

BLOOM

PART 12

The background image is a blurred photograph of an interior space. On the right, a window with light-colored wooden frames is visible, with warm sunlight streaming in. In the foreground, a small, light blue ceramic cup with a ribbed texture sits on a wooden surface. To the left, a dark, out-of-focus object, possibly a lamp or a piece of furniture, is visible. The overall atmosphere is warm and contemplative.

IT'S AMAZING HOW FAST A YEAR COMES AND GOES. OLIVIA AND CARA BEGAN THEIR COLLEGE LIVES IN A WAY NEITHER COULD HAVE POSSIBLY BELIEVED AND NOW IT IS TIME FOR THEIR FRESHMAN YEAR TO COME TO AN END. WITH CELESTE'S DISAPPEARANCE, THINGS BECAME AS NORMAL AS IT COULD BE FOR THE TWO BIGGEST WOMEN ON CAMPUS, BUT HOW DID THINGS TURN OUT FOR THEM AS A WHOLE?

THE CONCLUSION TO THEIR STORY HAS ARRIVED.

A full-body photograph of a very muscular woman standing in a doorway. She is wearing a black sports bra, white shorts, and white sneakers. Her muscles are extremely defined, particularly her legs and back. She is pointing her right index finger towards a light switch on the wall to her left. The scene is dimly lit, with a strong light source coming from the doorway behind her, creating a silhouette effect and highlighting her muscle definition. To the left of the doorway is a black metal rack with several pairs of shoes hanging from it. To the right is a dark wooden door.

MAN, YOU GUYS SHOULD'VE SEEN
JADE AFTER THE GAME. I KNOW SHE
WAS PISSED DEEP DOWN AFTER FINDING
HER OWN GIANT TO TRY AND CARRY THE
MATCH FOR HER.

UNLESS SOMETHING
SURPRISING HAPPENS, THIS IS
THE LAST TIME I'LL BE IN
THIS ROOM.



NOT THE WORST THING,
CONSIDERING HOW TIGHT OF A
FIT IT BECAME.



REALLY WISH THEY COULD'VE
FOUND SOMETHING ELSE FOR ME, BUT I
UNDERSTAND CARA AND I ARE FAR
FROM A "NORMAL" SITUATION.



THOUGH AT LEAST THEY
WERE KIND ENOUGH TO MOVE CARA INTO THE
ROOM NEXT TO MINE AFTER THE VOLLEYBALL
GAME. THE SCHOOL REALIZED THE TWO OF US
CRAMMED INTO THIS ROOM WASN'T GOING TO
BE FEASIBLE.

A stack of five silver coins sits on a light-colored wooden surface. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the coins. In the background, a wooden frame and a dark blue surface are visible.

THOUGH IT ONLY GAVE THEM
MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW WE
ENDED UP LIKE THIS, NOT THAT I
COULD ANSWER ANY OF THEM.

A woman with long, wavy brown hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a red, low-cut dress. She is looking back over her right shoulder with a serious expression. The background is a simple, light-colored wall with a wooden door frame visible on the left.

ONCE CELESTE LEFT, THAT WAS IT FOR ANY OTHER ANSWERS WE HOPED TO GET FROM THIS SITUATION. WITH HER GONE, LIFE BECAME NORMAL. WELL, AS NORMAL AS IT WOULD PROBABLY EVER BE FOR EITHER OF US.

A 3D rendered scene depicting two extremely muscular women sitting on large, light-pink beanbag chairs in the foreground of a lecture hall. The woman on the left has long brown hair, is wearing a grey short-sleeved crop top and blue athletic shorts, and is pointing her right index finger upwards while holding a blue book. The woman on the right has blonde hair tied up, is wearing a purple and white striped tank top, and is wearing black high-heeled sandals. Both women have highly defined, exaggerated muscle mass, particularly in their legs and arms. In the background, several other people are seated in wooden bleachers, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The setting appears to be a modern university lecture hall with concrete steps and a light blue floor.

CARA AND I STILL ATTENDED OUR CLASSES...
AS BEST AS WE COULD. IT TOOK A BIT OF TIME, BUT THEY EVENTUALLY
WERE ABLE TO HELP US OUT WITH MORE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR US WHEN WE HAD CLASSES IN THE SMALLER CLASSROOMS AND
LECTURE HALLS.

A woman with long, wavy brown hair and large breasts is sitting in a lecture hall. She is wearing a grey, short-sleeved, form-fitting top. She is holding a blue book in her left hand and has her right hand raised, pointing her index finger upwards. She has a confident expression on her face. In the background, other people are seated in wooden chairs, and the room is lit with warm, ambient light.

I FOUND IT WAS A LOT EASIER TO
OPEN UP AND ANSWER QUESTIONS WITHOUT
FEELING LIKE EVERYBODY WAS STARING AT
ME. THE VOLLEYBALL GAME REALLY
HELPED MY CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF.

A woman with blonde hair styled in a high ponytail is sitting in a lecture hall. She is wearing a purple and white horizontally striped, form-fitting top. She is looking off to the side with a serious expression. In the background, other students are seated in rows of wooden chairs. A speech bubble is positioned in the upper right corner of the image.

MEANWHILE, CARA HAD NO CHOICE
BUT TO PLAY AS ACTIVE A ROLE IN CLASS AS
I DID. TAKING UP HALF THE ROOM MEANT SHE
COULDN'T TRY TO IGNORE CLASS LIKE A NORMAL
STUDENT EITHER. SHE WAS MORE UPSET THAT HER
HANDS EASILY CRUSHED HER PHONE ON ACCIDENT
THAN HOW HER GRADES WERE SLIPPING.

A man with glasses and a tropical print shirt sits in a lecture hall, holding a smartphone. In the foreground, a woman is out of focus, gesturing with her hand. Other students are visible in the background.

AND I HAD MY BUDDING RELATIONSHIP
WITH SPENCER TO FURTHER HELP KEEP ME
GROUNDED WHEN THE LIFE OF AN AMAZON
WOULD OTHERWISE PUSH ME HIGHER.



**IRIS CREEK
UNIVERSITY**

I'LL BE HONEST, IT WAS A LITTLE AWKWARD AT FIRST DESPITE THINKING I COULD HANDLE MY FIRST REAL RELATIONSHIP A BIT BETTER. IT DIDN'T HELP THAT I DREW SO MUCH ATTENTION EVERYWHERE I WENT.



BUT OVER TIME, WE STARTED TO
BOND. WE MADE UP FOR EACH
OTHER'S WEAKNESSES AND THINGS
BECAME BETTER THAN I EVER
COULD HAVE DREAMED.



WHILE I HAVEN'T PARTIED
NEARLY AS HARD AS CARA, I'M
GLAD I WENT TO THAT FIRST ONE.
I THINK SPENCER IS TOO.



I KNOW CARA HAS BEEN MORE THAN ENJOYING HERSELF ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SPECTRUM. DESPITE HER WANTING TO FIND A GUY LIKE SPENCER, HER LOVE OF COLLECTING A "BODY COUNT" RUNS RAMPANT ACROSS CAMPUS.



IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE
THE GUYS MIND TOO MUCH, AT
LEAST UNTIL THE MORNING
AFTER.



WELL, SOMETIMES
LONGER.

I WONDER IF THE
TRACK TEAM IS STILL
TRAINING NEARBY...





CARA'S ALSO MADE THE SURPRISING DECISION TO STICK WITH THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE IT GIVES HER THAT MUCH MORE LENIENCY WITH HER GRADES SO LONG AS SHE HELPS KIARA KEEP THE TEAM'S WINNING STREAK ALIVE. KIARA IS A GREAT TEAM CAPTAIN THOUGH, I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED CARA TO GENUINELY GET INVESTED.

LIKE ME, CARA ACTED LIKE SHE HAD
NO IDEA WHAT SHE WANTED OUT OF HER TIME AT
SCHOOL BEYOND THE GUYS SHE FOUND. VOLLEYBALL
HAS GIVEN HER A CLEAR PURPOSE.





AND A PROPER RIVAL.



OUR INITIAL GAME MIGHT'VE DRAWN A CROWD, BUT THE REMATCH DREW NEARLY EVERYBODY. CARA WAS QUICK TO MAKE A FRIENDLY RIVAL IN HALEEMA, THE EQUALLY AMAZONIAN WOMAN ON THE OTHER TEAM. ALL THREE OF US HAVE SINCE GONE ON TO BECOME SOLID FRIENDS. SHE DIDN'T SEEM PARTICULARLY SURPRISED BY OUR SIZE EITHER.



I SUPPOSE CELESTE HAS BEEN BUSIER THAN WE THOUGHT, THOUGH HALEEMA NEVER MET ANYBODY THAT MATCHED HER DESCRIPTION.

WHILE I FOUND MYSELF
TOO BUSY TO JOIN THE TEAM PROPER, I
STILL TAG IN AS A GUEST FOR TRAINING
CAMPS TO HELP EVERYBODY OUT. IF
THEY'RE GOING TO BE GOING UP AGAINST
MONSTERS LIKE HALEEMA EVERY NOW
AND THEN, IT'S GOOD THEY FACE A
MONSTER TO GET THEIR REPS IN.





PLUS, IT GIVES CARA AND I A BIT MORE TIME TO HANG OUT. AS THE YEAR HAS GONE ON, THERE'S BEEN LESS AND LESS OF IT.



BUT OUR FRIENDSHIP HAS
ONLY GROWN STRONGER
DESPITE IT ALL.



AND IT ALL
STARTED HERE.



IN THIS ROOM.



WITH THAT DAMN
PLANT.

A close-up shot of a hand with light-colored nail polish hovering just above a stack of five silver coins on a wooden table. The background is a blurred interior scene with warm lighting. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the coins.

YET DESPITE
ALL OF THAT, I MISS
THE LITTLE THING.



I CAME TO THIS SCHOOL
UNSURE OF THE FUTURE AND
MYSELF. NOW IT'S NOT EVEN
A FULL YEAR LATER AND I
FEEL SO... HAPPY.



ALL I CAN DO IS HOPE THAT WHATEVER
CELESTE DID, OR WHEREVER SHE WENT
THAT SHE FEELS LIKE SHE MADE THE
RIGHT CHOICE FOR HERSELF TOO.



I REALLY WISH WE GOT THE CHANCE TO PROPERLY BE FRIENDS. IT FELT LIKE SHE ONLY GOT A SMALL BITE SIZED TASTE OF WHERE SHE COULD BE INSTEAD OF... WELL, WHATEVER SHE WAS DOING HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.





WAIT?



H-HOW IS THIS
POSSIBLE?



I CLEANED THE POT
OUT MONTHS AGO! T-
THERE'S NO WAY!





D-DOES THAT
MEAN-





O-OH!







A digital illustration of a woman with extremely muscular, hyper-proportioned physique. She has long, wavy brown hair and is wearing a dark red sports bra and tan-colored high-waisted shorts. She is holding a small potted plant with pink flowers in her right hand, while her left arm is extended outwards. Her facial expression is serene with her eyes closed. The background is a modern interior with a white ceiling, a wall-mounted air conditioner, and a wooden shelving unit. A speech bubble is positioned above her head.

OH YES IT DOES!





A close-up photograph of a woman with long, wavy dark hair. She is wearing a dark red, high-necked, form-fitting top. She has a surprised or excited expression on her face, with wide eyes and an open mouth. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned near her head, containing the text "IT'S BACK!". The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. In the bottom left corner, there is a small logo that reads "ROGUE FMG".

IT'S BACK!

O-OLIVIA?!

YEA?

DID YOU JUST-

YEA!



MEANWHILE

WELL NOW, MY LITTLE
SISTER ISN'T SO LITTLE
ANYMORE IS SHE?

A woman with short blonde hair and black-rimmed glasses stands in a dimly lit room. She is wearing a gold, metallic-looking halter-neck bikini top and a dark plaid skirt. A speech bubble above her head contains the text: "FOR A FIRST PROPER OUTING I FEEL LIKE I'VE OUTDONE MYSELF!". In the background, a person with long blonde hair is visible, wearing a green shirt and a dark jacket, looking towards the woman. The scene is set in a room with wooden paneling and a fireplace on the right.

FOR A FIRST PROPER
OUTING I FEEL LIKE I'VE
OUTDONE MYSELF!



VERY GOOD, CELESTE. YOU
REMEMBERED WHAT I SAID
ABOUT THE PLANT WHEN YOU
LEFT RIGHT?

UH... Y-YEA!
TOTALLY!



CELESTE...

WHAT? I THOUGHT MY
FRIENDS COULD USE A LITTLE
SOMETHING TO REMEMBER
ME BY..

THE END?