

**Veronica Walsh -Confessions of a teenage rebel**

*Lee Smallville*

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## **Chapter one -Boy meets girl.**

*Veronica Walsh was no ordinary girl ,she was different, a rebel. Not only in the sense of getting into fights, skipping classes, drinking and smoking for 'fun' but also in the sense that she played by her own rules ,her way or no way at all, she was emotionally strong and extremely intelligent. She felt like she was being wasted in the town of Nashville, she used to live in L.A with her mom and dad but when her mother died of cancer, her father retreated to Nashville .At that point she lost the meaning of 'family'. She was glad to get out of high school and since her SAT scores were exceptional she was going to Stanford when the summer was over .She couldn't wait to get out of Nashville and even though she wrote 'SCREW YOU' in all of classmates year book, she would have been missed. The summer was a lot hotter than any she remembered and all she did was stay inside and read . If she had gone out onto her porch she would be constantly be bothered by boys, even men as they would notice her perfect hazel skin, bright blue green eyes, long lusty dark brown hair and her well shaped slender frame. Yes Veronica Walsh was a classified babe. As she packed her bags for college and gave her father a single hug then drove away in her brand new black graduation gift she didn't know that her life would be turned upside down. And who am I? I am the guy that changed this rebel's life.*

She pulled up at the main office building at Stanford and stood in the longest line ever to get registered for her new life as a college student. She already got those lustful looks from guys as she kept her head up straight, proudly sporting her dark blue -cut up-worn out- jeans, her black signature boots and a tight tank top that exposed her diamond belly button ring. Her hair loose fell over shoulders and some cascaded in front of her eyes. She felt like she had been standing in the line forever and she was already ticked off. It didn't help when she felt a ball hit her in the back of her head. She was about to fall down when a pair of strong hands caught her before she hit the hard cemented ground.

“My bad shawdy. ”

He was Oliver Brinkle. The classic jock she thought at the time. He had bright blue eyes and sparkling a smile of pearly white teeth. His short but wavy brown hair shimmered in the sunlight peeking through the office window He was at his second year in Stanford and was on the football team. Before he could say another word her hand swung from her side to his nose, it began to bleed a little.

“What is your problem shawdy?” he asked finally locking eyes with the exotic beauty.

He stared at her for a few seconds calming down as he took in her perfect features and fell into her blue green eyes.

“I’m 5’7 don’t call me shorty,” she said turning around as the receptionist called her up and took her information.

“So Veronica Walsh your in Millington Hall, this is your schedule and a map of the campus, now go to the ID booth to get your picture and school ID.”, the receptionist said pointing to the booth a few feet away. She nodded and passed Oliver straight as his friend was inspecting his nose.

“So your name is Veronica huh see you around.”

She turned around finally looking at him straight in the eyes and was taken aback by his striking features. She quickly broke contact, rolled her eyes and walked away her, her hips moving to thud of her boots.

Oliver was shocked that she didn’t giggle or apologize to him. Every girl on this campus, even the freshman would take some kind of interest in him even more if they saw him with his letterman jacket.

His friend Antonio, nickname *bolt*, patted him on his back and said, “You better get that nose checked out man. ”

They walked out of the building and Oliver looked back at the ID booth and saw her tapping her heels in the distance all 5’7 of her exotic beauty.

“Who the hell was she? ”

***It was at that very moment when her life was changed because at that moment I thought of her as a bad-ass hot chick who I would probably never see again on this big campus. Veronica thought I was just another self -centered jock who she would probably just hear about in the conversations of dumb blonds.***

***But little did we both know there was a lot more to the story ...our story. Veronica Walsh made a good first impression.***

Veronica shook her keys in a frenzy before the door to her dorm room was unlocked. She was bombarded with her thoughts, how was she going to fit all of her stuff into this little room. Than she saw it, on the other side of the room was a already made up bed with pink and purple sheets and stuffed animals. She grunted as she saw a picture of Justin Beiber over her roommate’s bed. She dropped her self on the small twin bed and sighed. This was exactly what she was afraid of, being stuck in a room with something out of a Disney Channel series.

She wasted no time to wait for her roommate so she started to unpack and stuff the small dresser with her clothes and other paraphernalia. As soon as she was finished the door to her room was opened and that is when she met Disney Channel star.

The pretty blonde stuck her hand out to Veronica and said, "Hi I'm Caroline Forbes your roommate. You must be Veronica Walsh."

Veronica shook it giving Ms. Sunshine a small smile.

Caroline sat down on her bed and folded her legs in a Zen position.

"So where are you from roomie?", Caroline asked, her eyes twinkling with interest.

"Nashville,"

"Wow country girl. So am I North Carolina all the way."

And it was just then Veronica realized she had an accent.

"You don't sound very Nashville,"

"Yeah I was born in L.A but we moved to Nashville a few years ago."

Caroline nodding then her eyes grew three times its normal size.

"You used to live L.A that is so cool. So did you bounce in to Brad Pitt on the streets? "

"Not really I've never met a celebrity in my life."

She looked disappointed to her answer. Veronica felt the room getting silent and felt a little sympathy for the sweet blonde.

"So Caroline.. what are you studying? "

She smiled to the fact that her, black clothes wearing, roommate was interested in her.

"Mechanical engineering and you?"

"Really you don't really look like the engineering type. I'm majoring in journalism."

"I get that all the time. I think this may interest you. ", she got up and handed Veronica a piece of paper.

"Its an invitation for the school's new s paper. Something tells me that you might be interested in it. "

I smiled and took the paper from her hands. Disney Channel wasn't bad after all actually I think we may become friends. Opposites attract right. She thought to herself.

***Opposites attract, story of my life, Veronica didn't know at the time what a strong friendship she and Caroline would have. The two girls had a lot in common, more than they thought. Lucky for me I was there to watch it all blossom. Veronica Walsh was someone's best friend.***

## Chapter two - Boy surprises girl.

The next day Veronica walk into the Paper's fortress, a small room in the office of the main building. She was wearing a black mini, suspenders and black and white stripe tank top that showed off her piecing.

Her black boots over some tall striped socks that peeked out over her boots. She stood in the middle of the room filled with busy students. They all had a mission and were determined to do it. This is where she belonged. She had no idea where to go or who to ask for a job. She spotted a short girl with bright red hair who didn't seem as busy as the others. She tapped the red head on her shoulder and asked, "Who do I see about getting a job here?"

The red looked at her from her boots to her loose, slightly curled hair.

"Hi I'm Josie Mc Blain the photographer for Stanford Now. The editor makes the hires and fires around here. He is at the back of the room at his desk, you can't miss those blue eyes."

"Thanks Josie.. ..I'm Veronica by the way. "

She stuck her hand out at Veronica but she just walked away, rebels were rude, she strutted to the back of the room and saw a name tag on the desk that read 'EDITOR'. The editors chair was facing the wall and even when Veronica cleared her throat, the chair remained still.

"Would you just turn the hell around.", she shouted.

The chair spun around and Veronica's eyes almost blew up as she saw her victim of the sucker punch she threw the day before. He had a white bandage plastered over his nose. He smiled insidiously as he recognized her as his attacker. Oliver was more than happy to see Veronica again. His eyes quickly scanned her attire and lit up admiring what a rare beauty she was. He liked the fact that her beauty was raw as her personality. No make up.. ..no cover up.

"You again, "Veronica muttered under breath, but loud enough so he could hear her.

"Well, well Veronica Walsh again how have you been ....punch anybody else lately?"

She flashed him the finger and a bogus smile.

"I don't have time for this right now. I came to see the editor about a job so piss off and show me where I can find him. "

"Piss off is that any way to talk to your possibly future editor."

"Wait you're the editors ..... how? You're a jock. "

"Stereo-type much? "

" I just didn't know you were a writer. "

“Sit down let’s talk.”

If she didn’t want this job she would punch him again but she sat down and said nothing. What was it about him that he made her so agitated?

“Since I have no idea how you write I’ll make you a deal ...there is going to be the first game of the football season this Friday I want you to write a review on it. I’ll assess it and let you know ok.”

“Fine.”, she got up to leave and he stopped her.

“Your leaving? ”

“Is there something else?”

“Yes would you got out with me? ”

She laughed from her belly then walked away.

She walked out of the building leaving behind a very confused Oliver.

She began walking into Millington Hall when she heard her name from behind her. It was the short red head, Josie.

“Veronica right?”

“Yeah.”, she answered as if she had just gotten out of bed. She was so fed up with the friendly people already.

“I couldn’t help but hear your conversation with Oliver.”

Josie waited for Veronica to respond but she just kept on walking. The door to her room was opened by an excited Caroline.

“Did you get the job?”

“ Disney relax I have to wait for the game on Friday to write a review then to give it to the editor.”

“Who is this? ”, Caroline said pointing to Josie in their doorway.

“Hi I’m Josie I work at the Paper as a photographer and as far I’m concerned Veronica already got the job.”

Caroline let the girl in and they sat on her bed.

“Why do you say that? ”, Caroline questioned the red head.

“Because Oliver the editor asked her out .... even though she turned him down he will give you the job because your hot.”

Caroline screamed, “Oh my gosh the Oliver Brinkle. I had cheer try-outs today and the girls said he is like the ultimate guy. You know not just the jock type but he is like a gentlemen. Almost every girl wants to be with him. Your second day here and you already have the hottest guy falling for you. ”

Veronica looked over at the girls as she buried herself under her comforter. She had to admit apart from him being good looking he had pleasantly surprised her with him

being and editor he was slowly breaking down his label as 'the jock'. She smiled to the thought of him but quickly got back to reality. She had had enough heartbreak in her life to get into a relationship in college. Not even for the perfect guy.

"I don't want him to hire me because he thinks I'm hot ....I am a really good journalist I just hope he sees that and not my short skirt."

Both Josie and Caroline were impressed that Veronica wasn't going to use her beauty to get a job at the paper. They were constantly surprising each other.

Classes didn't start until the following Monday so Caroline and Veronica explored the campus that evening, Josie showed them around apparently she lived a few doors away from them. They stopped at the football field and saw the footballer running laps and the cheer leaders doing cartwheels and some lame cheer. Caroline waved to some of her cheer leader friends that she met earlier, she knew she had already made the squad. Veronica was happy for her friend.

That is when the slow motion happened Oliver Brinkle came running towards Caroline, Josie and Veronica on the bleachers. Every body turned in their direction wondering who got Oliver to stop training. He stood in front of her and before he could say a word she got up and walked away in the direction of Millington Hall. Everyone on the field, cheerleaders, football team and students stood gaped at the scene. No one in history had been able to resist the Brinkle charm. Caroline and Josie ran after her.

Veronica hadn't walked away because she was upset with him, she walked away because seeing him shirtless would have made her changed her mind about taking up his offer and she didn't like all the attention that people gave her as he ran toward her bay watch style. She saw Caroline and Josie coming toward her so she slowed down and waited for them to meet her outside the building.

"Veronica Walsh you are a mystery. You just ignored the hottest guy in this school.", Josie exclaimed breathlessly after her little run.

Veronica said nothing. She just glared at Josie who then said her goodbye and left them to go to her room.

Caroline and Veronica sat outside on the steps of Millington Hall.

"Why did you run away from him. ", she looked at Caroline and smiled the blonde had used the right word 'run' not ignore.

"Because he looked hot. "

"Huh? "

"Disney I don't want to be labeled by a cute boy in college. I don't want to be that girl

who dumped Oliver or that girl who is with the jock Oliver. I want to be remembered for something I did not someone I did.”

Caroline smiled and nodded her head.

“I know what you mean. In high school I was the Caroline student body president and captain of the cheer leading team. I left a mark on that school not because I was dating a cute boy.”

“Exactly.”

***I felt like I was losing a grip on reality when Veronica walked away from me. I wanted to be mad at her so much but I couldn't bring myself to do it. I couldn't figure it out...I couldn't figure her out she was so hard to crack. It was more than playing hard to get because anytime he locked eyes with her....he would feel that metaphoric energy between them. It was definitely mutual. Veronica Walsh was a mystery.***

### **Chapter three-Girl finds a boy\_ friend.**

Caroline and Veronica were both very fit girls and they decided to maintain it. At six o'clock they got up to go jogging around the campus and on the field. Thursday morning began with a promise she and Caroline began to jog at steady pace around the campus then they started around the field. Veronica was wearing grey shorts and a grey hood, Caroline was wearing a pink track suit. They ran one lap then were accompanied by two young men each moving at the same pace as they were. The guys were both cute one was tall and had trimmed blonde hair, the other was medium built with short brown hair he looked Hispanic.

“Looking good ladies you're the first set of girls we see jogging besides athletes of course.”, Medium built said while jogging beside Veronica. The tall blonde had been busy staring at Caroline and she didn't mind before they knew it Caroline and the tall blonde had been laughing and talking like they had known each other for years.

Medium built looked at Veronica then he nodded his head toward Caroline and the tall blonde she nodded in understanding then they both slowed their pace and fell back giving both their friends some privacy.

“I'm Antonio Garcia you can call me *bolt* by the way and you are?”

Veronica smiled the first for the morning. Antonia hadn't looked at her like a piece of



meat or whistled at her or anything like that. It had been the first time she had talked to a boy and not be looked at her for her figure. She thought either he was gay or a gentlemen.

“What? ’, he asked confused by her silence.

“You’re very refreshing. Caroline, my friend, and I have been harassed by guys since we stepped foot outside. You’re the first to actually look at my face the entire time we’ve been talking. I don’t get that a lot. I’m Veronica Walsh.”

“Well Veronica I grew up with four sisters so I understand the concept of respecting women.”

She smiled. Antonio had a likeable charm about him and she knew from the get go that they were going to be good friends. Antonio was her first college boy\_ friend.

“So why is your nickname bolt? ”

“Well I’m on the track team and.....”

Veronica and Antonio talked for hours on the bleachers. She enjoyed his company without the worry that he was going to try to ask her out or he was thinking about her naked. It had been after eleven when they realized they were sweaty and in running clothes. She left her new friend to find Caroline in the dorm. She had just taken a shower and was brushing her blonde hair. She and Caroline talked about Antonio and Matt, Caroline’s date tonight, he was also on the track team with Antonio and he and Caroline clicked from the get -go.

“So you and Antonio looked pretty cozy.”, Caroline teased her roommate.

“I don’t see him in that way he is really a nice guy. I see us becoming really good friends. Just friends he is really cool”

Veronica found out that he was born in Mexico but moved to Miami when he was thirteen. He spoke fluent Spanish and English. His four sisters Mariaz, Marisol, Marianna and Mariama. He was in his second year and he was studying Bio-Chemistry. She had told him where she was from and a few things about the normal part of her life. She wasn’t ready to tell him about the rebel era as yet but she would....eventually.

Oliver couldn’t believe his eyes when he saw Veronica juggling with another guy. He was doing some sit-ups in the other side of field so he couldn’t make out who the guy was but he would recognize Veronica anywhere. He felt a rage within him. She obviously hadn’t had any problems talking to boys. Was it just him? He thought about going over there to talk to her but came to the conclusion that would make his situation worse. One thing for sure....he wasn’t going to give up on her now more than ever.

That evening about six Matt came to pick up Caroline. Veronica had helped her pick and outfit over the last hour until she finally found the right one. Caroline glowed as she saw Matt and Veronica winked at her friend who was on cloud nine. Veronica left the dorm to get some coffee and when she came back she saw no one else but Antonio outside Millington Hall. He spotted her walking toward the steps.

“Hey buddy, ” he called out to her. She broke into laughter at his greeting.

“Hey. ”

“Wanna go for a walk? ”

“Nah I’m a bit wiped out from our pro-longed run this morning. But you could come and hang out in our lounge until curfew. ”

He nodded his agreement and they sat on the big L couch in the girl’s lounge.

“So I’m curious. ”, he said narrowing his eyes at him.

“About?”

“You and what your like. I only got a review earlier.”

“Well I’m a bit unusual. ”

“Unusual? ”

“Yes I’m not an ordinary girl.”

“Yeah I figured that out. When did this rebellion start?”

“Well,”

She looked at him dead in the eyes and thought she might as well tell him.

“When my mother got diagnosed with cancer it was a damp towel over my family. But my mom she cheered us up and came back from her chemo therapy with a smile on her face. And for a moment it was like things never changed but the cancer had spread and it became untreatable. I remember going to the hospital after school every day for months and checking on her. But she died and when she did my dad ...he basically retreated from my life. He became a guardian making sure I had food, education and money in my pockets but we barely talked or saw each other. He moved us to Nashville where he grew up and no matter how I protested he wouldn’t budge I would have to live in Nashville. I had lost both my parents because my dad.....he was never there. I was only sixteen and I guess that is when I began drinking, smoking and stopped caring about anything but getting out of Nashville. It started out me craving attention from my dad ‘s attention but he was too occupied with his depression to care about all the things I’d done. So it started like that but soon it became a lifestyle it became my fixed personality I really did stopped caring about things that I should. I basically grew up alone and as far as relationships go.. ..I only dated a couple of jerks because they were like me they didn’t care about the world.”

Antonio smiled and never took his eyes off me. There was something different in his

eyes. He didn't judge me or think of me any different after what I just told him.

"Thank you. "

"For what? ", I asked completely confused.

"Letting me inside the world of Veronica the rebel. "

"No problem only you and Caroline know my life story. "

"Its safe with me rebel. So Caroline doesn't seem like your cup of tea. Your actually opposites. "

"Your wondering why we're friends?"

"Yeah I guess."

"We have a lot in common. She is real and is herself. Just like me one of the two people I've actually let in since I came here."

"So I am no. 2? "

"You are no. 2. "

***If I had only known what she told Antonio that night then maybe things would have taken a brighter start with her. Antonio at that moment didn't know how much I envied him. Not him personally but the person she would let figure her out and who she would let inside her world pass her barriers. Their friendship had been sealed that night. Caroline, Matt, Antonio and Josie had been part of her world before she gave me a second thought. Veronica Walsh let people in side her world.***

## **Chapter four- Boy, boy\_ friend, boy best friend.**

Veronica, Caroline, Josie, Antonio and Matt got seats on the bleachers Friday night. The commentators were roaring as the footballers ran onto the field with the cheerleaders. Josie had her camera, Veronica had her pen and notepad, Antonio had a corndog and Matt had his hand around Caroline. Veronica spotted Oliver on the field. He was the quarterback, go figure, she had to admit they played really good. She took notes making sure to get the highlights of the game recorded. She worked extra hard on this piece so she was sure to get the job because of her review.

Veronica was amazed at the skill Oliver had, she couldn't help but scream and join the wave whenever he would throw.

“Hey you see the quarterback.”, Antonio said pointing at Oliver.

“Yeah I know him. I gave him that bad nose job.”

“Whoa wait ...you’re the girl who punched him on Monday.. damn.”, Antonio exclaimed while running his hand through his hair.

“Yeah why? ”

“Oliver is one of my best friends and he has been talking about the girl who sucker punched him forever. ”

“Your best friends....but you two are like opposites?”, Veronica asked completely shocked.

Antonio pointed to Caroline. Opposites right.

“Does this change something? ”, he asked nervously.

“No not at all. Oliver has nothing to do with our friendship nothing at all.”

Antonio nodded. Uncertainty flooded his thoughts as he knew this would complicate things with his friend of two years and his friend of two days.

Stanford Knights won the game but Veronica and the girls left early. They said goodnight to the guys and left for their dorm rooms. Veronica stayed up half the night finishing her review making sure it was flawless before she walked over to the Paper’s fortress. She found the door open and no one other than Oliver Brinkle sat in his chair going over the layout for the semesters first Stanford Now.

“Hey what are you doing here.. its after one in the morning.”, Oliver asked in raspy whisper.

“I came to drop in my review. I could ask you the same question.”

It was the first time they had talked to each other without her punching him or him giving her some cheesy line that probably worked on other girls. He was still in his uniform and had some mud smeared on his cheek, he had obviously lost his voice because of game.

“You finished already. You stayed half the night working on this. That’s good I’ll take a read in the morning. I was just here to look over our first Paper it comes out tomorrow so. I guess that is it.”, he took the folder from her hand and took off the light. They walked out of the building and lingered outside the door for a minute.

“You know it is really late. I should walk you to your dorm in case of any creeps or muggers. ”

“Okay. ”, she didn’t even know she agreed or why she agreed but she was drawn to him in an unspoken current. He put his hand on the small of her back and she allowed it.

Even though she could have taken care of herself alone in the wee hours of the morning, she felt an extra security with him by her side. Something that she admired about him. Oliver made Veronica feel safe.

They said nothing on the walk over to Millington Hall but it was a comfortable silence. They had no need for words. As they reached the steps she nodded him a thank you and goodnight.

“Good night....well morning Veronica.”

On Saturday morning Veronica, Caroline, Antonio and Matt went running again. The girls did it every other day and the guys every day. Josie hadn't been the athletic type so she turned down their offer. Caroline and Matt had been talking the whole run but Veronica was silent, she was too busy thinking about Oliver and how intimate that walk to her dorm was, Antonio was beside her and also quiet respecting her silence. Veronica broke the silence and asked, “What are you going to do? You know about Oliver, did you tell him we're friends? ”

“Not yet but I will tell him today there is celebration party on Peyton Hall later so I'll tell him then.

“Alright,”

“You know I'm not looking forward to telling my best friend that the girl who hates him and I are now good friends.”

“No I don't hate him ....he walked me home this morning after I dropped in my review and it was nice.”

“Nice? ”, Antonio laughed a little after hearing her adjective.

“I'm serious. ”

“Wait Veronica Walsh. Are you falling for my friend? ”

“No, not at all. Maybe Oliver and I could be friends and co-workers because anything more would ruin me.”

“You and Caroline should come to the party tonight. Matt is going to be there so I'm sure he already asked her to go. What do you say? ”

“Fine.”

One thing Veronica Walsh liked was a good party. She and Caroline were both wearing black mini dresses. It was first time Veronica saw her friend in black. Josie told them she didn't want to come because she had to 'work' so they left without her. Caroline went off with Matt, the two had been a perfect match like Barbie and ken, and Veronica went to get herself whatever were in those cups everybody had.

She sipped the cheap beer and nodded her head to loud music before she felt a hand on her shoulder.

“Hey are you stalking me now.”, Oliver said trying his best to look her in the eyes and

not drift his eyes to her long legs in lace stockings.

“A friend invited. Congratulations by the way.”

“Yeah thanks ....you too.”

“For what?”

“You got job. I read the review and you shocked me not only was it good but there were no errors or any of that junk. Welcome to the Stanford Now.”

She smirked a little but was screaming on the inside about getting the job.

“So are you going to stay on this wall the entire night or dance with me?”

“Fine just one dance.”

One dance turned in to three, then five, she hadn't had such a goodtime at a party since Nashville and she enjoyed the care free time with Oliver. Her excuse on why she enjoyed dancing with him all night, rebels liked to party.

Antonio walked in and was surprised to see Veronica on the dance floor with Oliver. What were the odds that dancing with Oliver was *nice*. He was glad to see her happy and was a bit nervous about telling Oliver about his friendship with Veronica but he knew Oliver and he wouldn't mind.

At end of the party Veronica was dripping of sweat and she didn't want Oliver to see her this way so she told him goodbye and went to find Caroline who apparently was 'busy' with Matt so she walked back to her dorm. She hadn't seen Antonio she was too busy with Oliver and she had to admit to herself that she saw why girls were so hung up on him. He was really something and he wanted her.

Antonio finally caught up with Oliver as some of them were walking back to the dorms.

“Bolt I feel like I haven't seen you in a while ...where you've been?”, Oliver asked patting his friend on the back.

“We need to talk ....you know Veronica right?”

“Do I know her ...damn right.”

“Well we've become friends. And before you protest we're only friends nothing more bro.. we cool?”

“Yeah. This is perfect no I've got you on the inside you have to tell her how much of a good person I am.”

“Dude I'm sure you figured out that Veronica is different. You have to try unconventional methods to rope her in but if you really like her then I'll help. Just don't hurt her okay.”

“Yeah man I got you.”

Veronica had waited up for Caroline. She had never done this before, she had started

keeping a diary in worn out black and white notebook. She wrote until four in the morning of everything that had happened to her that was eventful since from birth. It had been a summarized life story. She heard Caroline's keys jingle in the door. She walked in her hair was messed up, shoes in hand and make up smeared.

"Go ahead take your walk of shame."

"Oh relax nothing happened we just talked outside Peyton's hall where everybody could see. I have witnesses. "

"You seem to really be falling head over heels for this Matt."

"Veronica he is so amazing. Like perfect for me I think I'm gonna keep him around."

"I think that is a smart move."

"What about you. I saw you grinding on the dance floor with Oliver. I thought you didn't like labels. "

"I was wrong about him Caroline. There is more to him than just the jock façade and as I dig deeper I like what I find even more."

"Good for you. "

"Good for us. "

They crashed around six in the morning and slept through half the Sunday. There was knock on the girls door and they both jumped up only to have Josie push her way into the girls room.

"You guys are the worse. School starts tomorrow and you slept through half the day. Its after one. You guys should be packing bags or picking out outfits or something.", Josie scolded.

"What is this high school? Pack bags. Your in your second year Josie come one you know not even you back your bag before hand. ", Veronica set her straight.

After they showered and got something to eat Veronica walked with Caroline to get her cheer leading outfit. She had made squad was ecstatic that she would get to wear her uniform on the first day of school.

Veronica wasn't nervous at all school was school and she had no problems with academics. She was nervous about working at the Stanford Now though. She was worried about spending more time with Oliver who she was slowly starting to fall for but she knew that would complicate her very simple life she had to stay. Oliver Brinkle was forbidden territory.

***I was a bit scared when Bolt told me he and Veronica were friends but I knew my friend and he wouldn't go for the girl I was into. She had marked a metaphoric X on my face and knew she would get caught up with me but she could stop it, I couldn't stop. We somehow always ended up together.***

***And the day that she stopped running from it was the best day of my life.  
Veronica Walsh had boundaries.***

## **Chapter five - Boy gets girl in trouble.**

Caroline had to wake Veronica Monday morning. She had wanted to stay in bed for the entire day then she remembered she had class this morning and it was the first day of her new job. She dug into her draws and slipped on a pair of acid wash jeans, a white - tee with a red bulls eye on it and brown cow boy boots. Her hair was tied into a high ponytail and she slipped a dark blue messengers bag around her then she and Caroline left and had to split up, their classes were on opposite sides of the campus.

Oliver saw Veronica on her way to class and he ran up to her. Keeping his eyes in check but she made it hard to not look, he thought she didn't own a tee-shirt that covered her entire stomach. It was the first time he had seen her with her hair up and he loved how it gave him a perfect view of gorgeous eyes.

"Hey Ronnie, "

"Ronnie? "

"Yea its your new nickname ...it goes well with your edgy personality. "

"Edgy? "

"Well....uh edgy is a compliment.. becu.."

She laughed as he fumbled with words and tried to keep up with her fast paste.

"Its ok....I like my new nickname."

Why was she encouraging him, she thought to herself as she reached her building Journalism 101.

"Well this me. ", she said hoping he would go away so the urge to kiss him would be demolished.

"What do you know this is me as well."

He smiled and she loved how his eyes squinted with it. She thought it was cute.

As Oliver and Veronica were leaving the building a tall girl approached them. She had jet black hair, she was wearing a pink summer dress and had sunglasses on her forehead. It was rainy day.

"Hey Oliver,"



“Wendy your looking well.”

“So is this your new skank?”, she asked pointing to Veronica.

Veronica got up in the Wendy’s face and was about to punch her but Oliver held her hand and stepped between the two girls.

“Wendy what the hell is wrong with you? ”

Wendy just rolled her eyes and walked away. She and Oliver had dated for a month of his freshman year but she just never quite got the whole ‘break up ‘ concept. He looked back and saw that Veronica had walked away. He punched and screamed at the atmosphere. Things were just starting to get good between them and now this. He searched around for her, checked their dorm where he found Caroline and Matt making out, neither of them had known where she was. He knew that she was going to turn up for work so he headed back to his dorm.

Veronica and Antonio sat in the boys lounge drinking coffee. She had gone to him after the little episode with Wendy.

“I wanted to punch her so bad. And I was but Oliver stopped me.”

“Ronnie you need to control your temper.”

“Ronnie ...you too. ”

“Oliver told me that was your new nickname. Now don’t change the subject Wendy is just an obsessive ex-girlfriend of Oliver. Its not you personally she hates any girl around him.”

“Well she was the lucky one.”

“Why. ”

“Because I would have smashed her face in. Why is hanging with Oliver so complicated?”

”

“I don’t know but isn’t it worth your happiness? ”

She looked at him and had to think about his question that she really didn’t know the answer too.

Oliver walked through the door and saw Veronica and Antonio talking. Antonio saw him and nodded his head to him signaling Veronica to go talk to him. Oliver walked her outside the building.

“Don’t worry about it Toni told me about the psycho ex. Just keep your groupies off of me for their and your own safety then we should be good friends.”

He nodded. Good friends. He would take it.

“I’ll see you at work later boss.”, she said while walking off and winking at him.

That gesture had raised a thousands questions in his head. Did she really just wink at him? Was she flirting back? Was good friends code for something more than friends.

He walked back inside and nodded a thanks to Antonio or Toni according to Veronica.

Veronica hung out a Josie's dorm that evening giving Matt and Caroline their privacy.

"So Josie is there anything I should know about work?"

"Nothing I can think of. Did you get a chance to read the Stanford Now today?"

"No why?"

Josie tossed her the paper.

"Turn to page seven."

Veronica obeyed something she rarely did. Her jaw hit the floor as she saw her review of the game and her name under it. Oliver was making himself very hard for her to forbid herself from liking him.

"Amazing huh. ", Josie said while taking in her expression.

"Yeah it is amazing. "

Caroline knocked on Josie's door then came in.

"Okay its safe now. There is no more spooning. Matt had training with Toni so I sent him on his way. "

Caroline couldn't stop smiling or get the glow out of her eyes.

The girls laughed and went back into their respective dorms.

"So what is the plan for this evening?", Caroline asked her.

"Well I have to go to work in about twenty minutes."

"I'll be all alone. ", she pouted.

"Why don't you go watch your boyfriend train?"

"Hey he is not my boyfriend we haven't made it official yet. "

"Then what are you waiting for? I see the look in your eyes when he is around or even when somebody says his name. "

Caroline smiled grabbed her jacket and fled the dorm with a task at hand.

Veronica on the other hand was feeling quite mischievous. She looked for the shortest skirt she owned and the hottest top. She choose a short black mini, a black navel breaker and some lace socks with black boots. She had her wavy hair loose and she was on her way to make Oliver sweat. Even as she walked fast she still got dirty looks from passing guys and even girls.

As she stepped foot inside the tiny office everyone stopped and looked at her. She waved to Josie then went to find Oliver. He was on his phone at his desk when he was rendered speechless as he took in every inch of Veronica. He even thought that her navel ring winked at him.

She cocked and eyebrow and put her hands on her hips as she saw his expression.

“Okay I’m very sorry Veronica but you can’t dress like that and expect me to look into your eyes it just against my man hood. Are you mad. I know your mad sorry about that look jus...”

“Would you stop rambling and give me my assignment. I wore this outfit for you, as a thank you for posting my review in the Paper. ”

She took the papers from his hand then walked away shaking her hips a little more for him.

She was suppose to do coverage on the cheer leading team. No problem she thought. Caroline would help her out. Oliver was apparently very thirsty as he kept going for water every five minutes, Veronica’s desk was right next to the water fountain. She would smile at him every time he passed.

As Veronica left the office two hours later she got stares from a couple girls and they muttered something under their breath. She finally heard one of them say ‘that is the crazy girl who Oliver is gaga over ‘.

She ignored them of course and pondered that night. Her boots were still on and she just stared up at the ceiling thinking about what she was going to about Oliver. She was already labeled to late for that. But she didn’t mind, she was genuinely starting to fall for Oliver. He been so much more different than a dumb jock that she made him out to be. He was smart and responsible she saw that side of him at the office. She finally admitted to herself that night that she liked Oliver.

Caroline came back at about minutes to eight with Antonio and Matt.

“Hey Ronnie have you met my *boyfriend* Matt. ”, both she and Matt had these stupid grins on their faces for the entire night.

“Hey guys. ”, Veronica greeted them as sat up from her slumber position.

“We thought we would just hang out here until the dorm advisor kicks us out. ”, Matt said while holding up a brown bag with junk food.

“Where is Josie?”, Caroline asked as she struggled with a can of coke.

“Working late as always. ”, Veronica said while nibbling a chocolate chip cookie.

Antonio studied Veronica’s face then said, “Ronnie there is something different about you.. what? ”

“Would I be a total sell out if I said I was falling for Oliver. ”, Veronica admitted out loud for the first time.

The room was filled with whistles and scream as they finally heard her say it out loud.

“Bout time. ”, Antonio teased.

“ I knew before all of you. ”, Caroline said while playing with Matt’s nose.

“So Ronnie your going to pursue him even though your going to be getting those dirty

looks and maybe being labeled? ”, Antonio asked in a serious tone. The room got quiet and they all waited for her answer.

“I think Oliver just might be worth it. ”

That night after the boys got kicked out. Caroline and Veronica both laid on her bed talking.

“Caroline? ”

“Yeah Ronnie. ”

“I’m scared. ”

“I know you are.”

“I’ve never fell so hard and so fast for anyone before. This feeling is different and it scares me because I might actually trust Oliver. ”

“That’s good right? ”

“It depends on what he does with my trust. ”

***My Ronnie had finally admitted it to herself. The connection between us. She was willing to open up to me at that moment. I was demolishing her fear of trusting someone again. I would have never hurt. I knew I had to keep it slow because when she admitted she liked me I was already in love with her. Not infatuation, love I was sure of it. Veronica Walsh admitted her feelings.***

## **Chapter six -Girl turns boy to the dark side.**

The next week flew by as fast as the speed of light. Veronica and Caroline had been still running with Matt and Antonio every other morning and Veronica’s job had been the best thing to ever happen to her. Oliver walked her home every evening after work and she had gotten to know a lot about him. She not only told him about her life as rebel but the reason why she became the way she was. She told him about her mother and how father stopped being a father and from then things became easier with them. She found it easier to talk to him and not letting to much of her personals get out because he already known.

Two weeks later he had finally worked up the courage to ask her out. They were walking toward Millington Hall when he stopped and turned to her.

“Ronnie.. would you got out with me? ”

“I thought you would never ask gosh. ”,she said laughing

“Good I’ll pick you up tonight at ....”

“No I’m choosing the activity. ”

“What do you have in mind? ”

“You are going to play rebel for the night.”

“And what about you? ”

“I’m already a rebel. ”

She winked at him then walked on. She looked back at him in his confused demeanor and said, “Meet outside of my dorm in two hours. I’ll bring the supplies. ”

“Supplies? ”, Oliver said while scratching his head. What had he gotten himself into.

When the clock stroke twelve Oliver stood outside her dorm and she came out in black shorts and a black longs sleeve with a hood. She had a bag with her and had blazing eyes.

“What are you getting me into? ”

“We are going to vandalize the Head Masters office. ”

“What ! Are you crazy? Do you know what would happen if we get caught? ”

She continued walking then looked at him with eyes dripping of passion.

“Another thing I don’t get caught. ”

“I’m sorry Ronnie I don’t think I could do it. ”

She stopped walking then ran her hand through his hair and said, ”Please for me. ”

He smiled and nodded his head in agreement. He couldn’t believe he just fell for that.

The way she was moving her hips tonight he would follow her off a cliff.

They stood beside a wall on the outside of the Head Masters office trying to evade the single camera in the front. Veronica skillfully sprayed its lens with black spray paint, which was one of the supplies in her bag, she then took out a baseball bat and smashed the camera completely. She tossed Oliver a can of spray paint and tells him to hang tight. She then picked the lock in less than a minute and they were inside.

Oliver was busy personalizing the head masters paint job while Veronica deployed his pliable furniture and smashed them to pieces. She felt her heart pumping and it reminded her of the adrenaline she used to feel back in Nashville.

Oliver and Veronica left the office in complete shatters. They went on the football field

and sat on the bleachers to unwind.

“I have to say that was the most interesting date I’ve ever been on. ”,Oliver said breathlessly.

“Maybe for you but I’ve had crazier times at breakfast. ”

“Do tell. The craziest date you’ve ever been on? ”

“Well it was my sophomore year at Nashville high and I was dating a boy named Chad a high school drop out. And one night he took me on a ride in this awesome red convertible. We had stopped at a gas station to get beer and junk food when I found another mans licenses in the car. ”

“What did you do. ”

“The key was in the ignition so I jumped in the passengers side and drove off. It wasn’t like Chad could go to the police and tell them that his date had stolen his stolen car so I dove it into a ditch and hitched a ride home. ”

“What why? ”

“Because it was fun. ”, she giggled as if reliving that experience.

“Let me guess you’ve been arrested already? ”

“Yeah but not arrested just charged and I was only in a holding cell for spitting on a security guard at the mall. ”

“Ronnie you are one bad ass.”

She smiled but then it faded.

“That day I remembered being in the holding cell when they called my father and I was hoping that I would see some kind of emotion on his face. Anger even disappointment but there was nothing he signed some papers and we drove off in a silence.”

“So you had just been arrested and he still said nothing?”

She nodded her head and looked a little sad. He could see the hurt in her eyes and felt a little guilty that he had brought up the topic.

“I’m sorry.”, he whispered as he draped his arm around her and she fell into his embrace. No words were spoken. No words were needed he just held her. Hoping it was enough to take away her pain. Oliver was enough for Veronica. In that moment he had gotten so much closer to her and she had trusted him so much more. He was there for her and that was all she ever needed. He wanted so bad to tell her he loved but the time wasn’t right.

Veronica woke up the next morning to a squealing Caroline who had lost her voice, she had cheer leading practice last night and it was cold, she was sitting on top of Veronica’s sleeping body trying to wake her up.

“Ronnie wake up fast you have to see this. ”

Veronica had finally woken up. Caroline got her dressed fast and they took off for the

headmaster's office but Veronica had already known what she was going to show her. There was mob of students surrounding the office. Even teachers gathered around to see the commotion. Veronica saw Antonio, Matt and Oliver in the crowd and he winked at her. She saw it and smiled back.

That evening on the bleachers Veronica, Oliver, Caroline, Matt, Antonio and Josie were hanging out and drinking coffee. The temperature was bit chilly and the sky above was dour so they were all wearing a jacket.

"You two are the Bonnie and Clyde of this campus.", Antonio said referring to Veronica and Oliver as they told their friends about what they had done.

"Oliver she is contagious within the first week of living with her she had me giving the finger to almost everybody.", Caroline warned.

Oliver laughed a little then looked over his shoulder and watched Veronica as she hugged her knees trying to stay warm. It was at that very moment when he knew there would be no one but Veronica.

Monday morning came all too fast and they fell into their week day pattern again. Running in the morning, class, Stanford Now/cheerleading practice/track team. That night Veronica wanted to go in her dorm and sleep for days because they left the field really late last night. Oliver had wanted to make some changes on the paper so she stayed with him because that is what she assumed good girlfriends did. If she was his girlfriend, was she?

He was just about finished when he saw Veronica leaning up on a desk near by. Her face didn't hide the fact that she was tired. He had loved her for staying with him to get one last thing on the paper. He had loved for many and every other reason. He walked up to her and poked her cheek.

"You alive in there?", he joked. He hadn't seen her perfect lips move toward his until she brushed them lightly over his. He had imagine this kiss so many times before he had wanted for it to be perfect. He thought there was actual sparks as their lips met in a gentle kiss. He raised his hand to her cheek and cradled it. They parted for air and he thought to himself that it had been beyond his expectations.

Things changed after that. They were official and doing something crazy almost every night. She knew she had made him more open to breaking the rules and she loved the fact that she had an influence over him. It had been a month after the kiss that she had finally admitted to herself that she was in love with him. Oliver Brinkle was Veronica's first love.

*Our relationship had been perfect. Midnight walks and even cute text messages during the day. I had changed her, she had changed me. We made no sense sometimes as we would realize sometimes that we had opposite taste in a bunch of things. But it didn't take or add to our relationship. We were happy being incompatible. I knew I loved her and she knew she loved me but we were both afraid of telling each other. As fast as things turned good it turned bad even faster, she wasn't suppose to find out that way. Veronica Walsh was a good kisser.*

## **Chapter seven - Boy breaks girl's heart.**

It was a week before winter break when it happened. Veronica and Oliver were just walking out from their final exam Journalism 101 when someone from behind them called Oliver's name. He looked back to see headmaster and for a minute he thought that they were busted for trashing his room but he just beckoned for Oliver to go to the office.

"We have your father on the phone Mr. Brinkle. Follow me.", he said in a raspy voice.

"Ronnie you go on and I'll catch up later."

She nodded and left for her dorm.

She met a very busy Caroline who was packing her stuff to go home for winter break.

"Disney would you slow down its just winter break.

"No Ronnie. I invited Matt to come home with me for winter break to meet my parents."

"So what is the problem?"

"He is going to meet my parents."

"Disney chill Matt is an awesome guy and he knows how to behave in front of parents you have nothing to be scared about."

"You don't know my dad if he finds one flaw he will go crazy on him. I just hope that my mother can convince him to behave himself and not scare Matt away. This is going to be hell.", she dropped herself down on her bed and tried to stifle herself with her pillow.

"Is there anything I can do?", Ronnie asked, concern evident in her voice.

Caroline immediately propped herself up on her bed and looked at Veronica with mischievous eyes.



“Would you come with us? Please I’ll invite Oliver and Antonio you guys and all come it will be perfect and easier on me. ”

“Yeah no problem better than staying up here for winter break I had no intentions of going home so yeah it will be fun. ”

Caroline ran over and gave her friend a big hug. They both finished up packing and let the guys know what they planning so they would get prepared too. They could get through to Oliver so they decided that Veronica would just tell him later at the Paper’s fortress.

Veronica was excited to go home with Caroline if she jumped on cloud nine and it was impossible for her to come down. It all started when she punched Oliver in the nose. It had started with Oliver Brinkle.

That evening she still couldn’t find Oliver so she and Antonio were hanging out in her dorm room. Caroline and Josie went their evening classes.

“So have you packed yet? ”, Veronica asked Antonio who was laying down on her bed with his eyes closed.

“Yeah. Matt is totally freaked about meeting the parents.”

“Not as freaked as Caroline herself.”

Antonio sat up next to Veronica. They leaned on the wall, as her bed was jammed to the wall, they had really gotten close so this was all natural for them.

“You know I can’t carry you home.”

“Why? I speak a little Spanish. ”

“No just that my family would put a mark on you as my future wife. They don’t think that a boy and girl could be close friends. ”

“Really,”

She leans in and is inches from his face. She had to admit there was no denying that Antonio was good looking. He had actually been hotter than Oliver. Logic kicked in and she backed away from him a little still leaning against the wall though. She would never do something to jeopardize her life now and falling for Antonio was one of those things.

“SO how will they explain us? I’ve known tons of people with best friends being the opposite sex and nothing has ever happened.” *Why am I lying to him. All those people were now married to each other or in a relationship. SO what does that mean for Antonio and I. What does that mean for Oliver and I.*

“Yeah me too. ”

They stared at each other both trying to figure their status or what was happening to them.

Antonio was so stressed out. Veronica was starting to affect him. He thought she was incredible and obviously gorgeous. But she was his best friend and his best friend’s

girlfriend. He was pretty sure it was written in stone that he couldn't go there. He couldn't even think about going there. But how long could he be just a friend?

A knock on the door startled them both and they scrambled off the bed like they were doing something illegal. Oliver peeked his head inside and Antonio quickly bid his goodbye. His heart burning for her and it was quickly going to explode because she wasn't his.

Veronica knew something was wrong when she saw his face. He wasn't the same his face looked tired and depressed as if someone had just surgically removed his soul. Her heart broke into micro - pieces when she saw a tear in solitude roll down his cheek. He sat on her bed then finally spoke.

"Ronnie ...I listen to me please. You can feel however you want to feel about it after just please listen to me.", he sobbed.

Veronica felt her heart slip down in to her stomach. She knew what he was going to say and could feel her core burning up into flames. He didn't say the words yet but it was already hurting.

"I don't think that our relationship could go on. You belong to your world and I belong to my world. It was foolish of us to think that we could change that. I'm sorry but I can't be with you anymore."

He didn't wait for her to process the news or punch him in the face. He got up and left her crying on the floor in her room.

Veronica Walsh only cried on occasion. This was one of them, her tears were warm on her cheeks and the one person she would go to when feeling like this was the person who made her feel like this. This is why she didn't want to let him in. She was confused about what he had said. It didn't make any sense. She was the one who thought things were going so good lately and now .....

Caroline walked into the dorm about two hours after Oliver had left and Veronica hadn't move form her spot. Her face was caked with dry tears, her eyes were puffy as if under the influence and her expression was blank as if she was an empty vessel.

"Veronica? Are you okay what happened?"

She ran to her friends side. Veronica didn't say a word. She let Caroline help onto her bed and they both slept on her bed. Caroline didn't question her anymore on the reason for her condition. She was just there for her. With out judging her or anything.

The morning came too quickly for both girls and they realized they were a mess. After they showered Veronica finally told her what happened that night before. Veronica

didn't feel any better than last night. She was just glad that there was only to more days until she would get to take a break.

Caroline had called Antonio while Veronica went to get them some breakfast, they planned to meet on the bleachers. It had become their spot.

**Caroline :Toni,**

**Antonio :Hey Disney,**

**Caroline: We need to talk about Veronica.**

**Antonio :Is Ronnie okay? She didn't take the news well.**

**Caroline :Wait you heard?**

**Antonio: That Oliver is MIA yeah everybody is talking about it. He is my best friend and he didn't even tell me where he was going.**

**Caroline: No I was just talking about how Oliver came and told Ronnie that he doesn't want to be with her anymore. I had no idea he went missing. What is going on?**

Josie had joined the girls for breakfast on the bleachers then they walked back to Millington hall. On the steps they found Matt and Antonio waiting for them.

Veronica looked at Antonio with piercing eyes and before she could control herself she fell into his arms. She felt them wrap around her slender frame and she had never felt so comforted before. She felt her tears escape her eyes again and Antonio just held her. He came as soon as had gotten off the phone with Caroline. He felt her tears wet his shirt she squeezed him a bit tighter. He just wanted to take away her pain but all he could do now is be there for her.

It felt like an eternity in each others arms but it was only a couple minutes. She let go of him and he lead her into the dorm but she had a plan of her own. Still in his embrace she led him to the football field.

"I'm not in a mood for people right now."

They slowly walked around the field. Mostly in silence.

"I'm sorry Veronica. I didn't know something was wrong. "

"It wasn't that is what shocked me the most. I don't ever want to see his face. "

"Well that may not be a problem. He went missing last night. His clothes is gone and nobody knows where he is or what has happened."

She looked at him and felt anxious. Even though he broke her heart she was still madly in love with him and was worried about him.

"Its okay to be worried about him. Its just me here.", he said as he kissed her forehead.

Matt, Caroline and Josie sat in the girls lounge while Veronica and Antonio left.

"You guys would it be wild and totally inappropriate if those two hooked up? ", Josie

asked.

“Who Ronnie and Toni. I guess it would but Toni is too much of a nice guy to take advantage of her vulnerability.”, Matt insured them.

“I feel so sorry for Veronica. Oliver gave no warning at all. And who knows where he disappeared too.”

They nodded all agreeing with Caroline.

“So Matt you scared to meet the parents?”, Josie asked trying to contain her laughter as she saw him tense up.

“Leave Matt alone. Why can’t you come to North Carolina again? ”

“Because I got a job. As a photographer but that is all I’m gonna say about the topic.”

They talked some more and then went back to their dorms as they had to make final arrangements for their trip to North Carolina the next day.

***I didn't mean to hurt Ronnie like that but what I had found out earlier that day was life changing I didn't want Ronnie in the middle of it. I would do that to her. I know I had broken her trust and was baffled on what to do next. I had to put all the blame on me because if it wasn't her fault then it had to be his. One thing I do regret is not having hope that she would be able to deal with my problem. Veronica had taken it well because she didn't punch me so that was good. Veronica Walsh took hurt well.***

## **Chapter eight - Girl needs a distraction.**

As Caroline opened her door her mother ran to her squealing. It had been Caroline and her older brother and her father who was running an errand so they wouldn't meet him until later. Her mother, Katherine, introduced herself and warmed up to them as if she had known them for years. Veronica liked it there because it felt like a home. It was already late evening and the sun created a wondrous glow in the east sky. The smell of fresh air and pine trees made Veronica feel like she was back in Nashville only now she wasn't completely miserable.

“Okay So Veronica and Caroline can bunk in her old room and Matt and Antonio you can sleep in the room across from Caroline's it was her brother's.”, Katherine said while pointing to the staircase of the two story home. Her mother looked a lot like her. Blonde hair except hers was shorter and darker in colour. She had rosy cheeks and wrinkles that

marked her mid forties age. She was always smiling just like her daughter.

Caroline gave them a tour of the house. It was a big, yet cozy inside. Her friends expected that much.

Caroline was sweet and friendly even if she tried to be rude it would come out the right way. She kept equilibrium in her friendship with Veronica. They needed each other.

Veronica had been evading thinking about Oliver and what was wrong with him or why he went missing. It drove her crazy not knowing. She knew she was here to take a break from relationship drama the last thing she needed now was complications. As she and Caroline were about to go into her room to get settled Antonio winked at her. Hello complications.

As Veronica and Caroline were changing and unpacking she roamed around Caroline's room.

"Would you stop inspecting my room. "

"Sorry I'm trying to keep busy. "

"Well you could help me make the bed."

"No thanks Disney. "

Caroline rolled her eyes. Classic Veronica. Rebels were lazy.

Caroline rounded up her friends and took them to the attic. She climbed out of the window and sat on the roof beckoning for them to join her. They overlooked the green scenery that stretched out for miles around Caroline home. The chilly evening wind blew on their faces and they all felt their stress float away with the wind.

"I used to come up here every night. It was my ritual. I just love it out here.", Caroline said as she leaned into Matt's strong chest.

Antonio was being taunted by his feelings for Veronica. He knew that he should keep his distance but he was drawn to her and before he knew she called him her best friend and there was nothing he could do about it. He wanted so bad to tell her but he didn't want their relationship to be built on her feeling vulnerable because she just got dumped. He wanted her to want to be with him no matter the circumstances. But he knew that was only wishful thinking. He respected his friend too much to that to him but Veronica and her gorgeous features wasn't helping. His mind then floated off to his best friend Oliver, where was he? Why did he leave her? He thought they were closer than that. They would tell each other everything and anything no matter what it was. He closed his eyes hoping that when he opened them he wouldn't feel this way about Veronica. He opened them and saw her stunning blue - green orbits piercing through his soul.

"You alright there Toni? "

“Yeah fine just taking it all in.”

She nodded her head and didn't press further. She felt his body tense up next to hers on the roof and wondered if he was feeling guilty about Oliver or if there was some other reason for his behavior.

Caroline shot her head up from Matt's chest as she saw her father's pickup truck turn into their driveway. Matt swallowed his teeth as he got a glimpse of Caroline's father who looked like an ex - marine type. Caroline took him by the hand and gave him a reassuring nod of her head that everything was going to be fine. Antonio gave him a pat on the back and he left with Caroline.

Antonio and Veronica were left in silence and it cogently made them think about what was happening to their relationship.

The late evening approached as fast as the speed of light. The glow the sun gave off in the sky as it made its decent took Veronica's breath away and she was glad that Antonio was beside her. She couldn't ask for a better moment.

Antonio looked over at Veronica and she smiled at him. It took all of his control for him not to confess his love for her. He couldn't believe that he had found a girl that was hand crafted just for him. He was in love with his Veronica Walsh.

“Veronica.....”

She shook her head as if intercepting his words before they came out of his mouth.

“Lets not do this now..”

Her eyes were already glassy and his heart started to demolish. Did she feel it too?

They were saved when Katherine announced that dinner was ready. They headed down the stairs and sat at the table joining Caroline, Matt and her father who were talking as if they had grown up together. They smiled at Caroline she was more than happy that her parents had taken a liking to her boyfriend.

The conversation was very light at the table. Caroline's parents retired early and went into their room.

The four were left at the table still chatting away mostly about how awesome Katherine's pot roast was.

Veronica then got and bid them a goodnight. She needed to figure out what was going on with her. She should not be in the mood for romance yet she could stop counting the colors in Antonio's hazel eyes.

She noticed every smiled and frown at the table. This was really happening.

Veronica had just fallen asleep when Caroline ran into their room crying about something.

“Vero..ni..”, she sobbed as Matt and Antonio reached the doorway. They had these somber looks branded on their faces and it made Veronica feel sick to her stomach. “They are talking about Oliver on the news.”, she sobbed before falling into Matt’s arms.

A thousand thoughts flushed through her mind at once. Was he dead? Did something happen to him. She didn’t know what to think. She followed her friends outside the room into the Forbes’s den where the news was turned up.

‘SON OF VINCENT BRINKLE, OWNER OF BRINKLE MOTORS,  
OLIVER BRINKLE’S LIFE HANGS IN THE BALANCE AFTER,  
HE HAD COME FROM SPEAKING TO HIS FATHER HE WAS,  
RUN OVER BY A BUS OUTSIDE OF HIS FATHER’S MAIN BUILDING,  
HE IS AT THE ST.PATRICK’S MERCY GENERAAL.  
THERE IS NO NEWS ON HIS CONDITION.  
IN OTHER NEWS.....

Veronica broke down crying in the den. She was lost for words. While she was cursing his name he was fighting for his life in the hospital.

“I have to get to the hospital !”

No one challenged her request. They couldn’t imagine what she must be going through now.

Caroline’s dad dropped her off at the airport she insisted on going alone.

She made it to the hospital the next evening around three. She got directions to his room and could feel her legs giving away as she walked towards room 209. Her eyes were still puffy from the crying and weeping. She saw his family outside of his room. They looked at her with questioning eyes as she approached them.

“Are you Veronica? ”, the man who appeared to be his father asked in a soft tone.

She nodded her head.

“He has been calling your name since.”, the mother figure said while she beckoned for her to go inside the room.

Veronica took a deep breath mentally preparing herself for what she might see when she went inside.

Oliver Brinkle looked small and fragile in the bed. His fame was curled into a fetal position.

“Oliver ....”, his name rolled of her tongue in a whisper.

His eyes opened brightly not believing she was here after what he said to her.

Her tears cascaded down her face in wet met as she saw his wounds bandaged up. He had a cast on one of his legs, around his neck and around his head.

“I’m so sorry.”, he whispered in a raspy tone.

She sat down at his bedside and it felt like déjà vu only this time it wasn’t her mother but it was Oliver.

“Don’t apologize. You’re the one in hospital bed.”

He took her hands in his and forced her to make eye contact with him.

“I owe you and explanation for why I said the things I did.”

She said nothing she just looked at him.

“My father contacted me when he had a cancer scare. Because it was hereditary he wanted our entire family to get checked and well it diagnosed me with cancer. I didn’t want you to go through what you went through with your mother so I had to end it before we went further in our relationship. I’m sorry I knew that the decision was yours to make. And when I got hit by the bus I thought I was going to die on the spot. I wanted to die. I don’t want to suffer and loose hair. If its my time. Its my time.”

“No....no don’t talk like that. Hear is what is going to happen. You are going to make out of this hospital and I’m going to be by your side when you beat this cancer you hear me.”

He shook his head slightly.

“No hear what is going to happen. I’m going to leave this world peacefully and you are going to move on and trust again. Your going to settle down and move on with your life. The doctor said the right side of my brain suffered cranial damage and that it is going to give away soon. I’m okay with that because when it does give away so will my heart. Its okay Veronica. I’m okay with it. ”

She cried even harder. Oliver was so strong about it he was calm and ready to give it up.

“Ronnie.. ”

“Yeah Oliver.”

“Promise me that you will find love again.”

.....

“Promise me Ronnie.”

.....

“Ronnie? ”

“I promise. ”

“Good. I love you Veronica Walsh.”

“I love you too Oliver.”

She had stopped crying by now and was just in shock that this was actually happening. She stayed by his bed side as he dipped in and out of consciousness.



*So I was sick and I didn't want her to feel the pain of losing yet another loved one. But with my time spent on this earth. I knew that Veronica Walsh was suppose to me in my life. God was ready for me and I was okay with it. Veronica wasn't though. No doubt I loved her like no other girl but it was my time and she need to hear from me that she had to move on after my death. Veronica Walsh wasn't ready to move on.*

## **Chapter nine - Girl gets happy ending?**

As Veronica heard the beeping and saw the line flatten she felt her heart detach from her body. His family was in the room along with doctor. They all bowed their head somberly but Veronica looked at his lifeless face. Oliver Brinkle was gone.

She couldn't stay in the hospital any longer. As she staggered out of the hospital as if drunk she stopped dead in her tracks as she saw Caroline, Antonio and Matt standing in the entrance of the hospital.

She once more started to cry as Caroline and the others raced to her side.

"Ronnie how is he? ", Caroline asked in concern.

Veronica shook her head violently.

"He didn't make it. "

It was a big wet scene. They were all crying. No one could be strong for anyone.

They couldn't believe how quickly his life was gone. Faster than a speeding bullet.

The next few weeks were hard on them. They attended his funeral and didn't give them closure or made them feel any better. They were still waiting for the good to come out his death but nothing happened.

The last week of winter break was finally here things were starting to look good.

A couple of things had changed. As they packed to get back to school Veronica felt the sunlight on her face form Caroline's opened window. She felt good better than she felt two weeks ago. She wasn't alone. She had three awesome friends who helped her to get through what she was going through. Especially Antonio.

*So maybe I feel bad that I missed some things. I wasn't there when Caroline said yes to Matt after their college graduation. I wasn't there to see Josie's name under the picture of the daily newspaper. I wasn't there to see Veronica get at the paper as their star journalist. I wasn't there to see how beautiful Ronnie looked in her white dress as she walked down the isle with her smiling father. I wasn't there to see her give birth to her and Antonio's beautiful twin babies, Victoria Giselle Rodriguez and Ricardo Oliver Rodriguez. I wasn't there for the dinner parties that Caroline and Veronica hosted. I wasn't there to see Veronica punch her children's pre - school teacher in the nose. I missed a lot. And even though Veronica was with Antonio and not me I was still happy for her. This was our story.. for a while. But in the end it was the story about me doing my part so that Veronica Walsh could trust again. Trust him. So when some ask who is Veronica Walsh ..... she was a teenage rebel.*