

# Sweet and Salty

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# Chapter 1

## Math quiz

Hi, I'm Alexandra, but people call me Alex. Mostly my best friend Sasha. She's the best. She helped me with the accident I had two months ago on the skating arena. It was horrible, I got 4 crushed bones in my left leg! I just got out of the cast a month ago. My leg feels free now, I can do everything, even skate!

Right now I am in math class and I swear, my teacher is going to give out a math quiz.

"Ok class," Mrs. S said as she took her chalk out of a plastic bag.

"Good Morning Mrs. S," the class muttered back.

It was Monday, so everybody's just is down a level. Including me.

Mrs. S wrote on the chalkboard: MATH QUIZ FRIDAY

I knew it! Its that look on her face, the quiz look. Ya know, on teachers, when they're about to assienie a quiz?

I looked over at Maddie.

Maddie is the worst person probably in the world, she's so, EXTRA! She's also one of the most popular kids in the school. At lunch, a crowd of kids crowd her and ask her questions. I have no idea what kind of questions, because me and Sasha don't even bother to step up 5 feet close to Maddie. You could smell her perfume from a mile away, I swear. Last month we suspended Maddie

and her best friend, Harper for bullying us, and other kids too. My mom said I did the right thing and I agree. Maddie's little sister ( Gemma ) goes to gymnastics class with my little sister. ( Alyssa ) They are best friends.

"Alex! Alex!" Alyssa said one time dropping her gymnastics bag on the ground after she got back. Mom looked tired.

"Ya?" I answered as I poured a cup of coffee for mom. She loves a cup of coffee after Alyssa's gymnastics class.

"Thank you Alex," mom said, grabbing the cup.

"Gemma brought her pet hamster to gymnastics today!" Alyssa said, jumping. I don't know where she gets all her energy from. But to be fair, she's only 4.

"Wow," I said.

Did I mention Maddie is crazy rich? Her dad sells houses and her mom is a lawyer.

I took out my math folder from my backpack and started writing, but before I knew it, the bell rang.

"Ok, class, don't forget to study for the math quiz on Friday!" Mrs. S said over the chairs banging against the floor.

In the hallway, I saw Kyle Brooks waiting for me.

Ok, ok, I have a crush on him, what's the big deal?

## Chapter 2

### The talk

“Hey, Alex,” he leaned against the wall.

“What’s up?” I asked as I flung my backpack over my shoulders.

“Me and Sasha wanted to come over to your house for a bit after school. If that’s ok?” Kyle asked.

Kyle? Coming over? As in, my house? Where I live?

With Alyssa? No way! He asked me if I can invite him!

But also Sasha, whatever.

“Umm, sure! I’m totally free!” I laughed a little, and then regretted what I said to him. I probably should of made up a lie and said I was going to the store or somewhere with my mom.

“Cool! Do you want me to walk home with you? Or meet you there?” Kyle asked.

I thought about it. I looked down at my clothes. I am wearing my pink hoodie and ripped jeans. Ew. I probably should change, and clean up my room. Oh! And to talk to Alyssa about not saying anything private in front of Kyle.

“You can meet me there,” I said, smiling.

After school, I texted Sasha.

**Alex: Did u tell kyle 2 ask me to invite him over 2 my house?**

**Sasha: noo, What did he say?**

**Alex: adgsfhdsfjs???? What??? He just asked to come over, WITH YOU!!!**

**Sasha: What? But im not free 2day! I have 2 go 2 Axel's soccer practice!**

**Alex: NO. WAY.**

**Sasha: YES. WAY.**

**Sasha: u 2 will b all alone!!!**

**Alex: noooo!!! I hate this! I wish u came!**

**Sasha: GTG, gotta go 2 Axel's soccer practice**

**Alex: DONT LEAVE ME HANGING!!!!!!**

But Sasha left! Me! I'm so mad at her. Axel is Sasha's big brother. Sometimes people make fun of us because my name is spelt Axel with the same letters. I have no idea why, it's kinda stupid.

## Chapter 3

Kyle Brooks

I changed into my turtleneck sweater and my thick stockings. I cleaned up a bit and told mom Kyle was coming.

“A boy?” She asked.

“Yes mom!”

“But you only have girls over!” She said.

“Moom,” I rolled my eyes.

“Boy, you’re getting old,” She rolled her eyes.

I talked to Alyssa.

“Um, a boy? Oh! Are you gonna kiss him?” Alyssa asked.

“What? No! He’s coming over for homework. And please please don’t tell him anything crazy,” I practically begged.

Alyssa nodded and skipped to her room. I took a look at myself one last time in the mirror. Then I heard a knock on my bedroom door.

Kyle is here.

In my house.

I might fail.

I could throw up.

But instead of doing any of those things, I yelled come in and he opened the door.

“Hi, Alex.”

“Hi Kyle.”

“Nice room.”

“Thanks.”

I already hate this. This is so awkward. Nobody likes awkward moments, especially with a boy.

Kyle closed the door behind him and hopped on my bed, beside me.

The butterflies in my stomach, are out of control. What is happening? And why is he sitting beside me? I wish Sasha were here!

What if I throw up right on him? Ok, bad thoughts are aside.

“Just wanted to come over to say hi,” Kyle said, smiling. I don’t get it. He came over to say hi? What does that mean?

“I mean, to do homework, you know. Math quiz Friday?” He held up his folder.

“Oh! Oh that! Um yeah, come here, I have a table to work on.”

“No, it’s ok, I brought clipboards, so we can work in bed.”

My bed was pretty big, so me and Kyle both sat facing each other doing our homework.

A text dinged from my phone.

Kyle looked up, his mouth opened, but he didn't say anything. I guess he was trying to be polite.

**Mom: wood u and kyle like a snack up there? I could bring something up**

**Alex: sure,**

**Mom: what would u like?**

**Alex: nuts, apples and nutella to dip in,**

**Mom: ok**

I put my phone back on my night table and continued working.

“Soo, Maddie Stocks? How she doin’?” Kyle asked, looking at my unicorn posters. I hope they are not too girly, ya know, for a grade 7?

“Oh, Maddie? I don't know. Good I guess.”

“And Sasha?”

“Same as usual Sasha,” I smiled, he smiled back.

Someone knocked on my door, I guessed it was mom, but no, it was Alyssa. She was carrying a bowl of nuts, and a plate with apples and nutella on the side.

“Here, Alex! I brought you a snack!” Alyssa said when I opened the door.

“Who is this?” Kyle asked.

Great, the time I'll never forget, when Alyssa met Kyle, yay.

“I'm Alyssa Pelefkil!” Alyssa said, puffing up her chest.

“Oh, and hi, I'm Kyle Brooks,” Kyle smiled.



“Alex told me so much about you,” Alyssa said.

Oh-oh.

Here it comes!

“Thank you! Alyssa! You can go now! I said pushing her out the door.

“I’m telling!” She yelled.

“It’s ok,” Kyle said once the door was closed.

“I’ve been wondering for awhile...”

I nodded, understanding.

“Why is Sasha not here?”

“Um, she, um. She had to go to her brothers soccer practice,” I said, feeling dumb that I didn’t mention that before.

“Ok.”

We did some more homework, but we manly talked. We did so much talking I wasn’t even halfway through my homework. And we are supposed to hand it in tomorrow, but I don’t even care. We talked about Maddie, Math, some funny things that happened to Kyle, and how his mom is a baker. Ya, a baker! He said maybe he could teach me how his mom make the famous cupcakes everyone buys. And guess what he said? He said I don’t even have to pay! That’s just crazy. When Kyle was about to leave, my mom gave me to give to Kyle a basket of cookies, I said it wasn’t necessary, but she refused.

“Nonsense! We can’t eat these cookies all ourselves!”

Mom said.

I just rolled my eyes and handed them to Kyle.

## Chapter 4

### Great news!

The next morning I took a shower and got dressed, like every other morning.

“Good morning sweetie,” my mom said to me refilling her second cup of coffee.

“Have a good day at school.”

“Thanks mom. Bye!”

The school day went well, but after school was amazing! I threw my backpack on the ground.

“How was your day?” Mom asked me, like every day.

“Good, and yours?”

“Fine.”

“Oh! I forgot to tell you!” Mom perked up, she pulled out a chair for me to sit on.

“Ya?” I raised an eyebrow.

“So, remember the accident you had on the ice two months ago?” My mom asked.

“Um, ya.”

“Well, the microphone person, the one that is in charge of the arena, his name is Marcus. He felt bad that you hurt yourself and we’ve, sort of been secretly emailing each-other and planning another audition soon.”

“Really?! A skate audition? That would be great! Me and Sasha? Our routine? But I probably forgot it!” I said, excited and worried at the same time.

“Don’t worry! We can make the date whenever you want,” My mom smiled.

I took a deep breath.

“Ok.”

“I’ll go text Sasha,” I said, as I raced up the stairs.

**Alex: Guess what?**

**Sasha: We are having another skate audition**

**Alex: What? How did u know?**

**Sasha: I knew for weeks Alex! You’re mom and Marcus told me it had 2 b a secret 4 now**

**Alex: WOW.**

**Sasha: .....**

**Alex: Ok, well do u remember the routine?**

**Sasha: Um, i think so. Do u?**

**Alex: im 40% sure. We can watch skate videos!**

**Sasha: nah, maybe we should meet each-other at the arena one day...**

**Alex: Ya! That’s a great idea! I’ll ask my mom 2 drive me over. When r u free?**

**Sasha: Saturday? 4:45?**

**Alex: sure im free then**

**Sasha: gotta go 4 din. So excited!**

**Alex: ME 2!!!**

I raced back down the stairs.

“Mom!” I panted.

“So, what’s up with Sasha? How is she?”

“Um, she’s good. So instead of taking skate lessons and watching videos, we are going to meet at the skate arena on Saturday at 4:45 to try and remember our routine. Is Marcus going to be there?” I asked.

“Yep, he’s always there,” my mom replied.

I did a secret victory dance in my head and headed upstairs again, because all I do is spend time in my room nowadays.

I saw Alyssa in my room on my bed.

“Alyss, what are you doing here?” I asked.

“You were not in the room.”

“Ya, I know, but that doesn’t mean you can barge in like that,” I folded my arms across my chest.

Alyssa spit at me and ran out of my room. I took a peek in her room. It looked like a farm! Her underwear were under her bed, cheese string rappers were in her bed, books were scattered across the floor, and her clothes from the past week are on the ground and not in her drawers. I swear, she has almost nothing in her drawers because all her clothes are on the ground. It’s gross! I might of saw mold in there.....

## Chapter 5

### Maddie

I was on the bus on a Wednesday morning. I personally love Wednesday's because they give out red velvet cupcakes for dessert at the cafeteria. I know cafeteria food is gross, and the only food they actually make good are red velvet cupcakes.

I was at the cafeteria with Sasha. We could smell the smell of frosting.

"My mom told me not to get a red velvet cupcake. But did I listen? No!" Sasha sometimes can be so stubborn.

"Oh, Sasha! You're so stubborn!" I said as I took the little heart candy off the top of the frosting.

I could feel someone watching me. I turned ever so slightly to the side to see. Oh-oh. Maddie. What was she doing here? And why aren't people crowding her? I nudged Sasha.

"Look who's here," I whispered.

"Oh, my, gosh."

"Hi guys!" Maddie said.

Me and Sasha mumbled the word 'hi Maddie' without looking up. Her perfume made me gag, but I tried not to make it noticeable.

"The velvet cupcakes are all sold out. It makes me sad. Will you share? Sharing is caring!" Maddie snorted. But before one of us said no, Maddie snatched Sasha's cupcake when she was drinking her water bottle.

"Stop!" I yelled.

Sasha was choking herself from yelling stop from the water bottle, she was drinking water at the same time. I patted Sasha's back, it took her awhile to stop coughing. I could see Maddie walking away with the cupcake, spitting it in half, one for her, and one for her girlfriends.

Sasha's eyes were red after the coughing, but also from crying. She took a sip from her water bottle and calmed down.

"I hate you!" Sasha yelled in Maddie's direction.

"You're welcome!" Maddie yelled back.

"I payed for that cupcake!!" Sasha was crying harder now.

"I still have money," I handed Sasha a 5 dollar bill.

"Thanks."

There was only 10 minutes till' lunch was over, but whatever. Maddie stole Sasha's cupcake! She payed for it! It's like stealing money!

A text dinged from my phone.

**Kyle: Wanna hang @ my house 2day?**

Ok, I was starting to get the feeling that Kyle actually liked hanging out with me. So I texting him back, I liked having him over, once in awhile, but now I think is the right time to invite me.

**Alex: Sure! Im free!**

Sasha came back with a red velvet cupcake in her hand and a smile on her face.

“Guess what?”

## Chapter 6

### Permission

When I got home I threw my backpack on the ground. I brushed my teeth and got dressed into my home clothes. I went back downstairs to ask mom for permission.

“Mom, you look great today, really great,” I said.

“Um, thanks,” she said as she was giving me plates to set the table.

“Ok. Alexandra, what do you want?” Mom crossed her arms across her chest.

But before I could say anything, Alyssa came through the door with our babysitter, Kate. Kate takes Alyssa home from school every day, mom can't do it because she comes home at that time and she wouldn't make it to pick up Alyssa.

“Mommy! Mommy!” Alyssa said.

“Hello, Sweetie!” Mom catches Alyssa in her arms.

“She was great today,” Kate said.

“Great thanks,” mom put Alyssa back down on the ground.



Kate took Alyssa upstairs so me and mom can talk again.

“Ok, mom. I give, up. Kyle invited me to his house. I mean, he came to my house!”

Mom put her finger on her lip.

“Sure you can go. But we will have to go over the rules.”

I rolled my eyes. My mom STILL has to make a list for me when I go to someone’s house, I’ve been doing it when I had my first playdate. When I was 6.

#### LIST FOR KYLE’S HOUSE

- 1) USE YOUR MANNERS
- 2) LISTEN TO WHAT THEY WANT TO DO
- 3) SAY THANK YOU
- 4) SAY YOUR WELCOME
- 5) NO RUDE QUESTIONS
- 6) EAT WHAT THEY GIVE YOU FOR DINNER

I folded up the list as a wave of embarrassment flew over me.

I stuffed the list in my jean pocket and rushed off to Kyle’s house.

“Have fun sweetie!” My mom yelled as I slammed the door. I didn’t want to be rude, I heard it, I just didn’t want to say bye because she still expects me to follow a list? Seriously?

## Chapter 7

### Kyle's House

Kyle gave me the address on a scrap piece of paper at school. I found the house and knocked on the door. A woman answered it, I guessed it was Kyle's mom.

"Kyle?" I said.

"He's in his room. Follow me," the woman gestured me in.

"I'm Mrs. Brooks, you can call me that while your here," she, or Mrs. Brooks, winked at me and I smiled.

Mrs. Brooks led me down a hallway, filled with family photos and weddings.

I walked up the stairs.

"Up the stairs, brown door," Mrs. Brooks told me. I guessed it was Kyle's room.

I can't believe I'm here.

At Kyle's house.

I'm nervous.

I hesitate to knock on the door but I do.

"Come in!" He yells.

I open the door and he's sitting on the bed. His lightly brown hair is washed, I can tell.

“It was cool that you could stop by,” Kyle said, he smiled.

I stayed silent. Then he spoke up.

“I heard that you have another shot on auditioning for, you know, skating,” he said.

“Oh, yeah, should of told you that.”

I opened up my math textbook.

“Page 263?” I asked.

“Oh-no, we are not doing homework this early! Come on, let’s have some fun!” Kyle said.

“So, what should we do?” I asked.

“Let’s go get a snack!” He suggested, hopping off his bed.

His room was pretty plain, pictures and photos of his family, and boxer posters. Kyle has a desk with some cork boards. And he has some posters over his bed of famous singers, Michael Jackson, Drake, Maroon 5 and Bruno Mars. I had no idea he was so into music.

“Ok!” We ran downstairs like 3 year olds. Taunting, snacks! Snacks! Snacks!

“What do you want?” A teen girl in the kitchen asked. She looked like she was in grade 10. Blonde hair, she looked like Kyle ever so slightly around the eyes.

“Olivia, just shut up,” Kyle pushed through her and opened the cupboard.

“Who’s here?” Olivia asked Kyle, looking at me.

“Alexandra.”

“Ooh, my brother FINALLY has a girlfriend!” She sneered at me.

“Shut up,” Kyle said again.

“Me and my Ryan were waiting for this!” She clapped her hands.

“Shut up!” Kyle said louder.

He stormed up the stairs.

I followed.

“Who’s she?” I asked, once we were in the room

“My stupid sister. She thinks she’s so great because she’s in high school now. She brags about how hard grade 9 is.”

“Who’s Ryan?” I asked.

“Her boyfriend.”

“In grade 9? A boyfriend in grade 9? My mom would never let me date a guy in 9th grade!”

“Yup”

Kyle handed me a cookie and we talked about the latest gossip in school and Kyle’s sister Olivia. We talked about Ryan and Alyssa. We did our homework, and this time, I went through all the pages. We talked and laughed until it was 8:30.

“I gotta go,” I said, standing up from the bed.

My butt was cold, from sitting on the bed for an hour and a half.

I went down the stairs and exited the house. I rode my bike home. It was pitch dark and kinda hard to see, but I

got a light on the front on my bike so I could see better, but it wasn't a help.

## Chapter 8

### The skate arena

It is Saturday morning and I am so excited! I raced downstairs and gobbled up my cereal, and got dressed. Mom drove me over and I got butterflies.

"Are you ready?" Sasha asked me in the car.

"No."

"Why?"

"I'm praying I won't fall and have an accident again!"

"Don't worry! Just take it easy on your leg," Sasha pointed.

At the arena, I saw Marcus, he waved. I gave a little shy wave back. When I was putting on my skates, my mom kept telling me the same thing over and over again.

"Please be careful Alexandra!"

"Mom, I'll be fine!" I said, tying up my last skate lace.

"Done!" I said, standing up.

I entered the ice and felt my old self again. I took a while to warm up.

“Sash, I’m just going to warm up a little first,” I said, skating on one leg.

“Sure! I probably have to warm up too.”

After 10 minutes of skating around a little by ourselves, I thought we were ready.

“Ready for the routine?” I asked.

“I’m game if you are.”

Sasha has been using that expression since she read, *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. It’s an expression of the little girl Polly.

We started the routine and in some little parts we got a little lost, but we found it.

At break time, we were sipping hot chocolate when Marcus told us that the person who qualified the last audition, Katie, made it to the junior metelest’s. They are posting another show to see who will beat Katie.

Will we?

No, it’s not really possible.

I think I remembered the routine pretty well. Just a little practices here and there. Me and Sasha decided to post another practice on Friday after school, and on Wednesday, Saturday, and Monday. It’s gonna take awhile, but by then it should be perfected.

## Chapter 9

Maddie ( Strikes again )

Sunday went by fast. Mom goes to work on Sunday's so Kate came over to babysit. I spent most of the time in my room anyway.

Since Kyle asked me to invite him to my house, AND invited me to his house all in one week, I sorta want to invite him to my house again. Sorry! I like him over!

It was Monday again. That's the day the cafeteria serves mac n' cheese! Eww! It's the most grossest thing they serve. I have NO idea why the principal hasn't fired them yet. They don't know what we eat, trust me! In an article, I heard there is more germs on a cafeteria tray than a toilet seat! Since then, I haven't had anything from there except the red velvet cupcakes.

I was putting my books away in my locker when I heard someone step up to me. I guessed it was Kyle, because he stops by my locker now and then, but I was wrong. I wiped around, it was Maddie! As usual, I gagged from her perfume.

“Hi Alexandra!”

“Um, hi?”

“What are you doing here?” I asked.

“Well....” She twirled her hair with her finger.

“We want to give a thank you surprise for you for suspending me and my BFF, Harper.”

Huh? A thank you party?

“What?”

“I’m telling Miss. Wreath that you and Sasha cyberbullied Harpers account on instagram!!” Maddie pointed.

Miss. Wreath is our principal.

“But that’s not even true! I don’t even have instagram!”

I couldn’t believe Maddie and Harper would do this to me. It’s just, WRONG!

I could feel tears at the corners of my eyes.

“Anyway, I’m calling a meeting with Miss. Wreath tomorrow after math class,” Maddie said.

“I just told Sasha.”

Math class was my first and worst class.

I texted Sasha, I had less than 5 minutes to get to class.

**Alex: Did maddie tell you that.....**

**Sasha: Ya, ya. Dont worry! Its not even true! We’ll just prove it to miss. Wreath. it will b easy!**

**Alex: ok gtg 2 language**

**Sasha: ok, i gtg 2 math class. Fingers crossed it will all go well!**



**Alex: u bet!**

## Chapter 10

### The meeting

5 minutes until math class is over and I'm sweating. Last night, I had a bad dream. I dreamt that me and Sasha got in really big trouble from Miss. Wreath and got expelled from this school. Sasha was yelling "Stop!! No! It's not even true!" And then that's when I woke up in a very cold sweat.

I have to take off my hoodie. The bell rings and I feel light headed. I go to Miss. Wreath's office and I see Sasha waiting there for me on a bench. I sit down beside her.

"Girls..." Miss. Wreath began.

"I heard someone report that you've been cyberbullying Harper on her instagram account."

Sasha made an eye signal for her to speak up.

"Miss. Wreath, remember 2 months ago you suspended Harper and Maddie?"

Miss. Wreath nodded.

It was my turn to speak up.

“Well, just yesterday she stopped by our lockers saying she wanted to say thank you for suspending us,” I said.

“Give me your phones laddies,” Miss. Wreath said.

We did the passcode on our phones and handed it to Miss. Wreath.

She checked through the apps.

“But you girls don’t even have instagram.”

“Exactly,” Sasha said.

Miss. Wreath let out a little whistle.

“Well, I’ll let you girls go then. I will talk to Harper and Maddie for saying ‘thanks’”

We nodded and I headed to history class.

# Chapter 11

## The skate date

We did all our skate practices. Me and Sasha almost perfected it. Except the part where we spin and spin, we keep messing up and falling down. I really gotta keep it easy on my butt. Marcus called us down to the skate arena for some big news.

“Whaddya think the big news will be?” Sasha asked me in the car on our way to the arena.

“I have no idea. Oh! Maybe new skates!” I clapped my hands.

“Nah, I don’t think so.”

“Ok, girls we are here!” I practically memorized the way to the arena because we go twice a week.

We walked down the long hallway, and saw Marcus preparing 4 cups of hot chocolate with marshmallows.

“I’m glad you guys could come,” Marcus said, coming toward us.

“Ya! We want to know what the big news is!” I said, clapping my hands.

“Ok, well then. Come take a seat here and I’ll explain.”

We took a seat and Marcus took a deep breath.

“Girls, we have our new skate date!” Marcus did jazz hands.

“Huh? Skate date?” Sasha was puzzled, and I don’t blame her because I have no idea either.

“Oh! That’s wonderful!” My mom said.

“Don’t you girls know what a skate date is?” Marcus asked.

“Ummmm…….”

“That’s alright. I’ll explain.”

“A skate date is when you post a show on the arena. The next audition will test lots of young skaters. At the end, me and a few other judges will decide who will be in the real show-competing against Katie,” Marcus explained.

“How many more practices will there be for me and Sasha?” I asked.

“2 more. The audition is on Friday.”

I gritted my teeth. 2 more practices? Only 2?

“Sure! We can do that!” Sasha said, sounding more confident than me.

Then it hit me.

Will we be the ones competing against Katie?

What if I get hurt again?

Will we be the ones that win the audition?

Will I become famous?

2 months ago when I had my accident, my hospitalion, Sophie, really helped me feel better. We were such close friends we got each-other's numbers. I texted her.

**Alex: Guess what?**

**Sophie: What?**

**Alex: i have another shot 4 skate auditioning!**

**Sophie: that's wonderful! Just b careful! Dont hurt yourself!**

**Alex: dont worry! I'll b fine!**

Sophie's great. I'm so thankful for her. Even though she's 12 years older than me, she's a really close friend. I am so nervous, the skate audition is in a week. And I have no idea why I'm worrying!

## Chapter 12

### The Prepare for the Addition

I woke up on Friday morning with the butterflies in my stomach were doing loopy-loops and cartwheels.

Today my mom served me waffles, bacon and eggs for breakfast. Alyssa got the same too.

“Why is Kate staying until 10 today to babysit me?”

Alyssa asked.

“Because at 6 I’m taking Alexandra to the skate arena. Sweetie.”

“What time does it end?” Alyssa asked.

“10,” mom replied.

“10?! That’s soooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo.....”

“Ok Alyssa you can stop!!” I yelled, over her oo’s.

“Late!” She finally finished after all the oo’s.

I rolled my eyes and kept eating.

My mom picked me and Sasha up at 2:10 from school to prepare and go shopping for our skate clothes and

sharpen skates and stuff. Even though it was 4 more hours I was starting to cry.

“What’s wrong, Alex?” Sasha asked me on our way to sharpen our skates.

“I’m st-t-treeeesed!!” I sobbed.

“Stressed?”

“Yees!” I cried even harder.

“Hey! What’s going on back there?” My mom asked.

“Nothing Mrs. P!” Sasha yelled back.

“I don’t think so.”

I calmed down by taking a few deep breaths. My cheeks were stained like crazy. My eyelashes were clumped together because of the wetness of the tears. Sasha gave me a kleenex from her purse.

I took another deep breath.

“How long until we get to the skate sharpeners?” I asked.

“About, 25 minutes. I found a really close sharpener but it got bad rates. So, I found a better one further.”

Since it was a while left to drive, I decided to take a little nap.

“What are you doing Alex?” Sasha asked.

“Sshhhh. Let her sleep,” mom said.

I woke up and was still in the car.

“What? Where are we?” I asked.

“We canceled you and Sasha’s audition,” mom replied.

“What?!”

“Yup. I hate skating now,” Sasha said.

“Guy’s please tell me you’re joking!! PLEASE!!”

But then, Sasha turned around and there were skates in her eyes. Red skates. The for some reason, I yelled”

“Noooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!!!”

I woke up from my horrible dream.

“Don’t kill skating! Don’t! Don’t! I won’t be your friend anymore again Sasha!! I WILL GET YOUUU!!!” I yelled in her face.

“Whoa! Did you have a bad dream or something?”

Sasha felt my forehead.

“Don’t touch me!” I yelled.

“I would never kill skating!” Sasha yelled even louder.

I took a deep breath and calmed down.

“I guess it was a dream.” I half smiled.

“Whew,” Sasha said and then we laughed.



## Chapter 13

### The skate audition

We arrived at the arena at 5:30 to meet with Marcus before the whole addition would begin. Me and Sasha were jumping up and down when we got there. I learned my lesson: There's no need to be scared for anything that's supposed to be fun. If I don't make it, it's ok! If I do, great! But that's a whole different story.

"Hi, Marcus!" My mom waved.

"!Hola!" Marcus is Spanish, so sometimes he speaks a little Spanish here and there, but not all the time.

"Come! Sit down! Make yourself comfy while we wait for everyone else."

"How many people are going to be auditioning?" I asked.

"About, 35."

Sasha's eyes widened.

"That's a looooot of people....." Sasha zoned out.

Sasha can get a little uncomfortable around lot's of people.

“Don’t worry Sasha, I’ll keep an extra eye on you,” mom said.

At about 5:45 people started to fill in. Marcus had to leave our seat a bunch of times to help and see people. Once the zamboni was done, at 6:10 Marcus called everyone down in the skate arena to put on skates and everything. Marcus and 3 more judges were up high at the very top. Marcus had a microphone.

“Hello everyone! Are you reaaaaaady?” He shouted into the mic.

Everyone shout answered,

“YES!!!” Including me and Sasha.

“Alright! Then lets. Get. STARTED!!!!” He yelled.

Everyone was cheering and clapping.

“Okkk. The first person I’m going to call up is Olivia Jonnes! Please enter the ice!”

Olivia entered the ice. She was pretty good. And she skated to an original song. I know the song but I don’t know the title.

After 6 performers, it was our turn.

“Ok, next person up is. Oh! Sorry! The next people up are Alexandra Pelefski and Sasha Broughard! Please enter the ice!” Marcus called.

I was shaking really hard but in a good way. Me and Sasha entered the ice. We were in our ready position. I made a really little signal for Marcus to turn on the song. He turned on the song and we danced. We made absolutely no mistakes. When we were spinning and

spinning. ( The part I fell ) I felt like I started all over again.

After the dance we held hands and took a bow. We hugged so hard on the ice Sasha almost fell over. People were clapping and cheering. We took another bow and then I was laughing my butt off.

“I couldn’t have done it without you,” I nugged Sasha. “Me eatheir,” she answered.

## Chapter 14

The next day

Marcus said the winners to the addition will be posted on their skating website. I check my phone every hour. He said he’ll text my mom when it’s out, but I don’t even care.

The weekend went by very fast. And before any of us knew it, it was Monday again.

Kyle came up to me at my locker on 2and period.

“Hey! Alex! I heard you did the addition!” He smiled.

“Ya! It was awesome!” I said back.

Then I remembered I didn’t invite Kyle on Thursday or Friday last week. I was so busy with the addition plans.

“Hey, Kyle. I would really like it if you came over to my house today. I mean, I probably have a lot of homework because I got picked up on Friday early.”

Kyle’s smile wiped right off his face.

What?

Did I do something wrong?

Oh-no!

“Sorry, um, Alex I was supposed to go to Olivia’s volleyball game today after school. But if it makes you feel better, I can come tomorrow.”

“That would be great! Thanks,” I replied but then feeling a little stupid that I brought up the subject in the first place.

The bell rang and I was already late to class. Yay. Later when I got home, I texted Sophie how good a few days ago was. I even told Kate about it. And guess what? She was interested! Who knew Kate can be so interested in things? I never talk to her, anyway.

## Chapter 15

### The greater news

I woke up the next Saturday morning normally. Kyle came over a few days ago. We did homework and talked.

“Guess what honey?” My mom asked me the second I stepped down the stairs.

“Mommmm,” I rubbed my eyes.

“I just wuuuke up!” I muttered.

“I know sweetie. But I have some wonderful news for you!”

I groaned, it was probably because I had to babysit Alyssa today because Kate has to go somewhere or do something urgent. But I was wrong.

“I’ll give you a hint,” mom said, passing me my Saturday morning tea. Every Saturday, I have hot ginger tea. It helps my throat and mmm.. I love hot ginger tea. It’s the

best, that's why I save it for the best day of the week: Saturday.

"Ya?" I said, more awake now, grabbing the tea.

"It's something about Marcus, skating, winners being posted..."

I burned my tongue because of how hot the tea was. My eyes watered.

"Really? Tell me the news!!" I said, grabbing a kleenex to wipe my teary eyes.

"Soo, Marcus posted the winners today really, really early in the morning."

"Did I get the part?!?!?" I shout-asked.

"Slow down! I'll get to the part! Anyway, yes and no. You did get the part, but you didn't get the part," mom said.

I was confused.

Oh-no.

"Did Sasha make it and not me?" I asked.

"What? No! You won't be competing against Katie, but you got 3erd place! We get tickets to see The Nutcracker on Christmas! For free!" Mom spilled.

What?

3erd place?

Hey! Better than forth! Or fith!

"The Nutcracker?! That's awesome! I've always wanted to see that ballet!" I said.

I was happy and sad at the same time. But I've been wanting to see this ballet for years now. It's my favourite dance. I raced upstairs to get my phone and text Sasha.

**Alex: WE WON 3ERD PLACE!!!!**

**Sasha: I KNOW!! R u going 2 c the nutcracker**

**Alex: Heck yeah!**

**Sasha: LOL!!**

**Alex: I can't believe we won 3erd place!**

**Sasha: Even though Christmas is still 3 months away, I'm getting front row seats in that ballet theater!**

**Alex: IKR!!!!**

**Sasha: gtg breakfast is ready**

I was so happy I did a mini dance in my room. I locked the door to my room and put on Katy Perry from my phone. I danced until I was completely out of breath. "Cuz' I got the eye of the tiger.....!" I sang. "Dancn' through the fire! Cuz' I am a CHAMPION!" I collapsed on my bed and ate breakfast downstairs.

## Chapter 16

### Another Happy ending

It's 3 months later, and I just got back from The Nutcracker ballet. Oh my gosh it was the most wonderful thing I have ever seen! Sasha loved it too. Even Alyssa! Even though I didn't compete against Katie, I still got tickets to a ballet! And it was fun! I never thought I would of been wound of happy winning 3erd place. Well, that's another happy ending to a happy story. Hope you liked my story guys!



