this half of the semester you are to read a book from this list. Write a summary for each chapter and then write a ten page essay about it. Our project for the semester is about Shakespeare, we have to make up a skit about it, perform it one of the last days and that will count as part of our final. We have to write it up; we have to do research about each play he did, read some of his books.

I got home at three ten and got changed into my work uniform and sat at the kitchen table to do some homework. "Hey little sister." Bryce said walking in "I was working out." Bryce said and I smiled at him. "How are you and the little one?" Bryce asked me "good. I have the appointment on Thursday." I said "That's good. It feels weird talking to you about it." Bryce said "I agree. I'm not used to it." I said "I know. I'm not used to it either." I said and he smiled at me. He gave me a peanut butter sandwich and I gladly accepted it.

I went to work and afterwards went home. I ate another peanut butter and jelly sandwich and finished my homework for the day. I went to bed and woke up at five to my alarm clock. I got dressed in a dress that fit me. I have a small baby bump going and I was worried about it. After school today I went to my appointment. "Your knee is better Kelsey. Just use your knee splint if it starts to hurt you again. But you're good to go." Doctor Lyons said and I nodded. I went home at four and did my homework for half an hour, got dressed, made a sandwich for the road and went to work. After work I finished my homework and went to bed.

During school today, in Spanish 2 we were paired up into partner for this assignment. "Chance Lynnwood and Kelsey Blevins." My Spanish teacher said and I heard people whisper. Lyndsey shot me a look but I shook my head. "Hi Kels. Long time no talk." He said "Let's just do this assignment." I said "When is the appointment?" Chance asked me "Tomorrow." I said "You're a little fat aren't you? For being two months? Or did you cheat on me." Chance said "I didn't cheat." I said "Doesn't look like it." Chance said. "Let's do this assignment." I said focusing on it. He wouldn't help me do the assignment so I did it on my own.

We did the report on it in front of the class and since Chance refused he didn't know anything about his part. The class laughed at him and he just sat down leaving me to do the report. I didn't say anything during Algebra Two, just focusing on the test we took. We were given our homework assignment and the bell rang. During lunch they all discussed things and Lyndsey looked at me "Are you okay Kels?" Lyndsey asked me "Yeah, I'm fine." I said "Making sure." Lyndsey said and I smiled "Thanks. But I'm fine." I said and she smiled at me. Study hall and English 3 felt like it went of forever.

Chapter 49

I had my work clothes in my backpack and I went straight to my appointment. Charlie smiled at me. "It's weird having Bryce back, I mean so long of him either being in college or away with the army training and now he's back." I said "That's natural." Charlie said. "School work is actually becoming easier for me, my work schedule is later so I have time to do it before work and I tend to tune people out in the study hall." I said and he smiled "today in Spanish 2 we were paired up for an assignment. I got paired with Chance. It wasn't a pretty sight. He went off on me about being larger than I should be. Saying I cheated on him. It makes me feel bad. Because I'm carrying his child." I said Charlie nodded "I work constantly, I go to school, I barely spend any time with my family. I feel left out of the loop when it deals with things." I said and Charlie nodded at me.

After the hour with Charlie I went straight to work and changed and clocked in. I was feeling better after my appointment. I was more than happy to get off at eleven and went straight to bed. I woke up at 4:30 and did my homework. I felt sick to my stomach after I did my homework. I ran to the bathroom downstairs and threw up. I puked my guts out and my mom came down. "You okay baby girl?" My mom asked "I'm in the bathroom, puking my guts out. Of course not." I said "Beauty of morning sickness." She said "How long does this last?" I asked "It could last for the next month or longer." My mom said and I rolled my eyes.

I got us to school early as usual and I just walked to Spanish, pulling out my binder and laying my head down on the desk. My stomach was hurting, I felt sick to my stomach. Molly and Lyndsey both tried cheering me up to make me feel better. I lasted for Spanish 2 and barely for Algebra 2. At lunch just the smell of all of the food I ran to the bathroom. After I got done I called my mom "Can you call to check me out? I feel like crap." I said "Yes Kels. Give me a minute." She said and I walked to the cafeteria and laid my head down on the table. I got a text saying I was good to go. "I'm going home." I said "Okay Kels. Hope you feel better." Lyndsey said and I nodded.

I made it home at 12:30 after getting my assignment for English 3 and turning in my homework. I went to bed wearing my school clothes and sleeping until three. Bryce came in and woke me up "You have a doctor appointment and then work." He said "I know thanks for reminding me." I said and he smiled. "I'm taking you." Bryce said "Okay." I said and we went to my appointment. He waited in the waiting room when I went back. The nurse took my temperature, blood pressure, checked my heart weight, and made me get on the scale. "When you started out you weighed 110." The nurse said "Yes ma'am." I said because that was after my first month. "You now weigh 118." She said and I nodded, I gained eight pounds in a month.

"Your second appointment, but first sonogram." Doctor Wiley said and I nodded. "Are you taking your vitamins?" She asked me "Yes ma'am I am." I said "You seem healthy. Let's check on your baby." She said and she put the blue liquid gel and took the technology item and the image showed up on screen. "Listen to the heart beat." She said turning on the volume and I heard the beating heart. "That's strange." She said zooming in "Miss Blevins, you are having twins." She said and I nodded. "Are you dealing with morning sickness?" Doctor Wiley asked "First time today." I said and she told me what I could do about it so I could stay in school all day and not miss any more school right now.

I walked out into the waiting room and Bryce was waiting for me. We went to the car and he looked at me. "How did it go?" Bryce asked me "Good. I'm healthy. My babies are healthy." I said "babies?" Bryce asked me "I'm carrying twins." I said and Bryce nodded. "It's four o'clock." Bryce said "I have an hour." I said and Bryce smiled at me. He took me somewhere and showed me a baby shirt "My uncle is cooler than yours. He's in the army." It said and I smiled "Get two." I said and Bryce paid for two.

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After work I went to bed and woke up at five, the smell of breakfast made me want to puke but I didn't. I went to school and lasted the whole day. During English Molly looked at us "We need to work on this over the weekend." Molly said "My house Sunday at noon?" I asked "Sure." They all said and I nodded. After school and work I laid on the couch with Bryce, my mom and dad was on the loveseat. "Twins, huh?" My mom asked "Yeah. We can handle it right?" I asked "Yeah. We're a tough family." My mom said and I smiled at her.

Saturday morning we went out to breakfast as a family, we did our chores when we got home. Bryce went to the gym at noon, Summer went to cheerleading practice at noon, Landon and my dad went to a football game. Autumn was at Aunt Colleen's and it's just my mom here since I have work. "Will you be okay alone?" I asked "Honey yes. It's going to be relaxing. Aunt Colie and I are actually going shopping." She said and I smiled at her. We had an extra room, next to my bedroom I knew that would turn into the babies' room.

I clocked in at one and got to my register; Lyndsey came in at two and smiled at me. "How was practice?" I asked "good." She said and I smiled at her. After I clocked off at nine I went home. Bryce was on the phone outside so I walked past him. "Business." My mom said "uh-oh. Not good." I said "no it isn't." My mom said and I nodded. Bryce came in and hugged me. "I leave Monday morning at 3 in the morning. I'm going on a yearlong tour in Germany to start with. Elsewhere if needed." Bryce said and we all nodded. "Sunday night will be a going away party. Kelsey has friends coming over at noon for an English project." My mom said and we nodded.

I woke up at eight and got dressed in my cheerleading shorts and an Army shirt Bryce got me. I went to Publix and got my work schedule for the week: Monday: 5-9, Tuesday: 5-10, Wednesday: 4-9, Thursday: Off, Friday: Off, Saturday: off, Sunday: 1-7. "It's cut in half." I said "I feel like you could use a week of easy schedule." Brad said "Thank you." I said although knowing I don't need an easy work schedule.

I got home and got my room cleaned and went outside with Love and sat on the porch. "What is your work schedule Lynds?" I asked when she walked up with her backpack on. "Monday-Friday 5-11, Saturday: off, Sunday: 1-7. You?" Lyndsey asked "5-9, 5-10, 4-9, off, off, off, 1-7." I said "Such an easy work week." Lyndsey said "I know but I need the money." I said and she nodded. Molly, Jared, and Aubrey came and we worked until three and everybody went their separate ways. We went out to dinner tonight with Aunt Colleen and them since tonight is Bryce's last night. We went home early and all went to bed since we were all going to see him off tomorrow morning.

Chapter 50

We woke up at two and went to the airport. He was in his uniform; he was to be in Tampa with the rest of his squad soon when he lands actually. "You be safe. I love you. Happy early birthday." He told Autumn, he hugged her and put her down. "I love you too Bryce." Autumn said going back to my mom. "You're the man of the house now. Keep a close eye on Autumn. Listen to mom and dad. I love you." He told Landon "I love you too." Landon said going to Autumn. "You be safe Summer. Don't date. You are too young. I love you." He said "I love you too." Summer said going to Landon and Autumn. "Kels, you stay safe and healthy. I will be expecting updates about how you and my niece or nephew is doing." Bryce said "I will Bryce. I love you." I said "I love you too Kels." He said "I love you dad." Bryce said "I love you too son." My dad said "You be safe, do your job, make friends, come home. I love you." My mom said "I love you too mom and I will." Bryce said giving us one final hug before leaving.

We didn't go back to bed when we got home; we just started our day earlier than most people. "I'm going to head into work early so I can get off early." My mom said "Okay." My dad said looking at her "have a good day at school." My mom said to everybody and left. "Is she okay?" Autumn asked my dad "Yes she is. Why don't you go say good-bye to the cats?" My dad said and Autumn nodded. "She's taking it hard dad." I said "Uncle Jake was in the Army. He got hurt. She doesn't want that to happen." My dad said and I nodded hugging him.

He left earlier than usual as well, I guess it's hard for him as well. Logan, Caleb, and Landon are at the bus stop for middle school. Lyndsey and Jessie were leaving for school, Jared and Cayla were leaving for school, so Summer and I got in the car. "Hello, Daytona Behavioral. How may I help you?" Sally asked, I was calling on my way to school. "I'm calling to make an appointment tomorrow with Charlie." I said "Kelsey Blevins, 3:30?" She asked "Sounds perfect." I said "He will see you then." Sally said and we hung up. "Are you doing better?" Summer asked me "Yeah a little bit. Charlie really helps." I said "I can listen to your problem for free." Summer said "it's much more difficult but thanks Sum." I said and she smiled. She heads off to be with Cayla and Jessie in their homeroom.

I get out my Spanish 2 homework from over the weekend and my binder. My arm cast went from the elbow to my hand to a shorter length. And a splint instead of a cast. Molly, Aubrey, and Lyndsey came in and smiled at me. "Morning girls." I said "Morning." They said smiling at me. "My birthday is this weekend." Molly said "Oh that's great news!" I said "Friday night, I'm having a sleepover I want all of you to come." Molly said "I will check with my parents tonight." I said "Saturday we need to make plan for the project." Aubrey said "1?" I asked "Sounds good." Aubrey said and Molly nodded.

Spanish 2 today was a long class it felt like; we watched a movie and had to do an essay on it in Spanish. "You will have a project. Up until midterms." The teacher said, midterms is November 12th- November 14th and it's September 8th now. "You will research about a country that Spanish is the number one language. You will do a presentation about it. And on top of that I want a three page report about this country in Spanish." She said and we all nodded. "I know it's a lot of stress, so I will pair you into groups of four. No you guys can't pick." She said and we all exchanged glances "Kelsey Blevins, Lyndsey Johnson, Joe Daniels, Aubrey Jackson." She said "Molly Wiley, Jared Jacobs, Chance Lynnwood, Kelly Thompson." She said and so on. Jared shot me a look and I shook my head.

Algebra 2 was a bit easier than Spanish 2. We took a pop quiz on what we learned Friday, and then she went over two chapters in that short time telling us the homework and telling us there might be a pop quiz tomorrow about it. I walked to my locker after class and put my books in my locker and went to lunch. I got a slice of pizza, the fruit bowl, and a bottle of water. I sat down with the normal people and began eating. "I can't believe Spanish 2." Molly said "I feel bad for you Molly. But Jared be nice." I said "I have to work with

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him. Hopefully we can finish before November 13th." Jared said "I hope so for you guys." I said and he smiled at me.

It's now October 4th, and I'm at my third month appointment. School and work has been going great, I'm now to a monthly visit with Charlie unless something happens and I need to see him. "You and your babies are healthy." Doctor Wiley said and I smiled at her. When I left there I went to work and after work I did my homework and went to bed.

It's November 4th and my work schedule is I'm off all week so I can study for my midterms. My fourth month appointment went by great. Joe is hitting on Aubrey when we work together and they are going out. Lyndsey and Jared are still going out. I'm at Lyndsey's house and she gets a text to meet Jared at his house. "I will be at home." I said and I walked home and reviewed my Algebra two notes. I helped Summer with her Algebra one review and then went to spend time with Love. It was a Monday night, Love has gotten so much bigger.

"Kels, can you come here?" My mom asked me "Yes ma'am." I said and I walked to my left to find her and she was in the spare bedroom. It was empty now; it had some boxes in it. "This is your babies' room. The color will be a light green since it's a neutral color. We have a rocking chair as you can see." She said and I nodded "Allie is giving us her crib that she had with Tori, and we have one that we used when you guys were a baby. We have two dressers in the attic, a changing table that Allie is letting us have. You will need to buy diapers, bottles, clothes, blankets, car seats, and a stroller." My mom said and I hugged her "Thanks mom." I said and she smiled at me.

I was back to studying for my English 3 midterm and I hear a knock at the door "She's in her room Lynds." My dad said and I heard footsteps and not even a knock on my door. She had tears running down her face "What happened?" I asked "He broke up with me. He likes another girl who isn't his friend." Lyndsey said "Oh Lynds." I said hugging her and she was crying. I comforted her and she went home.

The rest of the week was hard. On Friday night, Aubrey, Molly, Lyndsey, and I are at Lucky's pizza and subs. They were all spending the night at my house tonight. Sunday since our midterm for Spanish is two is our last day to work on our project. After we spent some time eating pizza and talking about girl stuff we went to watch The Lucky One in theaters and then we went to Publix. We work Thursday and Friday 4-11. Saturday: 7-7, Sunday: 7-4. We bought enough magazines, more makeup, finger nail polish, sodas, and junk food. We paid and decided to head on back to my house. "Need anything else?" I asked "Milkshakes from McDonald's?" Lyndsey asked "Yeah." I said and I went the direction to McDonald's and we ordered the milkshakes we needed to complete the night.

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We stayed up until four in the morning with everything that we got, and watching some movies. I'm sure I got Lyndsey's mind off of Jared, I feel like such a failure if I didn't. We woke up at noon, Love was our alarm clock she let out a loud meow that woke us up and made me sit up and look around at the foot of my bed. She was circling Mr. Prince who looked like he was sleeping. I slowly got up and walked to the foot of my bed. "Mr. Prince?" I asked but no head tilt, no looking up, and no meow. "I think he's gone Kels." Lyndsey said and I slowly nodded. My mom came in to look "Oh my." She said seeing us girls gathered around the foot of the bed.

We all sat in the kitchen, eating our lunch while my parents were in my room. Love was in her carrier because she wouldn't leave my parents alone. "I'm so sorry Kels." Molly said "It's okay. We knew his time was near. He was eighteen." I said and that was the end of the conversation. "Love is adorable." Aubrey said "Thanks." I said smiling at that.

The rest of the weekend went by in a blur and now it's Monday. We presented our project and she nodded at us. We did the written part and after that we went to lunch and was to go back to the class to finish the exam. It was an all-day thing for the midterm in Spanish 2. After the bell rang at three I slowly made my way to my locker. I couldn't hide that I'm pregnant and honestly I don't care. The rumors still go around but many people don't care. Chance has dated other people and that doesn't bother me. I just focus on my education and my friends. I get my backpack on my back and walk to the car. Summer was waiting with her backpack on her back. "No practice?" I asked "Nope, we are to go study." Summer said and I smiled.

I dropped Summer off and went to my monthly appointment with Charlie. "Hi Kels, how are you?" Charlie asked me "Stressed right now." I said "Jared and Lyndsey are no longer a couple. So I have to be in the middle of it. Having to side with Lyndsey and be against Jared when I'm not. Having to comfort a broken hearted best friend. My cat Mr. Prince died over the weekend of old age, so I'm dealing with that grief. The grief of Bryce being overseas and not knowing if he's in Germany or another place scares me." I said "That's natural Kelsey." He said "This is the week for midterms. Spanish 2 was an all-day thing, we take our final January 12th January 14th. I'm looking forward to my next three classes." I said "How are your grades this semester?" Charlie asked me "Straight A's. It's harder to maintain with everything that's going on but I'm doing it." I said "How are your work hours?" Charlie asked me "He doesn't want to over work me. He doesn't want to add to the stress. So my hours are basically cut in half." I said "How does that make you feel?" He asked me "Kind of down, like I can't be trusted. Like I'm a ticking time bomb. Everybody is so cautious over me. Like I'm going to explode in any minute." I said "I still have nightmares of Chance. Those nightmares are back, they did go away for a little bit." I said "It's like he's haunting me now. Not only is it like watching a movie of the past, he's haunting me saying I won't be a good mother." I said "I know I will be seventeen, a teen mom to twins but I feel like I will do good. I have a lot of money in my saving account, I babysat babies since I was fourteen, I can take care of a baby. I'm not worried about if I will be a good mom or not because I know that will make it where I'm not." I said and Charlie nodded. "I feel bad for my mom. It's like she's in a trance sometimes, she is here but then again she's not." I said "Kelsey, you need to worry about you and your babies." Charlie said "It's natural for you to say that but she's my mom." I said "She will be fine." Charlie said.

I spent the time after my appointment with Charlie at the kitchen table with Summer helping her study for her Algebra 1 mid-term as I study for my Algebra 2 mid-term. My mom comes home and smiles at me. "How did your appointment with Charlie go?" My mom asked me "it went good mom. Thanks for asking." I said "School went good as well. The mid-term was a little hard but I feel like I aced it." I said and she smiled "We did really good on our project, I think we might get an A on that part as well." I said and my mom smiled. "Summer?" She asked her "Spanish 1 mid-term went good. I think I did decent on it. I'm kind of worried. No project." Summer said and I smiled, she was doing Spanish 1 this year and Spanish 2 next year.

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"Kelsey do you want to meet at Hope's for dinner tomorrow?" My mom asked "Sure." I said we haven't done that since Grandpa died over the summer. After dinner, with Love on my lap curled up to my stomach I was on the couch, my mom was at my feet, daddy, Summer and Autumn on the love seat and Landon in the other chair. "I want something." I said "What?" My dad asked preparing to go get it. "A chili cheese dog." I said "I got it." He said "And a Cookie & Crème milkshake?" I asked and he nodded "Make it two." My mom said "Get the kids one." My mom said "Strawberry, Butterfinger, and Chocolate." The kids said "Kelsey do you want to go?" My dad asked me "I will." I said and my mom smiled at me.

"How was your mid-term?" My dad asked on the way "It went good. I feel like I aced it and the project. Oh and my appointment went good." I said "That's good baby girl. I wanted to say that I'm proud of you. I know how hard and scary this has to be for you." My dad said "Very hard and very scary." I admitted to him "Your mother and I, and your sisters and brother are here to support you. Don't you ever feel like you let your mother and I down. Because you didn't know you would get pregnant, you got raped. You are making us proud, doing such a good job. You will be a great mom. Don't listen to what anybody has to tell you." My dad said and I smiled "Thanks daddy." I said and he pulls up to the drive-thru of Dairy Queen. "Welcome to Dairy Queen what can I get you?" Was said over the speakers. "Yes a chili cheese dog." He looked at me "Chili cheese fries?" I asked a need crave "Chili cheese fries, two Cookie & cr me milkshakes, a strawberry, Butterfinger, chocolate, and a fudge brownie milkshake." He said "Your total will be \$22.50." He said and my dad pulled up paid and we left.

"You are doing excellent in school, and I know this is a hard year education wise. But you have excellent grade." My dad said and I smiled at him "Thanks daddy." I said and he smiled at me. We talked about Love, and what to get mom for Christmas on the way home. I shared my chili cheese fries with everyone but didn't share my chili cheese dog with anybody. We all went to bed at a decent hour. My nightmares were back again tonight, so I kept tossing and turning like I normally do. Love kept nudging me to make me feel better.

At five o'clock I gladly got up and got dressed in my sweatpants and the Army T-shirt, it wasn't baggy like it will be in April but it still fits. I did my final review of Algebra two and gave Summer a quick review and then we went to school to take the mid-term. It was another all day test which wasn't as easy for me as I thought it would be. Tomorrow is my last day off for a while and I'm glad. I need to work so I can afford to take care of my babies.

Chapter 52

It's now Thanksgiving, where we are on a four day break from school. The day before I worked 7-7, today I'm off, tomorrow is 7-11, Saturday is 7-4, and Sunday is 4-11. My normal school week schedule is 4-11, or has been since last week since it was the first week after mid-terms. From the past almost five months I made \$550.00 every two week so for a month that's \$1100. And after five months of saving that's \$5500, not counting the \$500 I still had in there. I will now make \$7.69 an hour so that might help me more.

Uncle Jake and his family is here, Uncle Connor and his family, Aunt Colleen and her family, and our family all together for Thanksgiving. I'm outside with the kids with Holly and Alyssa with me. We're talking about the babies "What do you want?" Holly asked me "Two girls or a boy and a girl. I'm not sure yet. But either one is fine by me." I said "You are a remarkable young woman. Brave. Strong. " Holly said and I smiled at her "Thanks." I said and my phone rang "hello?" I asked "Happy Thanksgiving sissy." Bryce said his voice sounded so distant "Where are you?" I asked "Germany like I said." He said "I miss you. I love you." I said "I love you too. How are you?" He asked "Good, they are as well. Here's mom" I said and she smiled talking for a few and handing my dad the phone, it made the way around to Autumn, Summer, and Landon before he had to go.

After an eventful day, I went to bed and woke up at six. Holly and Alyssa were in my room. I got dressed for work silently and walked into the kitchen. My mom and Uncle Jake was up talking they didn't know I was up. "Lexie, he won't be like me. He won't get hurt. He will come home safe." Uncle Jake said "It's hard. Worrying about him, but being excited about Kelsey. This has been a crazy year. Daddy would have known what to tell me." My mom said "Kelsey is doing a wonderful job. It was a tragic accident to her and she bounced back. She will do good." Uncle Jake said "I know she will. She's so much like me on that part." My mom said "Lexie, she's a mini-you. Exactly." Uncle Jake said and my mom laughed. "She's a hard worker, her hours will take away from the twins I know but I'm sure she won't complain if Brad cuts them in half. He's a good man. He was friends with Austin in college, so he understands." My mom said and I decided it was time to come in. "Morning momma, morning Uncle Jake." I said "Morning Kels." He said and I smiled, my mom brought me a plate of breakfast and Uncle Jake sat down with a cup of coffee. "Go easy today at work, will you?" Uncle Jake asked "Yes sir." I said and he smiled at me.

Today I worked 17 hours, yeah it's against child labor laws but I won't complain. I made \$130.73 today and this is the first day of the new paycheck. The next day work went great, I worked nine hours making \$69.21. I spent the remaining hours of Saturday with Holly and them since they were all leaving tomorrow since we all have school and work on Monday. Sunday I spent my day until afternoon went them and said my good-byes, they left at three. I worked 7 hours today making \$53.83 and I got my schedule for next week: Monday-Friday: 5-11, Saturday: 7-1, Sunday: Off. I get pay this Saturday. School went by quick on Monday and work went by even quicker, working 6 hours making \$46.16 making \$230.70 that week. Saturday I got my check coming out to being \$484.47 so I didn't complain because that is still a good amount. I put the money in the account and went home. My fifth month appointment is on Friday and I'm excited about that hoping the week will go by quick for me. And that this part of the month goes by quick, we get out December 18th- January 3rd. Our finals is January 12th-14th.

It's now Friday in English and we're making plans "This Saturday, up until January 9th minus the weekend of Christmas and New Years we work on our project." Jared said "Okay." We all said in agreement because this project is a huge part of our final grade. We present it on January 11th. And take our written exam on the 12th, and the rest will perform it on the 15th. I smile at them and telling them I will tell them the sexes tomorrow when we work on our project. I smile the whole way to my appointment, and after I find out I'm healthy and both of my babies are healthy Dr. Wiley looked at me "Ready to know the sexes?" Dr. Wiley asked me "Yes ma'am." I said "You are having girls." She said showing me the sonogram screen better and I

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smiled.

I went to work at five and got off at nine. Lyndsey looked at me, "He only gave me until nine tonight." I said and she nodded I went home and my parents were on the porch waiting. "Sex?" My mom asked "Or sexes." My dad said "Girls." I said and my mom smiled at me. "Picking out names is a huge step Kels. You can't rush it honey." My mom said and I nodded "I know mom. I'm going to my room, okay? Work and school was rough. And tomorrow we have to work on our project, it's due January 11th when we present it and I want to be rested for tomorrow." I said "Good night Kels. I love you." My mom said "I love you too, I love you too daddy." I said and he smiled at me.

I stayed up instead of falling asleep. I pulled out my Notebook for English 3 and tore out a piece of paper. I found my pen and started writing names:

- Caitlin Nicole Blevins & Caylee Marie Blevins
- Stephanie Lynn Blevins & Skylar Ann Blevins
- Skylee Hope Blevins & Nicole Lynn Blevins

I fall asleep and the next day when Jared, Molly, Aubrey, and Lyndsey arrived I had the piece of paper on my binder still. "Uh-oh you're having girls." Molly said reading the names "Yes I am." I said and they smiled at me. "I like Caitlin Nicole and Caylee Marie." Lyndsey said "I agree." Aubrey and Molly said "Those are nice names, but can we get to work? I have to work later." Jared said and we rolled our eyes and began to work on it. "My mom said she will do the outfits, she doesn't mind." Molly said and I smiled "We will do good on this." I said "Next weekend at my place so my mom can size us." Molly said and I nodded.

The next day, Lyndsey, Aunt Colie, momma and I went shopping for baby stuff. We got two pink car seats, a pink diaper bag, girly color bottles, some baby clothes, and a double pink twin stroller. We have the bath tubs, the changing table, dresser, I got the baby first blanket, the automobile that hangs above the bed. "Will you breast feed or bottle?" Aunt Colie asked "Bottle. I will only take two weeks off." I said and she nodded, Spring break is March 5th- 9th so I'm excited about that week long break. I'm excited about the Christmas break more because it's something I could really use right now. We get out of school on June 8th, so I will be able to make up the time I will miss before then and it will be in new courses by then but I'm still confident that I can do better then. Two weeks will be enough time I hope.

Chapter 53

It's now Christmas Eve, the past couple Saturdays like we planned was spent at different houses to work on the project. I got Lyndsey, Aubrey, Molly, and Jared something for Christmas and I'm going to their houses to exchange gifts with them before the family thing tonight. "Merry Christmas Mrs. Wiles is Molly home?" I asked and she smiled "Yes one second." She said and I nodded, it's weird. She's my doctor but at home she's my best friend's mom. "Merry Christmas Molly." I said smiling at her "Merry Christmas. I have your gift right here." Molly said and I smiled. We exchanged gifts and opened it. She gave me a new pair of rainbow flip-flops and I gave her a gift card to A&F. "See you when school starts or before." I said and she smiled.

Aubrey was outside with my gift when I arrived "Merry Christmas." I said "Merry Christmas Kels." She said and I handed her my gift and she handed me hers "What to expect your first year." I said smiling "I thought you might want that." She said and I smiled "Thanks, it's perfect." I said and she smiled at me. "I love the gift card to Hollister." She said and I smiled at her. "See you when school starts or before." I said "Okay." Aubrey said smiling at me. "Have a good Christmas." I said "You too Kels." She said and we smiled at each other.

I gave Jared a signed Football that I got off of E-bay and he gave me a gift card to Barnes & Nobles. He gave me another gift a kiss on the lips. "Stop. We're friends." I said and he nodded, any feelings I did have for him changed when he dumped Lyndsey. "Merry Christmas, have a good Christmas." I said driving home and then walked to Lyndsey's. "Merry Christmas Lynds." I said "Merry Christmas Kels." She said and I gave her my gift a silver bracelet with the words "Best Friends Forever." She gave me a bracelet with the same thing and we smiled at each other. "Jarred kissed me." I said "He's a jerk." Lyndsey said and I nodded.

Christmas went by good and so did New Years, now it's the 2nd and we're working on our class project. Afterwards Jared left and us girls went to Lucky's for Pizza and subs. I ordered a sub this time because that was something I was craving, and enjoyed the times with my friends. I see Chance working and I rolled my eyes at him. "Now that's a real jerk." I said and the girls giggled at me.

We did get an A on our project we did great on our written exam. Spanish 2 was a 94 all around, Algebra 2 was a 95 all around, and English 3 was a 100 all around for my semester. American Government is my first period for the second semester, Physical Science for my second, Creative Writing for my third period.

January ended and February came, my seventh month appointment went good. The girls and I are both very healthy, school work is going good. It's now March 4th and my eight month appointment went great, the girl and I are very healthy and we went over what to expect during labor and to come back on the 18th for my last appointment before I go into labor. During my spring break other than preparing for the birth, I worked every day that week. And spent time with Lyndsey, Molly, and Aubrey. Although they went to the beach a lot and I had to stay home when they did. I will go back to school April 18th, and mid-terms are April 23rd-April 25th. So I won't really miss much for the two weeks, and Aunt Colleen since she doesn't work will watch the girls while I'm in school and until my mom gets home. I will be working but not many hours like I work now or did work until they are older.

It's April 4th and I feel the first sign of labor at midnight when I'm woken up to a sharp pain. By four I was up to more contractions waking me up. I got up and walked around and sat on the couch watching TV the best I could. My water broke at six and I screamed. My mom and dad rushed to the hospital and I got a hospital room. After six hours of labors I was giving birth at noon to my daughters. One was born at 12:00 PM on April 4th weighing 5.2 pounds and the other weighing 5.2 pounds as well, both being nineteen inches long.

I'm holding Caitlin and Caylee in my arms. They have my icy blue eyes, my strawberry blonde hair, my nose, my cheek, my eye shape, my lips, everything about me and nothing about Chance. I can't deny them but

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Chance can. Around four Lyndsey, Molly, Aubrey, and Summer comes by. "Caitlin and Caylee are beautiful." Lyndsey said and I smiled "Thanks Lynds." I said "How does it feel to be a mom?" Molly asked "good." I said "Summer has your assignments for the next two weeks." Lyndsey said and I nodded "Thanks Lynds." I said and she smiled at me.

Since I gave natural birth without any medicine I was able to go home the next day with Caitlin and Caylee. When I arrive at home the next morning I put Caitlin and Caylee in the playpen we had in the living room and began my assignment. And I was done by two for the next two weeks. Love was curled up on the couch and Caylee started crying. They have been such good babies, and they are very healthy. I pick up Caylee and I make her a bottle of formula and I sit down and I fed her. I burp her and check to see if she needs changed. Caitlin wakes up and does her soft cries and I feed her and change her and held both of them.

My mom got home at five and smiled, dinner was cooking the house was clean and both of my daughters were asleep. "I will take over Kels. Go back to your girls." She said and I smiled "Mom, come look." I said and she rushed in to see Love curled up at the foot of Caitlin and Caylee and my mom smiled. I took a picture of that with my phone and updated the picture on Facebook "Love, just loves Caitlin and Caylee." I had pictures of me and the girls and of the girls on my Facebook.

For the next two weeks I was learning the roll of motherhood and I was getting the hang of it. Learning their every cry "I'm hungry, I need to be changed, I want attention, and many more." It's the Sunday before I begin school after being off for two weeks. My work schedule is 3:30-7:30 Monday-Friday so I had four hours of work being nine hours this week not counting Saturday and Sunday 7-3. Autumn went over to Aunt Colie's for her friend, Summer went to the mall with Cayla and Jessie, Landon and Logan went to a baseball game. My dad was reading the Newspaper where my mom wrote her article. My mom and I are giving the girls a bath and then turned on the TV; I lifted Caylee up and kissed her cheek.

I carried Caylee into her room and put her in her crib and made sure she was laying right. I came into the living room and picked up Caitlin from my mom and tucked her in bed, it was nine so I knew it was ready for them to go to bed. I went to bed at ten and was up at two due to hearing a baby cry from my baby monitor. I pick up Caylee from the crib and smell the nasty smell, I changed her diaper and she was sucking on her pacifier and fell back asleep. I went to my room and got my blanket and curled up in my rocking chair.

Chapter 54

My alarm clock went off at five and I went into my room. All of my pregnancy clothes was in the attic already, and I was weighing 115, so I went from an X-small to a Small in shirts because I gained boobs. Went from an A cup to a B cup. I wear my favorite pair of jeans, the ripped jeans with my cute Beatles shirt because I could wear it again and it was a small. I braided my hair to the side in a fishtail and carried my backpack to the kitchen. I checked up on Caylee and Caitlin. I made myself a bowl of cereal and with my baby monitor clipped to my hip right when I finished I heard a baby cry. I picked up Caylee and fed her, changed her diaper. Did the same thing to Caitlin and they fell back asleep.

Autumn was the first to go this morning then my dad after kissing my cheek, and my mom's lips. My mom went to work, Landon went to school, and then after Aunt Colleen came over Summer and I left to go to school. "Walk me in?" I asked Summer who smiled "Sure." She said and we walked into school together. I smile at her when she went to her homeroom and I went to American History and I gave my teacher my two week of makeup work and she smiled at me. "Welcome back Kelsey." She said and I smiled. I sat back down and smiled at my binder, I had pictures of Caylee and Caitlin in my binder cover.

American History was just a review of the class so far so we could work on our study guide tonight for our homework so we could do our final review tomorrow. When I went to Physical Science I gave my teacher my makeup work and he smiled at me "Welcome back." He said and I smiled at him "Thanks." I said and he smiled at me. We did the review for the class as well and took more notes on the material in class. I was careful to make sure I had everything I would need to do the study guide.

When the bell rang for us to go to lunch, I went to my locker and put my binder and textbooks in the locker and then went to get some lunch. I sat down at our normal table and pulled out my phone. I texted my Aunt Colleen to see how they were doing and she sent me a picture as a response of them sleeping. I took a bite of my hamburger and Lyndsey, Molly, and Aubrey sat down. "Hey girly." They said "Hey." I said "It was so weird for two weeks without you." Molly said "Thanks. It felt kind of weird but then again it felt natural being home with my girls." I said and they smiled at me, Jared was sitting with his jock friends instead of us which included Chance as well.

During study hall I had my binder out with the pictures of Caitlin and Caylee on it and started working on my study guide for American History. I finished that within fifteen minutes and spent the other fifteen minutes on my Physical Science study guide; I finished it and enjoyed the minute I had left. During Creative Writing class we had our study guide, and part of our mid-term was to write a 1,000 word essay which was part of our homework for tonight.

I worked until 7:30 and got home as quick as I could. I left my backpack at the table and walked into the living room. My mom was holding Caylee "Hey baby girl. I miss you." I said and took her from my mom. I spent the half hour before they went to bed with them and then tucked in and did the rest of my homework. It took me until ten to do the essay and then I spent time with my parents and then went to bed at eleven because I knew I would be up in no time with the girls so I wanted to be prepared for things. I curled up under my blankets with Love against my stomach and fell asleep within seconds. It will be a lot of stress going to school and being a mom and working a part-time job to support them.

Every night of the final, which was three nights the girls were waking me up every two hours for different reasons but I still think I did good on my mid-terms. Today is Saturday and I'm up at six, I feed Caylee and Caitlin and my mom comes out to get the baby monitor. Today I work until one so I'm not complaining. I clocked in and got to my register, I had a ton of people during my hours at work today. After I clocked off I got some more formula and diapers since we were getting low. I went to the Lyndsey's line and she smiled at

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me. I ran my debit card through and then went home.

I changed into my cheerleading shorts and a black tank top. I pulled my hair into a sloppy ponytail and picked up Caylee from my dad's arm and sat down, my mom handed me Caitlin. "We're going out on a date afternoon/night." My mom said "I hope you two have fun." I said and they smiled at me "The kids are spending the afternoon/night with their friends so it's just you." My dad said "That sounds good." I said and they smiled at me. They left leaving me and the girls and I heard somebody at the door. I placed the girls in their playpen and opened the door. Chance was at my door "What are you doing here?" I asked "I have a check." Chance said "what for?" I asked "Your dad told my dad about what happened. So he's making me pay you child support for the twins." He said "Caitlin and Caylee." I said. "Here you go, and yes I signed it." Chance said and he left just like that. "Mommy just got \$1000 for you two." I said and they just blankly stared at me.

May 4th is on a Friday and their appointment is at 3:30. I went straight home from work and then got the girls ready. Today and tomorrow is my day off of work so I had no time issue to worry about. I got them in their car seats and carried them to the car and got them situated, their first month appointment went great. They now weigh 7 pounds, so they gained two pounds in a month so that isn't something to worry about. They got their first round of shots and they didn't cry so I was glad about that.

It was now safe for me to take them out in public; I wanted to wait until their first month checkup before I took them anywhere. I was meeting Lyndsey, Aubrey, and Molly at Lucky's for dinner with the girls so I could have my night out. I'm the first to arrive and Mrs. Lynnwood walks over to me, "I'm so sorry about what my son did." She said "It was an awful event. But I now have two wonderful beautiful baby girls." I said and she smiled "What are their names?" She asked me "Caitlin and Caylee, ma'am." I said "Beautiful names. I know Chance doesn't want them in his life, but I would like to be kept updated." She said "Mrs. Lynnwood, I'm a regular customer you will be updated. " I said and she smiled at me. "I always loved you; I just wish he wasn't so awful." She said and I smiled. "Here" I said handing her a picture of Caitlin and Caylee in their playpen with Love at their feet.

Lyndsey, Aubrey, and Molly arrived at the same time and they smiled at that. "Oh my god, they have grown so much!" Molly said "I know, haven't they?" I asked "On May 18th they can go to daycare." I said and Lyndsey smiled. "You have to have the cutest babies in the world." Lyndsey said and I smiled, I told them about Chance's mom and they looked at me. "She is a nice woman Lynds. She was friends with our mom in their school days. "I said and Lyndsey nodded at me. "Chance gave you that much?" Molly asked "Yeah for child support. My dad told his dad about what he did and said we weren't going to press charges but he just wants him to know so his son doesn't do it to another girl again."

Chapter 55

Around seven with the help of Lyndsey I got the girls in the car and smiled good-bye. The plan was to see if the girls could spend the night tomorrow night since I'm off on Sunday as well. I arrive at home in no time and I get the girls car seats out and carry them up the steps. I go in to seeing my mom on Skype "It's Bryce. He wants to see the girls." My mom said and I walked over there with them in their car seats "Beautiful girls Kels." Bryce said "Thanks." I said "How did they do?" My mom asked "Amazing. They even did great at Lucky's." I said and she smiled at me, "here talk to Bryce. Their grandma wants to spend time with them." She said and I smiled.

"Hey Bryce." I said "hey Kels. I'm still in Germany." He said and I smiled at him "I miss you." I said "I miss you too Kels. Mom and dad and everybody else bragged on you. About how good of a mom you are, and how well you're doing it with little to no help." Bryce said "Thanks." I said and he smiled at me "I know it's tough. I have some buddies of mine who has little ones from babies to four and they are without seeing them. Some are even single parents as well." Bryce said and I smiled. "My time is actually up but I love you." He said "I love you too." I said and he smiled at me. June 4th-6th was our finals and then the 8th is our last day of school for the summer.

It's now June 4th and I'm in homeroom waiting to take my American Government final. The girls have this thing if I have a big test they keep me up the night before. The girls are two months old now, gaining weight like they should, still beautiful, and they have earrings in their ears. I go to their appointment and then dropping them off at home for my appointment with Charlie. After you finish taking the final you can go home. I finished around one and went home to the girls napping, so I made myself some lunch.

Their appointment went great; I dropped them off to my mom and went to my appointment. It's been three months since I last saw Charlie. "How are you?" Charlie asked me "Stressed. But good. Tired." I said and he smiled at me. "How is motherhood treating you?" Charlie asked me "good. I'm a good mom according to people but I love my girls with all of my heart." I said "I would do anything for them if I had to." I said "Chance's mom wants to be a part of their life. Chance hasn't seen them once. But he did me two child support checks of \$1000." I said "do you think he wants to see them?" Charlie asked me "I think so. He could be too ashamed of what he did." I said "You're catching on." He said and I smiled. "It weird, my friends are all talking about the plans they are doing this summer and I'm out of the loop because my summer plans last year will not be done this year because I have two little girls." I said and Charlie nodded. "It's like a huge slap in the face from reality saying you're a teen mom. Your summer is ruined. Or the plans of the beach with friends, road trip with friends, beach parties won't happen." I said and he nodded "but oddly enough, I'm okay with that. I mean I have two amazing little girls that needs me. I don't need to go out and have that type of fun." I said and he nodded. "Caylee and Caitlin are my life." I said "I still have nightmares, especially if I think they are starting to look like him but they don't." I said "I don't want my child to be in any harm. I want them to be safe." I said and he nodded "You are a good mom." Charlie said and I smiled at him. After my appointment I got in my car and started my drive home. Charlie gave me some great tips and said unless I'm feeling pressured or too stressed that I shouldn't need to come back as often.

After our very last class of the day, we are now on summer break. I have to come back tomorrow for Alyssa's graduation but it's still the last day of school. Now I get to spend summer working and being a mom. My plans for my summer before senior year is ruined but I'm not complaining, I'm only irritated at Chance who can do whatever he wants this summer and I'm stuck taking care of our two girls. Lyndsey, Molly, and Aubrey smiled at me as we walked out of school and headed towards our cars. "Let the summer of our life begins!" Molly said and I smiled at her, we got out at 12:00 today and I'm not needed at work until 3:30 so I smiled at them and waved good-bye. Summer was already at the car waiting for me. I smiled at her, and we got in the car and headed home.

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"You survived your first year of high school, how do you feel?" I asked her and she smiled "Amazing. I'm looking forward to next year. I'm going to be a cheerleader again, or so I hope." Summer said and I smiled at her, she was going on about her summer plans and I just nodded. When we got home I went to my room and cleaned my room making it spotless. Love wasn't in my room like she normally is when I get home. I went into the girls' room and she was in the rocking chair sleeping. "They aren't here baby. They are at day care." I said and she meowed at me, I cleaned up in there and vacuumed the floor, did laundry. I did the dishes so I could have clean bottles and then it was time to get ready for work.

I got off at 8:30 and went home, the girls was already asleep so I sat down in the living room. Autumn was on the loveseat with Summer, Landon was in the chair, and my parents were on the couch. "Hey Kels." My mom said and I smiled "Thanks for everything." I said and she smiled "I love doing it." My mom said and I smiled, they know I don't depend on them to take care of my girls, they know I do it mostly by myself but it things like this that I need help with. I went to bed around ten since I had a long tiring day and woke up at one to one of the girls crying. They mostly sleep through the night now, but still have their moments.

"Mommy got you baby girl." I said walking in and to Caylee's crib and she was staring at me crying. "Phew. You stink." I said and changed her diaper and sat in the rocking chair with her. I gave her back her pacifier and she began sucking on it again. I put her back in her crib and checked on Caitlin who was asleep still so I went back to bed. On cue like they have been every morning they wake me up at six crying, normally I'm up already but since its summer I wasn't. I got up and picked up Caylee, got Caitlin next and walked into the kitchen. My dad and mom were at the table reading the newspaper and drinking their coffee. "I will take Caitlin." My mom said so I handed Caitlin to my mom, "I will have Caylee." My dad said so I handed Caylee to my dad. I fixed the bottles and took Caitlin from my mom and fed her, my dad was feeding Caylee for me. I burped Caitlin and gave her back her pacifier. "Be right back to get Caylee." I said smelling Caitlin's diaper. I laid her on the changing table and she stared up at me. I changed her carried her to the playpen in the living room; I took Caylee from my dad and did the same. "See you in time for the graduation right?" My mom asked "Yeah, I'm off today. I get my new work schedule today." I said and she smiled at me. "The day care is hiring, maybe you could apply?" My mom asked "Maybe, then I can spend more time with them." I said and she smiled at me.

Chapter 56

I got both of the girls out of the playpen and had them beside me and we all ended up taking a nap. I woke up to somebody knocking the door; I picked up the girls and laid them in the playpen. I walked to the door and saw Lyndsey. "Morning, I was wondering if you wanted to help me get Alyssa a graduation gift?" Lyndsey asked me "Do you mind two tag along?" I asked "Nope." She said "Let me get dressed and get the girls dressed. Do you mind watching them for a second?" I asked "Not at all." Lyndsey said and I smiled. I left a note for my siblings letting them know and I went to get dressed. I wore my favorite pair of denim shorts and my Army T-shirt, the one that actually fits and it's pink.

I had my hair in two braids since it was the quickest to do. I walked into the living room and Lyndsey was holding Caitlin "Want to help me get them dressed?" I asked "Sure. Can we do them in matching outfits?" Lyndsey asked "Yeah." I said smiling at her; we get them dressed in matching dresses with matching boomers. I got their little sandals on their feet, "I need to get their diaper bags ready." I said and she nodded, I already had their stroller in my car. She helped me with getting them in their car seats and carried Caylee out for me while I had the diaper bag and Caitlin.

"Where to?" I asked "The mall?" Lyndsey asked "Sure." I said "We need to make a stop though." I said "I know. I need my check." Lyndsey said and I smiled. We went to Publix and I got Caitlin's car seat and Lyndsey got Caylee's car seat. "Schedule and checks, I'm assuming?" Brad said when he saw us "Yes sir." I said and he smiled at the girls "They are adorable Kelsey." He said "Thank you sir." I said and he gave us our schedule. Today is Friday and we are off. Saturday: 3-10, Sunday: 4-11, Monday: 5-11, Tuesday: 4-11, Wednesday: 5-11, Thursday: 4-11, Friday: 2-11, Saturday & Sunday off. We went back to the car and then to the mall, we took turns running in so we didn't have to take the girls out again. My check this week was \$500 and none of that will be touched unless need to.

It was still early morning so not many people were in the parking lot at the mall yet. Lyndsey and I got out, she opened the door on her side and I opened the door on my side. I went to the trunk and got the stroller out and put their diaper bag and carrying pouch in the bottom of the stroller where the bags can go. I got Caylee out of her car seat and carried her to the stroller and buckled her in, and Lyndsey did the same for Caitlin. "Thanks for the help. I don't know what I would without the help of my friends and family." I said because it's true, everybody is so supportive over me and the girls. "It's the least I can do for my best friend." Lyndsey said and I smiled, we have always dreamed of having kids at the same time like our mothers, going to the same college being roommates.

We went into the mall and went shopping; we sat at the food court around noon content with what we got Alyssa. Graduation is later on tonight so we had plenty of time. After I finished my lunch I got Caitlin out and propped her on one knee and got Caylee on the other knee. I see Molly and Aubrey walking towards us and smiled. "Hey beautiful girls." Molly said to the girls and they stared at her "They are beautiful girls." Aubrey said "Thanks." I said smiling at them, "Can I hold Caylee?" Molly asked "Sure." I said and Molly took Caylee and smiled "I want to hold Caitlin!" Aubrey said and I gladly let her hold Caitlin. "When are you leaving?" I asked Molly "Next Sunday." She said, she was going to spend two weeks with her Grandparents in North Carolina. "I'm working at the pet store again this summer." Aubrey said and I smiled "I won't be coming back there. Two kids and a cat is enough." I said and she smiled at me. "Love was the one I begged for my dad to let me keep." She said and I smiled.

Lyndsey and I left around one leaving the girls to shop, I dropped Lyndsey off at the house and she volunteered to baby sit while I ran to the day care real quick. "Hello Kelsey." The lady that owns the day care Mary said "Hello Miss Mary." I said "How may I help you? I noticed you didn't bring the girls in." She said "Yeah, I'm sorry. It's my first day of summer and I wanted to spend it with them." I said and she smiled at me

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"I understand. I was like that once." She said "How may I help you?" Miss Mary asked me "My mom told me that you are hiring." I said "Yes we are. Would you like an application to fill out?" Miss Mary asked me "Yes ma'am." I said "It's a summer job or should be but sometimes it carries out into the school year. We like for teenagers to be involved. Especially if they have children that attend the daycare so they can be close with their baby." Miss Mary said "Thank you. Can I bring it in on Monday when I drop the girls off?" I asked "Yes you may." She said and I smiled at her. "Have a good weekend Miss Mary." I said "You too sweetie." She said.

When I went home Lyndsey smiled at me, "they are napping. They didn't give me any trouble at all." She said and I smiled "Good, I'm glad. I will see you tonight at the graduation party?" I asked "Yeah. I have to spend time with my siblings." She said "I do too." I said and she smiled at me. Today was the ninth, and tomorrow we leave to go to Stuart like we do every year. Brad is okay with Lyndsey and I swapping out shifts so I can go. She's working my shift tomorrow 3-10, and Sunday 4-11. I'm working her Monday 7-3 shift and my 5-11 shift, and hers 7-3 shift on Tuesday.

I got dressed in my summer dress and got the girls into a different dress since they have spit up on it. My mom and dad came down all dressed up and ready, so did the girls and Landon. In the van it was Landon, Autumn, and Summer in the front seat, then me and the girls in the back of the van. After the graduation and during the party since it was late the girls were asleep in their playpen I had outside. I had it covered with a screen so the bugs wouldn't get to them. "We are all so very proud of you Alyssa!" Aunt Colleen said and she smiled at them "Thanks. You all have helped me out throughout the years." Alyssa said. Out of our aunts and uncles and she's closest to my mom since my mom took care of Aunt Colleen and her when my grandma died.

We woke up at four the next morning and loaded up the van with our weekend stuff and headed down to Stuart. We arrived at six thirty and unloaded our stuff, we had the same sleeping arrangements like we do every year so I loaded the stuff upstairs and set up the playpen that was left here. We went to our parents' favorite place for breakfast and many of their old high school friends talked to them while we ate dinner.

It's now Sunday and we are all at the Meadows as a huge family. Aunt Zoey was gushing over the girls; she had twins herself Holly and Braden who are twenty. Bryce is now twenty, Alyssa will be nineteen, I will be eighteen, and my mom will be forty this year. We are already secretly planning a huge birthday party for her since it's a big year. My dad will be forty next month; Aunt Colie will be forty on the 15th.

We left later on in the afternoon and arrived at home around eight, I went ahead and tucked the girls in and laid on my bed. This was a busy weekend like it is every year, the girls just made it a little harder on me but I didn't complain. Everything is so different now with the girls but I'm fine with things.

Chapter 57

It's Wednesday now and I don't go in until 5, I still took the girls to daycare today so I could have a break and do something kind of normal. I got up at six and got the girls ready and took them to daycare and went home. "Summer, Autumn, Landon, it's beach time!" I said and they came running down in their bathing suits. We spent the morning at the beach and then went to Lucky's for lunch around one. Mr. Lynnwood and Chance were working today. Chance was assigned to be our waiter. "What can I get you to drink?" He asked "Four Dr. Peppers." I said "Okay. I will be right back with your drink." He said and we nodded, he came back and took our orders and left again.

Mrs. Lynnwood came out of the office and smiled at me, "How are the girls? Where are the girls?" She asked me "They are doing good, growing up quick, they are at daycare." I said and she smiled at me "Do you work this weekend?" Mrs. Lynnwood asked me "No ma'am." I said "Can you bring the girls by?" She asked me "I have to see with my parents." I said "Okay." She said and apologized for interrupting our lunch and walked off.

My mom got off at four today, and I excused myself to go pick up the girls and came home and she smiled at me. "Mrs. Lynnwood wants me to go over this weekend with the girls." I said "Your father and I have been talking about that and I think you should. They need to know the girls, they haven't done anything wrong. Just keep your distance from Chance and you should be fine." My mom said and I smiled "I will talk to your dad about it tonight." She said and I smiled "Are you off tomorrow?" I asked "Yeah, so is your Aunt Colie. I'm taking her to a spa day." My mom said and I smiled at her.

When I got off I went into the girls' room and checked in on them to seeing them sleeping soundly. I changed into my cheerleading shorts and my baggy Army T-shirt. My phone rang "Hello?" I asked "Hey Kelsey-bug." Bryce's voice said "Hey Bryce! I missed you! Why are you calling me?" I asked "I know you would still be up. Mom and dad are probably asleep." Bryce said "Yeah. I just got home." I said "How are my nieces?" He asked me "Good. They are waiting to see you." I said "I will be home in September for a month, and then we're going off to South Korea for a year." Bryce said "That's a war zone." I said "Yeah. We have spent this time training and taking care of other things." Bryce said "I'm looking forward to seeing you." I said "I am too Kels. I'm going to spoil the girls while I'm home." He said "I know you will. I love you Bryce." I said "I love you too Kels. I gotta go." He said "Be safe Bryce." I said.

I woke up at seven to no baby crying or anything, I got a little worried and went to check in on them to find them sleeping peacefully and a note on Caitlin's crib: I fed them, changed them for you. Love mom. I smiled at the note and decided against taking them to daycare today. I got in the shower and when I got out I got a phone call "Hello?" I asked "Yes, this is Miss Mary from Daytona Daycare. Is this Kelsey?" Miss Mary asked me "Yes ma'am this is she." I said "I'm calling to tell you that you got the job. When do you work tomorrow?" She asked me "2-11." I said "Can you come in tomorrow to get the hang of things?" She asked me "Yes ma'am." I said "See you then." She said and we hung up. I got dressed and got the girls dressed and in their stroller. I took them around the neighborhood and to the park. I sat down and saw Tori run up to me, "Kels!" She said "Tori!" I said and Jared walks up "My day off is baby-sitting." He said and I smiled at him "I don't babysit anymore." I said and he smiled at me. "They are beautiful Kels. " He said "Thanks." I said "Chance talks about them sometimes." He said.

I went to Lucky's for a few telling Mrs. Lynnwood I would be by their house Saturday at one with the girls and she nodded, I left the girls in the car with Summer while I went in. We were going to get something for a late lunch real quick before I had to go to work. When we got home Aunt Colie and my mom was on the porch drinking ice teas. "Gimme the girls." My mom said and I smiled, I rushed to get in a shower and get changed for work and walked outside to my mom and Aunt Colie holding the girls. "I got the job." I said

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"Good." My mom said and I smiled at her "That's more income for you and the girls." Aunt Colie said "I know, I need it." I said and she smiled at me. "Thank you for watching them, I'm off to work." I said and she smiled at me.

I woke up at six the next morning, got the girls dressed, got their diaper bag ready and smiled at my parents. "Have a good day." She said "Thanks, remember pick them up by six." I said "We will Kels." She said and I smiled at them "Mrs. Lynnwood is really excited." I said "I know, I remember how she was in high school." My mom said and I smiled at her "Well I'm off for work." I said and they smiled. When I arrived Miss Mary personally took the girls and placed them in the cribs where they slept. "You will be with the baby department. Changing them, feeding them, giving them attention." She said and I nodded, "We will need you to help out in other places some days but it's pretty much the same. Our uniform is the shirt that has Daytona Daycare on it, and shorts or pants. What size are you?" She asked me "A small." I said and she nodded leaving me for a minute.

"Here is your shirt, have your mom tell me your work schedule so I can figure it out. But you will be working during the day here at least." Miss Mary said "Okay thank you." I said she gave me a tour around, telling me more about the daycare and then it was time for me to go. "I will see you Monday." I said "Yes." Miss Mary said and I walked to my car and smiled. Here I will be making \$7.50 an hour and \$7.70 at Publix an hour. I got dressed in my work clothes and went to work early "Your schedule for next week?" Brad asked me "Yes sir." I said "Monday-Friday 5-11, Saturday 7-1, and Sunday: 7-2. And pay day is Friday." Brad said and I nodded, I quickly texted my mom my schedule telling her to tell Miss Mary that when she picked up the girls today.

When I got off at 11 I went in to check on the girls and then went to bed. I woke up at seven to the girls crying. I got up and rushed to the girls. They were both crying, not loud enough to wake anybody up but me. I got Caylee, changed her and changed Caitlin. "One second." I said rushing to fix the bottles. I sat in the rocking chair with Caitlin, I fed her and burped her placing her in the crib and fed Caylee. I carried both of them into the living room and had them on both sides of me asleep sucking on their pacifiers. I turned the TV on and watched something I had recorded until I heard footsteps. My dad came in "We're all going out for breakfast. Go get dressed Kels. Your mom and I will get the girls ready." He said "Thank you daddy." I said going to get dressed; we went to Ihop for breakfast. I had Caylee on my right side and my mom had Caitlin on her left side and she sat beside me. "Miss Mary gave me your week schedule." My mom said "6-4." She said and I nodded "Thanks for everything you guys have done." I said and they smiled at me. "We said we would be supportive. You do most of it on your own; you just need help from time to time." She said and I nodded, I will be working basically all day having an hour to myself. But that's more money in my pocket and I get to spend time with the girls during the day. When we got home, I had enough time to do my chores and then I had to leave again.

Chapter 58

I arrived on time at Chance's and got out the car seats and diaper bag and walked up the front steps and rang the doorbell. Chloe opened the door "Hey Kels, come on in." She said and I followed her into the living room. Maddie, Danielle, and Julie were on the couch with Gavin. "Hey Kels. My mom is in the kitchen." He said "Okay." I said "Mom, Kelsey is here." Gavin said and I heard footsteps. "Oh my, they have grown. Can I hold Caitlin?" she asked me "Yes ma'am." I said giving Caitlin over to Mrs. Lynnwood. "Can I hold Caylee?" Chloe asked me "Yeah." I said "Be gentle with Caylee." I said "I will." Chloe said and she smiled at me. "Chance is in his room. He wanted to see you." Mrs. Lynnwood said "Okay." I said not trusting him or Gavin. I trust the girls and Mr. Lynnwood just not the boys. "Go on, he knows that if he touches you he will be in jail." Mrs. Lynnwood said and I only nodded.

I slowly got up and walked up the steps and knocked on Chance's door. "Come in." He said and I walked in, I shook. It brought back bad memories being in here. "You wanted to see me?" I asked "Yeah, I wanted to personally say I'm sorry about last summer. I'm bipolar and I didn't take my medicine so I wasn't myself and I get violent when I don't take my medicine. The cheating part I still would have done. But not the abuse or the raping." Chance said "I understand Chance." I said "I'm also in anger management now. Getting the help I need." He said "That's good Chance." I said "I don't want to turn out to be a monster. I really didn't mean to." He said and I nodded.

"It's hard you know. This past year has been hard on me Chance. Dealing with my junior year being pregnant, working as many hours as I could, going to school, still making decent grades. Then giving birth, having to struggle with school, and taking care of two little girls. I now work two jobs just so I don't depend on my parents. I hate depending on my parents Chance. They didn't ask to be grandparents. I didn't ask to be a mother at seventeen." I said "I know and I'm sorry for that Kelsey. My therapist Scott said that if I keep making the progress then I should be safe to spend time with the girls if you allow. But not to push it, because I need to give you time. I want to be there for the girls and you Kelsey. I honestly do love you." Chance said and that caught me off guard. "Maybe we can be friends for the sake of the girls. Your mother adores them." I said trying to be strong and mentally figuring out when I can see Charlie again.

Chance walked over to me and wrapped his arms around me, I wanted to resist but didn't because I didn't want to trigger anything. "I'm so sorry Kelsey." He said and I felt his body shake, I looked up to see tears running down his face. "I screwed up our lives." He said "You did not. Things are different for me, but your life is the same." I said "No, knowing I hurt the girl I have loved since fourth grade. Making her a parent before she is ready to be one isn't okay." Chance said and I nodded, I hugged him. I didn't want to but I did. He looked me in the eyes and kissed my lips. I pulled away "I have to go check on the girls." I said and he nodded "I will be down in a minute." He said and I nodded. I walked down to seeing Chloe playing with Caitlin and Mrs. Lynnwood playing Caylee. "Chance said he would be down in a minute." I said and Mrs. Lynnwood nodded. Caylee started crying "I will take her." I said and she nodded "Where can I change her at?" I asked "My room." Maddie said "Okay, lead the way Maddie." I said getting a diaper and baby wipes. "Can you carry these?" I asked and Maddie nodded I carried Caylee into her room. She handed me a towel to put down. She sat at the foot of her bed "Chance has changed over the year. He's back on his medicine. We all miss you around." She said.

I took off Caylee's bloomer and unstrapped her diaper; I lifted up her legs and cleaned her butt with a baby wipe. I put the new diaper on her and put her bloomer back on her and had her on my lap. "I miss you girls and your dad." I said and she smiled at me "Chloe is friends with Summer, Danielle is friends with Autumn. I hang out with Landon at school." Maddie said and I smiled "Let's go back out." I said carrying Caylee, and the dirty diaper. I walked into the kitchen to throw the diaper away and walked back to the living room. Mrs. Lynnwood had Caitlin in her arms smiling at her. We heard footsteps and Chance came down.

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"Would you like to hold Caylee?" I asked "I don't want to hurt her." Chance said and I smiled "Chance, I thought the same thing when they were born. So small, so fragile. I thought I would break them if I held them. Now they are almost three months old, spoiled rotten. You won't hurt her." I said scooting over so Chance could sit down. I gently handed Caylee over to Chance who smiled at Caylee "I'm your dad." Chance said and oddly enough I smiled at him holding Caylee. I wouldn't trust him alone with the girls but it was nice. Throughout the visit they took turn holding the girls, when Mr. Lynnwood came home he held Caylee.

I got a text at six: Are you coming home? I looked up "I need to head on home." I said "Thank you for bringing the girls over Kelsey." Mrs. Lynnwood said "No problem. It was actually nice." I said and she smiled at me. I got the girls in the car seat and carried them to the car. Chance came out and helped me "Are you working tomorrow?" I asked him "No." He said "Come over around noon." I said "You sure?" He asked "Yeah, but be warned." I said and he nodded. When I got home I told my parents and although my dad wasn't thrilled he nodded.

I woke up at six to the girls crying, changed them and fed them and placed them in the playpen. And I went to my room real quick, I got my book that Molly got me and read the following for what they should be doing: 3 months: raise head when on stomach, will reach for objects while lying on back, lifts head and chest when laying on stomach, rests on arms, rolls side-to side, hands mostly unfisted, small circular limb movement, explores own body, increased eye contact, listens to music, facial expressions, mimics other facial. Increased awareness, interest, Communication, varied types of crying, ah sounds.

Around noon Chance arrived and it was around their feeding time "come on." I said leading him into the kitchen. "Here's Caitlin. You hold the bottle like this, and when she's halfway done you burp her." I said and he nodded. "They will raise head when on their stomach, will reach for objects while lying on back, lifts head and chest when laying on stomach, rests on arms, rolls side to side, hands will mostly be unfisted, small circular limb movements, they will explore their own body, increased eye contact, will listen to music, facial expressions will increase, mimics other facial expression, increased awareness, and interest." I said and Chance looked at me "What?" He asked "that's their progress when they are three months old." I said and Chance nodded. "Am I doing it right?" Chance asked me "Yeah." I said smiling at him, I don't trust him enough but I want him to be a part of their life. My dad came in and nodded "I'm going to the baseball game with Bryan, Landon, and Logan. I will see you later. Chance I have people watching you." My dad said and I nodded "be nice dad." I said and he smiled "I don't want you to get hurt." He said "He's different daddy." I said "Yes sir, I am." Chance said and I smiled.

Chapter 59

Chance left around three and not even five minutes after he left Lyndsey was over. I picked up Caitlin and she got Caylee and we walked up to my room and shut my door. Love was on my bed and meowed at us. Lyndsey had Caylee sitting on her lap "Spill." She said and I told her everything about yesterday and today. "Do you still have a crush?" She asked me "No. I don't want to turn him away Lynds. I want him to be a part of their life. But I will never date him again. I don't trust him enough for him to keep the girls. I have to be around him for him to have them." I said and Lyndsey smiled at me. "Be careful Kels." She said "more careful than ever." I said and she smiled at me.

It's Friday at four thirty, I have just officially completed my first week of work at the day care. And I'm at Publix to get my paycheck. My check was \$731.50 after work I went home and went to bed. Work this summer was going to be very time consuming but for one pay day with both jobs I make \$1106.50. I had a lot of money in my account; I have been saving since the middle of June last year our trip to Busch Garden last year was canceled.

Its July 4th now, being a Friday and a pay day at both of my jobs. I'm off today in both places and all weekend for Publix. I wake up and I roll my eyes, today my girls are three months old and I have to take them to their third checkup where they get more shots, and pick up my paychecks. For the past two weeks I have been busy working or spending time with the girls, and my friends. They did great on their appointment; with the shots they didn't mind it. Now Caylee and Caitlin are both a momma's girl, they prefer me out of everybody.

My mom and dad are getting things ready for the cookout with Lyndsey's family at the beach for the fireworks. We were leaving at two to be there and it was eleven now. "I'm going to run to get my checks." I said "Okay." My mom said "Can I take Caylee?" I asked "Yeah, leave Caitlin." My mom said and I nodded. I got Caylee out and placed her on my hip and walked into the daycare Miss Mary was open today for a couple hours. I got my check and then went to Publix. I got a text saying we needed ice so after I got my check I got Caylee's blanket and put that in the buggy and got the ice and other stuff we needed.

When we got home, I made sure the diaper bag had enough formula and diapers and a change of clothes. I made sure I had the sunblock, the stroller, the canopy thing they will keep the sun out of their eyes. I got them in their bathing suits and got them in their car seats; we loaded up the van and arrived first. We claimed a table under the shelter and unloaded our stuff. I left the stroller up and placed Caylee in the stroller and made sure she had a ton of sun screen on. I did the same for Caitlin. Lyndsey came up and smiled at me, she had her two piece bathing suit on, "I will take Caitlin." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her. We went to the water and sat down at the edge. When the waves came up and splashed on Caylee she had an excited expression on her face. "Today is the one year mark." I said "I know. How are you feeling?" Lyndsey asked me "I have been okay; the girls are really helping me." I said and she smiled at me. "Today will be amazing. I need the sun." I said and Lyndsey smiled. "Kels, bring the girls up here." My mom said and we did so "Now go have fun. You need the break, and we're dying to spoil them more." My mom said and I smiled at her. "Thanks mom." I said and she smiled. We grabbed our towels and set up the spot by the water and went in for a little bit then went out.

"Dinner is ready!" My dad yelled and we all went up to the table. Caylee and Caitlin were in the stroller taking a nap. After we ate dinner I laid the blanket on the sand and picked up Caylee while Lyndsey got Caitlin. I laid them on their stomach and took a picture of them. Summer was taking pictures of all of us today. Caylee was resting on her arms, lifting her head up to look at me. She knows that I'm her mommy. Caitlin was throwing a fit, she hates being on her stomach. I was videotaping this and Caitlin turned over on her back and was content now. She touched her head and then her leg. Caylee was enjoying lifting her head up and looking around.

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The next few weeks consisted of working at Daytona Daycare with the girls, and then working at Publix. When I had a day off during the week the girls and I would spend it with Chance so he could get to know his girls. I don't really trust him with them alone but I'm starting to trust him more with the girls. I wouldn't let them stay over night with him unless I was there with him and I don't see that happening anytime soon.

It's August fourth now and I just left the girls fourth month checkup, they are developing like they should be. Instead of going home with the girls like I planned on I went to the mall to meet up with the girls. Molly, Aubrey, and Lyndsey smiled at me when I walked up to the food court pushing the girls. "Have you gotten a break since they were born?" Molly asked me "Yeah, when I'm at work." I said "Kelsey Hope." Lyndsey said and I rolled my eyes "You need a break from them, you need to get out." Aubrey said "I don't want my parents to have to suffer." I said "Your friends could." Molly said "what?" I asked "We help you take care of them all the time. My mom's a doctor. I have little foster sisters and brothers running around." Molly said "I take care of Tori, I help with the girls." Lyndsey said "I have a few nieces and nephews and I raised them over the summers when they were babies." Aubrey said. "You are to report to my house tonight at five. You are ordered to go out and have some fun." Molly said "Without my best friends?" I asked "You will manage." Lyndsey said and I smiled. "Thank you." I said "And afterwards we will all spend the night at my place." Molly sad and I smiled at her.

I went home around two and let my mom know what was going and she was laughing "If you needed one night out, all you had to do was ask and we would watch the girls." My mom said "I didn't think I needed a night out." I said "For four straight months, it's work or taking care of the girls." My mom said and I smiled "well anyways I will see you in the morning. I love you." I said "I love you too." She said and I packed the diaper bags and the overnight bag and loaded up the car while Summer watched the girls.

I got the girls in their car seats and drove to Molly's house the girls were all waiting, we took my stuff in and went up to her room. Her mom is a doctor, her dad is a Lawyer so they make a lot of money. Molly has two biological siblings Kyle is twenty, Sandra is twenty-two. Three adopted brothers Nick is 15, Kevin is 13, and Brandon is 11. And four foster brothers and sisters that is pending for adoption. Bella is 8, Liam is 6, Riley is 4, and Miles is 2. "We will call you if something happens Kelsey, but go away and don't come back until nine." Lyndsey said "Okay. Let me kiss them good-bye." I said and she nodded, after I said my good-byes I got in my car and went to Lucky's. "Hey Kelsey." Mr. Lynnwood said "Is Chance working, sir?" I asked "I just got off." Chance said "Care to sit?" I asked and he nodded.

Chapter 60

I took a bite of my pizza and Chance looked at me "Where are the girls?" He asked "with my friends, they wanted me to have a night out." I said and he smiled "I would have watched them." Chance said "Yeah, I know." I said "But you still don't trust me." Chance said "Kind of." I said "Kels, it's okay I understand." He said "You took away something that was special against my will. Made me pregnant." I said and he nodded "Why are you here then?" Chance asked with hurt in his eyes "to see if you wanted to hang out." I said and he flashed me a smile "I would but I'm grounded." Chance said "Oh okay, I will see you later?" I asked "Yeah." He said and I kissed his cheek. I paid the bill and left my waitress a tip and went to the only place I could think of the skating ring.

I saw a really cute guy skating when I got my skates on. I got out on the ring and when I started going I fell. I got up and tried again, skating a little bit more this time and I fell again. The really cute guy is at my side within seconds "Need help miss?" He asked me with a southern accent, nothing like mine. "Yes." I admitted and he took my hand and lifted me up. "First time?" He asked me "In a while." I said "Here let me help." He said and I smiled, he had a deep tan going, brown hair and green eyes, he was tall and muscular had a six pack. As we skated and he helped me regain my balance he smiled at me "Oh miss I never did get to know your name." He said "I'm Kelsey." I said "Nice to meet you Kelsey." He said "what is your name?" I asked "Luke." He said and I smiled at him. We skated for a few with him holding my hand "think you got the hang of it?" Luke asked me "Yeah, thanks Luke." I said and he smiled at me.

I skated a few laps and then went to the food court area and got a bottle of water and sat down. Luke skated up, or more like walked up and smiled at me "Can I sit down?" Luke asked me and I couldn't say no to such a cute guy like that. "Sure can." I said "Do you live around here?" Luke asked me "Yeah, I do. Do you?" I asked Luke "Sort of. I just moved down here. My parents are divorced and my mom didn't want me to be with her and her new family so I'm living with my dad now." Luke said "That's so sad." I said and he smiled "Where are you from?" I asked "Tennessee." Luke said and I smiled. "How old are you?" I asked "Eighteen." He said "I will be soon." I said and he smiled at me.

We got to talking more and before I knew it the time on my phone read 8:30 and it took a while to get back. I managed to stay clear of being a mother to two little girls this whole time. "I have to go Luke." I said "Okay, will I see you again?" He asked me and I looked at him "I haven't been honest with you." I said "You have a boyfriend?" HE asked me "No, much worse." I said and he looked at me "I have two little girls." I said and he sighed a sigh of relief. "No worries, I'm cool with it." He said and I smiled I wrote down my number on a napkin. I returned my skates and walked out of the skating ring and went to Molly's.

"How were they?" I asked we were in the living room on the couch eating ice cream, the girls were already asleep when I got back. "No problems, they were great. Riley and Miles adores the girls." Molly said and I smiled "what did you do?" Lyndsey asked finally getting to the details. "I went to Lucky's pizzas, talked to Chance for a few. Then went to the skating ring." I said "you haven't skated in over a year." Lyndsey said "I know. So I kept falling, and this really cute guy came up and helped me." I said and they looked at me so I had to go into details and explained everything. "Somebody will have a new crush!" Aubrey said and I smiled at her. "Yeah sure." I said and they all laughed at me.

It's August 11th and I was starting to think I was right about Luke not wanting anything to do with me. I was working at Publix because it was a Saturday, around noon. Luke and a group came up to my register. A man, two other boys, and two girls. Luke smiled at me and I smiled "Welcome to Publix. How are you?" I asked "good and you?" He asked "Fine, thank you." I said "Paper or plastic?" I asked "plastic is fine." He said and Lyndsey started bagging the groceries. "See Luke you can make some decent friends, find a decent girl." His dad said and Luke blushed and turned away. I smiled "Daytona is a nice area for friends, sir." I said and his

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dad smiled at me. "Kelsey." His dad said reading the name tag, "hey son is this the Kelsey you have been talking about nonstop? But said I washed her number." His dad said and Luke was red. "Dad." Luke said. "Your total will be \$200.50 sir." I said and he gave me the bill. "You have a good night." I said and Luke smiled at me but walked back over "Here ." He said handing me his number and I smiled at him.

When we got off and changed I was on the porch with the girls and Love and Lyndsey came up. "Is that Luke?" Lyndsey asked me "Yeah." I said "He's smoking hot girl! You mislead us!" She said and I smiled at her. "Will you call him?" Lyndsey asked "I'm not sure." I said "Let me rephrase that. Call him." Lyndsey said and I rolled my eyes at her. "Fine I will call." I said and she smiled at me. I dialed his number which was still a Tennessee area code and he answered "Hello?" Luke asked "Hey, is this Luke?" I asked "Yes, who is this?" He asked "Kelsey." I said "Oh hey!" He said "I was making sure this was the right number." I said "It is. I'm sorry. My dad washed your number by accident." Luke said "I understand." I said "Are you busy tonight?" He asked me "Nope." I said "Can I take you out?" Luke asked "Sure. I have to check with my parents. But can I text you?" I asked because Caylee was starting to grab for the phone "Yeah." He said "Alright, bye." I said and he hung up.

"Mom can you come here?" I asked and she came out "Yeah?" She asked "Remember the cute Luke I was telling you about?" I asked "Yeah, the one who didn't call." She said "I ran into him today at Publix, his dad gave him away. Can I go out with him tonight?" I asked "you mean I have to baby sit?" My mom asked "Please?" I asked "Honey I was joking. I will love it. We are going out to eat, then for ice cream so I can spoil the girls more!" My mom said "Mom." I said but she smiled "Do you want to go out with Luke or not?" She asked "Okay, spoil them." I said and she smiled. "Help me get ready?" I said turning to Lyndsey who was playing with Caitlin "Let go of Aunt Lyndsey hair." She said.

I texted Luke and he said he would pick me up at six if that was okay. And it was four now and I said it was. My mom and Lyndsey watched the girls while I took a shower and when I got out with my bra and thong set on Lyndsey whistled "Uh-oh sexy momma!" Lyndsey said and I smiled, "I now have those sexy curves I didn't. Those boobs." I said and she smiled at me. She picked out my outfit, a sky blue summer dress with my white leggings, my silver sandals. "You look beautiful." Lyndsey said "Thanks to you." I said "No problem." Lyndsey said smiling at me.

I smiled at the girls "Don't! You don't want spit up all over you." Lyndsey said and I rolled my eyes "I will see you when I get home." I said and she smiled at me. "I don't like the idea of her going out." Daddy said "She does. It's been a year Austin." My mom said "And we have two beautiful granddaughters because of it." My dad said "She knows now. She won't let it happen again." My mom said "I don't want her going out. I don't want my little girl getting hurt." My dad said "Austin, your little girl is a mom. Your little girl will be eighteen in four days." My mom said "Lexie, I don't care if she's twenty-five she will still be my little girl." My dad said "Quit being an over-protective father." My mom said "Lexie, it's my job." He said "I know that. But unlike me she didn't miss out on her father seeing her children, seeing her grow up. Don't ruin it by telling her you don't want her to date." My mom said "I'm sorry Lex." He said.

Luke came right after that "Mom and dad?" I asked "Coming dear." My mom said and I smiled I opened the door "Come in. My parents have to meet you first." I said "Understandable." Luke said and I smiled at him. "Mom and dad this is Luke." I said "It's nice to meet you Luke. " My mom said "It's nice to meet you Mr. and Mrs. Blevins." Luke said and my dad nodded "Come sit down." He said and Luke followed, he asked the same questions as he did with Chance but more this time. "Have her home at ten." My dad said "Yes sir. I will." Luke said "You be safe. Take care of my little girl." He said "I will. I promise." Luke said and my dad was content for now.

When I got in Luke's truck I looked at him "I'm so sorry about my parents." I said "I understand Kelsey. They do it for your safety." He said and I nodded, on the way to dinner I told him about what happened with

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Chance and why they are like that. "I would never cheat on a woman, especially a pretty one like you. I'm a virgin and I don't want to take something away from another girl just because of urges. I was taught, you don't hit a female. You don't control a female." He said and I smiled at him "You should be perfect for my dad then." I said and Luke smiled at me "What are your girls' names?" Luke asked "Caitlin and Caylee, but let's not talk about them." I said and he smiled at me.

We went to dinner and a movie; we talked all throughout the dinner and on the way home. When he got to my driveway he smiled at me. I kissed his cheek before he opened my door. It was nine thirty, and my parents weren't even home yet. We sat on the porch talking some more and then he smiled at me. "I like you Kelsey. We should do this again." Luke said "What are you doing tomorrow?" I asked "Other than Church nothing." He said "Do you want to come over for lunch? I work 5-11." I said "Sure." He said and I smiled at him, when he pulled away my parents pulled up. I helped get the girls out and I got them ready for bed and in bed.

"He is still a virgin, he was taught not to hit a female, you don't control a female, he's a Christian, he said he wouldn't cheat on a pretty girl like me." I was telling my mom and dad while enjoying a smoothie from McDonald's. "When did you get home?" My dad asked "Nine thirty. I invited him over for lunch." I said "good, we can get to know him better because he seems to have already won over our daughter's heart." My mom said "Hard part is getting the girls approval. He has to be good with Caylee and Caitlin for me to date him." I said and my mom smiled at me. "I'm going to bed, I know it's early." I said "good night Kels." My dad said "I love you daddy. One more thing." I said and he looked at me "Even when I'm thirty I will still be your little girl." I said and my mom laughed.

I got dragged into a Video call conference with Lyndsey, Molly, and Aubrey so I couldn't go to bed. I told them every details and told them about tomorrow. "He has to be good to the girls, they have to like him." Molly said "I know, my first thoughts. He's so sweet." I said and they smiled at me "He's smoking hot." Lyndsey said and Aubrey laughed. "Aubrey is out." She said and I smiled "night."

Chapter 61

Lyndsey and I stayed on Skype doing the video call until two. "I kind of miss hanging with Jared." Lyndsey admitted at two "I know. We did everything together, I guess it shows sometimes dating a friend isn't a wise choice." I said and Lyndsey nodded "My social life is still going on. And there is this guy." Lyndsey said "Spill." I said not caring that it was going on past two now. "His name is Jamie; he's a senior this year as well. He's been at all of the parties I go to. I see him at Publix; he works at your dad shop." Lyndsey said "Jamie Lyons." I said "Yeah." She said "He's a great guy. My dad use to tell me he would fix me up with Jamie." I said and she smiled "I really like him. We talk at the parties; we go our own way and talk. He's deep. Smart." Lyndsey said "My best answer for you is see how things go, set up a group of friends and hang with him. But flirt with him; make him know that you are interested in him." I said and she smiled at me "Um Kels?" Lyndsey asked "Yeah?" I asked "It's three thirty." Lyndsey said "Good-night my lovely." I said ending the call. I went to check on the girls and they were asleep. Love was curled up at the foot of my bed and curled up at my head when I laid down.

I woke up at seven to the girls crying, they for the most part will sleep through the night. I walked in got Caylee on my right side and Caitlin on my left. I made their bottles with the right amount of cereal and showed it to them and they got excited. I fed Caitlin first, burped her and set her in her swing. I got Caylee's bottle and fed her and burped her. "Okay, let's go watch TV." I said yawning, I took the girls to the living room and had them in their swings and laid down. Caylee wasn't content with that she started crying and I picked her up and stood her up on my stomach. She was doing her baby giggle at that looking down on me. "Mommy's girl." I said and she giggled. She plopped down on my stomach and began playing with her feet.

I got dressed in my favorite pair of denim shorts, a cute baby blue tank top and had my hair in a braid down my back. I had the girls dressed and got them in their stroller. My mom walked out "I want to join you." She said "Come on." I said and she gulped down a cup of coffee and joined me. "How does it feel to almost being eighteen?" My mom asked "Exciting, I can vote in the next election, I can play the lottery." I said and she smiled "How does it feel to being almost forty?" I asked "Not exciting, makes me feel old. I mean my baby girl is graduating high school this year. My baby, baby is a middle school student now." My mom said and I smiled.

When we headed back I looked at the girls "It seems like time is flying by. I can't believe they are four months old already." I said "I know Kels, it's hard to believe." She said and I smiled "Will daddy be easy on Luke?" I asked "Baby girl, do not count on it. I know he means well but he wants you to be safe." My mom said and I smiled at that "I know mom. I just don't want him to scare Luke away." I said "If Luke really likes you then your dad toughest questions won't scare him away." My mom said and I smiled "true. I love you." I said "I love you too baby girl." She said and she went into the house and I went to Lyndsey's. "Yeah?" Lyndsey asked stepping out "He will be here at one." I said "it's ten now." Lyndsey said "I know. I'm getting nervous." I said "uh-oh Kelsey has a crush." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her "So do you." I said and she rolled her eyes. "You better tell me at work." Lyndsey said "I will Lynds." I said "Bye Caylee and Caitlin." Lyndsey said and I smiled going into my house. My dad was making breakfast for the family already, the closer to one it got the more nervous I became of seeing Luke here at my house, I guess because Lyndsey is right I really am starting to like Luke already.

Its three o'clock now and Luke and I are on the porch. Caitlin is in his arms, Caylee is in mine. "You have the two most beautiful little girls I have ever seen." Luke said "Thanks." I said smiling at him "I love them." He said "I'm glad." I said he has been really good with them, he helped me change their diapers, feed them their lunch. Now he's having Caitlin stand up holding her hands and she smiling and giggling at him. "I have three half-siblings at my mom's." Luke said, the people I saw yesterday were indeed his family. His brother John is 16, Mike is 14, Roxy and Daisy was 12. My dad loves him, he even told him to come by the office tomorrow

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to fill out an application. Luke looked at his phone "It's that time." He said "Thanks for coming." I said "No problem, I had fun." Luke said and I smiled. "See you around." I said "Yeah." Luke said smiling at me "Bye girls." He said to Caitlin and Caylee.

I had the girls in their swings as I was getting ready for work, when I was fixing my hair my mom came in. "Well you are welcome to see Luke anytime you want." My mom said "Do you like him?" I asked "Yes I do. Your father loves him." My mom said and I smiled at her, "I'm glad." I said "When is your last day at the daycare?" My mom asked me "The 13th. So Tuesday. I would stay on but I can't do both jobs and school." I said and she nodded "Miss Mary said I can keep the shirt and she better see me working next summer." I said and my mom smiled at me "Are you excited about school?" She asked me "No, it's in eight days." I said and she smiled "We're going school shopping Wednesday." My mom said "Okay." I said smiling at her.

On Wednesday I worked the 7-1 shift at Publix and when I got home Lyndsey was smiling at me, she was already home. "Jamie asked me out last night!" Lyndsey said "That's amazing!" I said and she smiled at me. She told me all the details about what happened and I smiled "I'm so happy for you. Good luck." I said and she smiled, when I walked over to my house and changed Luke called. "Hey Luke." I said "Hey! I got the job! Your dad wants me over there tomorrow." Luke said "That's amazing!" I said "Are you busy?" He asked me "Nope." I said "Do you want to come over and hang out?" Luke asked "Sure. I'll be leaving in a few." I said and he gave me his address so I could GPS it.

"Where are the girls?" Luke asked me "Daycare. I'm not picking them up until five." I said and he smiled at me. His brothers John and Mike came in the room "Hey Luke, who is she?" John I'm guessing asked "John this is Kelsey." Luke said "Oh, the famous Kelsey." He said and Mike nodded. "Don't you have a baseball game?" Luke asked "Yeah." Mike said "The Yankee VS Tampa bay?" I asked "Yeah." Mike said "Are you a Yankee or Tampa bay fan?" I asked "Chicago Clubs." Mike said and I smiled "That would be banned from my family." I said "Good thing, Luke is an odd ball and goes for the Yankees." John said "Yeah, good thing." I said "See you guys around." John said "Have fun." Luke said and they nodded.

His sisters Roxy and Daisy came in and smiled "Luke we want lunch." One said "Okay Roxy." He said they had his brown hair and green eyes. "Roxy and Daisy this is Kelsey." Luke said "Your girlfriend?" Daisy asked "We're not really dating." Luke said "Would that be a problem?" I asked messing around "No, but I just assumed you wouldn't want to be a couple just yet." Luke said "what if I did?" I asked "Then we would be." He said "I'm sorry. I'm messing with you, its okay." I said and he smiled at me "I will make lunch." He said and I smiled at him, he left me with the girls. "Luke is our big brother. Don't hurt him. He talks about you non-stop then the night at the skating ring." Daisy said "I don't plan on hurting him." I said "Keep it that way." They said together and I nodded at them, I got a little worried.

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I left at four thirty after watching movies with him and his sisters. It was a great way to spend my afternoon the day before my birthday. I went to the day care and picked up the girls, they were excited to see me. I got home and had enough time to get changed and change the girls diapers. "I'm going now. I'll eat there." I said "Have fun." My mom said and I smiled at her "It's work mom." I said and she smiled at me. After work I got a sub from their deli and ate it on my way home. I didn't go to bed right away, I spent half an hour staring at the girls and another half hour brushing my hair and braiding my hair getting ready for bed. Right around midnight my phone went off "Hello?" I asked "Happy birthday Kels!" Bryce said "Thanks. How did you know I would be up?" I asked "Just a guess Kels." He said "I miss you. When are you coming home?" I asked "About that, I'm not sure." He said "Ugh, better be soon. I love you." I said "I love you too sissy. I will call mom later. Have a good birthday." Bryce said.

Right before I fell asleep I checked my notifications and already had a ton of happy birthday. Lyndsey was the very first one who told me happy birthday. I woke up at six since I had to work the 7-1 shift again today. I had Caylee and Caitlin on my hip and went to the kitchen. "Happy birthday mom." I said "Happy birthday Kels." She said taking Caitlin from me and my dad took Caylee. I fixed their bottles and took Caitlin and fed her while my dad fed my mom. "Plans for tonight?" I asked "I'm taking your mother out to dinner tonight." My dad said "I hope you guys have fun." I said and he smiled. When my mom went to get dressed my dad looked at me "Can you go get her something for her birthday from me?" He asked "Yeah dad." I said and he smiled at me and I kissed his cheek getting the girls ready.

After work Lyndsey smiled at me "Happy birthday!" I said "Happy birthday!" She said and we smiled at each other. I went to pick up the girls and then went to the mall. I got my mom a diamond necklace set from my dad, and a diamond bracelet from me. Two birthday cards and something from Hollister for Lyndsey. "I think we should go see your dad." I said and walked to the car and got them in their car seats and went to Chance's.

I spent an hour with him and went to the bathroom real quick before I left and Gavin barged right in. "I don't think two babies are enough. You need a third one." Gavin said "NO!" I said "Yes." He said and he grabbed me "Chance! Chance!" I yelled and he came running up and punched Gavin. "I'm taking my girls home. Thanks." I said I was a nervous wreck; I didn't want to show it. I rushed home and went to Lyndsey's "Watch them for me?" I asked "Yes." Lyndsey said not needing to ask me. I went to Charlie's and looked at Sally "is Charlie in?" I asked "It's his lunch break." Sally said but Charlie came out "Come on in." Charlie said and I explained to him what happened and it's my birthday as well.

I went home and explained everything to Lyndsey and she hugged me. Luke came over "Happy birthday!" He said and I nodded half-smiling. He ended up getting it out of me and was upset "He saved me though." I said and Luke nodded "I know Kels." He said and he wiped away my tears and kissed my lips softly. I pulled away "Do you want to go somewhere?" Luke asked me "Yes. I have to take the girls." I said "No problem, we can take your car." Luke said and I smiled. He drove my car to the next town and took me and the girls out on a boat, it was his Uncle's. We had a picnic on the boat. I got a call from my mom around five and told her where I was and she was fine with it. I told her what happened and she wasn't fine with it. "I really needed this." I was telling Luke when we got home at nine. "I know. I'm glad I could help." He said "Me too." I said smiling at him and he kissed me good-bye on the lips.

Our birthday party on that Saturday was amazing. My mom had a Hawaiian theme party while Lyndsey and I had a beach party theme. Jamie and Luke was here for our birthday, I was really excited to have Luke. "Monday needs to stay away." I said and Luke laughed "But it's the first day of our senior year." Lyndsey said "So? I don't want my summer to end." I said "Me either but we need this year." Molly said and I smiled, Jared came by and gave us a gift. "Happy birthday girls." He said and I smiled "Thanks. Jared you met Luke at work

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right?" I asked "Yeah." Luke and Jared said and I smiled. Luke had Caitlin and I had Caylee in my arms.

After the party, I helped cleaned up and got the girls in their cribs and got my bathing suit on and jumped in the pool. Lyndsey did the same, "We had a great birthday, didn't we?" I asked Lyndsey "Yeah. Jamie, Luke, and Jared all work together so they are semi-friends school will go by easier." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her, my parents came out and even jumped in the pool as well. We were having fun in the pool. I had the baby monitor out so I could hear if the girls wake up or not.

On the 18th, I got up at five and took a shower, got changed into my favorite pair of ripped jeans, my brown cami, and my hot pink baby tee from Hollister. I carried my backpack downstairs, and fixed two bottles. I went upstairs and changed the girls and got their diaper bags ready and carried it downstairs. I went upstairs picked up the girls and carried them downstairs, I had Caylee in the high chair while I fed Caitlin and then changed it out after I burped Caitlin.

Everybody came out at six and I had Caylee on my lap holding her up and she was smiling. "Have a good day at work." I told my parents "Have a good day at school. It's another year, a big year." My mom said and we all smiled. At 7:00 I looked at Summer "Come on. I have to drop the girls off." I said and Summer smiled at me. I got my backpack on my shoulder, and carried the diaper bags out and then came back for the girls and then went to the Daytona Daycare. "Have a good first day." Miss Mary said "Thanks." I said kissing the girls good-bye and going back to my car.

We pulled up to the school parking lot and I get out and get my backpack on my back. Summer does the same. "Want to walk in together?" I asked "Sure." Summer said and I smiled at her. We walked into school together and then she went to her homeroom and I walked to my homeroom and smiled. My class schedule for this semester is Economics and Civics 8-10, Pre- Calculus 10-12, lunch 12-12:30, Study hall 12:30-1:00, English 4 1:00-3:00. I saw Lyndsey, Molly, and Aubrey and smiled "hey!" I said and they smiled. Jamie, Jared, and Luke were in the class as well. We have the entire same schedule including lunch.

When the bell rang for lunch I went to my locker and put my books in my locker and walked inside the cafeteria. "Kels?" Chance asked when I was in line waiting for it to move up "Yeah?" I asked "How are they?" He asked me "good. I'm okay too." I said and he smiled at me. I sat down at the table, Lyndsey, Molly, and Aubrey sat down. Jamie, Jared, and Luke came up and sat with us. "This will be a good year." I said "Yeah it will be." Molly said and I smiled at them. "Friday, I'm thinking of throwing a party to celebrate the first week of school." I said and they smiled at me. "June 8th is when we graduate." Aubrey said "That day will be here before we know it." Molly said "Then what?" I asked "College." We all said smiling at each other "Should be the same college." Lyndsey said.

Chapter 63

After school, a great first day back I must say I waited around for an hour so I could support my friends in cheerleading. Summer was trying out as well, afterwards I went to Daytona Daycare and picked up the girls. "Do you mind babysitting until mom gets home?" I asked Summer who looked at me. "Sure, like I have nothing better to do." She said "What?" I asked "My life got ruined when you got pregnant Kelsey. I'm expected to babysit for you, to do this and that for you. You should have gotten an abortion that would be a lot easier on everybody." Summer said "Forget it." I said calling Brad "I'm going to be an hour late." I said "Thanks for letting me know." He said and I sat on the porch with the girls until my mom got home. "Why aren't you at work?" My mom asked getting worried "Ask your daughter." I said "I can't explain. I have to go. Thanks mom." I said and she smiled at me.

Lyndsey looked at me when I got to my register "What happened?" She asked, she was my bagger today. "Summer. She got all rude and nasty. Saying I should have had an abortion. All because I asked her to babysit the girls until my mom got home so I could come to work." I said "Ouch." She said "I don't know what happened. She was fine this morning, fine until we got home." I said "Somebody at school probably." Lyndsey said "Maybe. I just don't have time. I mean study hall we all talked about things instead of doing work; I have all three classes to do tonight. I have to study as much as I can for the SATS on September 4th, it's a Saturday." I said "It's a lot of pressure isn't it?" Lyndsey asked and I nodded. I missed the SATs test last spring due to being in the hospital.

I clocked off at eleven telling Brad it won't happen again and he nodded. I went home and put my binder and textbooks on the table. I went into my room and changed into my night clothes and checked on the girls. I then began doing my homework. I finished my Civics homework around 11:30 and my English 4 at midnight and decided to save my Pre-Calculus until tomorrow morning. I looked on the girls one more time and fell asleep with Love at my head keeping me warm.

My alarm clock went off at five and I got dressed in my faded blue jeans, my white cami, my pink baby tee from Hollister. I pulled my hair into a neat ponytail and started the coffee. I had two cups by the time I finished my Pre-Calculus at six. I fixed their bottles adding enough cereal, and walked into the bedroom. I picked Caitlin up and carried her into the kitchen; everybody was up and getting ready for school and work now. While I was feeding her my mom came in with Caylee and got the bottle. I burped Caitlin and gave her back her pacifier. "People at school Kels." My mom said "Still no reason for her to treat me like that." I said "I understand that and I told her that. It isn't easy." My mom said "it isn't easy for her? It isn't easy for me! School! Work, taking care of my two little girls. I barely ask for help and this is why." I said "Kels." My mom said, I took Caylee and got them dressed and looked at my mom "She can take the bus." I said walking out and getting the girls in the car, it wasn't even seven yet.

I dropped the girls off at seven and Miss Mary smiled "You're early." She said "Yeah, I wanted to get a head start on some work in school." I said "See you later." Miss Mary said and I smiled at her. I drove to school and got out, I walked into my Economics and Civics class and sat down, I was the first student there. I got my binder out and took out my homework and started writing down what was on the board. Lyndsey came in "I had to give Summer a ride." She said "Sorry. My first fight with my mom." I said "Your mom was telling my mom that. She was in tears." Lyndsey said "I want to but the tears wont come Lynds." I said "I understand Kels." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her. "I will make things right with my mom tonight." I said "I know you will Kels." She said and I smiled focusing on our friends coming in. I wasn't going to let the issues get in the way of school.

I was able to do my Civics homework and Pre-Calculus homework during study hall because I tuned everybody out like last year. After school I went to my mom's work, I had two hours to kill because I wasn't

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waiting around for anybody. "How may I help you?" A woman asked when I entered "I'm looking for Alexis Blevins." I said "Lexie?" She asked "Yes ma'am." I said "Right this way." She said and I walked to my mom's office. "A visitor Lexie." The woman said and my mom turned and smiled. "Come in." She said "I'm so sorry mom. I got out of hand. I was exhausted." I said "Summer was out of hand yesterday, you weren't. But honey is that really why you don't ask for help? You're afraid people will make comments like that?" My mom asked "Yes, and I want to be able to do it on my own. I don't want you guys to get upset because I ask for help." I said "Oh Kels. You're grounded though." My mom said "Two weeks. You go to work and school." She said "Got it." I said.

I went home and I got changed for work and when I was going out, Summer was going in. "I'm sorry." She said "Me too. I thought you were my friend. You're just my little sister." I said and with that I walked out the door for work. I got home at 11 and did my English 4 homework right away and then went to check up on my girls to make sure they were doing okay.

It's September 3rd and I'm rushing to get ready for school, I'm a nervous wreck about tomorrow. Luke and I are a couple, or a school couple. Where you hang out during school and after school it's a hit and miss. I got the girls ready and in their car seats "If you want a ride come now! Or you're taking the bus!" I yelled and Summer came rushing down. I put my backpack and diaper bag in the car and she put her backpack in the car. We don't talk on the way to school, it's a silent ride, I have nothing to say to my little sister anymore. I got out and got the girls out and carried them into the day care "Running late?" She asked "Yes ma'am." I said and she smiled at me.

When we got to school we went our separate ways and I went to homeroom and pulled out my Economics and Civics homework out. Lyndsey smiled at me "Running late?" Lyndsey asked "Yeah, majorly stressed. I'm glad I'm off today and tomorrow." I said "You better hit the books girl." Lyndsey said "Oh I will." I said and after taking the notes for Economics and Civics we had half an hour left in class. I began my homework right away and finished it when the bell rang. I slowly made my way to Pre-Calculus class and got my homework out and began taking the notes.

During lunch I was working on my homework and finished it, I ate like half of my lunch and Jared ate the other half. "Relax Kels, you will do fine." Lyndsey said "Yeah, I will find out what in November?" I asked "Yeah." She said and I started chewing my nails "Relax. You are too stressed right now Kels." Lyndsey said and I nodded "You are right Lynds." I said and she smiled at me "When aren't I?" She asked and I smiled at her.

I studied for the SATs during study hall having my Ipod on to block everybody out because I was determined to do good. The perfect score is 1600; I have to get at least a 1000 on it. My future college is riding on this. At least we took a test in English 4 so we didn't have any homework in that class.

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The next morning I woke up at five and poured myself some more coffee and got back to doing some very last minute studying. My mom came out in her bathrobe "Good luck Kels. Just relax honey. It's just a test." My mom said "Thanks mom." I said and she smiled at me and I got in the car and went to the school library where the SATS would be taken at. It began at six and I left at noon feeling like a huge burden was lifted off of my shoulders. On my way home I called Luke "Hey do you want to come over?" I asked "Sure." He said "I'm on my way home now." I said "Okay, I will leave in a few minutes then." Luke said and we hung up.

I got home and my mom was holding Caylee up on her knees playing with her. "Hey mom." I said "How do you think it went?" She asked me "I feel like I did good." I said and she smiled at me "Luke is coming over." I said "Okay, he's welcomed any time baby girl." My mom said and I smiled at her I picked up Caitlin and lifted her up in the air "You're momma's girl aren't you?" I asked and she giggled at me. "Mommy's boyfriend is coming over." I said and she smiled at me. "This will be a hard month." I said I have been reading the book Molly got me for Christmas "Yeah, they could begin teething." My mom said and I rolled my eyes. "Hopefully Bryce comes home soon." I said and my mom smiled "I'm sure he will." She said and I smiled at her.

On September 15th, around two in the morning I'm up and trying to sooth a teething baby. Caylee and Caitlin were both teething but Caitlin was asleep still. "Mommy has you. Come on." I said carrying her to the kitchen and getting a teething ring for her. "It's okay, suck on this." I said handing it to Caylee. I sat at the kitchen table with my notes for my Economics and Civics paper out at the table and began studying while bouncing Caylee on my knee to sooth her. Caylee moved the teething ring from her left hand to her right hand and she put it in her mouth.

I put Caylee in her crib because she was asleep and Caitlin started crying for the same reason. "Mommy has a test in the morning." I said and she just stared at me. I gave her a new teething ring and bounced her up on my knee. I hear a sound out the door and I hold onto Caitlin, the door opens and my dad walks in "You are supposed to be in bed." He said "So are you." I said "Fine." He said "Daddy, what are you doing out so late?" I asked and before he could answer Bryce walks in "You're supposed to be asleep." He said "Bryce!" I said a little too loud for Caitlin. "Sorry baby, don't cry." I said and I handed her to my dad and hugged Bryce. "Who is that?" Bryce asked "This is Caitlin." I said and he smiled.

I barely go back to sleep for what feels like two minute and my alarm clock is going off. I get up, I get dressed in my ripped jeans and pink Army T-shirt. I got the bottles made and went upstairs for the girls. Bryce was walking out "Can I take one?" Bryce asked "Yeah, Caylee." I said handing him Caylee. The girls have curly strawberry blonde hair, and icy blue eyes. I can tell them apart because Caylee has dimples and Caitlin does not.

I gave Bryce the bottle and showed him to how to do it "When it's halfway gone she needs to be burped." I said and Bryce nodded, after he burped Caylee for the last time my mom was coming down so he handed Caylee to me. "Morning momma." I said "Morning." She said smiling at me "Why are you are so happy?" I asked "I get off early today." She said going to get Caylee from me but I shook my head. "Why?" She asked me "Go get two teething ring please?" I asked and she nodded. "Oh my god." She said when Bryce handed it to her. She hugged him "I'm so glad to have you home safe and sound." My mom said "I love you mom." Bryce said "I love you too." My mom said "I have a doctor appointment at noon, so I'm getting out at eleven." I said "Okay honey, don't worry about going back to school just spend the afternoon with Bryce." My mom said and I smiled.

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Autumn, Landon, and Summer was equally excited to see Bryce. "Summer, come on? I have a test to take." I said "I do too." Summer said smiling at me. We get in the car "I can't believe Bryce is home." I said "Me either. It feels so good. He probably has gifts." Summer said and I laughed "probably." I said "Now when people talk about you I just tell them to shut up." Summer said "Thanks, but don't get in a fight. Just worry about you." I said "I will." She said "One second." I said getting out and getting the girls out and taking them to Miss Mary. "I will be picking them up early." I said "Okay." She said and I went back to the car.

"Bryce is home." I tell the group when I walked into homeroom "I can't wait for Luke to meet Bryce." I said and Lyndsey smiled "Ready for this test?" She asked "No, the girls are teething now." I said and she smiled "Poor Cay and Cat." She said and I smiled at her after the test and an hour in Pre-calculus I left early and got my assignment for English 4 and then went to the doctor's. "Birth control? Are you sure?" My doctor asked me "Yes ma'am. I'm not planning on being sexually active but to be on the safe side." I said "Okay." She said "Your physical went great Kelsey." She said and I smiled "You will need to come back in three months." She said and I nodded "Yes ma'am." I said.

I dropped off my prescription at wal*mart and picked up Caylee and Caitlin from daycare. I got the double-seated grocery cart and put the girls blankets down and buckled them in. We were at wal*mart waiting for the prescription to be ready. "I need to get you girls stuff." I said and going to the baby section and getting some more teething rings, diapers, two new pacifiers, a stuffed monkey and teddy bear for the girls. "I need to get some stuff." I said going to get shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and some makeup.

I got some baby food and a Dr. Pepper and bag of chips for me. After I paid I got my prescription and loaded up the car with the girls in it. When I got home Bryce was watching TV "I want to hold one!" He said "Caitlin or Caylee?" I asked "Caitlin." He said so I got Caitlin out of her car seat and handed her to him. Bryce stood her up on his lap and she giggled "She loves it when she stands up." I said and he smiled at me. Caylee was playing with her feet "You are such a silly girl." I said and she giggled at me.

The following Saturday was homecoming. The week was filled with exciting things at school. I'm outside with the girls in their stroller and covered up in blankets. I'm sitting with a girl named Marissa from my English 4 class. "They are beautiful girls." She said "Thanks." I said "I'm dating their father." She said "Good luck." I said and she nodded. Rumors are around her now being a skank, saying she gets around. Tomorrow I was going to the Homecoming dance with Luke and I'm excited about that.

We won the game! Luke came up and smiled at me, he picked up Caitlin and lifted her up and she giggled. "You need to get them home so they don't get a cold." Luke said "I know and I am." I said "Summer come on!" I said and she smiled at me "Let's go home!" I said loading up the girls and she smiled "I'm ready to see Bryce again. I love spending time with him." Summer said and I smiled at her.

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The next day I woke up at six and got in the shower and relaxed in the shower. I got dressed in my Publix work clothes and sighed. I had bags under my eyes and you could tell I was exhausted, mentally and physically. I fed the girls and put them back in their cribs, I left leaving a note saying I was going to work. That's my life at eighteen, work as many hours as I can, school, raise my girls, hang with friends, and date. Not much time for anything, I never have any free time for myself, barely any time to think.

I got off of work at two and went straight home and saw the girls in their swings watching a kid's TV show. Bryce was on the couch, Autumn and Summer next to him, Landon was on the chair. "I'm taking Landon, Autumn, and the girls to a baseball game tonight." Bryce said "Their first game." I said "I know. I will video tape it. Dad is going with me, mom is staying home tonight." Bryce said and I smiled at him "Okay, I hope you have fun." I said and he smiled at me "I will. I know you girls will have fun." Bryce said and I nodded. Even Bryce loves Luke, telling me that he is a keeper.

I get dressed in my baby blue floor length dress, I get my hair all super curly, I apply just enough makeup and put my Kelsey necklace on. Summer was in a light blue dress similar to mine and she looked beautiful. She was going with a group of girls and I was going with Luke since all of my friends had dates as well. My first night in over a month, so I'm excited about that but feel bad for people watching the girls.

We drive to the high school gym and I see Luke and smiled "See you at the end of the dance Sum." I said and she smiled at me "Have fun." Summer said and I smiled at her, I went to Luke and he smiled at me "You look beautiful Kels. Really beautiful. Stunning." Luke said and I smiled at him "Thank you." I said "Shall we go in?" He asked me "Yes we shall." I said and we went in. The dance ends at ten so we danced until then and then I met up with Summer after kissing Luke good-bye, we were going to Lucky's for dinner to hang with some friends.

When we arrived at Lucky's I saw Bryce and them at a table in the corner they waved. Caylee and Caitlin were in their car seat sleeping. "You look beautiful out there." Lyndsey said "Thanks, I tried. It's not easy." I said "Is that Bryce and your family?" Molly asked me "Yeah, I'm off of baby duties tonight." I said and they all smiled at me "How does it feel?" Lyndsey asked "Strange." I said "Okay, enough baby talk." Aubrey said "I know. So which colleges are you applying to?" I asked "University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of Southern Florida, Duke University." Molly said "UCF, UF, USF." Aubrey said "UCF, UF, USF, NYU." Lyndsey said and for once I was able to answer, "UCF, UF, USF." I said "Wouldn't it be something if we all got into the same school?" Molly asked "Yeah, and you three being roommates." I said and Aubrey looked at me "What about you?" She asked "I won't be in a dorm room with the girls." I said and they nodded.

I finally had to call the night quits after Bryce and them left. Summer and I went home; I changed into my moose pajama pants, a gray Abercrombie & Fitch T-shirt. I had my hair braided into two and right when I got into bed I heard a baby cry. I got up and picked up Caylee, "Come on kiddo." I said going into the kitchen and getting a teething ring. I sat on the couch as she sucked on it. Bryce came in "Thank you for everything tonight." I said "No problem. They did amazing at the game. No crying, no issues." Bryce said "good, I'm glad." I said and he smiled at me. "I'm going to bed. Good night Kels." He said "good night Bryce." I said.

It's October 15th and we are saying good-bye to Bryce. The girls are out of their teething stage, so I can sleep a little bit more at night. They sleep during the night, and are now six months old so more new things that they will be doing. It was a Saturday and I go to work in a little bit after Bryce leaves, "Be safe. Come home. I love you." I said "I love you too Kels. I will see you in a year." He said "Yeah." I said and when he left I got changed for work and smiled at my girls who were in their swings "Mommy is only working four hours

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today." I said and she did her baby babbling to me and I smiled. "Yeah Caylee." I said and she smiled.

When I got home I had a blanket outside with their lunch next to me. Lyndsey was on the other side of the blanket talking to me and the mailman pulls up to the mailbox. "Watch this." I said giving Caylee her bottle and she holds it up herself "Man, are they getting old." Lyndsey said "I know. I hate that. Before long they will be talking. But look, Caitlin knows that she doesn't know Jeff so she is a little worried but she knows you and I." I said and Lyndsey smiled at me giving Caitlin her bottle. "When are you applying to colleges?" Lyndsey asked "After I get my SATs scores. Are we still trying for the same school?" I asked "Yeah, I don't know about being in a room without my best friend." Lyndsey said "I can get a big enough apartment and we can split the rent and bills." I said "Like we would talk about in the old days." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her.

I got up to get the mail and saw a letter "To the parent/guardian of Kelsey Blevins." "It's here!" I said rushing to the blanket and tearing into it, forgetting about the bills and other stuff. "Score is 1500! Almost a perfect score!" I said "Better start applying today." Lyndsey said "Yeah, I know." I said and she smiled at me. I pick up Caylee and burps her. I sit her on her stomach, and she lifts her head up and looks around and smiled when she saw me. Lyndsey did the same to Caitlin and after a few minutes she rolled over to her back. And tried sitting up and did so for a few minutes and then fell into the grass. Lyndsey picked her up and gave her a toy which she moved from hand to hand.

That night when I put the girls to sleep I filled out all of my applications and hit enter so I could say that I applied to college. The next morning I gave the girls their bottles in their high chair and moved around the kitchen getting ready for school. "Mommy loves that you can hold the bottle." I said and they just stared at me while finishing up their bottle. Caylee starts babbling and smiles at me "I wish I could understand you." I said and she giggled at me, Caitlin then started babbling as well so they were both going when my mom and dad walked in. "Somebody is in a good mood this morning." My mom said "I know, they just started babbling." I said and she smiled at me. They had four teeth already and I smiled at them when they gave me a goofy smile.

It's November 15th and I'm at home with a head cold and I turn the news after I finished studying for my mid-term that was next week. "A school shooting at Daytona Middle School just took place. The school is in lock down as of right now, eight students were killed, and twenty in critical conditions. We cannot give out the names at this time." The reporter said and I stared at the girls who were lying on their stomachs on a blanket. "I hope Aunt Autumn and Uncle Landon is okay." I said and they stared at me. Caylee and Caitlin are at the stage where they prefer me, they get really anxious when I'm gone and they get super excited when I come home. Caylee lifts her head up and babbles something at me.

She sitting up on the floor now playing with one of her toy that she bangs on the ground. Caitlin then does the same thing but only to put her foot in her mouth "No baby girl, don't do that. Your feet is nasty." I said and Caylee giggles at me. Caylee looks at Caitlin and babbles something and Caitlin does her baby smile and they lay down and roll over on their stomach and starts to scoot away, their form of crawling for the first time. "Get back here." I said, luckily my parents were more prepared and we had baby gates up in the doorways. Love was coming down the stairs and meowed. I picked up Caylee since I could get her first and my phone rang "Hello?" I asked "Are you sitting down?" My mom asked "No, why?" I asked "Do so." She said and I sat down and Caylee crawled away. "Did you hear about the school shooting?" My mom asked "Yeah." I said "Autumn was one of the eight." My mom said "Oh my god." I said "Yes. We're making arrangements for Bryce to come home for the funeral." My mom said and I was speechless.

I placed Caylee and Caitlin in their swings and turned them on and they were content. I sat on the couch and stared at them. My little sister, my baby sister, the baby of the family, the one who would volunteer to do anything for the girls died today at the age of twelve. Shortly after my dad, Landon and Summer came in. They both sat on the couch and I hugged them "It will be okay." I said and they cried. My dad looked at the

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girls and even he had tears running down his face. "Oh daddy. We will get through this." I said and he nodded, Caitlin could sense the tension and she started crying and so did Caylee. I got up and picked up both girls bouncing them.

I called out of work today and he understood, he didn't ask any questions he knew that I had a sister and brother that attended Daytona Middle. I was outside on the porch with the girls beside me on each side and I was holding onto them. Lyndsey walks up and looks at me with a ghostly facial expression "Is Logan and Courtney okay?" I asked "Yes, Caleb and Ally are too. Is Landon and Autumn okay?" Lyndsey asked taking Caitlin from me. "Landon is." I said "Autumn?" Lyndsey asked and I shook my head "One of the eight." I said and she stared at me "Oh my god." She finally said "I know." I said. Courtney and Ally were Autumn best friends.

My mom came home at seven and you could tell she has been crying but she refused to admit it. "We need to work on the wake, funeral service. Bryce is flying in on the next flight bringing him here at 6 tomorrow." My mom said "Mom?" Landon asked "Yeah buddy?" My mom asked "who did it?" He asked "A man who was sick in the head honey. He's in jail now." My mom said "Oh okay." Landon said going back to his comic book. "Are you okay?" I asked, Caylee and Caitlin were crawling around the room. Caylee was sitting on her butt and grabbed my mom's keys and began playing with it from hand to hand babbling and my mom smiled. "These will be the key of what gets us through this tragic event." My mom said and I flashed a smile at her.

The next day we were all home, we wanted to do it quick so the wake was that night. Caylee and Caitlin were scooting around the living room. Bryce came down and looked at me "How are you doing?"

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Bryce asked me "Fine." I said "Really?" He asked "Yeah." I said and Bryce nodded. Caylee had his dog tags in her right hand. "Those are mine Cay." He said and she giggled. Bryce picked her up and put them on her and I took a picture of that. He lifted her up in the air and spun around making her giggle. "Mom is right." Bryce said "What?" I asked "It's hard to be sad around these two." He said "Where is Cat?" I asked getting up and saw her holding on to the gate trying to stand up and I giggled "Honey, not yet." I said picking her up and she babbles.

My mom comes in and smiles "Somebody is fussy." She said "Trying to stand up." Caitlin bounces on my arms and I smiled at her. "Autumn wouldn't have want us to be so depressed. She was an amazing girl, full of life." My mom said "I know mom." I said and she smiled at me "These girls won't let us be sad will they?" She asked "No ma'am." I said and she smiled at me.

At the wake service I had Caylee and Caitlin on my hips and I walk up to the casket. "Autumn, you were an amazing little sister. I will never forget you." I said looking down at her sweet face, she was beautiful. Luke came up and hugged me and the girls and Caitlin held out her arms for him, "Come here." He said holding her "I can't stay. I wanted to see how my girls were doing?" He asked "We're fine. Thank you for coming." I said and he kissed my lips, he stayed for a few minutes and then left.

Lyndsey came with her family and Caylee held out her arms for Lyndsey and she placed her on her hip. "I'm sticking this out with you." Lyndsey said and I gave her a half-smile "Thanks Lynds." I said and she smiled at me. "She was like a little sister to me, the life of the party." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her. She kissed Caylee's cheek and Caylee giggled. Many friends of Autumn's, our family, and teachers came to pay their respect. Bryce was wearing his army uniform like he had to since it was a funeral.

The next day after the funeral service we had our family over and close friends. I escaped the crowd with the girls and placed them in the baby swings we had in the play set and started pushing them. I had to go back to school tomorrow, and it's hard. Landon is the most stressed about walking in the halls where a murdered was who killed his little sister. Bryce was leaving tomorrow to go back to South Korea. He was only home for this and then the Red Cross was flying him back out to finish up his tour.

The next morning after spending all week at home, I had all of my school work caught up and in my backpack. I got the girls dressed up in their clothes and in their high chairs. They had their bottles, finished it and then I gave them their baby food. They had more teeth now; I'm slowly getting them off of their bottles and onto baby food and soft food. I fixed them some oatmeal and after it cooled down I gave them some oatmeal. My mom came in dressed up in her work clothes and smiled "Have a good day." She said "You too mom." I said and she smiled at me, "Summer, let's go." I said "Coming. Bye mom." Summer said and she smiled at her.

I got the girls in their car seats in the car and went to daycare. I got them out and carried them into the day care. "I'm sorry for your loss." Miss Mary said "Thank you." I said and walked back out. I went into my homeroom and pulled out all my makeup work and turned it in, it was the same for my first two classes and now its lunch time. We took tests in both classes so I have no homework for over the weekend. At lunch everybody carried on normal conversations and I zoned out like normal.

After school I went to my appointment with Charlie, I made it the other day for today. "What's going on Kelsey?" Charlie asked "The Daytona Middle school shooting." I said "Did you know somebody?" Charlie asked me "Yeah, my little sister." I said "She was one of the eight. An innocent twelve year old happy going little girl. She loved life, she would help out with the girls, and she would play with the girls. Now my girls

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will have to grow up without knowing their Aunt Autumn. Missing out on an amazing girl. She will never date, never finish middle school, won't attend high school. All over some sicko." I said "My mom is a wreck but tries hiding it. My dad is focusing on work, to forget about it. Landon is a nervous wreck, he jumps at the slightest sound, and he blames himself. Summer is a dramatic drama queen, crying over it. Bryce came home and was the calm but sad one. I on the other hand have to be the one sane one, the strong one. I cry at night when nobody can see and during the day I'm as strong as I can be. Caitlin and Caylee are helping because it's hard to be depressed around them." I said "I refuse to let my girls see me a nervous wreck; they need me to be strong. My little brother and sister needs me to be strong. My mom needs me, my dad needs me." I said. "What's going to happen when I go to college? I can't be there to pick up the pieces." I said "How does that make you feel?" Charlie asked "Stressed. Because I have to do what's right for me and then I have to do what's right for my girls and then my family." I said "I did great on my SATs, I'm having Straight A's like I have had all my life." I said "College should be a breeze." Charlie said "a breeze? I will have two, one year olds." I said and he nodded.

It's December 24th and we're at home with our huge Christmas Tree up. We have Christmas decorations up on the tree and outside. We have milk and cookies out for Santa so the girls will know about him. They got their pictures taken with Santa although they didn't like that. This will be a half-way perfect first Christmas for them. Molly is in North Carolina with her family, Aubrey is in Miami Beach with her dad, Lyndsey is in Colorado with her family for Christmas. I have the girls in their Christmas dresses and a Christmas headband on their head.

I got in the car and pulled up at Chance's, they were having their Christmas here with them tonight. I was leaving for a couple of hours, Gavin was not there and I trust them. I have Luke's gift in the car and I was going to see him. "I will be back in two hours." I said kissing the girls good-bye "No worries Kels." Chance said and I smiled at him "I'm gone." I said going to my car and driving away. I was a nervous wreck about leaving them but like Charlie told me last week I have to trust Chance, trust his family and come around when Gavin isn't here.

I pull up to Luke's and he is on the porch waiting for me with his gift in his hand. I walk up and he kisses me "Here are the girls' gifts." Luke said and I walked to put them in the car and sit on the porch swing with him. Luke kissed me on the lips softly "I'm alone you know." He said "Let's do something." I said "Are you safe?" Luke asked me "I'm on the pill, have been for a while." I said "So we should." He said "Yeah." I said and he smiled at me. We went into his room and technically for me I lost my virginity and Luke lost his. He had a condom on for safe measures; I did not need a third kid. I wasn't even sure if I wanted another kid. We went outside again and exchanged gifts. "I love it." I said it was a diamond bracelet. "I like my gift Kels." He said kissing my lips. I returned the kiss "I love you." I said "I love you too." Luke said and I smiled my phone was ringing "hello?" I asked "Gavin is coming. You might want to get the girls." Chance said "I'm on my way." I said and looked at Luke "my fun is over." I said.

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I got the girls and loaded their gifts in the car and smiled good-bye to Chance. When I got home my dad helped me unload their gifts. I placed their gift from Luke in my room. "What all did they get the girls?" My mom asked "Some clothes, a push toy that they ride on." I said and my mom smiled "That's a lot of gifts." She said "I know momma, they are going to be spoiled this year." I said and my mom laughed "They have been spoiled for a while." My mom said and I smiled at her.

Around eight, after the Christmas movie we watched I took the girls upstairs and sat on my bed with them. I had the video camera on my laptop on "Okay babies let's open the gifts from Luke." I said, I had Caylee on my lap first with her box. I placed her hands on the box and she giggled. I tore the wrapping paper and showed her the gift. A necklace with Caylee's name on it. "From Luke." I said "When you're a little bit older." I said and she clapped her hands at me. Caitlin did the same when she opened her gifts.

It's now January 15th and the first day of a new school semester. I have Chemistry first period, Creative Photography second period, Yoga third period. It was a Monday, and I wasn't excited about it. I have one more semester in school left! I got the girls up and put them in their high chairs, I fed them their bottles, and then some oatmeal. They actually fed themselves with the oatmeal by their hands, made a mess but they did it. "Mommy is off of work today, so Mommy will pick you up." I said and the girls giggled at me.

After school only having Yoga homework which was doing the actual Yoga I had the girls on a blanket in the living room and the girls started crawling on their stomach at a steady speed. I smiled at them "You two need to stop this." I said and Caylee stares at me "You are eight months old. Growing up too fast for me." I said and the girls giggled at me. Luke was at the door and I let him in "Can we talk Kels?" Luke asked me "Yeah." I said "I think we should see other people." Luke said I had the girls in their playpen and they were playing with a toy. "Okay, but why?" I asked "I'm not ready for this. We are getting serious. You have two little girls. I thought I could handle it but honestly I can't. You barely have any time for me." Luke said "Okay, I understand." I said and he kissed me good-bye.

I walked in and the girls were crying. I picked up Caylee and bounced her, she was content and Caitlin was when I held her. I could feel the tears coming and before I could blink them away they came pouring down my face. Caylee touched my cheek as a tear slid down "Mommy is okay." I said and she kissed me. I set them down and begin crying so hard I was shaking. Caylee pulls herself up and stands on her feet and smiled at me. She was holding onto the couch and I smiled "Mommy is okay now." I said picking her up and lifting her up in the air.

It's February 15th, and the girls are ten months old now. For the past month I have focused on school and the girls only. I'm outside since I'm off today and it's a Saturday. I have the girls with me on their blanket outside. Lyndsey was outside with me, we don't bring up Luke, Jared, Chance, or Jamie since we have bad luck with guys. Caitlin was with Lyndsey and I had Caylee and she smiled at me. They can now grasp object between thumb and their forefinger, will search for an object when I take it away, and know that it exists even though they can't see it. They use single syllable words like "ma" and "Dad", they understand no, and they babble nonstop. They sit up alone and all the time they want to, they crawl on hands and knees now, crawls up the stairs, walks while holding onto furniture, walks with 2 hands held. Understand simple phrases, follows simple directions, they wave, plays peek-a-boo, tests my reaction when they crawl away and haven't said any first real words yet.

We're walking with the girls holding both of their hands so they can walk. "Mama!" Caylee said and I squealed "Her first words, Lynds!" I said and she smiled at me "Mama!" Caitlin said looking at me. "Oh my god! Today is my lucky day!" I said and Lyndsey smiled at me. We were at the park so I have strangers

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glancing at me weird. We went back to the stroller and I put the girls back in their stroller. We did peek-a-boo with them and they had fun at that. Now they are babbling away to each other and I smile at that.

As the rest of the month went by and went into March they were progressing more rapidly for me, growing up right before my eyes. Chance spends more time with them at my place; I don't go over there much. It's March 5th and the girls are eleven months old as of yesterday, they are crawling around my room and Chance is over to help plan for their birthday party next month. It's spring break until the 10th. "We should have it in your back yard." Chance said so I wrote that down on my list. "One cake or two?" I asked "One, but two single cupcakes for them." Chance said "Strawberry cupcakes, but cake?" I asked "Vanilla with their names on top." Chance said "balloons are a must. A lot of balloons." Chance said "Napkin, plates, cups, and a camera person." Chance said. "My family, your family, Lyndsey's family, my Aunt Colleen." I said "Your friends, they are a huge part." Chance said. "What about birthday gifts?" I asked "I have two for them, you?" He asked "I have theirs. But as their parents?" I asked "Baby dolls?" Chance asked "Yeah." I said and he smiled.

C & C first birthday:

Â· My back yard

Â· One cake, Vanilla with buttercream icing: Their names and Happy First Birthday in colored icing

Â· Two single Strawberry cupcakes

Â· Balloons

Â· Napkins

Â· Plates

Â· Cups

Â· Camera person

Â· My family

Â· Chance's family

Â· Lyndsey's family

Â· Molly and Aubrey

Â· Baby doll

Â· Banner

Chance picks up Caitlin and kisses her cheek "Hard to believe in a month they will be one." Chance said "I know I can't believe that, I already asked for the day off." I said "My dad is trusting his partner for the first time in years." Chance said "It's something special." I said and he smiled at me. "Are you looking forward to hearing back from colleges?" Chance asked "Yeah, are you?" I asked "Yes I am." He said "Will it be okay that I take them with me?" I asked Chance "Of course. You have full custody." He said "Will you ever question me of that?" I asked "You are their best interest, you do the best for them, you love them so much." He said "Yeah, I would do anything for them." I said and he smiled at me.

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The girls are now capable of standing up alone and unsupported, instead of two hands they walk with one hand being held, they now drink from a sippy cup, they play with each other now. They use some very few words. But they are adorable, I love them more than anything.

It's now April 3rd a Friday afternoon, I just got off of work and I check the mail and saw some big letters addressed to me. I get the girls out on the grass and holding both of their one hands we walk over to Lyndsey's, she is on her porch holding the papers. "Aubrey and Molly are on their way." Lyndsey said "Okay." I said and I lift up Caitlin who crawls up to Lyndsey and she picks her up, I pick up Caylee and carry her and sit down. "Tomorrow will be a busy day." Lyndsey said "I know, I can't believe my girls will a year old. Bryce if he is able to will Skype with me tonight for them.

When the girls arrived Caitlin and Caylee got all excited and smiled. "Open which one first?" I asked "UF." Lyndsey said "I got in!" We all said and we smiled. We spent a little while together then Aubrey and Molly had to go tell their parents. "Which one?" Lyndsey asked me when they left, she was playing with Caitlin. "University of Florida. My parents went there." I said "Me too. Roommates?" Lyndsey asked "Can you handle these two?" I asked poking Caylee who giggled "Yeah." She said picking Caitlin up and lifting her up into the air.

They will take their first steps soon, make simple conversation, help get dressed by adjusting their posture, points themselves out in the mirror, feeds themselves with a spoon. Pretty soon they will be potty trained. I place Caylee and Caitlin on my hip and I walk home, my mom pulled up and Caitlin held out her arms for my mom. "I'm going to UF!" I said "That's wonderful!" My mom said and I smiled at her "Thanks mom. Are you ready for tomorrow?" I asked "Oh yeah. Party of the year!" She said and I smiled at her. We go in and she sets Caitlin down who crawls to Summer and Summer smiled.

I woke up the next morning at six, got changed into my old cheerleading shorts and my pink Army T-shirt because black and pink go together. I put my hair into a sloppy but neat ponytail and walked into the girls room to find that they were still sleeping. I walked downstairs and made a pot of coffee. I had to get started on getting things set up for their party at noon and now was a perfect time. By eight o'clock when the girls woke me up, I was already set up in the backyard so we all had plenty of time.

I picked up Caylee and changed her diaper and then changed Caitlin's diaper and took them by the hand and they walked to the steps and I picked them up and carried them down and placed them back on the floor so they could walk into the kitchen. "Up." Caylee said and I lifted her up into her high chair "Up." Caitlin said and I smiled at her. "Mommy is going to make some scrambled eggs; you should be able to eat it." I said and they smiled at me. I gave them their sippy cup full of orange juice and they gladly accepted it. Afterwards when the eggs cooled down I gave it to them so they could feed themselves. My mom came down "Breakfast is made." I said "Happy birthday Caylee and Caitlin." My mom said and they smiled at her because they adore her.

"We need to start on setting things up." My mom said when she sat down "Done, I woke up at six. My body is so used to it." I said "Okay, so what all is left?" My mom asked "Wait until it is time to get ready." I said "I'm not used to that." She said "I was thinking of taking the girls on a walk." I said "We should all do a family walk." My mom said and with that my dad came down and kissed Caitlin's cheek and then my mom's lip. "A family walk is nice. I hear Summer and Landon moving around." My dad said and I nodded. Nobody has went into Autumn's room since the night before she died.

"Family walk after breakfast." My dad said "Okay." Landon and Summer said "I'm going to get the girls out of their night clothes." I said "I will help." My mom said picking up Caitlin and we walk into their room. I hand my mom a purple shirt and shorts outfit with purple shoes and Caylee wore the same outfit but in pink. When we walked down they were finished with eating and I got the girls in their stroller and we went walking

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around the block. "I cannot believe that they are a year old. This year has flew by." My dad said "I can't either. It seems like just yesterday they were born. Now they're one." I said "They grow up so fast. It seems like it was just yesterday we brought you home from the hospital. You're eighteen, a mother, and graduating soon." My mom said and I smiled.

When we got home it was around ten and I needed to go ahead and get the girls ready so I could get myself ready. "Bath time baby girls." I said and they giggled "Up you go." I said lifting up both of the girls and carrying them on my hips upstairs and they were giggling. They got ready by eleven and in my playpen in my room so they could take their nap, that way they wouldn't be cranky. I wore my sky blue spring dress with white leggings and left my hair down and smiled at my girls.

"Guests are arriving." My mom said "I'm coming down." I said holding the baby monitor and walking down the steps. "Hey Kels." Aunt Colie said "Hey Aunt Colie." I said hugging her and she smiles at me, we have Uncle Jake & them, Uncle Connor & them, Aunt Colleen & them here already. Lyndsey smiled "Aubrey and Molly had to stop and get the last minute gift." Lyndsey said "I figured that." I said and she smiled at me "Are they pretty today?" Lyndsey asked "Yeah until lunch." I said and she giggled. "I don't need kids for a while your girls are plenty." Lyndsey said "I know, they are already spoiled rotten." I said and she smiled at me. Chance and his family arrived next and I smiled at them, the girls around Summer age went to a spot outside, Landon and his friends/cousins went to play touch football, the people that would be playing with Autumn was playing with each other instead.

"Mama?" Caylee said through the baby monitor "Well one of the girls at least is up." I said and they all smiled at me, the men including Mr. Lynnwood was outside with the boys playing touch football. I went upstairs and saw both of them sitting up staring at me "mama" Caylee said "I'm right here." I said picking her up and then picking Caitlin up and walking downstairs Caitlin held out her arms for Lyndsey, and Caylee held out her arms for Chance "Well that was easy." I said "Let's move the party outside so that way the men are being watched." My mom said "True." All of the women agreed so they went outside. The girls by the time lunch was ready has been passed around by everybody and they now back with me. "Okay, mommy is not letting you feed yourself until cake." I said and they smiled at me.

I fed both of the girls and gave them their sippy cup while I ate my lunch and they were content. They had their pacifier beside them waiting to be put back in their mouths when they finished their drink. After lunch my mom looked at me "I say let's open the gifts after the table is cleaned off." My mom said so of course all of the women including myself helped to clean off the table. "Chance has to be by you guys, holding one of the girls." My mom said "Who's videotaping?" I asked "I am." Uncle Jake said and I smiled, I promised Bryce I would videotape it.

After a lot of excitement from the girls and help from their mommy and daddy they had opened their very last present and were enjoying holding the toy in their hands. "Okay cake and cupcake time." My mom said "I will get the cupcakes." I said "I got the cake." My dad said and we walked inside "Best party." I said "I'm glad. They mean the world to all of us." My dad said "I love you daddy." I said and he smiled at me. I lit the candle on the cupcake and put one in front of each of them. "Blow it out like this." I said doing it to a candle I lit hoping they would copy and they did. "Yay!" I said and they smiled. I took the candles out and the wrapper off of the bottom "Enjoy." I said and they did getting it all over their face, hands, neck, and hair.

That night after their second bath for the day I had Caylee and Caitlin on my lap with my laptop in front of us and took a picture. "Let's send a shot out to other people." I said and turned on the video "So today was Caylee and Caitlin's first birthday party. It was a hit. I would say their favorite part was the cupcake." I said and the girls smiled "We miss you Bryce, we love you. We want you to come home safe." I said "Say bye-bye." I said "Bye!" Caylee and Caitlin said smiling at the camera waving. I posted it on Facebook and tagged Bryce in it.

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A few minutes later I got a Skype call request. "Happy birthday Caylee and Caitlin! I love your video!" Bryce said to the girls who were giggling now. "I miss you girls. I love you." Bryce said "I miss you Bryce." I said "I miss you too Kels. I love you." He said "I love you too." I said and my mom came in "It's Bryce." I said and she talked to him for a few and then he had to log off. "Thanks for today." I said and my mom smiled at me "Now it's bedtime you ladies." I said and they giggled.

Chapter 68

It's June 4th the day before exams and Caylee has a cold. They are now fourteen months old. They took their first steps on April 27th, which was the night of my senior prom. I went with a group of friends to it, since I wouldn't have another prom. I'm at home with Caylee, my mom took Caitlin to daycare so that way she wouldn't get the cold. Tomorrow is the first period exam, Wednesday is second period, and Thursday is third period. Friday we have rehearsals and then on Saturday is graduation. "Let's lay down." I said, I had just given Caylee some cough syrup. She just has a little head cold the doctor said.

I got in my bed with my notes for school at my lap and Caylee curled up next to me and fell asleep. Around three thirty I got Caylee up and we went into the living room, Summer came in and smiled "Thursday needs to hurry up." Summer said because for her that will be her last day of school as a sophomore. "I know. Saturday needs to hurry up." I said "How long will you be gone for?" Summer asked "June 12th- June 16th." I said and she smiled, Lyndsey, Caylee and Caitlin, and I are going to Gainesville, Florida to look at apartments and to find a job. Its two hours away from home. We are attending University of Florida with a full scholarship so all of that is paid. We are going to be a student for two years.

That night between Caylee's cold and her naps she took today she was cranky and wouldn't go to sleep. She kept me up until three in the morning and finally fell asleep. I woke up at five to my alarm clock going off and I rolled my eyes. Two hours of sleep for a very important final today. I got dressed in my old cheerleading shorts and the Army T-shirt. I pulled my hair up into a sloppy ponytail and found my pumas and carried my backpack downstairs. I woke the girls up at six when I got their food ready and I fed them, changed them and then we went to school.

You could leave when you finished the final, and I finished it at eleven and I went home and took a nap until noon. I go in to work today at one. I got off at seven and went home to my girls playing with their grandpa. "How do you think you did?" My dad asked "good. I was done by eleven. It was actually pretty easy." I said and he smiled "Chemistry right?" My dad asked "Yeah." I said and he rolled his eyes at me. I love to write, so I'm following my mom's footsteps and studying to be a journalist.

It's now Friday and after six hours of rehearsals we were finally ready for tomorrow night. "Strange to believe we will be back only on Monday to return the gowns." Molly said "I know. Our last day was yesterday with our third final. No more high school student." Lyndsey said "On our way to College. Starting a career, a family." Aubrey said "We are no longer kids, we are adults once we step on that stage." I said and they nodded.

It's noon and I work 12:30-6:30 today. I got changed into my work clothes and headed off to Publix and clocked in. "How does it feel?" Brad asked me "Good. I'm nervous about tomorrow." I said "I would be too. It's going to be strange not having you and Lyndsey working here." Brad said "You're stuck with us until we get a job." I said "You should transfer to the Publix there." Brad said "Thanks for the tip." I said and he smiled at me, it pays off that Brad was/is friends with my dad.

I wake up at five and go into work until noon and then spent until three playing with the girls and then I got them dressed and got myself in my dress. I was going to put my gown on when I got there. "I have to leave." I was telling Caitlin and Caylee. "You better listen to Grandma and Grandpa." I said "Ok." They said, they can understand us better, and can use simple words. They are potty trained, worked on it last month and this month and they are not able to use the toilet. I love you." I said "I wuv yew" Caylee and Caitlin said and I smiled at them. "See you guys there, or no I won't but you will see me." I said to my mom "I'm proud of you Kels." My mom said "Thanks." I said.

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I got my gown and cap on when I walked into the school and Lyndsey smiled at me, we were in our group of friends: Aubrey, Molly, Lyndsey, Jared, and myself. Jared was going to University of Central Florida in Tampa, Chance was going to University of New York, so he was going to be away from the girls. "Marissa Barnes." Was called up, Marissa is Chance's new girl. The skank/whore, so I don't let him have much to do with the girls. "Kelsey Blevins." Was called and I walked up on stages with my head held high and shook his hand and took my diploma and looked at the crowd and spotted my family. My mom was holding Caylee and my dad had Caitlin and the camera.

"Aubrey Jackson." Was called and Aubrey walked up and smiled at the crowd when she took her diploma. "Lyndsey Johnson." Was called and Lyndsey walked up and smiled at us when she got her diploma. "Jared Jones." Was called and he walked up and proudly got his diploma, "Chance Lynnwood." Was called and he walked up, shook his hand and got the diploma. And finally "Molly Wiles." Was called and she walked up, smiled and shook his hand and took her diploma. "I give you the class of 2038!" He said and we threw our caps in the air and grabbed it. I made my way to my family and Caylee was all excited. We walked to the car and got a ton of pictures, a family picture of all of us, Lyndsey & I. Lyndsey, Jared & me, Summer & I, Landon & I, my parents & me, Caylee & Caitlin and me.

I took my graduation gown and cap off and put it in my trunk and walked back to my mom. "I will take the girls with me." I said "Okay, we're going to Lucky's. All seniors get a discount today." My mom said and I smiled "See you there." I said setting the girls down and holding their hands so they wouldn't run off. Lyndsey smiled at me "See you at Lucky's." Lyndsey said "See ya." I said smiling and getting the girls in their car seats.

"Well girl, your mommy is a high school graduate now. We will be going off to college soon. Living on our own, a little scary isn't it?" I asked and they just stared at me. I had them broke from the pacifier habit and so now they suck on their thumb. I pull up to Lucky's and a lot of people were already here. I place both girls on my hips since the crowd was too many people and walked in to find my parents sitting down with Lyndsey's parents. Lyndsey and Jared were at their own table next to them. I got two high chairs and got the girls in them and sat beside Lyndsey.

"Back to just us three, huh?" I asked and Lyndsey smiled "good old times." Lyndsey said "When days were simple." Jared said, this semester they forgiven each other and agreed to be friends so we can stay friends. We aren't all close friends like our parents but we are still friends. I cut up the pizza and set it on two plates for the girls, I had their sippy cups in the diaper bag and got it out for them.

Chapter 69

"If somebody would have told me in ninth grade that when I graduate I would be a mom I would have looked at them like they were crazy." I said "Now you're a great mom. To two beautiful little girls." Lyndsey said "I know but still. I can't live in a dorm, can't party, my summer won't be as fun." I said "But at least they are old enough to where you can do more." Lyndsey said "yeah, you're right." I said and she smiled at me.

The next morning we woke up at five and loaded up the car, we were staying the night in Stuart and leaving after we have lunch in the meadows. I'm in the back between my two girls again, Landon and Summer is in the front leaving a space in the middle where Summer usually sits. When we get to the house Aunt Colleen and them are already there. "Alyssa!" I said seeing her and smiling, she hugs me and smile at the girls who are hiding. Alyssa came down for Thanksgiving and Christmas break and spent her Spring break in New Mexico with friends so the girls aren't really sure about her.

During our times at the meadows my mom looked out into the pond and drifted off into space. "Autumn loved coming here, in the beginning of June she would count down to this." My mom said this was the first time we heard anybody bring up her name. "She's here in our hearts momma." I said walking over to her and hugging her. We went home afterwards and then leaving me just enough time to pack that night for my trip, we would be gone for four days. Coming back on the 16th.

I got up at six and loaded up my car with mine & the girls suitcase, and then Lyndsey came out and did the same. I got the girls up, fed, and dressed and ready to go. I hugged my mom and dad good-bye promising them I would call when we got to the hotel. We got on the road at 6:30 and we arrived at the Comfort Inn at 8:30, I called my mom to let her know while I was walking to the office. "Yes I have reservations." I said "Name?" She asked me "Kelsey Blevins." I said "Yes, room 104. Here are your keys." She said and I gave her my debit card so she could run it through.

When we got our stuff in the hotel room, we got our laptops out and started looking up apartments near the college and found eight. We looked at all of them and our favorite one was the very last one. It was a ten minute walk to the campus, we weren't allowed to drive. It was around everything else, Publix, movie store, Wal*Mart. I looked at Lyndsey; I had both of the girls on my hips. It was a three bedroom, two bath apartment for \$600 a month including the utilities minus the cable. "I like it." Lyndsey said "I do too. It's something we can both afford." I said and we excused ourselves from the lady.

"You do the deposit for this? And I do the deposit for everything else? And buying furniture." I said "Okay." She said we were going to Publix after this to see about transferring Brad said he would put in a good word for us. We walked back out "We will take this." I said and the lady smiled "First and last month check. Any pets?" She said "A cat." I said "That will be a \$50 fee." She said "Okay." I said and Lyndsey wrote her out a check.

We went to Publix and met with the manager Scott and he smiled "I see it working out. Brad is an excellent man and doesn't give out many compliments about his workers." Scott said and we smiled at him "I will be in touch." He said and I nodded "we at least have a ton of money saved up if we don't get a job right away." Lyndsey said "I know." I said and afterwards we went and put the light, and water in my name and paid the deposit. I then got the cable company schedule to come out on the 15th.

We got two beds for us, four dressers, a couch, a small kitchen table, TV stand, TV, coffee table, microwave, coffee pot, and other small things like plates, cups, spoons & forks. I was bringing the cribs from home over here. "When are we moving in?" I asked "It looks like we already did." Lyndsey said and I smiled "We have to see about the job first." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her. We went back to the hotel and the next day got a

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call from Scott "Can you begin work on Monday?" Scott asked us "Yes." We said, it was Tuesday now. The following day on the Wednesday we got the water and electricity turned on at the apartment, and on Thursday right before we left we got the cable set up and turned on.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday was spent packing and loading up a small U-Haul. "I can't believe we will have three empty rooms now." My mom said and I looked at her "We packed up Autumn's stuff. I decided it was time." My mom said "Well I'm still having my bed, desk, dresser, and chair in my room and the girls will have their dressers in that room with the rocking chair." I said "Their stuff will be moved in the attic." My mom said and I smiled "Wow thanks mom." I said and she smiled at me. "You know we are going to miss you. Did you look into daycares?" My mom asked "Yes, the one next to the apartment." I said and she smiled at me "Might be a good choice. You never know." She said and I smiled at her.

We unloaded the U-Haul by eleven on Sunday and our parents decided it was time to say good-bye. "You call us if you need anything. It's only a two hour drive. You better visit." My mom said "I will mom. I love you." I said hugging her, my dad was saying his good-byes to the girls and they switched off. "My little girl is going off to college. Living on her own now." My dad said "I will always be your little girl daddy. I love you." I said "I love you too." He said and I smiled at him.

When they left we got in my car and went to Publix. I had the girls in the double buggy seat and had them strapped in. We got a grocery cart full of groceries and checked out. Tomorrow we began work here. "Would you girls like your schedule for the week?" Scott asked when we were walking out "Yes sir." I said and he handed me mine:

Kelsey's Schedule for week June 21st- June 27th. June 21st: 7am- 2pm, June 22nd: 2pm- 9pm, June 23rd: 8am-3pm. June 25th: 3pm-10pm. June 26th: 7am-4pm. June 27th: 11-8pm.

Lyndsey's Schedule for week June 21st-June 27th. June 21st: 3pm- 11pm, June 22nd: 6am-1pm, June 23rd: 4pm-closing, June 25th: 7am-2pm. June 26th: 5pm-closing, June 27th: Off.

Lyndsey agreed to watching the girls while I'm off for me, it's a team effort because I don't want them into daycare until I can enroll them in the one at the school. We went home and I made us sandwiches tonight and some chips. The girls gladly ate their meal and then we watched some TV. Around eight thirty I saw the girls yawning so I tucked them into their cribs and turned on their night light. I smiled when I walked into the living room "Our own place, can you believe it?" I asked "Nope.

Chapter 70

Tomorrow the girls and I will explore." Lyndsey said "Thanks for doing this. You are the best." I said "Thanks, I try." She said "I can't believe Molly is in North Carolina until the end of July, Aubrey is in Miami Beach until the end of July." I said "I know, it's like no friend time until the time school starts." Lyndsey said "I agree. One weekend when I'm off I have to go visit my parents before Chance leaves for school. All he asks is to see them one more time. He says he will still send child support for the girls." I said. "Maybe this time around we can find some decent guys." Lyndsey said "I hope so." I said and she smiled at me.

I woke up at six and got dressed for work and checked in on the girls who were asleep still. I walked to Publix since it was literally next to us. I clocked in and he assigned me to register one. He said I would be making \$8 an hour now so I'm excited about that. I clocked out at 2 and smiled I was able to go home and enjoy my evening with my beautiful girls. I made \$56 today and that will help us out. I walked inside to see Love laid out on the couch and she meowed at me. Lyndsey came in with the girls and smiled at me "off to change and work." She said "Okay." I said smiling at her.

I called my mom around five "Hey momma" I said "How was work?" She asked "It was good. I'm about to head on out with the girls to find a place to eat." I said "there won't be no Lucky's." She said "I know. I have to find a new pizza place." I said "It's so weird at home. Not having you around or the girls. So peaceful." My mom said and I laughed "I bet you enjoy that." I said "god no." She said and I smiled at her "Summer got your old job, she's saving up for a car." My mom said "She is sixteen going on seventeen." I said "Don't remind me." My mom said and I laughed "I'm sorry. I hope you guys have a good night. I will call daddy." I said and she smiled "You better." She said and I laughed. "I love you mom." I said "I love you too." She said. "Hey daddy." I said "Kelsey-bug. How are you and the girls?" He asked "We are good. We miss you." I said "I miss you girls as well. It's not the same." My dad said "I bet. Today went good." I said "That's right. Your first day." He said "Yeah. I wanted to call and check in with you. I will let you go. I love you daddy." I said "I love you too Kels." He said and I hung up.

"Eat-eat." Caylee said staring at me "I'm in the mood to going out somewhere instead of cooking." I said and Caitlin stared at me "Let's go." I said getting their shoes on and holding their hand walking out into the hallway outside of the apartment. We got to the steps and I picked them up and we walked to the ground and I set them down. I saw a guy around my age with a bag of laundry over his shoulder "come on girls; let's get out of his way." I said and they pulled me away. He walked down and smiled at me. "Thanks." He said "No problem." I said and I walked to the car with the girls, he was cute. Blonde hair and baby blue eyes.

I pulled up to a friendly diner it looked like and walked in with both girls on my hips. "Just you and the girls?" the waitress asked me "Yes." I said "I will bring two high chairs up for you miss." She said "Okay thank you." I said and she led me to my table and I sat down. I saw the kids menu for them "You can split some chicken nuggets and some mac-n-cheese. You girls like that." I said and they smiled at me. "Hello I'm Anna, I will be your waitress what can I get you to drink?" Anna asked me "I will have Dr. Pepper, and Fruit punch for the girls." I said "Coming right up." She said and brought two cups. I poured the Fruit punch into their sippy cups and handed it to the girls. "Do you need more time?" Anna asked me "I'm ready to order thank you though." I said and she smiled "I will have the kid's chicken nugget with the mac-n-cheese instead of fries." I said "Excellent choice. What will the girls have?" She said and I smiled at her. "Now I will have a BLT with fries." I said "That's a good choice. Coming right up." She said and I smiled.

She came out with the food and I cut up the chicken nuggets and blew on them "Blow on them girls." I said splitting the plate between the two. She came back with refills and smiled. "Your girls are beautiful." Anna said "Thank you." I said "I think I see you in my apartment complex." Anna said "You might have. I live next to Publix." I said "Yes I have." She said and I smiled at her. After we finished eating Anna came back with the

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bill and I left a tip for her.

I got the girls in the bathtub around eight and tucked them in bed at eight thirty. Tomorrow I work two to nine. I was on my laptop checking my Facebook and Lyndsey walked in at eleven "Great day of work." She said "I know." I said "I'm exhausted." Lyndsey said "I bet. I saw a really cute guy when I took the girls out for dinner." I said "I saw a lot working tonight." Lyndsey said "I think we will enjoy this." I said "I agree. Now I'm off to bed. I go in at six." Lyndsey said and I flashed a smile at her "good night." I said "good-night. I'm keeping Love tonight." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her "Fine." I said.

I woke up at seven and Lyndsey was already gone at work. I got the girls up, fed and dressed the girls and got them in their stroller. I carried it down the steps and when I started to walk away I saw the cute guy again and he smiled at me. "I'm Trevor." He said "I'm Kelsey." I said "Who are these beautiful girls?" Trevor asked "Caylee and Caitlin." I said and he smiled at me. "I have a little boy of my own. He's two." Trevor said and I smiled "They are one." I said "Adorable." He said and I smiled. "Don't worry I'm not with his mom. We're on friendly terms for his sake. I'm single." Trevor said and I smiled "good to know." I said "Are you single?" He asked me "Yeah." I said and Trevor smiled at me, "Are you attending UF in the fall?" Trevor asked me "Yeah." I said. "I'm a sophomore this fall." Trevor said and I smiled "so yes I'm nineteen right now." Trevor said "I'm eighteen." I said "I'm going to get my son. Maybe we could do a play date?" Trevor asked "Sure, I work two to nine tonight though." I said "Okay, I will be back way before then." He said and I smiled.

Around eleven I heard a knock on my door and I got up to see Trevor with a little boy that looked exactly like him blonde hair and baby blue eyes. "This is Travis." Trevor said and I smiled "hi Travis." I said and he smiled. Our kids played until one and I smiled at him he was going to his mom's with Travis. Lyndsey came in not long after he left and as I was getting ready for work I explained to her everything that happened.

It's now July 6th and I had just gotten off of work around noon and I had packed my bag and the girls bag. I was finally off and Chance was leaving the middle of the month to go to New York so this was the perfect weekend. I was coming back on the 8th and smiled at the girls "ready to go?" I asked the girls, they are now fifteen months old, more talkative, beautiful. "Yes!" Caitlin and Caylee said at the same time. I left Lyndsey a note and loaded the two suitcases in the car and then walked upstairs and got the girls. "Come on Cay & Cat." I said and they smiled, we shut the door and walked to the steps. "Up!" Caitlin and Caylee said "Before long you can walk down these steps." I said and they giggled.

Chapter 71

I got them in their car seats and looked in my rearview mirror and backed out and smiled. I put the car in drive and started out on the highway, it was 12:30 so we would be there at 4:30 and I smiled at the girls. "Potty!" Caylee said when I was heading close to a rest stop "Okay, mommy is pulling over now." I said and Caylee nodded. I got out and got the girls out and we went to the bathroom and after they both went we got back in the car.

We pulled up at 4:30 and I got out and Landon and Summer ran out and gave me a group hug. Landon got my bags and Summer picked up Caitlin who smiled. "Come on let's go in." I said "When are you going to see Chance?" Summer asked me "tomorrow, an all-day event." I said and Summer smiled at me. The girls looked away "Play!" They said and I smiled at them "Go on. Be careful baby." I said and they nodded at me.

My mom came home at five and hugged me "I've missed you." She said "I missed you too. Sad thing is it wasn't even a month." I said "I don't care. You are still on your own. With you two girls." My mom said and I smiled at her "I have a crush." I said "Spill girl." My mom said and I told her all about Trevor and then told her about Travis as the conversation went on. My dad came home at 5:30 and hugged me and then the girls ran to him. "More stable at walking. You must have your hand full." My dad said "I do daddy." I said and he smiled at me. "What are we doing for dinner?" I asked "Lucky's." My mom said "Yes!" I said "I miss that." I said and she smiled at me.

Summer and Landon both wanted to ride with me so Landon sat between the girls and played with them the whole way to Lucky's. We got there and I got the girls out and held their hands until they got to my parents and then they wanted their grandparents instead of me. "Welcome in!" Mrs. Lynnwood said and I smiled at her. "My have they grown." She said "Yes ma'am." I said and we sat down in the back booth and ordered the pizza and drinks. "You girls hungry?" My mom asked Caylee and Caitlin "Yes!" They said at the same time and I smiled at them.

That night our sleeping arrangements were they would sleep in the same bed as me. So I had Caylee on my right side and Caitlin on my left side. I couldn't move at all during the night and I had my arms around both of them. I woke up at seven to Caylee staring at me "Good morning sunshine." I said and she smiled at me. Caitlin sat up and yawned at me "Morning sunshine!" I said and she smiled. "Ready to see if grandma and grandpa are up?" I asked "Yes!" They said and I smiled "Go see." I said letting them on the floor and they went to my bathroom. Afterwards they went into the kitchen direction "Morning girls!" I heard my mom said and I smiled and my dad said "morning my little princesses." My dad said and I went to the bathroom and smiled.

I walked into the kitchen and my mom already had breakfast set for the girls. "When are you guys leaving?" My mom asked "We are leaving at nine." I said and my mom smiled "I will get them ready at eight." I said "I'm going to shower with Caylee and Caitlin." I said "Okay baby girl." My mom said and I smiled at her. At seven thirty my dad was sitting on the couch with the girls and I got up and got their clothes and my clothes ready for the day. I came back down and sat outside with my mom drinking coffee "You are doing a good job raising them." She said "Because of you two. Raising me so well." I said and she smiled at me.

I got the girls in the shower with me and took turn showing myself and getting them cleaned. When we got out I got the girls dressed first and then got myself dressed. "Go to grandma and grandpa." I said and they did so "My, don't you look beautiful." My mom said and I smiled at that. I walked out and she smiled at me. "We will be back later." I said "Okay, I love you." She said "I love you too." I said and the girls followed me.

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When we got to his house he was outside waiting "Hey beautiful girls." Chance said and I smiled at him. They spent time with the girls while I sat outside on the porch for a little bit. Chance came out "I want custody of one of the girls." Chance said "I don't want the girls to be separated." I said "I will fight you for it." Chance said "Then do it. I don't want my girls to be separated." I said "You will be hearing from my lawyer shortly then." Chance said "Okay." I said "I'm getting the girls and going now." I said walking in and picking up the girls and walking out.

It's July 16th now and I'm back in Daytona on a weekday, it wasn't my day off I had to switch around. "We the jury finds it to be in the girls best interest to stay together." One of the jury said. The judge looked at the paper "It is in Caylee and Caitlin Blevins best interest not to be separated and for their mother Kelsey Blevins to have full custody." Judge Sam said and we all nodded. "Forget about the child support. I'm gone." Chance said "I can survive without it. The girls don't need you." I said and went to my mom's to pick up the girls to head on back to Gainesville.

When I arrived at home three hours later Lyndsey looked at me "You have time to work." She said "I know and I need to. I have full custody." I said "That's good." She said "He wants nothing to do with the girls no and no more child support." I said "You could fight it." Lyndsey said "I don't want to drag the girls into that. It will be an on-going battle and I don't want the girls to deal with it. But I called Scott and let him know I can work tonight. Can you watch the girls?" I asked "No problem. We're going to find me a man." Lyndsey said and I smiled.

After work, I got home at midnight and checked on the girls and then went to bed. I had work at six in the morning until two and it was payday. I woke up at five to my alarm clock and got changed into my work clothes. I looked at the mail from yesterday and sighed my schedule for the fall semester came in. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: English 101 7am-9am, Creative writing 110 9:30-11:30. Tuesdays and Thursdays: Journalism 110: 9:30-11:30, American Government 110: 12:00-2:00. And a note for if you need child care services while school hours to call this number between the hours of 8-8. First classes will begin on August 13th.

I got off at two and smiled at Lyndsey "Schedule?" I asked and she told me the same thing. "I went ahead and gave it to Scott and he nodded." I said and she smiled. "I need to make a phone call." I said getting my schedule and calling the number. "Hello, this is Dana at the University of Florida Child Care, how may I help you?" A woman asked "Yes, I'm Kelsey Blevins. A student here and I was wondering about what it takes to enroll my daughters here." I asked "You need to have proof that you are a student here. You will need to pay a fee of \$100. It's \$150 a month per child." She said "Okay, when do I need the proof?" I asked "As soon as possible, the spots fill up quickly." She said "Yes ma'am. I will be in right away." I said and she hung up.

Chapter 72

When Lyndsey left for work I got the girls in the stroller with the papers I assumed I would need and made it to the campus and was shocked at how big it was. Orientation was August 3rd. I found the Campus Daycare and walked in. "Hello, I'm Dana how may I help you?" She asked me "We talked earlier on the phone. I'm Kelsey Blevins." I said "Yes I remember." She said and she gave a form to fill out "Since it's twins you can just use one." She said and I wrote the information and turned it in. She did a scan "\$200." She said and I gave her my debit card and she handed it to me. "Hours would be from 5am-10pm since our classes vary at different hours." She said "Okay." I said and she handed me a piece of paper of what I needed to know.

The following day when we were both off we went to the campus and got our textbooks that we needed for the semester and other school supplies. "Our books are heavy." I said "I know." Lyndsey said smiling at me. We went to the local park and I took the girls out of their stroller and let them go play. I see Trevor and Travis and I smile. We have yet to make a first date yet but we spend a lot of time together for the girls and Travis. "Hey Kels." He said "Hey Trevor." I said smiling at him "I'm going to go play with the girls." Lyndsey said smiling at me "Okay." I said and she walked away.

"Are you doing anything tonight?" Trevor asked me "Nope." I said "do you want to go out?" Trevor asked me "I have to see with Lyndsey." I said "After this Travis is going to his mom's." Trevor said "Okay I will get back with you." I said and Trevor smiled at me "See you around." I said and he smiled.

When we were on the way home I told Lyndsey about what he said and she smiled "I will watch the girls. With no problem. They are angels." Lyndsey said and I smiled at her "Thanks! I owe you!" I said and she smiled at me. "Let's go in mommy's room." I said to Caylee and Caitlin and they raced to my room and saw Love on my bed and tried climbing my bed. I got them up on my bed "Don't fall off baby girls. Mommy needs you to be safe." I said and I got to my closet and pulled out my sky blue short dress and gray leggings. I got my silver sandals on and had my necklace and bracelet on and smiled at my girls "Do I look pretty so far?" I asked "Yes!" Caylee and Caitlin said.

I sat down at my desk and put my small mirror up and did my makeup and did my hair in a fishtail braid. "Now am I pretty?" I asked "Yes!" Caitlin and Caylee said "Do you know what you two deserve?" I asked "No?" They asked "the tickle monster!" I said and they backed away and I walked up and tickled them they were doing their baby giggles and smiled at me. "Okay, let's go get Aunt Lyndsey!" I said setting the girls down off the bed and they ran to Lyndsey and tackled her. "My girls!" She said and they giggled.

Trevor knocked on the door and I got up and smiled when I answered it. "Hey. I said "You ready?" He asked "One second." I said "Good-night girls. Mommy loves you." I said and they smiled at me "I wuv yew." They said and I smiled at them and went out the door and smiled at Trevor. "We're going to a place in walking distance." Trevor said "Okay." I said and he smiled at me and led me to a Mexican Restaurant and we were seated as soon as we went in.

Around eleven he walked me to my door and I leaned in and kissed him good-bye. I went to work at 6 and got off at two. "Girls, mommy is going to do something for herself soon." I said and they giggled at me.

It's now August 11th and I'm off today. The girls are sixteen months old and I'm at Wal*Mart without the girls. I had them in day care already so we could get use to that. "Kelsey Blevins?" The lady asked "Yes." I said walking up and she showed me her station and touched my hair "What do you want done today?" She asked me "to my shoulders with layers." I said "Okay, let's get you shampooed." She said and after my hair was washed I was back in the chair. "When was the last time you cut any length off?" She asked me "I only get my dead ends cut off." I said "wow, why the sudden change?" She asked me "First day of college in two

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days. Time for a change." I said and she smiled at me.

When I went to pick the girls up from day care they stared at me "mama?" Caylee asked me "Yeah." I said and she smiled at me. I picked them up and carried them home and let them walk up the steps and they smiled at the top. Trevor was coming down with his laundry and smiled "Wow Kels." Trevor said "Do you like?" I asked "I do." He said and I smiled at him "good." I said Lyndsey about had a heart attack "I have never seen you with short hair." Lyndsey said "I know. It feels so weird." I said and she smiled at me. "I'm off this weekend, are you?" I asked "Yeah." She said "Road trip Friday night to Sunday" I asked "Yeah!" She said and I smiled.

On Monday I woke up at five and got dressed in my ripped jeans and my pink tank-top and my rainbow flip-flops. I got the girls dressed and ready and we started on our walk toward campus. We had our backpack on our backs and then the girls on my hips, they were exhausted. We got into our room of over 100 students. "Bottom section?" I asked "Yeah." She said and we sat down beside each other. "Kels?" Aubrey asked when she sat next to Lyndsey "Yup." I said "Looking great." Molly said coming to my side and smiled. As soon as she wrote her name on the board we began working on school work at 8:58 "Read to Kill a Mockingbird and write a 10,000 report on it. Remember the terms you learned today. It is due Friday. What is due Wednesday is this worksheet." She said handing it up the row and we were dismissed.

We all walked to a coffee stand and I smiled when I see Trevor "Looking good." He said "You too." I said balancing my backpack on my shoulder. We spent the next half hour walking around and then went to our Creative writing class. "Who are you?" Professor Hand said "I want to know who you are. I want to hear about your story. What brought you to UF? What are you majoring in? Why are you majoring in this?" She asked us "I want to hear it. First this is a huge class, a different change for you freshmen; I want you to mingle around. Find five people and ask them their name, where they are from, age and what they are planning on being. Then write a two page report on it." Professor hand said "Fifteen minutes go." She said I went to a guy behind me "Name? Where are you from? Age? What are you planning on being?" I asked "Jacob Wiles, Orlando, 19, Lawyer." He said "You?" Jacob asked me "Kelsey Blevins, Daytona, 18, Journalist." I said and was met by a girl "Questions?" She asked "Kelsey Blevins, Daytona, 18, Journalist. You?" I asked "Katelyn Wakefield, Stuart, 18, Journalist." She said and I went to a guy "Tyler Woods, Raleigh North Carolina, 18, Photojournalist." He said and I gave him my answers. "Kaitlin Adams, Miami Beach, 19, Journalist." She said and I gave her my answers and went to my last one "Brooklyn Wiggins, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, 18, Journalist." She said and I gave her my answer "time is up." Professor Hand said and I smiled.

I finished with my report and at 11:27, "I want you to work on that assignment it is due Friday. But I want you to write tonight or tomorrow about the most important thing in your life. A person, pet, or anything." She said and we were dismissed and I smiled at the girls "Lunch?" I asked I had an hour before I went to work. We spent the half hour talking about things to catch up on what we missed out. "Have to head home to change." I said and they nodded, I got changed and when I was heading out Trevor smiled "see you later." He said "Yeah." I said.

I worked 1:30-9:30 and then made it in time to the day care, they understand if you are a student and you work so I wasn't going to be in trouble. I got home and gave the girls dinner and tucked them in bed. I got at the kitchen table and began working on my homework and finished. I wrote my piece for Wednesday about Caylee & Caitlin. The next morning I woke up at 8 and we got went to school for the day care. I met up with Trevor for the hour before class and when I went to Journalism the girls smiled at me. Journalism went about the same and it was interesting to me. American Government had the most amount of work yet and the homework was going to be easy.

I went to work at 2:30-9:30 again and smiled at the girls, I was looking forward to Friday going to spend time with my mom and my family. I was getting really excited about it.

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I woke up and went to the girls' room and got them up and dressed "wuv yew mama." They said "I love you too." I said and had my gift for Lyndsey out when she walked in with her gift for me. "Happy birthday." We said at the same time and smiled we opened our gifts and smiled. Trevor came over and gave me a gift "Happy birthday girls." He said "Thanks." We said and we all walked to campus together. Molly and Aubrey told us happy birthday and we smiled.

At twelve when I was walking home I called my mom "Happy birthday momma." I said "Happy birthday Kels. How is school and work and the girls?" She asked me "School is going great. I love the classes. Work is going great, good hours. The girls are amazing mom. Trevor and I guess you could say that we are dating." I said and I knew my mom was smiling "Are you girls working this weekend?" My mom asked "Yeah, and homework probably." I said "True." She said "I hope you have a good day." I said "You too baby girl. I love you." She said "I love you too mom." I said and we hung up. When I got changed for work my dad called "Happy birthday baby girl." My dad said "Thank you daddy." I said "We are doing her birthday party Saturday." My daddy said "That's good. I hope it's a hit." I said and I knew he was smiling "I'm sure it will be. Have a good birthday baby-girl. I love you." Daddy said "I love you too." I said.

I worked 12:30-7:30 tonight and I picked up the girls early and then they went to bed at 8:30. I did my homework that I had and Lyndsey came in at 9:30 and smiled at me. "I'm looking forward to Friday. My parents don't know that we are coming." Lyndsey said "I haven't told mine. I told them we were working this weekend." I said and Lyndsey smiled at me "We aren't though." She said "That's the point." I said and she smiled at me.

Chapter 73

I worked 12:30-6:30 on Friday and so did Lyndsey, we got home got our bags packed and loaded up the car. Then drove to an area, parked and got the girls and then got on the road at seven so we would be there around nine. When we pulled up nobody was home at either house so we said our good-byes and went into our house. I carried my stuff into my room and put the girls on a pile of blankets and two pillows on the floor and tucked them in. We had the car hidden out of view, and around nine thirty I heard noise. I was in the kitchen at the table in the dark, nobody comes in this way. "Best family dinner in a while." Summer said "Only missing Bryce and Kelsey." Landon said we all knew not to bring up Autumn. "Yeah, but it was still fun." My mom said "We're going upstairs to play some video games." Landon said "Okay, have fun." My mom said "Want a beer?" My dad asked my mom "Yeah, go get one." She said and he walked into the kitchen and turned the light on and stared at me.

"Um Lex?" My dad asked my mom "Yeah?" She asked "You might want to come in here." He said "too lazy to get your wife her own beer." My mom said walking in and stared at me but smiled. "Don't just sit there." My mom said and I got up and hugged her "Happy belated birthday." I said and she smiled, I hugged my dad. "How long are you here for?" My dad asked "Sunday night." I said "It's so nice to see you here. Are the girls asleep?" She asked me "Yes ma'am." I said "I can't wait to see them in the morning." My mom said "So Kels, how is it living on your own?" My dad asked me "Not having to fight with your siblings for something in the kitchen is not, but it's not home. It's different. No help with the girls pretty much. Lyndsey is helping way too much with them." I said "She's your best friend and she loves the girls." My mom said "I know but I don't feel right having her baby sit the girls." I said.

The next morning I woke up at seven and the girls were at my face on the floor staring up at me "Up." They said "Come on." I said and they smiled at me as I picked them up and sat them next to me. "Grandma and Grandpa should be up soon, and then we go tackle them okay?" I asked "Okay." Caylee said "Okay." Caitlin said after she knew that Caylee would do it. We laid in bed until eight, and then I heard footsteps and my dad knocked on the door "You up?" He asked "Papa!" Caylee and Caitlin said at the same time "I guess so." He said coming in and smiling "Oh my, where are Caylee and Caitlin? These can't be the same little girls." He said and they smiled, he tickled them and lifted them up in the air for the rocket ship game.

My mom came in and Caitlin smiled "Meme!" Caitlin said smiling "Can't wait to be called Grandma." My mom said and I smiled at her "I know mom." I said "You cut your hair, didn't you?" She asked me "Yeah." I said "It looks good." She said and I smiled at her. I got on my laptop when they took the girls into the kitchen and got a Skype call from Bryce "About time you woke up." He said "You cut your hair?" Bryce asked me "Yeah." I said "looks good. How are the girls?" Bryce asked me "Good. With mom and dad." I said "That's good. I have good news." Bryce said "Are you coming home?" I asked "Soon." He said "For how long?" I asked "A month. My unit is being transferred again." Bryce said "It's been two years, two different transfer." I said "I know, this time it will to a station in the U.S we just might have to deploy sometime." Bryce said "Where are you going to be at?" I asked "Fort Braggs. Yeah it is still far away but it's closer and I'm in our country." Bryce said "Thank god." I said and he smiled at me. "I love you and the girls. And everybody else." He said "I love you too. Bye." I said I knew the drill by now.

"Mama?" Caylee asked when I walked downstairs already dressed for the day "Yes baby girl?" I asked "Park?" she asked "Maybe, we have to see what the plans for the day are." I said "I'm thinking you, your mom, and Summer should do something. Landon and I will watch the girls." My dad said "That's so sweet of you." I said "Baseball game." He said "One of the last baseball games as well." I said "Yeah, so?" He asked "Fine. I will get them dressed." I said and as I finished getting them dressed I saw Summer "Summer!" I said "Kels?!" she asked "Get your butt in here." I said and she opened my door "Kels!" She said smiling at me "the one and only." I said "I missed you so freaking much!" Summer said and I smiled at her "Well good, because

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just us women are going out and doing something." I said "good." She said smiling at the girls.

We got in the car and went to the mall, a perfect place to catch up on the miss time. "When do you begin school?" I asked Summer "Monday." She said "So the 20th?" I asked "Yeah." She said "You will be a junior, it's a tough year." I said "I remember yours." She said and I smiled "Landon will be in high school." I said "I know. I feel old." My mom said "You are a meme." I said "Grandma, they just can't say Grandma." My mom said and I smiled "What now?" I asked "We are females, in a mall. We shop!" She said and I smiled at her "So true momma." I said and she smiled at me, we shopped until noon and then she looked at us "I say we need to go to Lucky's." My mom said "Fine by me." I said and she smiled at me.

At lunch I looked at Summer, she looks exactly like I do but of course her hair is longer than mine. She's an inch shorter than I am; we all looked so much like our mom. Autumn was a mini-version of us girls. I took a sip of my soda "How do you like working at Publix?" I asked "good, he cut my hours in half. Saying I have to work the 40 hour week thing." She said and I smiled. "I'm off today. I work tomorrow 3-9." Summer said "what about Monday?" I asked "5-9." She said "Is that an all week thing?" I asked "Until Friday, then it's 5-10." Summer said "Saturday and Sunday?" I asked "Saturday will be 8-2 and Sunday will be 1-8." Summer said "good hours. I need to stop by there I guess." I said and she smiled at me. "How is college?" Summer asked me "It's actually good. The classes are amazing. Big classes. Different than High school but good. Lyndsey is going to try out for the squad this coming up week." I said "What about you?" My mom asked me "I would prefer working. My cheerleading days are kind of over." I said "You were an excellent cheerleader." My mom said "Yeah, I know but I can't." I said "You were cheering since you were four, dancing since you could walk." My mom said and I flashed her a smile. "My dream was to become one of those cheerleaders that cheers all over the country, but that has changed." I said and my mom smiled at me "I can imagine." She said "You have to put your children first, so your dreams you once had become a distant memory." I said "I know what you mean Kels. And I waited a little bit in life before having kids. It's tough no matter the age. But you are a wonderful mom. Do you see the girls face when you walk in the room? It's like you are holding a cookie in your hand. They admire you. They love you." My mom said and I smiled "Thanks mom." I said.

After lunch we went to the spa and got a pedicure and manicure done and we were relaxing. "This feels so nice. I haven't relaxed like this since my junior year." I said and my mom smiled "It's tough." She said "But it's worth it. I wouldn't give up my girls for anything in the world." I said and my mom smiled at me. "When do we need to go back home?" I asked "Honey enjoy your time." My mom said.

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