

# Precious Friendships

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*So, this is what it's like to have your entire world turned upside down? And it turns out to be the most wonderful thing that you never expected. T to be safe. \*Informal script format\**

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# 1 - Newcomers

## Chap. 1

(We come upon a small family having breakfast. The teens are arguing over....something, I guess.)

Natasha: Blake, smaller bites!

Blake: Mom!

Tara: Yeesh, Blake, you don't have to be such a pig!

Blake: Pig?

Tara: Yeah. Pig. Can't you spell?

Natasha: No shouting at the table!

Blake: But she started it!

Nathan: Do as your mother says, Blake.

Blake: But....never mind. Yes, ma'am.

Natasha: Thank you.

~~~~~

BG: Hi, my name's Tara Kartuga. I'm 16 and I'm a junior at Lakeland High School.

Tara: Stop tugging my bookbag, Blake.

BG: I'm just your average teen. I don't really excel at anything in particular, except for cooking. I'm also half Jap-half American. Not that I really care for it, though.

Tara: Stop it, Blake!

Blake: (proceeds to tug harder)

Tara: Ugh. (hits Blake in the stomach) You are SO irritating.

BG: And that was my little brother, Blake. He's a bit childish for a 9th grader. Now, back to the present.

BAM! BAM! BAM!

Sarah: C'mon, you stupid thing! Open up!

Tara:.....

Sarah: Oh, hey there Tara.

BG: My BFF, Sarah.

Tara: Your Chemistry book again?

Sarah: Yeah... \*sweatdrop\* So, what about you?

Tara: I'm just glad I have Blake off my back.

Erin: (kisses Tara in the cheek) Hey, babe.

Tara: (blushing) Erin! Stop sneaking up on me like that!

Erin: Aw, what's wrong with it? (hugs her)

Tara: Because it totally freaks me out!

Sarah: I'm sure you don't want to relive that incident at the mall, do you?

Erin: (totally clueless, looks at Sarah) When was that?

Tuesday: (leaning against the lockers) It was in June, remember? We came out of F.Y.E. and you surprised Tara out of nowhere. Then she kicked you in crotch, thinking you were a pervert. (thought of Tara apologizing, Erin's on the ground in pain)

Erin: (irritated, hand over face) Dude, that was totally embarrassing! Don't mention that again!

Tara: Yeah, how would you feel if I did that to you?

Tuesday: (looking thoughtful)..... Hmm. Well, it didn't happen. So, I don't know how it feels! (laughs)

Tara: Tuesday is such a freak sometimes. Just ignore him, Erin.

Erin: Ugh, I wish I could.

Sarah: (blank expression) Are you still thinking about that?

Erin: Shut up!

Maria: ¡Hola amigos! ¿Como estas? \*Hello, friends! How are you?\*

Tara: (enjoying Erin's embrace) Fine, Maria. What about you?

Maria: I'm good.

Kira: (shyly) Hi, guys.

Tara: Hey, Kira.

Maria: (looks over shoulder) OMG! It's Dru!

(Dru Takano is regarded as one of the most popular boys in school, despite the fact he is a sophomore. He smiles at the group and continues waling.)

Maria: He smiled at me!

Sarah: No! He smiled at me!

Maria: No! Me!

Sarah: (in Maria's face) ME!

(The girls continue arguing.)

Tara: \*sweatdrop\* Anyway...anybody hear any good rumors lately?

Erin: (rubs neck) Not that I know of.

Tuesday: Don't look at me.

Tara: What about you, Kira?

Kira: (looking thoughtful) Well, I did hear that there are some new kids at school.

Tara: Oh, what about?

Kira: Nothing really...okay, maybe more than that. But everything's so confusing, it's hard to tell what's true and what's fake. All I can really tell you is that it's 2 boys and 1 girl... (They realize that the hallway suddenly feels crowded, for 3 teenagers are walking to class.)

Tara: (watching them pass) You mean them?

Kira: Yeah, I guess.

(They disappeared down the hallway. Soon, the students are back in their regular social grind.)

Tara: I wonder who they are.

Tuesday: Don't worry about it. They're probably a bunch of weirdos...

Kira: Tuesday! Don't say that!

Tara: Yeah, Tues. There's more to a person than the outside appearance...

Tuesday: What about those exchange students that...

Tara: That was over a year ago. I'm talking about now. Usually, there's at least one talent you don't know from first glance. You should know that.

Tuesday: (ignoring Tara) Yeah, yeah.

Tara: Are you even listening?

Tuesday: (chibi, blank expression) Tuesday is not here right now. Please leave a message after the beep. BEEP.

Tara: (chibi, irritated) Ugh! Tuesday!

Erin: Hey, Tara. I'll see you later, okay> I've gotta get to class. (stops cuddling Tara)

Tara: (giggles) Okay, Erin. Later.

(She watches him leave.)

Tara: \*sigh\*

Maria: Okay, Tara! Who do you think Dru smiled at?

Sarah: Yeah, tell us!

Tara: (head down) \*sweatdrop\* [I can't believe they're arguing about that...]  
\*[] indicates thinking\*

Student: Excuse me.

Tara: Hm? [Hey, he's new.]

Student: I going to gym. Do you know where it is?

Tara: Yeah, follow me. It's my next class.

Student: Thanks.

(She guides him to gymnasium.)

Student: (Opens door) Go ahead.

Tara: Oh, thanks, um...

Student: Blaine.

Tara: Oh, okay. Thanks, Blaine. I'm Tara.

(She stands there for a few seconds.)

Blaine: \*sweatdrop\* Uh, aren't you going to go in?

Tara: \*larger sweatdrop\* Huh? Oh, right! Sorry about that! (smiles uneasily)

Blaine:.....

(They walk in. Blaine immediately joins his friends on the bench while Tara goes to the girls' locker room to change. While coming out, she is distracted by her thoughts as the students start exercising. Soon...)

Student: Serve the freakin' ball already!

Tara: (alarmed) Eek!

(She hits the ball with such a force that it flies over the net and into the wall. Her friends surround her as she sulks over losing the first point of the game.)

Tara: I'm sorry... (on the floor with head down)

Erin: (looking over her) its okay. You just need to pay more attention next time...

(The ball bounces off her head and Sarah returns it.)

Erin: Like then,

Tara: Owww....

(After the game is over, the kids are sitting on the bench talking. Tara notices Blaine with his friends.)

Tara: (getting up) Hold on, guys. I'll be right back.

Tuesday: Is she going where I think she's going?

Maria: Yep.

Erin: I don't see why I should talk to them. They look so weird. Kira?

Kira: (spaced out)

Erin: Kira!

Kira: Huh?

Tuesday: What do think of those guys over there?

Kira: Oh, they're okay. I guess.

Tuesday: (whispering) She's as worse as Tara is...

Tara:..... \*ahem\*

Blaine: ?

Tara: Um, it was, uh, nice meeting you, Blaine.

Blaine: Oh, you too.

Tara: (sitting down) Are they your friends? You do seem to hang out a lot.

Blaine: Yeah...

Tika:.....

Matthew: (feeling confident) I'm Matthew.

Tara: (smiling) Tara.

Tika: Girl, you can call me Tika.

Maria: (looks at watch) Is she done yet?

Kira: Calm down, Maria. It's only been 5 minutes,

Maria: 5 minutes too long.

Tara: Hi, guys. I'm back.

Maria: What did they do to you?

Erin: Are you alright?

Tuesday: Did they hurt you?

Kira: Guys! Stop it!

Tara: \*sigh\* I'm fine, guys. We mainly talked about with I liked, that's all.

Maria: Stop being so selfish!

Tuesday: They probably hate you!

Tara: Stop! (turns around) Just because they look strange doesn't mean they are. They're normal like everyone else.

Tuesday: I don't call blue hair normal...

Tara: Look who's talking.

Tuesday: Shut up!

Tara: Why don't you guys take a chance for once?

Maria: I don't see why we should.

Tara: I think that's better to make someone feel welcome than to make them outsiders. Eventually, you will get used to them.

Erin: Do you really believe in all that stuff?

Kira: I do!

Tara: It's worked before!

Maria: Listen, Tara. It's not like we're not going to see them or anything. They're just weird, that's all.

Tara: (arms crossed) Are you saying that because of their hairstyles?

Maria: That's not the point! \*sigh\* I just want to know about them first.

Tara: Through gossip, right?

Maria: No! Who would be so stu...maybe.

Tara: (acting sophisticated) The only way to properly get to know a person is to introduce yourself and bid them "hello."

Erin: \*whispering\* She's acting like her grandma again...

Tuesday: Yeah, I know.

Tara: (frustrated) I heard that!

Kira: (looking across the gym room)

Tara: Hey, Kira. Are you okay?

Kira: Oh! I'm fine! Just thinking! That's all.

Tara: Oh, okay. (turns to others) Like I was saying...

Kira: [He's so cute. I wonder where he lives...]

(She's staring at Matthew.)

Tara: [C'mon, Blake. I don't have all day.]

(Tara is standing outside of the school waiting for her little brother. She looks at her watch and sighs.)

Blaine: Hey.

Tara: (a little surprised) Huh?

Blaine: Thanks for showing me to the gym. I really appreciate it.

Tara: No problem.

Tika: We'll see you tomorrow, okay?

Tara: Yeah...

(She waves as she watches them go down the steps. She stands there, entranced for about a minute...until something cold runs down her back.)

Tara: (screaming in fury) Blake! I'll get you for this!

Blake: (runs away laughing)

End of Chap. 1

## 2 - Just Getting Started

Chap. 2

Tara: Hey, guys. Good to see ya.

Erin: Hey, Tara.

Maria: Okay, okay. Just make sure you pick them up from soccer practice.

Tara: Ray?

Maria: No, Brad Pitt.

Tara: You want him to pick up your brothers?

Maria: Yeah. I'm glad they're at another school. I would go berserk if they went here.

Tara: I can see that. (pats her on the shoulder)

Tuesday: Hey, you haven't noticed something about her?

Tara: Who? (sees Tika) Tika?

Tuesday: Yeah, she's so goth...

Tika: Goth?

Tuesday: Hey, I'm just say...wait a minute, how did you know I said that?

Tika: Poor eyesight. It clears up every once in a while.

Tuesday: Seems pretty fine to me.

Tika: Shut it.

Tuesday: (groans).....

Erin: Aw, look. The start of a beautiful friendship.

Tika: Friendship, my foot!

Tuesday: More like my heel!

Tika: \*starts to hiss\*

Matthew: Calm down, Tika.

Tika: \*mouth covered\*..... (crosses arms)

Blaine:.....

Tara: Hey, guys.

Matthew: Yo.

Blaine: 'Sup.

Maria: (to Matthew) You know, you look a lot cuter up close.

Matthew: Uh, yeah. YAAAAAH!!!!

(He looks at his hand. In the middle is a small but distinguished line of cuts. He glares at Tika.)

Tika: I couldn't breathe! What else am I supposed to do?

Matthew: Don't bite me! You know how s.....tough your teeth are!

Tuesday: Is that even a word?

Matthew: Honest mistake. You know what I mean.

Blaine: Hate to interrupt, but dude, you need to bandage your hand and we haven't been introduced.

Tara: Oh, yeah. Guys...

Maria: Maria.

Tuesday: Tuesday.

Erin: Erin.

Kira: Kira.

Sarah: Sarah.

Blaine: Blaine.

Tika: Tika.

Matthew (wrapping hand) Matthew.

(An eerie silence goes between them.)

Tika: Okay, back to the statement about me being goth. What the heck did you mean by that?

Maria: I never said you were.

Tika: I can repeat your exact words.

Tara: Guys, guys. Let's make peace, not war.

(Tika crossed her arms. Maria simply shrugged it off.)

Maria: Sorry I offended you. It was a common mistake.

Tika: I can tell. You telling the truth?

Maria: Yeah. Wait, what did I say?

Tika: I was...oh, that was stupid over here.

Tuesday: Shut up!

Tika: Well, you did.

Tuesday: Well, you are.

Tika: You say one more thing about me...

Tara: Guys!

Tika: Fine. Fine. I'll defeat him later.

Tuesday: Try me. Meh.

Tika: (completely on edge).....

(Blaine picks up Tika and transports her to class. Tara glares at Tuesday before walking off.)

~~~~~

Matthew: Ugh, this weighs a ton.

Blaine: Really?

Matthew: Dude, shut up before you blow it.

Blaine: I know. I know.

(The boys are helping the janitor in carrying weights to the gym. You understand why Matt made that remark.)

Matthew: Hey, let's make a run for it.

Blaine: How is that?

Matthew: Simple. I'll warn you.

(He gives the bags to Blaine and they sprint towards the gymnasium. On the way, Tuesday returning from a club meeting, spots them.)

Tuesday: What the?

(He follows their trail, catching a glimpse of the pair entering the gym. Once he opens the doors, he sees them carrying the bag as a team.)

Matthew: Oh, hey, Tues.

Tuesday: What? How? Huh? I thought...

Blaine: What?

Tuesday: Never mind.

(He stands there, puzzled as they leave the area.)

Blaine: That was close.

Matthew: (hands behind head) Yeah, I know.

(Tuesday, after watching them leave, picks up one of the bags. He notices a description that reads: Xenas Weights. Capacity: 50 lbs.)



Tuesday: [50 lbs.?!] Is he nuts? He...wait a minute...he carried them in one hand. All three of them...]  
(looks at door)

Tika: That's why you don't risk it!

Blaine: Hey, we got away with it. It doesn't matter.

Tika: But you could've got caught! I don't wanna imagine what that might have caused. W3 c0u1d  
l-l4v3 b33l\l 3xp3113d...

Matthew: Could you stop speaking l33t?

Tika: Why do think I said it like that?

Blake: Don't look at me. I'm still trying to understand the language.

Matthew: \*sighs\*

~~~~~

Tuesday: Like I was saying, I looked at the bag and (looks around) \*whispering\* It read 50 lbs.

Tara: (skeptical) 50 lbs?

Maria: And he supposedly carried it all in one hand?

Tuesday: Yeah,...it was totally strange.

Erin: But how do you know if it was 50?

Tuesday: The bags were new!

Maria: How do you know if they were new?

Tuesday: Forget it. It's obvious you don't believe me.

Kira: (reading manga) Probably do.

Tuesday: Shut it, Kira.

(She slaps Tuesday in the face.)

Kira: I'm not in a good mood today.

Tuesday: (holding face in pain).....

~~~~~

Tika: Hey, guys.

Tara: Oh, hey Tika. Didn't know you were in here.

Tika: Of course I am.

Tara: Uh, Tik?

Tika: Yeah?

Tara: If you hate Tuesday, why are you sitting here?

Tika: Oh my God! I didn't even know!

Sarah: And there's another thing. That's the only seat left.

Tika: Now you tell me. (slumps down)

Tuesday: (asleep) \*snore\*

Tika: Thank goodness he's asleep.

Tara: He is?

Tika: It's obvious. Look. (lifts up hood)

Tuesday: \*wakes up\* Hey, who...what?! You again?! What the heck is she doing in here?!

Tika: I have this class.

Tuesday: Well, then, just get your schedule changed or something. Sheesh.

Tika: I'm getting another class on the account of some weirdo.

Tuesday: Weirdo?! At least I don't have pink hair!

Tika: Then what do you call light blue?

Tuesday: Gr...

Tara: \*giggle\*

Tuesday: Hey, you're supposed to be on my side!

Dr. Webb: Class, class. Settle down. (pauses) Now, thanks to what happened yesterday, I think you are all ready for a pop quiz.

Class: \*groans\*

(The papers are passed out. About 10 minutes later...)

Girl: Ow! Who threw this paper ball at me?!

Tuesday: \*sweatdrop\* .....

Tika: [Heh, heh, heh] \*smiles mischievously\*

Tuesday: (glares at Tika) [Darn it. How did she know?]

~~~~~

(Tika's ears twitched.)

Tika: Tara, I think you have a follower.

Tara: Huh? Oh, hi Erin.

Erin: Darn. I got caught.

Tara: I'm very sure you don't want to experience what happened at the mall, do you?

Erin: Could you stop talking about that?!

Tika: ?

Tara: Don't worry about it.

Tika: Hmph.

Tara: Hey, how did you know Erin was coming?

Tika: Instinct. I've always heard things a little better than most. :)

Tara: Oh, okay.

(Tika watches them leave and sighs.)

Tika: What the...?

(She sees Tuesday staring at her in the face.)

Tuesday: Okay, how did you know?

Tika: Huh?

End of Chap. 2

### 3 - The Secret Revealed

#### Chap. 3

Tika: What the heck are you talking about?

Tuesday: You avoided that paper ball....

Tika: I saw you out of the corner of my eye...

Tuesday: I'm 3 rows to the left of you!

Tika: Dude, I can't explain, okay? It's something I inherited from my mom.

(Tuesday only glared at her. She rolled her eyes and walked off.)

Tuesday: [There's gotta be a catch. There's gotta be...]

~~~~~

Maria: (running) Aah!

Tara: Sarah!!!

Sarah: Huh! (dodges ball) Oh!

(She picks up the ball and whips it across the court.)

Sarah: Yes!

(The coach sounds her whistle, signifying the end of another game. The 4 girls nearly (and I mean, nearly) screech with delight as the next group of students enter the court. After about 3 minutes, the whistle is blown again and the 4 balls started flying across the area.)

Emery: You better be glad I'm on your team, Tara. I could take you out if I wanted to.

Tika: Just ignore her.

Tara: I do. (dodges oncoming ball) But she's right. She's got a heck of an arm. She's just so stuck up. (Emery screeches from being hit.)

Tara: (whispering) She's also not that good at dodging either.

(Matthew then slid a few inches in front of them. In his hand was the ball. He then flings it back across the court. Blaine, who was minding his own business, suddenly noticed two balls coming straight towards him. He avoids them with ease.)

Blaine: What gives? I've been aimed at all this time...

Tika: Blaine! 2 more!

Blaine: What the? (dodges balls) Why the heck are they always aiming at me?

(He then notices a certain group of boys, grabbing all four balls of the ground. They then propell all four balls at him at the same time. He falls backward as they zoom past him. He hears their laughter. Then, picking up one of the balls, he proceeds to hurl it back across the court, hitting one of the boys in the stomach and off the ground. He lands just inches from the wall. All eyes land on Blaine, who, after the whistle is blown, walks up to him.)

Blaine: Uh.....

Boy: Dude....that was totally awesome man!

Blaine: What? \*sweatdrop\*

Boy: How did you do that? That was radical!

Blaine: Aren't you in pain?

Boy: Yeah...I didn't break an arm or nothing. But, Dude...I'm not even able to do that.

(Blaine simply smiled nervously and the game continued once the boy was back on his feet. Later...)

Tika: Blaine.

Blaine: (sees Tika).....

Tika: What happened back there?

Blaine: Huh. Oh, you should know. That guy was throwing insults. Er, balls.

Tika: That doesn't mean...

Blaine: Hey, at least he didn't hit the wall, okay? If I was really that angry, he would've gone through it.

Tika: Still, man. Control your temper. You've got a reputation to keep up.

Blaine: Like you don't.

Tika: (irritated, glaring at Blaine) Don't bring me into this...

Tuesday: Another episode of "Cheaters" I see.

(Before he knew it, Tika had scratched his face. He voiced his pain. Tika then quickly put her hands in her pockets.)

Tuesday: (hand covering face) Ow... (feels something wet) Huh? Wha? (looks at hand) I'm...bleeding! What the heck did you just do?!

Tika: (freaking out) \*multiple sweatdrops\* It was an accident! I swear! I didn't mean it!

Tara: (with a piece of tissue in her hand) Geez, Tuesday, what happened to you? (Starts wiping his face) You have to be careful sometimes. How do you get yourself into scrapes like this?

(Tuesday, a little surprised by Tara's kindness, blushes out of pure embarrassment. He glares at Tika, who's still in a state of panic. Blaine's face is a complete blank.)

Blaine: (blankness) Like you were saying?

Tika: Never mind.

(They leave. Tuesday's face has a bandage on it.)

Tuesday: I hate her.

Tara: You hated her when you first met her...

Tuesdat: That's not the point! The girl scratched up my face!

Tara: Tika?

Tuesdat: Who do you think I'm talking about?!

Erin: What is it?

Tara: Tuesday says Tika scratched his face...

Tuesday: She did!

Kira: Are you sure that wasn't a cat that scratched you? It sure looks like it.

Tuesday: No! It was Tika...cat?

Erin: Those are claw marks on your face.

Kira: Look in the mirror.

Tuesday: Oh my God...how...wha?

~~~~~

Maria: That is so cool!

Tika: Hey, I'm not starting a trend. I just like my nails that way.

Maria: Maybe I should file my nails to a point.

Tuesday: YOU!

Tika: Huh?

Maria: What's wrong, Tues? Woah, a cat really scratched up your face.

Tuesday: Let me see your hand.

Tika: For what?

Tuesday: I wanna know how you scratched my face.

Tika: No.

Tuesday: Tika....

Maria: His patience can get pretty short.

Tika: Yeah, mine's can, too.

(Before she knew it, she was cornered. Tuesday was only a foot from her face.)

Tuesday: .....

Tika: \*hisses\*

Tuesday: What the?

Maria: Tika, why are you wearing fake cat ears?

(Tika's eyes widened. She slumped down into the corner, blushing out of pure fright.)

Tika: (trying to adjust hat) She saw them?

Maria: Stop it, Tuesday! You're making her blush! And...Tika?

(She laid unconscious on the floor. Blaine and Matthew approached the scene.)

Blaine: Wha?

Matthew: (sees Tuesday) Okay, Tuesday. What happened here?

Blaine: (angry) What did you do to her?!!

Tuesday: (frightened) Nothing! She just fainted!

Blaine: And I'm supposed to believe that!

Maria: Actually, she did. I don't know why, though.

(Matthew, realizing Tika's ears were exposed, took off his cap and took off with Tika.)

Tika: (opening eyes)What happened?

Erin: You fainted.

Kira: Are you guys sure those ears are fake? I don't see a head band anywhere...

Tika: (wearily) They're not.

Tara: Wha?

Maria: You can't be serious.

Matthew: We are.

(The teens tried to absorb the new information revealed to them. Nurse Sawachika entered the room.)

Nursa S. : Oh, you're awake. Do you feel alright?

Tika: You're not going to pan me for having actual cat ears, are you?

Nurse S.: Why should I?

Tika: .....

(By the end of the school day, the news was all over the school. The 3 dejected-but, surprisingly not rejected-teens left the building.)

Tika: I hate him.

Blaine: .....

Matthew: I want out.

Blaine: Out?

Tika: I agree. I do, too.

Blaine: .....

Tara: What?!

(They turn around to see Tara, along with her friends.)

Tara: Why so soon?

Matthew: Hey, there's no need to be somewhere we don't belong. There's no purpose.

Kira: So, you're saying...just because you're different you have to leave?

Matthew: .....

Tara: I don't see why! We were just starting to become friends! Why go now?

Tika: You...consider us your friends?

Erin: Well, if she says so, yeah.

Tika: (starts crying)

Erin: What I say? What I say?

Blaine: It's not you. It's a long story. (holds Tika)

Matthew: You really think so.

Tara: I do. What about you guys?

Kira: Yeah.

Erin: Totally.

Maria: Mucho!

Tuesday:.....Yeah.

Blaine: You all make a guy feel wanted.

Tara: (smiling) Why shouldn't we?

Blaine: Hey, sis, can you stop flirting? I wana go home now.

Tara: >.< (turns toward Blake) Don't interrupt when I'm talking! Where the heck did you get that from anyway?! I oughta...(continues shouting in a frantic frenzy)

End of Chap. 3

## 4 - Blaine

### Chap. 4

Dru: (opens door)..... Hey, Cici. Are you in here?

Cecilia: (covered in cords) Huh?

Dru: Woah, what happened to you?

Cecilia: (smiles nervously) Tripped.

(He helps her get the cords out of her hair)

Dru: You need to be more careful next time, babe.

Cecilia: I know. I'm just clumsy.

Dru: You are right about that.

Cecilia: You wanted me?

Dru: Yeah...and my Chemistry book.

Cecilia: You left it in here?

Dru: On purpose.

Cecilia: Aw, gee. (blushes) Well, it is our free period...

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Tika: (pen to cheek) I see it now.

Daron: Yo, Tika.

Tika: \*sigh\* I'm not interested, Daron.

Daron: C'mon, girl. You know you want me...

Tika: What I know is that I don't. And these claws are going to pierce your skin if you don't quit.

Daron: Oh, feisty.

Tika: Quit it. I'm working here.

Daron: Aw...

Tika: \*hisses slightly\* I wasn't kidding about my claws.

Blaine: Dude, let her work.

Daron: Hmph. Always coming to her rescue, huh? (leaves)

Blaine: (irritated).....

Tika: Blaine, not now. Let's leave Womanizer boy to himself.

(Unbeknownst to them, Tara is inside the store.)

Tara: [Wow. This place is as nice as they said it was...]

Blaine: .....

Girl: And the greens? I can't reach the brand at the top...

Blaine: (hands her 3 cans) Oh, sure. Here.

Girl: Thank you guys so much! I really appreciate it!

B&M: ..... (then) \*multiple sweatdrops\*

(They watch in pure relief as she leaves the aisle.)

Blaine: God, I thought she was never gonna leave.

Matthew: Totally agree.

Tara: Hi, guys! I didn't know you worked here!

Blaine: Huh?

Matthew: Oh, yeah.

Tara: Cool!

Tika: Stop it, you bastard!

Tara:.....Uh....

Blaine: \*sigh\* Just a sec.

(He heads over to where Tika is, only to find that she was caught in an arm lock around the waist by Daron.)

Daron: Stop struggling, d\*\*\* it. You're gonna give in somehow.

Tika: \*growls\* Like hell I ain't!

(In the next few minutes, Daron suddenly finds himself against a wall. Blaine stares at him in pure fury.)

Blaine: LEAVE.

Daron: \*sweatdrop\* O.o.....okay.

(After being let down, he takes off, only to spot Tara. She slaps him on the first remark and Matthew bursts out in laughter. She blushes and continues her shopping. Blaine finds himself in the stockroom, along with Tika, as he tries to gain a grip in his lessening anger.)

Tika: Just stay calm, okay? I don't want you to go berserk again.

Blaine: YOU?! You don't know how much I don't want to! Darn it! He's such a pervert.

Tika: I know. I nearly had him as a boyfriend. Nearly.

Blaine: \*sigh\*

Tika: (kisses Blaine on the cheek) Just stay here until you calm down, okay? I'll tell our manager what happened.

Blaine:\*blushes\* Yeah, I will.

(He closes his eyes...)

"But it's my turn!"

"No! You made it the last three times! It's my turn!"

"I thought you believed in ladies first!"

"And I thought you believed in taking turns!"

She lunged at the ball. He ran and soon, both were struggling for possession of it. Suddenly, she tripped and he fell on top of her, as the ball rolls away and stops a few feet away from them. They laughed.

Then he leaned in for a passionate kiss. They kept on for a few minutes before sitting up in the grass.

He turned towards her.

"Hey, Tika."

"Hm?"

"Do you wanna be my girlfriend?"

Pause.

"Yeah."

Tara: Eek!"

Blaine: (waking up) Tara, what are you doing in here?

(He lunged forward as she landed on top of him. They laughed uneasily and she helped her onto her feet.)

Tara: I just wanted to see if you were okay.

Blaine: [Wow....her eyes are beautiful...]

Tara: Uh, Blaine?

Blaine: (hands behind head) Yeah, yeah. I'm good.

Tara: Okay. I'll see you later, okay?

Blaine: Sure.

Tara: Alright.

(She walks out of the stockroom. Blaine stands there, entranced. He then shakes it off and continues



working.)

~~~~~

Student: Hey, you're, um, Blaine, right?

Blaine: Yeah.

Student: Are you part animal, too?

Blaine: Huh?

Student: Aren't you? Tika and Matthew are.

Blaine: Why do you wanna know?

Student: You should know that.

Blaine: Ah.....no.

Student: Hmph. Weird.

Blaine:.....(walks off) [What was that all about?]

(Unknown to Blaine, a rumor was floating around that he was part animal because of Tika and Matthew.)

Guy: Who does he think he is?

Guy #2: Don't know. Probably hanging around them to get popularity or something.

Guy: Lame. He should know better.

Tika: And that's supposed to mean?

Guy: Uh, nothing.

Guy #2: Yeah, just talking.

Guy: Later!

(They sprint off. Tika sighed and walked off. She had heard everything they said.)

~~~~~

Erin: Guess who?

Tara: Erin.

Erin: Darn it.

Professor: Ahem.

Erin: Oh, sorry.

Matthew: Okay.....

Tika: Be careful!

Blaine: I'm trying! You're making me nervous!

Tika: Of course.

Blaine: You're not helping!

(He carefully poured in the amount required in the experiment. Placing it over the burner, they stood back and breathed a sign of relief, for it only fizzed. The Chemistry professor left the room announcing that she would be gone for about 15 minutes. Almost immediately, the class went into an uproar. In the back, a few boys decided to have an arm wrestling contest.)

Blaine: Actually, I don't know how. I've always been good at the sport.

Tara: You hardly look like you can dribble a basketball!

Blaine: Hey, looks aren't everything, you know.

Dude: Hey, new guy!

Blaine: (turns around)

Dude #2: Yeah! Wanna join us?

Blaine: Not today, guys. I'll think I'll pass.

Dude: Oh, I get it. He's just scared.

Blaine: Of what?

Dude: That you'll get beaten!

Blaine: \*rolls eyes as they laugh\*

Tika: Just ignore 'em, Blaine.

Dude: He's gotta be. I mean, even Catwoman over there could probably beat him...

Tika: \*growls\*

Blaine: (puts hand out) I'll play. If you really want me to.

Dude: Bring it on.

(The gang watched in pure laughter -and awe-besides Matthew and Tika- as Blaine defeated his opponents.)

Dude: Dang, Bruce. This guy is tough.

Bruce: Hey, man. Don't worry. I can handle 'im.

Blaine: Hmph.

Bruce: Hmph to you, too, wuss.

Blaine (jumps out of seat) What?

(Laughter)

Blaine: Try me! I dare you!

Bruce: What's the use? I'd end up beating you anyway.

(Blaine, on edge, sits down as the group bursts into laughter again. He motions for them to start. 2 minutes later, followed by a loud boom. Bruce found himself propped on his back against the wall. The students then quiet down and by the time their professor comes back, he sits down and lies his head on the table. She stands at her desk, bewildered and continues teaching the class.)

~~~~~

Blaine: That's what he said.

Tara: And you're not frightened?

Tuesday, Dude, Bruce could tear you apart if he wanted to.

Blaine: I told you. I don't want to fight him. I'm too nice.

Bruce: There he is.

Blaine: Hi, Bruce.

Bruce: Don't you hi me, punk.

Blaine: Dude, I'm trying to make peace, not war.

Bruce: What's the point of letting, no making me fall out of the chair like that?

Blaine: You fell, not me. (turns around to leave)

Bruce: Listen you little jackal. I don't care who fell. I wanna know why.

Blaine: (temper rising) Say again?

Bruce: You heard what I said. I oughta crush you right now, but "I'm too nice."

Tara: C'mon, Blaine. Let's go.

Bruce: Hey, chick. Stay outta this! (pushes Tara)

Tara: (hits the ground) Ow!

Group: Tara!

Blaine: (wide-eyed)!

Erin: Tara, are you okay?

Tara: (rubbing backside) I don't really know...

Blaine: (turns toward Bruce, completely on edge).....

Bruce: I'm sorry. Did I hurt your girlfriend? (laughs) I hope your heart ain't broken! (laughs)

Blaine: (takes Bruce and pushes him against the wall) It's not my heart that's broken....

(They watch as he flings across the school yard.)

Blaine:...it's my sense of calm. Now...(turns around)..would anyone else like to try?

(The group runs away from Blaine, heading in the direction of a fallen Bruce.)

Blaine: Hmph. I thought so. (turns around)

Group: O.O.....

Blaine: \*sweatdrop\* Heh, heh.

End of Chap. 4

## 5 - Seriously?

(The news seems to spread like wildfire that next morning. Blaine usually found himself the object of affection by his new found groups of fan girls and was usually avoided by the guys for their fear of ending up just like Bruce. Tara and Sarah passed by him as he tried to avoid his fans.)

Tara: He doesn't seem to be enjoying it.

Sarah: That's the 5th group that approached today. They claim they're all single.

Tara: They CLAIM.

Bruce: Hey, girls. A little help? Please?

Tara: We can't break through that crowd like you can.

Blaine: \*sweatdrop\* Ha ha, very funny.

Sarah: You know, Tara. I think he's serious.

Principal Brooks: This is not the time for socializing in the halls. Go to class.

(The group reluctantly split up and Blaine breathed a sigh of relief.)

Tara: Feeling better?

Blaine: Am I?

Tara:.....

Blaine:.....

Tara: Sorry, dude. I'm just drawing a total blank here.

Sarah: Blaine:

Tara: Hey, Blaine?

Sarah: He's totally out of it.

Tara: I have an idea... (reaches out hand)

Blaine: Aaah!

Tika: Snap out of it, man!

Blaine: Stop it! I'm ticklish...

T & S: (smirk)

Blaine: Oh, great....

(His laughter echoes down the hallway....)

~~~~~

"PULL!"

The two teams strain against the ropes. On one side, a young teen, lazy from the heat, lets his team's rope go for a few seconds. They jerk forward. Huh? He grabs the rope, unknowingly pulling the team back into its current position. You have got to be kidding me. I can't be pulling them all by myself, can I? Testing his theory, he grabs the rope with both hands and the opposing team starts to lose ground. He then gives it a sudden yank, pulling both teams to the ground. Once the whistle blows, all eyes land on an embarrassed Blaine, who is still holding the rope.

Coach: Tika. You're up.

Tika: Huh? Oh, right.

(She grabs the bat and heads to the plate. The pitcher smirks.)

Boy: This should be easy.

Tika: Just shut up and pitch, Pillsbury Doughboy.

Boy: What?!

Tika: I'm not repeating myself.

(In the next ten seconds, a loud crack is heard. The ball lands just outside the fence.)

Matthew: Nice job, Tika. The score is tied.

Tika: Compliment or insult?

Matthew: Neither, actually.

Sarah: C'mon, Tara.

Tara: I'm not sure if I can do this. (Swings)

Coach: Strike one!

Tara: (Swings again)

Coach: Strike two!

Tika: C'mon, girl! Concentrate!

Tara: But I hate baseball!

Tika: Just try already!

Tara: (swings)

(3 "Balls" later, Tara finds herself at first base completely relieved. She heard a loud crack as Kira scored another home-run for their team. After the game ended, the group separated themselves from the crowd.)

Erin: Dude, did you have to break half of the bats?

Blaine: Why do you say that?

Tika: You made a home run every time you hit it! You also broke 3 while pitching...

Blaine: Hey! I can't help myself!

Tara: Ytypical.

Blaine: Typical.

Tara: Ytypical.

Blaine: Say Tip.

Tara: Tip.

Blaine: Now say typical.

Tara: Ytypical.

Blaine: Stop putting so much emphasis on the Y!

Tara: Does it really matter?

Tika: Why are you guys arguing anyway?

Tara: (blankly) We're bored.

Tika: \*sigh\*

Emery: Having a problem saying typical?

Tara: Shut it, Emery. You know darn well I was kidding.

Emery: Hmph. And you can't hide it from me.

Tara: What?

Emery: You should already know, cheater.

Tara: Huh?

Tika: Get the heck away from her, Emery.

Emery:.....

(She left, knowing Tika was not to be messed with. Tara sighed.)

Tara: What the heck was she talking about?

Tika: It's called jealousy. I got it when Blaine was my boyfriend.

Tara: (surprised) Blaine was your boyfriend?

Tika: Yeah, pretty much.

Tara: Why did you break up?

Tika: Well, it's kinda hard to explain. It's a little personal.

Tara: Oh, never mind, then. But why do you think Emery called me a cheat like that?

Tika: Probably Blaine.

Tara: You're kidding.

Tika: I'm serious.

Tara: She likes him?

Tika: No, she probably wants Erin.

Tara: They always want Erin.

Tika: I agree with you. He's hot.

Tara: (irritated) WHAT?!

Tika: Hey, I'm not in love with him! I'm just saying. You got one of the good ones.

~~~~~

Blake: Hey.

Blaine: ?

Blake: Dude, I can see right through you.

Blaine: What are you talking about?

Blake: I know you like my sister.

Blaine: What?

Blake: You don't fool me, man.

Blaine: Hold it. I'm not in love with Tara. Why would I be?

Blake: (smirks)

Blaine: \*sweatdrop\*

Blake: (crosses arms)

Blaine: Okay.

Blake: Dude, don't deny it.

Blaine: I think she's pretty, but I have to respect Erin's boundaries when it comes to her...

Blake: I know, but at the same time, you want her to be yours.

Blaine: Blake, I told you. I'm not in love with Tara. I don't see why I should be. She's not even my type. And also, if I was, she probably wouldn't even know it.

Blake: How do you know she won't?

Blaine: What are you saying?

Blake: Even though I like playing pranks on my sister and stuff, I'm worried. Erin's not always that trustworthy. And also, how do you know that you won't fall in love with Tara?

Tara: Blake! C'mon! Where are you?

(He left, following her voice. Tara waves at Blaine and leaves. Blaine found himself pondering on his words.)

Tika: Blaine! Blaine, what's wrong?

Blaine: Huh? Oh, nothing.

Tika: You sure?

Blaine: (smiles) Yeah.

Tika: Can't be too sure. Alright.

Blaine:\*sighs\* [Is anything Blake said actually true? ..... Nah. He can't be right. Why would I fall in love with her anyway? Right?]

End of Chap. 5

## 6 - Remembering

Tia: Karen, have you seen Cecilia anywhere?

Karen: Not that I know of. Why?

Tia: Darn it. I wanted her to make a CD for me.

Karen: You mean of her solos?

Tia: Yeah, pretty much.

Karen: My twin always seems to disappear in times like these. Don't worry about it, Tia. I'll go find her myself.

~~~~~

(Blaine is stretched out on the couch, hand over his face as he holds up a picture frame. In it is a photo of three teens smiling broadly. He sighs and places it back on the desk.)

Tika: Remembering what it was like back then?

Blaine: >.< Could you please stop sneaking up on me like that?

Tika: I'll try. (smirks)

Blaine: To answer your question, yeah.....

Tika: Yeah, I remember it too. What it was like to be....

....normal.

"Race ya back home!"

"I can beat you anytime!"

"Guys, c'mon!"

They dashed down the sidewalk, laughing and jeering as they went. Tika was the first one to arrive at the driveway, only to be tackled by Blaine and Matthew. They struggled for a few minutes before finally getting up.

"Hey, guys."

"What?"

"You ever had a special wish?"

"Why would I need one?"

"Just asking."

"Well, then, you the one who asked. So, what's your wish?"

"Mine....I want this summer to never end...."

"Ya know what?"

"Yeah?"

"I hope that wish comes true..."

Tika:.....

Blaine:.....

(An eerie silence goes between them. Tears welled up in their eyes as they reminisce on the rest of that day.)

Tika: [Why did it have to end that way? Why?]

~~~~~

Blaine:.....

Matthew:.....

Tika: >.<

(The teens opened up their umbrellas as rain poured down around them. Tika hissed and pulled back her ears in disgust, since water was not her best friend.)

Matthew: Like we said?

Blaine: Sorry.

Tika: Dude, if I didn't bring these things...

Blaine: We get it. You hate water.

Tika: Obviously, somebody knows that.

Blaine: (pats Tika's back) I guess that's the advantage of having cat ears.

Tika: \*sighs\* Not in the mood for flattery today, Blaine.

(They arrived at the school positively drenched. Tuesday notices them at the door.)

Tuesday: (points) Let me guess.

Blaine: (hand up) Don't say a word.

Matthew: Tika, you okay there?

Tika: (shivering) I'm so cold.....

Blaine: She needs something warm! Quick!

Tuesday (reluctantly) Here.

Blaine:.....Okay...you sre you need this?

Tuesday: (looks away) Take it. No, wait...

(He takes the jacket and lays it across her shoulders. Tika's cheeks turn a bright red.)

Tara:.....\*giggle\*

Tika: Don't you even...

Blaine: You're blushing.

Tika: That's because I'm warm!

Matthew: You sure? Maybe it's from embarrassment, or even the other way around.

Tika: (leaps up) I'm serious.

Tuesday: Looks like you didn't need the jacket after all.

Tika: (in Tuesday's face) Shut up!

(The group exchange glances as they continue arguing.)

~~~~~

(Tika stares out the window at the pouring rain, As the class chatters on, her thoughts shifted to a previous year...)

"I understand."

"Now, you don't. I can't believe this. After all that...he..."

"Maybe it's because you made haste. That was pretty quick, you know. You let your emotions control you."

"I know. I don't think I'll be able to love anyone for a long time."

(Tika borrows her head in her hands. She feels a hand come upon her shoulder.)

Blaine: Tika...don't worry so much.

Tika: I can't help it. It happened so fast....(starts crying silently)

(Blaine pulls her head close to him.)



Blaine:\*sigh\* .....

Emery:.....

Erin:.....

Emery: Hey.

(Erin pauses to notice Emery standing behind him. He continues getting books out of his locker.)

Erin: \*sigh\* What do you want?

Emery: You haven't noticed?

Erin: And that would be?

Emery: That Blaine....

Erin: (closes locker) What about him?

Emery: He seems to like Tara, doesn't he?

Erin: Where'd you get that from?

Emery: Just a hunch....

Erin: \*sigh\*

Emery: You don't care, do you?

Erin: Get to the point.

Emery: You had better be careful with Tara. She might...

Erin: Emery, if you say one more thing against my girlfriend, I swear I would slap you right now. And I'm not afraid to. I don't see why you're so jealous anyway.

(He walks off. Emery simply watches him, cursing under her breath.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Matthew: So, let's work together on this. Okay?

Kira: Yeah...

Tika (from a distance): Aw. Those two look so cute together.

Tara: A possible couple?

Tika: Probably not. Matthew has never fallen in love. EVER. It'll be a while before HE gets a girlfriend.

Maria: and you know that because?

Tika: I've known him since I was 6.

Tara: But why Kira?

Tika:.....I don't really know. She seems to have this innocence that most don't have.

Tika: \*smirk\* Such as yourself?

Tika: Pretty much.

Maria:.....

Kira: [This is perfect]

Matthew: (background) 28 inches.

Kira: What about the length?

Matthew: How about 40?

Kira: Sounds good.

(Both teens worked quietly, with Matt completely oblivious to Kira's slight crush on him. Maria found herself somewhat envious, but was amused by the thought.)

Tara: So, Tika, did you have any other boyfriends? You know, after Blaine?

Tika: Yeah....

Tara: (worried) What's wrong? Your mood totally darkened.

Tika: It's nothing, Tara. I mean, it's just really hard to explain and all....

Tara: ...I see....

Maria: Maybe we should change the subject. Like to the fact that you're paired up with Tuesday...

Tika: You can't be serious!

Tuesday: she is.

Tika: Ugh...

Tuesday: Let's just go ahead and get this over with.

Tara: Aww!!!!

Tika & Tuesday: Don't even!!!!

(Tika reluctantly leaves her seat to help Tuesday with the assignment.)

Tara: [Wow. they're quiet]

Maria: You've noticed it too.

Tara: They haven't said anything for the past ten minutes. I wonder what's up...

Tika: You know I can hear you.

Tara: She heard that. So, what's with him?

Tika: I have no idea. He wasn't talking so I didn't have anything to say about it.

(They look back at Tuesday, who is currently buried under the hood of jacket, head down.)

## 7 - Getting to Know You?

Tara: (waving) Guys! Over here!

Tika: Hey, Tara!

Tuesday: Darn it. Just as I thought the day would get better....

Tika: Don't blame me. I wasn't expecting you either.

Blaine: Can't you two stop arguing for once?

Tika & Tuesday: NO!!!

Blaine: Sorry I asked.

Maria: Then, can I ask you why you guys argue so much in the first place?

Tika: Because....

Tuesday: Because....

(Both draw a complete blank for their reasons for arguing. The others exchange glances.)

Tara: (smirking) Because....

Tika:.... We just do!!! (sulks)

Matthew: Hey. We didn't mean anything....There's no need for you to get mad about it.

Maria: Guys! Look! Daddy got me an Evo!!!

Tara: Aw, man! I want that phone! No fair! (pouts)

Blaine: How come?

Tara: Dad said we couldn't afford it. I can't either.

Matthew: Poor baby. It's okay. (pats Tara on back)

Erin: Dude, that's my job.

Matthew: Sorry. Go ahead.

Tika:.....

Tara: Tika?

Blaine: (embracing Tika)....Happens all the time.

Erin: And how?

Blaine: Uh.....

Matthew:.....

Tika: Personal trauma.

Erin: Oh, okay....

Kira: Are you guys boyfriend and girlfriend?

Blaine & Tika: (irritated) No. Why do you ask?

Maria: Tika does look pretty cozy.

(Tika eases out of Blaine's grasp and leans her head on Matthew's shoulder.)

Matthew: What are you doing?

Tika: Proving to them I'm not dating you guys.

Maria:.....Seriously?

Tika: I don't date my guy friends.

Erin: I thought they were your brothers.

Tika: Where did you get that from?

Tuesday: You did come to school on the same day.

Matthew, Blaine & Tika:.....

Tara: I think we're treading on personal ground again....

Tika: (sighs) Pretty much.

Erin: Why is everything so personal for you?

(The only response is a glare from all three of them.)

Erin: (weirded out) Never mind then....

\*\*\*\*\*

Tuesday:.....

Tara: C'mon, Tues. I don't think it's all that bad.

Erin: It's how I met Tara.

Tuesday: Why is when I tell people I'm not interested....

Tara: All it is is the school's dating site.

Erin: Just try it, man.

Tuesday: I'll....think about it.

Tara & Erin: alright!

(He hung up the phone and sighed.)

Tuesday: [They just don't get it. I can't forget what happened. I just can't. It's still...]

...with me.

"He's such a loser."

"Don't laugh at him."

"Why?"

"Then he'll know what we think of him."

"Which is?"

"What you said earlier."

"Wow, I thought you were getting soft."

He sighed. He had heard every word that left their mouths. The teacher rapped the board for the student's attention. Then, all the male students watched closely as a young girl entered the room, introduced herself and took her seat.

"Hi, there. I guess we're gonna be friends, huh?"

He looked, only to see two beautiful brown eyes peering into his.

"Yeah, I guess. I'm Tuesday."

"Call me Aliyah..."

Voice: What did I do to deserve this?

Tuesday: Huh?

(Tuesday comes back to reality, only to Tika staring him in the face. He frowns.)

Tika: I came here to clear my head and I have to find you. Great.

Tuesday: (sarcastically) Charmed to see you, too, dear.

Tika: \*sigh\*

Tuesday:.....What are you doing here anyway?

Tika: Not to....actually, what I said earlier. I've been in a fog lately.

Tuesday: I can understand that. (looks off)

Tika: I'm not in the mood to fight right now.

Tuesday: You're kidding.

Tika: I'm serious.

Tuesday:.....(closes eyes) Uh-huh.

Tika: What's with you?

Tuesday: And why are you taking an interest in me, anyway?

Tika:...I'm bored.

Tuesday:....(looks down, looks away, looks back)

Tika: (stands there with arms folded the whole time)

Tuesday: Okay, then. I got a suggestion from Erin and Tara to join the school's dating site.

Tika: (surprised) YOU?!

Tuesday: (rolls eyes) Yes, me. They think it would help....

Tika: Help what?

Tuesday: Nothing.

Tika: Hmph. Well, I don't blame 'em. Do you have a fifth wheel status?

Tuesday: Yeah, pretty much.

Tika: So, you're not interested in girls?

Tuesday: I'm not gay either.

Tika: Who said you were?

Tuesday: Many.

Tika: \*sigh\* That's not the point here. I actually suggest that you join even though I highly doubt that you'd find a suitable girlfriend.

Tuesday: Oh, you know someone?

Tika: (firmly) No. I'm just saying that you should try it. Of course, you're too ignorant anyway.

Tuesday: Stereotype.

Tika: I never said that you were one.

Tuesday: No. You think because I act ignorant, I am.

Tika: Exactly. You just proved it.

Tuesday: That's not the point.

Tika: I know what you're saying. I'm not deaf.

Tuesday: Oh, that's obvious.

Tika: Say something about my ears again.

Tuesday: I can't. You'd hear it. (notices Tika's irritation) I'm serious.

Tika: Hmph.

(She left him at the bench. Then, on impulse, she waves. He waves back on instinct. They suddenly realized what they were doing and looked away. As Tika continued on, Tuesday noticed as a picture dropped from her pocket. He picked up and saw a younger version of her with a male teen. Looking on

the back, he noticed a signature...

From: Dwayne

To: My beautiful girlfriend, Tika Morthy.

A small twinge of jealousy hit him, but he quickly shook it off, confused about where it came from.)

Tuesday: [Twinge of jealousy. Weird.](looks at picture again) [He does look familiar, though. But what's the point in feeling envious?] I guess I better go and return this to her. \*sigh\*

(He glances back down the road.)



## 8 - You Never Know

Blaine:.....

(Blaine gazed at the night sky. For some strange reason, he couldn't keep his mind off of Tara. The stars soon started to form her name and he shook it off, realizing that it was an illusion.)

Blaine: God, am I sick or something? I shouldn't be thinking about her like this, especially since she has a boyfriend. Dude, you're kidding yourself. I can't believe I'm talking to myself. This is crazy.....

(He soon turns to the corner, only to be surprised by Tara herself.)

Tara: Hi, Blaine! Never expected you to be here!

Blaine: (blushing) Oh...uh, yeah. I mean, I never expected \*cough\* you to be here, either, Tara.

Tara: Came out to clear you head?

Blaine: Yeah, pretty much.

Tara: I know how you feel. Being out here totally helps, y'know?

Blaine: Yeah...

(They continue gazing at the sky. Blaine finds himself constantly stealing a look at Tara, only to mentally slap himself in agony.)

Blaine: [Dude, get a grip!]

Tara: Blaine.

Blaine: Hm?

Tara: I need to go and take care of something real quick. I'll be right back.

Blaine:I'll be right here.

Tara: (walking) Thanks.

Blaine:...

(Glancing behind her, Tara looks around for a secluded area. Finding one, she proceeds to adjust her clothing, only to her footsteps behind her.)

Blaine... [I wonder if she's okay.] (retraces steps Tara took) What the H\*\*\*?!!!!

(He finds Tara in the grip of Daron, his hand covering her mouth.)

Blaine: LET...GO...OF HER.

Daron:.....O.o

(Letting her go out of fear, he edges around Blaine and dashes off. Tara lands on the ground hard, only to be helped by Blaine gently placing her back on her feet.)

Blaine: You alright there?

Tara: Yeah, I'm fine. Um, thank you. (smiles)

Blaine: (blushes)...

Tara: (confused) Are you okay?

Blaine: Oh, yeah! I'm good.

Tara:...If you say so.

Blaine: Hey, um...

Tara: Yeah?

Blaine: Do you mind if I walk you home? I mean, just so like...

Tara: Sure.

Blaine: Really?

Tara: (nods)

Blaine: Alright, then. (smiles nervously)

\*\*\*\*\*

Cecilia: Oh, great.

(She bends down to pick up her fallen music sheet. A shadow peers over her and she glances up to see Tika.)

Tika: Need some help?

Cecilia: Uh, yeah. Thanks, I guess.

(Tika bends down to retrieve the papers.)

Tika: (looking at sheets) You play guitar?

Cecilia: You could say that. Not that you would be interested, though...

Tika: Totally. Who wouldn't be?

Cecilia:...

Tika: Oh. Most wouldn't think you would play guitar, huh?

Cecilia: (nods) Yeah, pretty much. Although, it is good to see someone who's interested...

Tika:...

(Tika clearly notices her nervousness as she walks past.)

Tika: Tika!

Cecilia: Huh?

Tika: That's my name.

Cecilia: Oh. Cecilia. You can call me Cici. I gotta go. I'll see you later okay?

Tika: (smiles) Sure.

(As Cecilia leaves, Tika notices a shadow over her shoulder, only to see Blaine by the side of her eye.)

Tika: Blaine.....Blaine....Hey, Blaine!

Blaine:(smiling) You called?

Tika: Dude, you must be in a trance or something.

Blaine: What are you talking about?

Tika: Your everlasting bliss. You've been pretty happy lately.

Blaine: Oh, that! It's nothing. (blushes and turns away)

Tika: (smirks) You're blushing.

Blaine: No, I'm not!

Tika: Uh, yeah, you are.

(After a few minutes of listening to his constant denial, Tika resorts to tickling him. His laughter echoes in the hallway until he yelped in pain.)

Tika: (pulls hands back) I'm sorry!

Blaine: (holding side) It's okay. It's only a cut. Just be careful with those claws.

Tika: Let's go get this wrapped up.

\*\*\*\*\*

"But I wanted to serve!"

"You've already served twice! And besides, Coach said it was my turn!"

"Fine!"

She shoved the ball into his hands and walked off. The boy took the ball and performed an overhand serve, sending the ball flying over the net. The game continued without interruption until everyone heard a hissing sound. The girl who hit the ball struggled to remove it from her hand, only to realize that her nails had deflated the ball. She ran into the girls' locker room, completely embarrassed and her face buried in her hands.

Later...

"I'm turning into a freak..."

"Don't say that. Maybe your nails are too long..."

"You're not helping. That's not funny at all."

"Don't blame a guy for trying..."

"If you hadn't opened that door..."

"Then why are you blaming me?"

"You opened it!"

"I never knew that was going to happen!"

"Guys, calm down! It's not his fault and it isn't your fault that that happened either. This isn't something we have control over..."

\*\*\*\*\*

Tika: How's that?

Blaine: A lot better. I'm not exactly invincible, you know.

Tika: Of course not. You and Superman have nothing in common.

Blaine: Okay...

Tika: You're avoiding the subject. I know that you like her, Blaine.

Blaine: \*sigh\* You've noticed?

Tika: Let's see, aren't animals able to tell emotions? And I am part cat...

Blaine: You're also human. And besides, you haven't been arguing with Tuesday lately. \*smirk\*

Tika: You wanna get scratched again?

Blaine: I'm serious. What's up?

Tika: Don't ask me. I still hate him if you're wondering.

Blaine: You sure about that?

Tika: (opens mouth)....

Blaine: I can't believe this. You haven't got a reason why you still hate him...

Tika: Don't start. I just don't like him.

Blaine: That's what you said about Dwayne.

Tika: What's that supposed to mean?

Blaine: (puts hands up) I'm telling the truth and you know it. He broke you heart...

Tika: Yeah, thanks.

Blaine: I'm serious!

Tika: You're always serious!

Blaine: Why do you think?!

(Tika starts to crying uncontrollably. Blaine pulls her into an embrace.)

Blaine: Alright, calm down. It was wrong for me say that.

Tika:...

Tara: Hey, guys. I need your opinion on....okay....

Blaine & Tika:\*irritated glare\*

Tara: Um, I think I'll leave you guys alone now. Heh, heh. See ya. (leaves)

\*\*\*\*\*

Erin:.... Are you sure about this?

Emery: You get it, right?

Erin: Yeah, I understand.

Emery: She's using Blaine to try and hurt you, y'know.

Erin: \*sigh\* It's so hard to believe. I thought she was serious about this.

Emery: I am.

Erin:...

(She pulls him closer until they engage in liplock. Surprisingly, he doesn't pull away.)

## 9 - Nuts & Bolts

Cecilia: Mmmmm...

(Cecilia lays contently in Dru's arms, taking in his warmth as he strokes her hair. The pair is behind the school, lying in the grass and enjoying the silence of that after hours of the school day.)

Dru: (smiles) \*sigh\*

Voice: Cici!

Cecilia: Did someone call me?

Dru: I don't think so...

Tika: Cici! Cici, where are-? Oh.

Cecilia: Hm?

Dru: Huh?

Tika:Um...

Cecilia: Tika!

Dru: (jumps up) Ack!

Cecilia: We weren't doing anything! Please!

Tika: (smirks) You don't fool me, Cecilia.

Cecilia: (succumbing to fate) Oh, darn. Ah, well.

Tika: Hold on. I'm not going to tell anyone. It's your relationship, not mine.

Cecilia: Seriously?

Tika: I'm not lying. Obviously, this guy is off limits...

Dru: Only to the female population of this school...

Tika: Ah, the popular dude. What's your name?

Dru: Dru. Dru Takano. You must be Tika.

Tika: Cici must have told you about me.

Dru: (nods)

Tika: And besides, I'm pretty sure Cici's a good choice.

Dru: Hey, thanks. I'm glad I choose her. (pulls Cecilia close)

Tika: I'll leave you guys alone now.

Cecilia: (waves)

(Tika leaves them to their cuddling, feeling slightly envious. But only because they have a trustworthy relationship...)

-----  
Tia: Believe me, you'll love it, Tuesday.

Tuesday: \*sigh\* Yeah, I guess. But what if it...

Tia: It won't.

Tuesday: If you say so.

Sarah: Tuesday! Stop flirting and get over here!

Tuesday: Ugh. Later, Tia. (waves)

Tia: (waves) Bye.

Blaine: (bumps into Tia) Oh, excuse me...

Tia: It's okay, really...

Blaine: ?

(As he stares on, oblivious to her thoughts, she watches Tuesday as he talks to Sarah about an assignment. Everything seems to go in slow motion: Tuesday as he talks to Sarah. Tuesday as he smiles after a playful insult. Tuesday as he gets slapped in the back of the head. She sighs in complete adoration...until she hears a sharp clap. )

Tia: (finally notices hands in front of face) Huh?

Blaine: Excuse me. Have you returned to earth?



Tia: [Darn it! He was watching the whole time!] Hey, you look like that...um...

Blaine: Yeah, I'm Blaine.

Tia: (glancing over at Tuesday) Tia. Nice to meet you.

Blaine: I was trying to ask you something, but seeing that you were \*ahem ahem\* occupied...

Tia: Occupied? What are you talking about? I wasn't doing anything!(smiles)

Blaine: (smiles)

Tia: (sweats out of nervousness)

Blaine: (keeps smiling)

Tia: \*sigh\*

Blaine: What were you two up to? (crosses arms)

Tia: Well, I was trying to convince Tuesday to join the school's dating site. He's not exactly taking it lightly.

Blaine: ...Wow, that's surprising.

Tia: To you, probably.

Blaine: Is he, like, popular with the girls?

Tia: (shrugs) I do know that most think he's cute. Except for a few...

Blaine: I guess you're part of that few?

Tia: It can't be that obvious...

Blaine: Hey, don't worry. I won't tell. Besides, I'm pretty sure you'd make a good couple.

Tia: Really?

Blaine: (nods)

Sarah: TIA!

(She shrugs and leaves. Blaine sighs and turns around, only to be met by the sight of Tika...who seemed to be blushing.)

"I'm sure you'd make a good couple."

Tika: [Good couple?]

(Unknowingly, she passed right by him, only to run into Matthew.)

Matthew: Bad mood?

Tika: Huh?

Matthew: Your tail's whipping around like crazy.

Tika: (grabs tail and stares at him in irritation) You noticed?

Matthew: Obviously, you heard someone possibly talking about you...

Tika: Not exactly about me.

Matthew: What about?

Tika:...

Matthew: C'mon.

Tika: Oh, I heard that this girl Tia may have a crush on Tuesday...of all people...

Matthew: Ah, ha! So, you're jealous.

Tika: What? (pins him against lockers) Where the heck did you get that from?

Matthew: The fact that you're blushing. And it didn't sound like you \*ahem ahem\* approved of the fact that another girl actually likes him.

Tika: ...I'm not blushing!

(Letting him go, she turns around and storms off.)

Tika: [Don't approve that another girl actually likes him! Who does he think he is? But...it is weird. I mean, who would actually like Tuesday?] \*pauses\* [Do I like Tuesday?] \*shakes head furiously\*[That's impossible! It's hard to believe that he's likable at all! I mean, look at him!] \*sigh\*

Tara: Hello.

Tika:'Sup.

Tara: Deep in thought?

Tika: Obviously. Can I ask you a question?

Tara: Sure.

Tika: Do...you think Tuesday is...cute?

Tara: Where did you get that from? (smirks) Do you think he's cute?

Tika: Answer the question.

Tara: (notices Tuesday) Well, he's not much to look at, but you could say that he is, well, cute. I'm just saying. But at the same time, he doesn't want to date anyone right now, mainly...

Tika: Because?

Tara: I said too much.

Tika: About?

Tara: Really, I don't want to talk about it.

Tika: About what?

Tara: It's his business and I'm the only one who knows why he doesn't want to date anyone else. It would totally crush him if I told anyone.

Tika: Oh, I'll leave it alone, then.

Tara:...

Tika: I'm serious! I wouldn't care anyway!

(Tara only smiles, which confuses Tika even more. As both approach Tuesday, she proceeds to get lost in thought.)

Tika: [No wonder he didn't want to join that site. Poor guy. If it hurts him that much...wait, why am I worried about him anyway?]

(They arrive at the locker. Tuesday, upon hearing them, whips around in a panic.)

Tuesday: Hold on! You didn't see anything, right?

Tara: You're acting like you have porn in your locker.

Tika: Where'd you get that from?

Tuesday: Just checking! You know, privacy issues and...stuff...

(He runs off once out of sight. Tara shakes her head and notices Erin. As she greets him, Tika notices that Tuesday's locker door slightly ajar.)

Tika: (somewhat impatient) [Hmm...]

(Glancing around, she opens the door and starts sorting through his things.)

Tika: [What a mess.] (finds picture) [What's this?]

To: Tuesday

From: Aliyah, your GF.

[Hm...this gives off a lot. And what is...]

(She sees the picture that dropped out of her pocket .)

[WHA?]

-----  
Tika: Tuesday!

Tuesday (head down):...

Tika: Yo! Tuesday!

Tuesday: (looks up) Oh, great. What do you want?

Tika: You've got some explaining to do!

Tuesday: About what?

Tika: This. (holds up picture)

Tuesday: O.O...

## 10 - Up On the Shelf

Kroger, Aisle 10

Girl: Thank you! (leaves)

Girl #2: (reaches) Could you get this down for me? I can't reach it!

Girl #3: Hey! I asked him first!

Girl #4: While you two are arguing, I'll ask him.

Girl #5: Hey, wait!

Blaine & Matthew: -.-' ...

(They reluctantly help the customers receive their products. After the group dissipates, they both breathe a sigh of relief.)

Voice: Hey.

Blaine & Matthew:... (look behind them)

Sarah: Don't worry. I'm not pestering you for help like your fanclub.

Blaine: (a bit irritated) Is that supposed to help?

Sarah: (shrugs, truthfully) I have no idea.

Matthew: Like you were saying...

Sarah: I didn't know you worked here. Your employer know your 'secret'?

Matthew: Oh, she knows, alright.

Sarah:...No comment.

Employee: Hey, can I borrow Blaine for a second?

Blaine: (follows co-worker) Be right back, guys.

Sarah: So, you like working here?

Matthew: Totally. Us part-time employees get some good benefits.

Sarah: (nodding) I see. Hey, Kira.

Matthew: Kira. Hi.

Kira: (entering aisle) How did you know?

Matthew: (bluntly) I have ears.

Kira: (nervous) Oh, right...I didn't know you worked here.

Matthew: Yeah, I was just talking to Sarah...(looks around) hey, where did she go?

Sarah (walking away): My parents called. Apparently, I have to go. Catch you guys later.

Matthew (waving) Like I was saying, it's not all that bad, especially when your fanclub isn't around.

Kira: I wouldn't really know what that feels like, but I can kinda relate...

(In a lovestruck clumsiness. Kira accidentally bumps into the shelves. The contents of her purse spill all over the floor.)

Kira: Sorry...

Matthew: Why are you apologizing? (bends down) Here...

(He picks up the small objects and places them in the purse one by one. He hands the purse back to Kira, who blushes out of pure thankfulness.)

Kira: Thank you.

Matthew: (shrugs) Ah, it's no problem...

(They catch each others eyes for a few seconds and look away. Uncomfortable, Kira voices a quick goodbye and leaves. Matthew realizes after a few seconds that his face feels warm all of the sudden. Kira continues walking, nearly bumping into Maria.)

Maria: Hey, what's the rush?

Kira: Huh?

Maria: Kira, what's up?

Kira: Oh, hey.

Maria: Oh...wait a minute. Is Matthew here?

Kira: Yeah, I mean, you can have him...

Maria: (puts hands up) Woah, woah! What are you talking about? All mine?

Kira: Well...

Maria: Oh, sure. He's cute. But I'm not that attracted to him...unlike you. Even so, you two are pretty much the same.

Kira: How's that?

Maria: You're get really shy around each other, but you're totally oblivious to when someone likes you...

Kira:...Huh.

Maria: I'm serious. Don't worry. He's gonna realize that he likes you.

Kira: I hope so.

(Both girls depart, not noticing Matthew as he stands in the other aisle.)

Matthew: [She likes someone?]

Blaine: I'm back! Hey, what's up with you?

Matthew: Huh? (notices Blaine) Oh, it's nothing.

(Blaine shrugs it off and leaves. Matthew stays there, the conversation running through his head.)

-----  
Patio, Next Day

Tuesday: Before I answer your question, how the heck did you find that picture and where? (sits down on wall)

Tika: (crosses arms) Your locker. The door was open.

Tuesday: I was wondering who reorganized it...

Tika: Ahem. Like I was saying...

Tuesday: Well...remember the day you saw me on the bench? I saw it on the ground. When I found out it was yours, I was going to ask you about it...

Tika: Hmph. You act as though you regret it.

Tuesday: Not really. It's hard to believe he was your boyfriend.

Tika: (surprised) Wha?

Tuesday: I knew Dwayne. He and I used to be good friends before...

Tika: Before what?

Tuesday: (hesitant) Um, \*ahem\*, first tell me what happened. With Dwayne, that is... It's better if you start first.

Tika: (Stands up) Well...I was 15 at the time. Due to my new...condition, my emotions were running wild. I had just broken up with Blaine...

Tuesday: (surprised) Blaine?

Tika: Yeah, idiot. Blaine.

Tuesday: \*sigh\* Meh.

Tika: Anyway, I wasn't heartbroken or anything, but we both felt at the time it was best to stay friends. Soon after, I met Dwayne. He was new in school and I was assigned to show him around and help him with getting used to the school. Then, once, because of our close friendship, I gave him a gift for helping me out in another class. Now, I simply thought nothing of it. Dwayne, on the other hand, stood up, embraced me and kissed me right on the lips. Next week, he asked me out and soon, we were dating. Don't get me wrong. For a while, he was everything a good boyfriend should be...but...

Tuesday: But?

Tika: After a while, Blaine and Matthew noticed that he cheating on me. Of course, I wouldn't believe them. I told them they were jealous of our relationship. And, as expected, Dwayne lied and told me that he would never cheat on me. Boy, was I stupid.

Tuesday:...No, just gullible.

Tika: (holding back tears) I was so blind. He was lying, but I just couldn't see it. I learned the hard way when he dumped me some time later. I was in such pain that I nearly committed suicide, until I saw him and his new girlfriend that day...

"No! Tika!"

"Stop ruining my death!"

"Don't do this! It won't change anything and it will only hurt everyone else!"

"Exactly!"



Blaine pulled Tika from the school window. She kicked and screamed to no avail as he brought her to a nearby water fountain and began splashing water on her face. She hissed in disgust.

"Stop it!"

"Tika, please! Calm down!"

"No!"

"You need to come to your senses!"

"You're just saying I don't need him!"

"Of course you don't! He lied to you!"

"Yeah, right!"

"Do you want proof? !"

He turned her head towards a couple near the front of the school. Her eyes widened.

"Wha?"

"Why do think he broke up with you?"

After she calmed down, he placed her gently on her feet. He didn't expect for her to fly into a blind fury once he released her.

"What the H- are you doing with her? ! I can't believe this! You g- pervert! You broke up with me for that B-! Bastard!"

She ran them off campus, cursing and screaming as she went while Blaine sighed and watched in silent amusement.

Tika: If he was here right I'd kill...

Tuesday: O.O Uh...

Tika: \*sigh\* Never mind. But at the same time, it torn my heart in two. (slumps over)

Tuesday: (clapping)

Tika: What the heck?

Tuesday: Bravo! Bravo! Encore!

Tika: (irritated) Seriously?

Tuesday: Hey, I was just trying to give you some encouragement. You know, some comfort.

Tika: Right...since when did you give me encouragement?

Tuesday: (rubs neck) Uh...

Tika: (crosses arms) Okay, then. Now, it's your turn.

Tuesday: Well...that picture. It was of my old girlfriend, Aliyah.

Tika: You broke up with her?

Tuesday: No, in reality, she ran off. I remember the first day I met her. God, she was so pretty...

Tika: Obvious. Now, what happened?

Tuesday: She was new in school and her first period was also mine. She immediately introduced herself to me as soon as she sat down and we became fast friends. Soon, rumors started floating around that we were secretly dating. Of course, I denied it, but Aliyah didn't retaliate to their comments. Then, one day, I remember being outside. It was raining really hard and I was waiting for my parents.

"God, it's like hell out here."

"Don't use hell that way."

"Aliyah. Sorry."

"It's no prob. It's not a major problem or anything."

"Don't you have an umbrella?"

She quickly shook her head.

"You can have mine if you want."

"It's fine...Do you mind if we can share it instead?"

"Yeah, sure, I guess."

She immediately dashed under the umbrella.

"Thank you."

"It's fine."

They stood there in silence for a few minutes. Both nervously huddled under their only shield from the rain.

"Hey, Tuesday."

"Hm?"

"Truth or dare?"

"Truth."

"Have you ever got a truly memorable gift before?"

"Uh...dare."

"I want to give you something. Will you accept it? From me, that is..."

"Always. What is it?"

"Close your eyes and you'll find out."

"Uh...okay."

Under closed eyelids, he felt a pair of lips come into contact with his. When she pulled away, Tuesday's face was flushing. Hard. She giggled at the sight.

"You're cute when you blush, y'know?"

"...uh, yeah! You too..."

"Aliyah!"

Both turn to see an SUV, the window rolled down to reveal her mother.

"C'mon, honey."

"Bye, Tuesday! I'll see you tomorrow!"

"...Bye..."

Tika: (raises an eyebrow)...

Tuesday: We hung around each other the next day. Of course, we got the relationship questions, but the turning point came when someone asked if we were boyfriend and girlfriend. I freaked, but before I could say no, Aliyah told them it was complicated. That convinced me to ask her out the next day. After that, we were hooked. What surprised me the most was that our parents supported our relationship and well, if it went on, I wouldn't be of minded marriage. But then everything went to hell. Aliyah's older brother was

killed in a car accident. It tore her parents apart so much, they divorced. She broke down completely and things really came to a head when her stepfather tried to molest her sister. Finally, Alliyah told me that she was 'moving' and then, a week later, she was gone. I guess that settled things down in her family, because her mother divorced again and remarried her father. I learned from them that she and her sister had completely ran off. No one could find her after that and...are you listening?

Tika: Don't confuse relaxing with being ignorant. Besides, I can't help but hear everything you say.

Tuesday: And that's it.

Tika: Hmph. So that's why you didn't want to join the dating site. You're still waiting for her?

Tuesday: (nods) Pretty much.

Tika...

Tuesday: ?

Tika: Don't hate me when I do this...

(She leans over and embraces him. Tuesday blushes unexpectedly, but accepts the hug gratefully, wrapping his arms around her. They hold it for about 20 seconds, then pull away out of embarrassment.)

Tuesday:...Uh, thanks. A lot.

Tika: No problem. You needed it. (smiles)

Voice: Look, girls! I got a pic for the school newspaper!

Voice #2: That looks awesome! Who is it?

Voice: Tika and Tuesday!

Tika & Tuesday: O.O

Tika: Sorry. (smiles nervously)

Tuesday: Why? I'm good. (smiles)

Tika: Hmph. (smiles)