

FINDING ME
BOOK ONE OF THE LOVE IS NOT EASY SERIES
BY
NICOLE RICKMAN

This is a work of fiction. All characters, places, and incidents are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons either living or dead is completely coincidental. This book also contains Bible Verses from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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God bless you.

Chapter One

Aimee stood in the ANA Airport (Ancaster Neahovia Airport) holding onto her one carry-on bag as she looked around Gate B for Mr. Myers. From the looks of the line for baggage claim she was so glad she had shipped most of her belongings and now could avoid the long wait.

He was to meet her here at 5:00 pm she was certain she had told him as much on the phone before boarding the plane in London. She pulled her cell from her bag and turned off the airplane option. That was when she noticed she had one voice message from Mr. Myers. Aimee dialed the number to her inbox *“Aimee, I am so sorry honey. I have been called into an unscheduled meeting. I have arranged for my driver; Mr. Malone to pick you up at the airport. He will be waiting for you in the front lobby and he will take you to Ancaster University. Mr. Andrews and his lovely wife Tessa will meet the two of you in front of Winchester Villa. I will call you tomorrow to set up a time to meet with you so we can get your accounts set up. Have a good evening dear.”*

Aimee slipped her cell back into her bag and began her walk to the front lobby. After a few minutes and a couple of turns she found the airport lobby. She looked ahead at the front doors. Mr. Malone was not hard to spot he stood close to 7 feet tall and was extremely muscular. He was holding a sign above his head. Thanks to his height his sign was way higher than the others. Aimee managed to turn and squeeze her way through the crowd keeping an eye on the sign that read: **WELCOME TO NEAHOVIA MISS AIMEE PITTMAN.**

Mr. Malone reminded Aimee of a huge teddy bear. “Welcome to Neahovia Miss Pittman. I am glad God blessed you with a safe arrival.

Aimee grinned he was a Christian as well. “Thank you Mr. Malone it was indeed a safe trip and I thanked the Lord just minutes, ago for being with the pilots and crew as we traveled.”

Mr. Malone held the back passenger door of the Lexus opened for Aimee. “Please dear call me Brock.”

Aimee slid in the backseat of the Lexus. “I will as long as you agree to call me Aimee. Miss Pittman makes me sound old.”

Brock laughed. “Agreed.”

The Lexus was very classy. The cream seats were made of fine leather and all so soft. Aimee couldn’t help herself but to look around the car and then the view of the city. She rolled down her window so she could have a clear view of the sights as they drove by.

Brock watched Aimee through his rearview mirror. “The commute to the University should take a little over ten minutes as long as traffic is not bad.”

Aimee deeply inhaled the salty ocean air.

“Aimee are you ok?”

She smiled noticing that he was speaking to her. “I am fine just taking in the view and the fresh air. The ocean here smells so different than it smells in the States.”

Brock laughed. “I thought the same thing when I visited the States last year.”



The lady in blue couldn't believe her eyes. Aimee had come to Neahovia after all. This was not good. Everything she has worked so hard to protect is now jeopardized. All her careful laid out plans are useless if Aimee finds out anything about her family roots in Neahovia. She needed awhile longer to make sure everything goes as plan. Aimee's arrival to Neahovia has now put both of their lives in danger. She needed to find out more of why Aimee is here. It is very important that Aimee not learn any of the secrets she has worked so hard to keep. Someone is going to answer a lot of questions as to how this happened and give solutions on how these secrets stay a secret. The stakes are much higher now than they had been in a long time.



Ancaster University came into sight as soon as they turned onto Maple Avenue. Aimee gazed out her window as they drove by the old buildings that made up Ancaster University. They reminded her of old castles with a lot of character and charm.

"What is your major Aimee?"

"Business Management and Marketing. I am also taking a few Neahovia History and Geography classes."

Brock turned onto Oak Street. "That is an awesome major. I hear the History and Geography classes have a lot of off campus assignments that allows you to visit different parts of our great Neahovia."

"I hope so. I am looking forward to visiting different parts of the country."

Brock turned the car into the Winchester Villa drive he stopped at the security booth. Once he informed the guard of who he was he opened the gate and directed the car to the guest parking area. "Mr. Myers mentioned we are meeting Rev. Anderson and his wife here. Is that correct?" Brock looked back at Aimee.

"Yes they are old friends of my mother's."

Brock took the first parking spot he found. "Do you mind if I walk you to meet the Andersons. I attend Wise Chapel Church were Rev. Anderson is the pastor?"

Aimee opened her door. "I would be delighted if you walk with me. You know my friend Piper and I are going to attend services at Wise. We actually did a mission trip there a few years ago. We helped with the beginning stages of the restoration. We are so excited to see the finished product in person."

"That is wonderful my wife and I are the head of the Wise Chapel Youth Outreach Program. We are always looking for recruits." Brock walked along beside Aimee

I will speak with Piper I am sure we can help somehow." Aimee seen Tessa ahead waving.

The Reverend Mark Anderson was just as Aimee remembered him. His hair was more of a salt and pepper color but otherwise the same. He embraced her with a hug. "We are so glad you came to study at Neahovia. We have prayed for your return here for some time."

Aimee returned the hug "Thanks Rev..."

Reverend Anderson stood back. "Please call me Uncle Mark like you always have."

Aimee smiled. "Of course."

Mark noticed Brock standing behind Aimee. He thanked Brock for escorting Aimee to the campus then the two men walked off discussing some church business.

Tessa joined Aimee and greeted her with a hug. The two ladies looked at the view of the Winchester Villa. Each building was made of cedar wood with the front doors

trimmed in stone. Aimee counted a total of seven two story buildings. Each apartment or flat as they called them in Neahovia was separated by a flower garden.

Aimee removed her cell to double check the text Piper had sent earlier that day. "I am in Flat 707."

Aimee and Tessa walked toward the Flat. It was on the farthest end of the parking area and it just so happened to be the closest to the beach as well.

Mark jogged over to them. "Sorry about that. Brock says hi to Tessa and to Aimee he looks forward seeing you in church."

Aimee turned around. "I wanted to say thanks but I didn't want to be rude and interrupt."

Mark put his arm around her. "I thanked him for you. I see James over there at the end of the lot. Let's go get you moved in my dear."

Aimee could see James from a distance he was standing by an old red pickup truck.

"I am so sorry the Administration Building closed before you arrived today." Tessa turned to Aimee.

"It's ok. I told myself God had a reason for the unexpected layovers in Chicago and then again in London. I knew when my flight from Richmond took off on time that was too good to be true." Aimee laughed.

Tessa looked at her. "You are so much like your mother, always looking on the bright side. Even so between the unexpected layovers at Chicago and again in London plus factoring in the time difference your flight turned into a 17 hour flight. You have to be tired?"

Aimee stopped just in front of James. "I am definitely ready for a hot shower and nap."

James came over to give Aimee a hug. "I have to say I have never seen you travel so lightly."

Aimee faked laughed. "Just wait until you help me put my stuff in storage."

James grinned. "Who said I would help?"

Aimee shook her head. James had always been like an older brother to her. He loved picking at her but he also was very protective. It was a hard adjustment for them both when he moved to Neahovia with his parents. Aimee had already lost the two most important people in her life and to her it felt like her whole family moved away. She pouted for days. Then James began calling more frequently checking up on her. They stayed in touch with each other over the past two years but seeing him in person made her feel so happy. "My pretend big brother will do anything I ask."

James laughed. "Yeah my pretend sister always gets what she wants."

Aimee felt so silly ringing the doorbell to her own flat but she was keyless until tomorrow and Piper had not answered the text Aimee sent letting her know she was here. She waited nervously for someone to answer the door.

A tall light brown headed guy answered the door. "May I help you?" He asked with a thick accent.

"Yes I am Aimee Pittman. Piper's friend."

"Oh yes the American. I am Colin, welcome to our flat." He stood to the side of the door holding his left arm out.

The foyer appeared a little small but held lots of potential. Colin began giving her a tour pointing toward the living area as he explained that the cable for the Telli would be turned on tomorrow.

“Like she will watch any of our Neahovian shows.” A girl close to Aimee’s height with long light blonde hair entered the foyer.

Colin turned toward her “Don’t be rude Lexi.” He gave her an evil eye. Colin pointed to his left “the kitchen is this way...”

“I got it from here Colin.” A familiar voice to Aimee came from the stairs.”

The two girls squealed each other’s names as they jumped up and down in unison like little girls.

Aimee met Piper in a boarding school they attended when they were fifteen years old. They had shared a room and instantly became best friends. They both attended the school for only one year. So they used social media to stay in touch over the past three years. The minute Aimee finally received her father’s permission to attend Ancaster University she immediately called to tell Piper. The instant they hung up Piper phoned her mother and had her arrange for Aimee to room with Piper and her Neahovian friends.

James cleared his throat. “I am so sorry. Piper this is my friend James. His parents Tessa and Rev. Mark Anderson. Mark is the pastor of Wise Chapel.”

Piper stared at Aimee’s friend James a short second. “Rev. Anderson I am looking forward to attending church services at Wise. I have heard so many wonderful things about the church.”

Mark shook her hand. “Thank you Piper. We look forward to seeing you there and please just call me Mark.”

Aimee and Piper made small talk with Mark and Tessa while James and Colin carried Aimee’s belongings up the stairs. When they finished Piper gave Aimee a tour of the downstairs of the flat before guiding her upstairs to the bedrooms. There was four rooms two on each side of the hall. Piper directed Aimee to the last room on the left side of the hall. The room had two twin beds which were separated by a bay window with a view of the ocean and two desks sitting in front of it. Aimee could see herself sitting at her desk for hours at a time.

“Let me guess you was the first to arrive?”

Piper grinned. “The early girl gets the view.”

Piper took a glance over at Aimee’s stuff. “Since when did you start traveling so light?”

Aimee walked over to her side of the room and removed a credit card from her purse and began fanning herself with the card. “We haven’t been shopping together in so long.”

Piper and Aimee went back to the living area where Piper introduced her to some of her roommates. Lexi was the girl from early she was sharing the room next to Aimee and Piper with Sophia a petite girl with shoulder length black hair.

Colin was rooming with Aiden (who has not arrived yet) and Josiah who looked kind of scary with his black hair spiked all over and the tips died green. He appeared to be wearing more eyeliner than all four girls put together. He was rooming alone because the guy he was to room with decided to get an apartment off campus so they could have a place for band practice.

Colin decided he wanted to check out a local pub. Lexi, Sophia and Piper joined him and Josiah said he was hanging at Jorge's place (the roommate who got an apartment). Aimee wanted to stay back. She was in need of a hot shower and some rest.

She took out her bag and unpacked her toiletries, bath towels and some clothing. After a nice hot shower she put on her favorite aqua and pink plaid carpi pajama pants with a matching aqua tee. She wrapped her hair in a towel and got out her laptop turned it to her favorite Contemporary Christian music station as she began the task of unpacking.

A fast uplifting song about praising God was on the radio so she sang along while folding and hanging her clothes. Lost in her own world enjoying the uplifting songs Aimee was working at a great speed. Midway through singing along with one of her favorite songs she heard someone clear their throat.

Startled she jumped and turned toward the door. The hottest guy she had ever seen in her life was standing in her doorway with one hand on the frame. There was no question he liked to work out. He was wearing a seersucker shirt which clung tight to his body leaving no reason for anyone to have to imagine the physique he had under the shirt. She looked up at his face and prayed her mouth was shut.

His sparkling white teeth help show off the best smile she had ever seen. His hair was light brown and styled in a fade cut with the soft spikes on the top. He had mesmerizing dark blue eyes and a five o'clock shadow that made him that more appealing. She was so caught up in the sight of him she forgot her hair was wrapped in a towel.



Aiden watched the girl from the doorway. The fact he knew all the other roommates meant she must be Pipers' American friend. She was tall for a female but from what he could see she had a beautiful well-toned body. She was definitely easy on the eyes. He knew he needed to make his presences known but something about her was just so alluring to him. He just wanted to stand there and watch her all day.

He shook his head what was he doing. Clearing his throat had startled her so she turned to face him. She was beautiful even without all the makeup girls tend to wear and her hair wrapped in a towel. Her big hazel eyes where sparkling and the look on her face when she realized the towel was on her head was priceless. But all he could think of when she removed the towel was heaven help him as her long golden blonde hair fell down her back and around her face was he was in trouble.

He needed to say something... anything. "Hi. I'm Aiden. Sorry if I scared you."

Slowly her cheeks turned pink. "It's ok. I am Aimee. I hope my music didn't disturb you." She turned the volume down.

"Nah. I actually like it. It is different from any kind of music I have ever heard."

"It's Contemporary Christian." She turned her head.

Aiden looked around the room. "Where is Piper? I figured as much as she has talked about you coming here she would be with you."

"She went to some Pub with Colin, Lexi, and Sophia. Josiah went to a friend's apartment." Aimee replied while taking out some shirts and hanging them on hangers.

He watched as Aimee continued to work on unpacking her stuff. "What can I do to help?" At first he was certain she would turn him down and he didn't want to leave just yet.

“If you want you can hang these in the closet.”

Placing the last shirt on the closet rod he began to laugh at the near empty closet. “I have never seen a girl travel so light.”

She laughed back. “I keep hearing that today. I was not sure of what was trendy here and what was not, along with being unsure of the amount of storage space and the climate I decided I would purchase my wardrobe...”

“A shopping spree is in your near future.” It was all clear to him now.

“Yes. How did you guess; are you psychic?” She laughed.

“Not exactly but I am smart enough to know when a girl needs to shop.”

Aiden checked his watch. “Are you hungry?”

“Yeah. Piper said I could give her a ring if I needed her to bring me back something. But tell the truth...”

“You’re unsure of what Neahovian Cuisine is actually like.”

“Are you sure you not psychic?”

“I just know how women think. Tell you what you get dressed. That is unless you really want to wear your PJ’s. I will call Milo’s Bistro to see if I can have a space saved for us.”

“There’s that psychic thing again. I do have one question.”

He grinned. “Ok.”

“Dress Code?”

“Casual but keep in mind the evening air is chilly this time of the year.”

Twenty minutes later she appeared in the Foyer. She was more beautiful than he could have imagined with her straightened long golden hair. She had on a pair of distressed jeans that was showing off her curves very well and the plaid hot pink and brown shirt she was wearing caused those hazel eyes to sparkle even more. He watched as she did a 360 turn.

“Will this do?”

“Perfect.” That was the word to describe her. She looked perfect to him. The casual attire she wore made her look down to earth; unlike Ava.

Aimee took care to notice the way they were walking just in case she needed to find Milo’s on her own. Milo’s Bistro was only 3 blocks from their flat. The breeze from the ocean was still warm and the fresh salty aroma hung in the air. The streets were quite. It was amazing how relaxed she felt. Most people would be so nervous about being in a strange country all alone. But Aimee felt peaceful as if she had always belonged here.

As soon as they arrived to Milo’s a hostess took them to a table in the back corner. A tall slender waiter stood with a drink menu in one hand and a towel draped over the other arm. “Hello Welcome to Milo’s. My name is Owen. I will be your server today. Would you like to place your drink order now or do you need a few minutes.”

Aimee could feel her cheeks turning red for the second time tonight. She leaned over to Aiden. “I don’t drink alcohol”

He glanced at her. “Never?”

“Never.”

“Can we have two regular sodas please?” The waiter nodded taking his drink menu and leaving the table. “I should have told you early I don’t drink alcohol.”

Aiden laughed. “My psychic abilities let me down on this one. Your Pipers American friend that she goes on Christian Missions with.”

“Yes. That is me.”

Everything on the menu looked so good to Aimee. She was having a hard time deciding what to try. Aiden noticing her struggle leaned over to her. “They have an awesome chicken club salad with a special house dressing.”

Aimee nodded. “Then that’s what I will try.”

Aiden placed the order with the waiter when he returned with their sodas.

“Are you from Ancaster?”

“No I actually live in Broughton.”

She took a sip of her soda. “Broughton is the Neahovian Capital City right.”

“Yeah. It looks like you have done some homework on our country.”

Aimee glanced around the room at the pictures on the walls.

Aiden pointed out one of his favorites. “The owner of the Milo’s Bistro chains daughter painted all the portraits.”

“She is very talented. Are these places here in Neahovia?”

Aiden leaned back in his chair. “Yeah these are some of the best landmarks in Neahovia.”

“I hope to see more of the country over the next few years.”

“Have you ever been her before?”

“A few years back.

“Really when.”

“When what?”

Aiden watched as she studied one of the portraits. “When did you visit Neahovia?”

“Oh sorry. Once when I was very young I came her with my mom to a beach. We met one of her friends here. And again a few years back Piper and I worked on a mission trip.”

“The Wise Chapel project.”

“Yeah. We helped in the beginning stages of the restoration.”

Aiden took a drink of soda. “It’s a beautiful building.”

“Yes the building is beautiful but it’s what happens inside the building that makes it special.” The waiter brought their food out.

“So what happens inside the building that makes it so special?”

“The teaching and preaching of God’s word. Piper and I are going to be attending services there you should join us.”

“Maybe I will. So what is your major?”

It was obvious to Aimee he was changing the current subject. “Business Management and Marketing. What’s yours?”

Aiden laughed. “Business Management and Marketing.”

“You’re joking right.”

“Not at all. So I guess it is safe to say we are going to be study partners.”

Aimee nodded. “Study Partners for sure.”

The conversation continued about school throughout the main course. Aiden ordered a fruit parfait and a cup of coffee for each of them for dessert. Aimee was amazed how nice he was he had the good looks and a great personality which could only mean one of two things.

“So do you have a girlfriend?”

He seemed amused. “What gave me away?”

“Mainly it is the fact that I have never seen a single straight guy be so well mannered and thoughtful.”

Aiden laughed out loud. “I am so glad you didn’t ask...”

Aimee laughed with him. “We’ll just leave it at that. Tell me about your girlfriend.”

“Her name is Ava Porter. She is studying fashion design in Italy. How about you? Do you have some special guy waiting for you back in the States?”

“No and no to the second question as well.”

He laughed. “It seems I am not the only one with psychic abilities at our table. Seriously though, I would have thought for sure you would have been taken.”

Aimee blushed once more. “I always knew I wanted to come to Neahovia to attend college. A relationship oceans apart didn’t seem practical to me.”

Aiden took the bill from the waiter and ordered two to-go cups of coffee. “You know some say distance makes the heart grow fonder while others think it is a true test for your love.”

“Oh I am sorry I didn’t mean it like that.”

He chuckled. “It’s cool. Italy is closer than flying to the States so I can see how that could make a difference.”

The walk home seemed shorter to Aimee maybe because now she was familiar with the street a little. The air was cool and she was glad to have the extra cup of coffee to help keep her warm.

Lexi was writing on a dry erase message board when Aiden and Aimee returned to the flat. Aiden sat in the oversized chair across from Colin.

Colin started grinning from ear to ear. “Well Lex look who has finally made it home.”

“It’s about time.” She continued writing in bold letters Flat Meeting Tomorrow at 8p.m. “Ava has called me twice looking for you.”

Aiden felt around his pants. “I must have left my phone here.”

Colin tossed him his phone. “Lex you should have been like me and just not answered her calls.”

“Hey Lex what are you doing?” Aiden asked in an annoyed tone.

“We needed a message board so I bought one.”

“I see that. What is this Flat Meeting stuff?”

Colin rolled his eyes as Lexi responded. “The Villa Advisor called and said we had to do a meeting.” She picked up the marker Pizza provided by the guys.

Aimee snickered. “Looks like Lexi just told you. By the way I love extra cheese and I am allergic to mushrooms.” The girls headed up stairs as the guys mumbled.

Piper was finishing arranging her side of the room when Aimee walked in the room. So Aimee went and cleaned her face and slipped on her favorite oversized baseball shirt then took out her Bible.

Piper took out her Bible and sat on her bed. “I am so glad that your dad is letting you study at Ancaster. I was so afraid he would say no.”

“Me too.”

Aimee started reading her Bible. “What are you studying Piper?”

“The Book of James.”

“So am I.”

Chapter Two

The alarm went off at 8 a.m. Aimee hit the snooze button. Eight hours of sleep was not enough to relief her jet lag. Ten minutes later the alarm sounded again. She decided against hitting the snooze again so she just accepted defeat.

She took her Bible out and reread the first chapter of James. When she was done she closed her Bible and kneeled down to pray. *“Dear Lord, I trust you with my life. I am so thankful for the love and mercy you have given me. I pray for Your guidance in my studies and the search for answers to my mother and grandmothers history here in Neahovia. I know they are in better hands now but I still miss them both so much. Again I want to say Thank You. In Jesus sweet and precious name I pray Amen.”*

She wiped the tears from her eyes as she looked at the photo of Piper and her mom at Pipers’ graduation. It made her think of all the things she has missed and all the things she will miss out on with her mom.

Her mother would not be with her when she gets married or has children. Aimee hated feeling like this way. Why did she have to keep telling herself to stop dwelling on the things that could have been or should have been things in her life.

She looked up to heaven. *“God help me to not dwell on the sad things I miss. But to be grateful for the good times I had with my mom and grandmother. Amen.”* She decided that maybe a good warm bath would help clear her head.

Piper laid silently in her bed while Aimee prayed. Her heart was breaking for her best friend and at the same time she realized how much she took her mom for granted. She could never imagine her life without her mom.

“God help me to be more appreciative for all the blessings I have in my life. And more observant to those around me. Amen.”

She took the photo of her and her mother and placed it on the other side of her bed facing away from Aimee. She ran to the restroom as soon as Aimee was out.

Aimee decided to roll her hair today. So while Piper was in the shower she found her hot rollers and rolled her hair. She applied her make up still waiting for Piper to come out of shower. When she did come out she went straight to her wardrobe.

“Piper you didn’t have to move your picture.”

Piper turned toward her friend. “I’m sorry, I should have been paying more attention to your feelings. If you ever want to talk I am here.”

“Thanks Piper but right now I need to focus on something else.”

Piper went to work on her hair. “Ok, let’s talk about dinner last night.”

“What about dinner?”

“You went with Aiden.”

“So.”

“Did you know he has a girlfriend?”

“Yeah he told me. Her name is Ava right?”

“Yeah, and did he tell you how jealous she is?”

“No.”

“I bet he didn’t tell you he is Prince Aiden Kaiser.”

Aimee looked at Piper. "No, so he is a Neahovian Prince."

Piper took her clothes to the restroom stopping in front of the door. "He is second in line for the throne. I told him to tell you before we had to go to administration. When we get there we have to sign a Privacy Statement."

Aimee started taking her rollers out. "I am fine with that. I think my dad has arranged one for me as well. He wants to make sure I stay out of tabloids."

"Oh right his running for some kind of office isn't he?"

"Senate."

When Piper came out of the bathroom Aimee was picking out her outfit. "We need to go shopping fast." Piper remarked as she sat on Aimee's bed.

Before Aimee could respond Lexi and Sophia ran into the room. "Did we hear the word shopping?" They spoke in unison.

"Yes, have you seen Aimee's closet?"

Lexi stood with her mouth half opened. "Oh my honey is that all the clothes you have."

Piper snickered. "This is all she brought with her blondie."

Lexi giggled. "Thank goodness. So do you have money or a credit card so we can take you shopping?"

"Lexi Medine." Sophia slapped her shoulder.

"What? I just need to know what she can spend so we can plan what Boutiques to go shopping at."

Aimee laughed. "I have a credit card and after we are done on campus today. I have a meeting with a finance friend of my dad's he is going to help set up a bank account."

A plan was made to go to some local Boutiques close to campus that afternoon and then the next day they would go to Huffington Square (Neahovian version of a mall).

Aimee went to get dressed and when she returned Lexi was sitting on Aimee's bed with a confused look on her face. "What's wrong Lexi?"

"I was just thinking if that is all your clothes. What was in the luggage, boxes and trunk the guys carried up?"

Aimee laughed. "The trunk had my beauty supplies, hair accessories, and jewelry. The luggage and boxes was the clothes and bedding and these..." Aimee pulled out a rolling storage compartment made especially for her.

Lexi's mouth dropped open. "How many shoes did you bring?"

Aimee smiled. "This holds twenty-two pair. My Toms, flats and sandals are in the trunk. Plus my boots are still in a box."

Lexi held up a pair of sandals. "What size shoes do you wear?"

Sophia looked at Lexi. "If you can ask that I want to know how tall she is."

Piper came over. "Please tell me I did not hear you right. You might as well ask her weight too."

Aimee laughed. "It's ok Piper. I wear an 8 1/2 to 9 depending on the shoe. I am 5 ft. 7.5 in. and I weigh 140 lbs."

Lexi still holding the sandals grinned. "Lucky me. I wear the same size." She glanced over at Piper. "5' ft. 7 in. and 135 lbs."

Sophia stood and stretched. "5 ft. even I weigh 110 lbs. and I wear a size six. Your shoes are safe from me."

Everyone laughed and turned to Piper. "I am 5 ft.5 in. Weigh 120 lbs. and she already knows I can wear her shoes."

The smell of freshly brewed coffee filled the air as the girls made their way to the kitchen. Aiden was sitting on the counter enjoying a cup of coffee while Colin was eating a bowl of cereal. Aimee took a cup from the cabinet and poured her coffee as Aiden hopped off the counter. "We need to be at the Administration Building at 10:30."

Lexi sat at the table and began making a list of the supplies they needed. Aimee enjoyed what may have been the best cup of coffee she had ever drank. Before leaving Lexi had Colin take a group photo and then one just of the girls. Everyone agreed not to post them on social media.

The Administration Building was a short 15 minute walk from the flat. That was another thing Aimee was liking about staying in Neahovia. Everything was so conveniently located. Aimee hung in the back paying attention to landmarks. Eventually Aiden slowed his pace to let her catch up with him. "Are you ok?"

"Yeah."

"Then why are you so quiet?"

Aimee shrugged her shoulders. "Aiden do you think we can be friends?"

"Yeah why?"

She stopped and looked him in the eyes. "Because friends don't keep secrets. When did you plan on telling me you were Prince Aiden?"

Aiden looked at the ground then back up. "Lexi?"

"No Piper. She felt I should know before we got to the Administration Building."

"I was going to tell you on the walk here."

"Why not last night?"

"I hope you don't take this wrong but I have to watch who I trust. I wanted you to know me as Aiden first."

"But Prince Aiden is part of who you are."

"It's a title Aimee not a descriptive characteristic."

"Ok I can get that. My dad is running for Senate and our family is well known in the states, so I know how hard it can be to trust people."

"So all is forgiven and no more secrets."

Aimee nodded "Deal."

Aiden and Aimee walked a bit slower than everyone else. He kept drilling her on how her dad running for Senate made her family popular with the Tabloids. She finally agreed to tell him later when the seven friends could be alone.



Aiden was truly amazed at how well Aimee handled the news that he was a Prince. Most people especially girls went crazy when they found out. But she was calm about it. Maybe it's because of her family being popular in the United States. All he knew was that normally it took him months to form friendships and with Aimee it hasn't even been twenty-four hours yet and he felt like he could trust her more than some people he had known for years.

"Hey the building is this way." Colin yelled.

"We knew that. We are just making sure you knew." Aiden yelled back.

Piper took them both by the arm. "Is everything all worked out? She knows you're a Prince and you know she is the daughter of a US Politician running for Senate. All is good in the world of Flat 707?"

They just grinned at her.

Colin held the door "Ladies first."

Aimee was the last girl to enter. "Aimee I must say you are taking Aiden's new so well."

She smiled and leaned toward Colin like she was whispering. "He is just as normal as any of us. He puts his pants on one leg at a time."

Colin laughed. "I really like this girl."

Piper stood tall. "I told you guys she's great."

Sophia looked around. "Aimee I am confused though. Piper was telling us about your dad and the privacy statement we would sign for you. I didn't realize being a Candidate for Senates daughter could make you so popular."

Aimee laughed. "It does when you have a step mom like mine."

Josiah looked at her. "Is she some kind of rock star?"

"She wished. I explain later."

Once everyone was done in the administration office they had a guided tour of the campus which ended at the Campus Bookstore. Everyone got their schedules and class books at the store before heading to eat.

They chose a pub just off campus for an early lunch. They sat at table near the front of the pub. Aimee was eating a sandwich recommended by Lexi. It was very tasty however she keep noticing Colin staring at her. "Do I have something on my face Colin?"

"No."

"Then why are you staring at me?" Her bluntness caused round of laughter at the table.

"This place is practically empty so tell us why you are so popular back in the United States."

Aimee looked around. The place was empty except for the two guys at the bar and one gentleman setting in the far corner from them. "Ok, but this is embarrassing so no one can laugh."

She waited until they all agreed. "My stepmother has turned my dad's campaign into a reality show."

Aimee watched as they each held back their laughter but Piper just couldn't. "I am sorry Aimee. I can't see you on one of those shows."

"I know. That is why I managed to not be in very many of the episodes. But that doesn't stop the paparazzi they are like little weeds everywhere they shouldn't be. I insisted I wanted a normal college experience and that the Paparazzi could not know where I was attending college. In fact, apart from you guys no one but my dad and stepmom and close family knows where I am attending college."

Aiden looked at her. "So is that why you chose Neahovia to hide from the paparazzi."

Aimee looked down and then at Piper now she needed to tell her secret. "My mom was from Neahovia."

Everyone sat quite for a minute. Then Sophia looked at her. “That’s the first time you mentioned your mother.”

Lexi turned to Piper. “She brought her up first Piper.” Aimee looked at Piper who just sat there.

Colin looked over. “Piper threatened us this morning. She dared us to bring up your mom.”

Aiden through a fry at Colin. “Dingle berry. Sorry Aimee he can be so...”

“It’s ok. I need to tell you guys anyway I just didn’t know how. My mom died when I was ten.”

The table grew quite. Aiden wrapped an arm around her in a side hug. “Aimee we are so sorry.”

Aimee shook her head. “I know.”

Lexi had tears in her eyes. “That is so young. Can we ask what happened?”

Aimee cleared her throat. “She was in a horrible car accident. I was supposed to be with her but I had a fever and my Gran keep me home.”

Feeling her pain Aiden took her hand. “Hey it’s ok, you don’t have to tell us everything just know we are here if you need us.”

Aimee nodded as she took a tissue that Piper had reach her. Josiah left for band practice. Unlike the rest of her roommates he showed no remorse. Sophia looked up. “So tell us how you managed to stay off that reality show.”

Aimee laughed as she explained the not so easy task of avoiding the cameras. She explained how she offered to be her younger sisters’ personal chauffeur, studying at the library, joining her schools dance team, and finally spending time at her Grans plantation in Savannah Georgia.

When Lexi mentioned how she thought that her Gran probably loved having her company. Aimee had to explain that her maternal grandmother died when she was twelve and her grandfather had died prior to her mom and Gran moving to the United States. Aimee asked to change the subject. Shortly after Colin and Aiden went to the park to play ball and the girls went shopping.



He had to be cautious that the group did not realize he had been following them. Madam was right Aimee Pittman was sitting right in front of him and with Prince Aiden none the less.

This mess is worse than she originally thought. He wanted to take a snapshot with his cell but he couldn’t without blowing his cover. He tried to listen to their conversation but they spoke in low voices.

Once he saw the Prince hug her and another time he held her hand. Madam is not going to be happy. Not at all. When the spikey green hair kid left he followed him Aimee looked like she was crying. Madam was not going to like what he observed she is here to go to Ancaster University and from the looks of things for the full program. He needed to find someone to spy for them but who.



Lexi drove the girls to meet Mr. Myers at Ancaster Bank. It took him and Aimee a little over an hour to set up her accounts. Afterwards they went shopping at a few local venders and boutiques near campus. Aimee bought six outfits and two new pair of shoes. They went to the market and a shop that sold household items before returning home.

When they returned to the flat at five p.m. Aimee laid down for a much needed nap. She had not recovered from her jet lag just yet.

The clock read 7:45 when Aimee awoke. Piper and Sophia sat on Piper's bed looking at magazines. "So was you going to let me sleep right through the meeting?"

Piper laughed. "You just look so peaceful so we didn't want to disturb you. The guys aren't back yet so we figured we would wake you when they got here."

Aimee pulled her hair in a messy bun and joined them. Sophia was looking at a cooking magazine. She told Aimee how her dream was to become a world famous chef. She missed the cutoff to apply to the culinary school of her choice and was only going to Ancaster University for one year she had already started her early application process to the school.

Piper glanced at the clock. "We need to go down the guys will be back soon and I want to get some food before they devour it."

Lexi was in the kitchen when the girls came down. Sophia and Piper sat on the couch. They discussed how Lexi wanted to be the Flat Leader but Aiden suggested we vote. Piper made comments in regards to how Aiden may be a Prince but Lexi was the self-proclaimed Queen of Flat 707.

Aimee feeling that everyone was being unfair to Lexi decided she would help her in the kitchen. Sophia laughed and told her it was her own funeral. Lexi was getting down the plates when Aimee entered the kitchen. She took the forks from a drawer and began helping set the table then got ice from the ice maker for drinks.

The guys arrived a little after eight with Pizzas and a DVD.

"What took so long?" Lexi asked in a harsh tone.

"The line was long." Aiden waved the DVD in the air.

"A movie. Seriously we can watch movies on the internet." Lexi was getting mad which was causing her neck to turn red.

"Not this one you can't." Colin placed the pizzas on the table.

Josiah took a plate. "Yeah it's an action pack thriller full of blood and glory."

Sophia stood behind him. "Gross."

Lexi rolled her eyes. Aiden laughed as he sat beside Lexi. "Why Lexi I thought those were your favorite movies."

Colin laughed. "We forgot you are the romantic type."

The discussion on the movie went on for a few minutes. Sophia and Piper agreeing a comedy would be nice. Aimee agreed on the comedy as she sat between Aiden and Lexi. Colin then confessed it was an action pack romantic comedy.

The meeting started as soon as everyone sat down at the table. Lexi read the letter from the Villa Advisor explaining the Villa rules. It was posted on the message board when she was done.

Next they decided to make some rules specifically for their flat. Colin and Josiah was not thrilled with the no intercourse or no alcohol in the flat rule. But Lexi had a way of convincing them that the rooms were close together and the walls were thin and that if they wanted to stay drunk and be wild they could always join a fraternity.

In the end they agreed to the rules. The last item was voting on the leader. They decided on a written ballot with Lexi and Aiden as the candidates. The end vote was Lexi three and Aiden four. Aiden let Lexi know he voted for her and that he would require her help. Lexi agreed to share the duties with him.

When they were cleaning up Lexi approached Aimee. "I know you was my third vote. Thanks."

Aimee grinned. "Anytime."

The movie was just as the guys said an action pack romantic comedy. When it ended Aimee went straight to her room she was so exhausted. Piper came up shortly after and they read their Bibles again. Aimee was really enjoying herself and she thanked God for her knew friends. She added a special prayer for Josiah something about him seems off and it was more than his appearance. He left the flat half way through the movie and stated he would be back Sunday night.

Saturday was a beautiful day so instead of going straight to Huffington Square the girls went to Birch Park with Aiden and Colin. The guys found a group of people to play soccer with and the girls spotted a tennis court nearby. Aimee and Sophia teamed up against Piper and Lexi. When the games ended they went to eat at a small restaurant just outside of the park. It had outdoor tables so they could eat and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.



He had to look twice at the tall blonde girl. She looked very familiar but she could not be who he thought. That was impossible. He watched them from a distance for a while before walking away. There was just no possible way. He was being paranoid.

The man in the grey shirt was watching Aimee this much he was for sure. If memory served him right the guy could mean trouble for Aimee. Things just keep getting more complicated. He needed to get a spy on Aimee quick someone young. Someone who she can befriend her. He had his work cut out for him. No one from this group will do. They are already bonding as her friend and may tell her. The green hair kid is not with them but he looks as if he would turn out to be an enemy not an ally. Madam is not pleased with him as it is. He failed to keep the girl in the states and away from the horrible secrets Neahovia holds for her. The poor girl is in so much danger and doesn't even know it.



Sunday morning Aimee and Piper attended services at Wise Chapel. The congregation was so nice. They meet Rev. Mark early and toured the church. The building was remodeled into a beautiful church. Aimee marveled at the wondrous work God had created. She thought about the old building and how it looked when she and Piper arrived to help work on it three years ago. It was so old and ran down. In fact if not for the church restoring the building the city was going to condemn the building.

Most people thought the project was useless that the building had no potential. They said trying to restore and turn it into a church was crazy but when God's in control nothing is useless or crazy. She then thought about how that building related to a loss soul and how God turns something as ugly as sin into something as beautiful as redemption. He redeemed us from our sins just as he redeemed Wise Chapel from being condemned. She shared her thoughts with Mark. He looked up to heaven. "That's something close to what I preached for my first sermon here."

James escorted the girls to a young adult class. The lessons were targeted for college students and young adults starting out in the world. It was a study on the book of James. Aimee loved the book of James and the class was very insightful. She tried to keep from

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