

“The Boy in Apartment 2B”

A “Young Lovers” Story

Author: D. Sanders

Chapter I - Moving In

“Adam! Where’s the box with the Kitchen stuff?” Penny Wallace hollered out the window of apartment 2A where her son Adam was still bringing boxes out of the rented U-haul truck parked on the street. A tall, athletically built and handsome youth of seventeen came walking down the ramp holding a large box and looking annoyed. His baseball cap turned backwards and his ratty t-shirt rumbled over his cut-off blue jean shorts.

“Mom for crying out loud how am I supposed to know? It’s a sea of boxes here! I don’t even know if I’ve unpacked it yet. I told you, you should have wrote what the hell is in these things as you were packing them!” Adam grumbled huffing and puffing as he carried the items inside.

“Yeah, I know, sorry. Take a break for lunch, I’ll give you money and will you go pick us up something at fast food?”

“Hallelujah, the warden is giving me parole!” Adam grinned and Penny threw an empty box at him out of the window.

“Cheeky little brat! I can still turn you over my knee!”

“I’d like to see you try mom!” Adam laughed as he caught the wallet Penny tossed at him along with his car keys.

“I don’t care where you go just bring food and lots of it honey.”

“I have no clue where I’m even going. Which way is it to town again?”

“Crap. I don’t remember either.”

“MOM! For crying out loud.” Adam was frustrated. He wasn’t upset they had to move his senior year of high school, he was glad of it actually. His step father had been a real asshole and he was overjoyed his mother finally divorced the drunk bastard. His mother however was a joyful scatterbrain. She was all fun and very little substance. She was a brilliant radiologist, and Adam assumed when you were exposed to x-rays all day long it did things to the common sense part of the brain. At least he thought that in his mother’s case.

She’d transferred hospitals to get away from her ex-husband who had made threats after the divorce and both mother and son were in a new town, in a new state and in an apartment his mother had rented from pictures she found apartment hunting online and neither of them knew the first thing about their new

home. Other than the name of the town was Bedford Pines, Vermont and it was pretty enough as they drove through it in the U-haul following the on-line driving instructions.

A kindly looking elderly woman came out onto the balcony next to where Penny was standing. "Can't help but overhear you. I'm Cornelia Abernathy, welcome neighbors. Hear you're in a bind for directions. My grandson is out back in the laundry shed; want me to send him with you as a guide? It's nice to see a boy his age moving in, he's always tending little old ladies here."

"Oh wonderful! I'll even treat to lunch for the help!" Penny said and Cornelia smiled.

"ELENI!" Cornelia bellowed rattling bones and Adam grinned, he had a grandmother like her too.

"Coming Grandma!" A tenor called back, muffled from behind the apartment building and Adam's knees went weak when a youth indeed his age came out onto the shared balcony in answer to his grandmother's summons.

He wasn't what Adam would call handsome; he was far too pretty for handsome. All slender limbs and legs poking out of his too big khaki shorts and sky blue tank top complete with toe peg flip fops made of cheap rubber and plastic in neon green. His skin was a pale creamy white that did not see a lot of sun and his dark almost black hair and stark blue eyes made him look like snow white out of the pages of said fairy tale. Adam's throat went dry; he had a taste for the pretty ones like him.

"Yes, Grandma?" Eleni asked, looking shy in front of strangers.

"We've got new neighbors and they don't know the way to town yet. I said you'd ride with the boy down there and show him the way to town.

Eleni looked taken aback a moment but nodded dutifully and turned to head outside.

He was even prettier close up as he exited the main door and came out to Adam. "Welcome. I'm Eleni." He said softly and shyly holding out his hand.

"Adam Wallace. That's my Mom, Penny, up there shrieking at me like a harpy. Thanks for being my navigator." Adam said firmly grasping and shaking Eleni's hand.

"I heard her. Kinda like my grandma." Eleni smiled gently and Adam's bones were putty again, He was even prettier when he smiled.

"I was just thinking the same thing. Come on, Mom's treating us all to burgers let's go." Adam said leading Eleni over to a bright metallic blue, 1969 Pontiac GTO tricked out to the high heavens.

"Wow, nice car." Eleni breathed and Adam grinned.

"Oh yeah. I worked my ass off since I was ten saving up for a ride like this! I have to get another part time job soon so I can continue to keep her. She drinks gas like nobody's business but boy oh boy is she sweet." Adam grinned as Eleni got into the passenger seat.

"It's beautiful. I don't even have my license yet. Never got around to it, and we don't have a car anyway so it never was much of a rush." Eleni said admiring the black leather upholstery.

"How old are you? I'll be eighteen in December."

"Seventeen. My birthday was yesterday." Eleni replied and Adam grinned, thinking once again he'd moved in net door to perfection.

"Happy Birthday then Eleni. That's Russian isn't it?" Adam said as he started the car and it roared to life.

Eleni nodded. "My mother was Russian, my Dad was Irish. They both died in a car crash when I was six. I've been living with Grandma ever since. My Mom's parents still live in St. Petersburg. I've never met them, but I get letters and pictures from there.

"Sorry man, didn't mean to pry."

"It's alright. It was a long time ago. Turn right at the stop sign." Eleni replied and directed as they turned off Olympia Way onto Forth Street.

"My Dad, my real Dad was a loser. Dumped Mom when he found out she was pregnant. She had me while she was in college. Then she met my Step-father when I was about seven, he was a lab tech at her hospital. He was a real asshole. They got divorced last month so here we are. Where's the high school?"

"I'll show you. Turn Left at the light." Eleni said and Adam complied and turned left off Fourth Street onto Columbia Drive. The High School was right there. Bedford High was not as big as his last high school but looked decent enough.

"Damn that's close to the Apartment, you can walk it."

"I do." Eleni said as they drove around the block and back onto Forth Street.

“You can walk to town too really. Here were are.” Eleni said as Fourth Street came to a T-junction onto Main Street. Where downtown, all seven blocks of it, spanned Main Street like a quaint little skiing village right out of Switzerland.

“No fast food joints?” Adam asked and Eleni laughed.

“We have two. Mc Donald’s is at the end of Main behind Peterson’s Hardware and Taco Bell is across the street. That’s it for large chain franchises. If you want burgers though, you want Greg’s Grill. He makes the best burgers in town and for about the same price as Mc Donald’s you get a real half pound burger with real cheddar cheese charbroiled. I eat at Greg’s a lot.”

“Sounds great!” Adam said spying Greg’s Grill. A walk up window restaurant where a large group of teens were hanging around over burgers and shakes. As Adam pulled up and parked he noticed Eleni wide eyed and shrinking into his seat.

“I’ll wait here if you don’t mind.” Eleni said quietly looking terrified and Adam’s warning bells were going off. He knew that look, fear. The same look he’d worn most of his childhood around his step-father until he got big enough to fight back. Adam studied the group of teens. Big burly jocks and the obligatory cheerleader types. Eleni was practically hiding behind the dashboard.

“You have every right to be here too Eleni. Don’t let Jocks push you around man. I hate bullies.”

“You don’t know everything Adam. Please, just let me stay here, Please.” Eleni was begging and Adam nodded.

“Okay. What do you and your grandma want?”

“I’m really not hungry now Adam. Just get Gran a cheeseburger with everything on it and fries.”

“This is bullshit. I’ll pick you something anyway Eleni so what do you normally get?” Adam said really detesting the fact that no matter where he went, there were always bullies to deal with.

“You’re very nice. Cheeseburger, plain.”

“No fries?”

“No. I can’t eat that much. I barely finish a burger.”

“I can tell skinny.” Adam winked getting out of the car and walking up to the window.

Adam was looking over the menu above the window as he stood in line and was listening intently to the conversation going on around him.

“Hey, isn’t that Eleni in the car over there?”

“What’s fag boy doing here? He knows better than to show his face around here.”

“Can’t you leave him alone Marcus? Don’t you beat him up enough?” One little cheerleader type said looking worried, at least one of them cared.

“Shut your hole Stacy! I told him before I don’t want to see his queer face around here. He knows better.” The one she called Marcus said cracking his knuckles.

“Leave him be Marcus! Isn’t it bad enough you beat him up every day at school? He’s not hurting anyone; he’s not even getting out of the car! You’re so mean to him!”

“He’s a homo!”

“He’s a person! He used to be your best friend!”

“Yeah, until the little fucker turned queer on me!”

“Marcus you make me sick! He didn’t just ‘turn queer’ what century are you living in? He was and is the same person who used to bail your ass out of trouble all the time. He didn’t change, you did!”

“Shut up Stacy!”

Adam placed his order and got his numbered ticket and leaned against the post to listen. Intrigued and quite happy. Eleni was gay as he suspected. Adam did a little cheer inside as his internal Gaydar once again proved to be accurate.

“You’re a Neanderthal!”

“Yeah and straight! I caught him checking out my ass man!”

“Oh for goodness sakes! Is that why you beat him up?”

“No queer is checking me out man!”

“Did he DO anything? Or just LOOK at you?”

“Looking is bad enough.”

“So why is it okay for you to check out everything that has tits and appreciate something nice to look at and he can’t do the same. Looking is not a CRIME.”

“He’s not normal checking out guys! It’s sick!” Marcus retorted and Stacy rolled her eyes and pointed at Adam.

“You, stranger. What do you think?” She asked and Adam grinned.

“I think you’re absolutely right. It’s flattering to think someone is checking you out. Gender shouldn’t matter.’

“See Marcus!”

“You queer too man?”

“Does it matter? If a guy or a girl thinks I’m nice to look at I’d be flattered. I know I’m a guy and I’m going to be a guy tomorrow. I’m not suddenly emasculated just because someone looks at me. If you’re that troubled over a look, the problem isn’t the boy, it’s your security in your own manhood I’d worry about.” Adam said with a smirk and Stacy looked about ready to cheer.

“Fucking asshole did you just diss me?”

“He’s not too bright is he?” Adam turned and asked Stacy who laughed.

“Nope.” She replied as Marcus growled and dove for Adam who neatly ducked and Marcus’ fist slammed into the pole instead.

“You son of a bitch!” Marcus screamed holding his knuckles as the owner of the diner came out.

“Oi! You little pack of no good brats! You’ve eaten now get out and stop harassing my customers!” Greg shouted as Eleni came running out of the car.

“Adam! Are you okay?” Eleni asked concerned and Adam just grinned.

“Fine.”

Eleni looked visibly relieved as Stacy shrieked.

“Leni! Look out!” She hollered as Marcus dove and Eleni was spared an attack from behind as Adam’s punch sent Marcus toppling backwards.

“Attack an innocent person from behind? You coward!” Adam grumbled as Greg hauled Marcus up off the ground by his shirt collar and shoved him into the parking lot.

“That boy is right you good for nothing brute! I don’t want to see your face back at my diner you hear me!” Greg said looking furious.

“You alright Eleni?” Greg asked and Eleni nodded stunned.

“Yeah, fine. Thanks to Adam.” Eleni said awestruck turning to look at Adam who just smiled and winked at him. Making Eleni blush a dozen shades of red.

“I’ll say. Wicked punch.”

“Lightweight Regional Boxing Championship winner four years running.” Adam said and Greg laughed.

“Oh man! Sucker punched by a ringer!” Greg said laughing and Adam smiled.

“I hate bullies. I took up boxing to fend them off myself.” Adam said and Greg nodded.

“I hear ya kid. I was a twig and went into the marines for the same reason. I don’t get beat up no more either. Tough living when you have shits like him giving you hell for being different.” Greg said with a wink and Adam nodded.

A slender man, built very much like Eleni if you added thirty years to him came running out of the back. “Greg what’s going on?”

“Nothing Paul. Just a hooligan making a ruckus.”

“That little homophobic jock?”

“That would be the one.” Greg answered and Paul rolled his eyes and noticed Eleni.

“Eleni! Oh god He didn’t beat you up again did he?” Paul asked and Eleni shook his head. Wondering just what was going on with all the innuendo he was suddenly acutely tuned into. Paul was always clucking over him like a mother hen if he turned up bruised and Greg was always yammering on about bullies and now Adam was here and latched onto his arm tightly, protectively almost.

“No, Adam pulled me out of the way.” Eleni said suddenly feeling very light.

“I’ll say! Wow!” Stacy perked up coming over to latch onto Adam’s other arm and feeling his biceps. “What an arm! WHOO!”

“You’re new here huh kid?” Greg asked and Adam nodded.

“Moved in today. We’re on lunch break and Eleni graciously escorted me here saying I’d get hooked on your burgers.” Adam said and Greg laughed.

“It’s Eleni’s Gran who’s hooked on my burgers.” Greg said as Paul looked Adam over and grinned.

“You look like you work out. My cousin runs the Gym over on Elm Street. He’s got a boxing ring, let me give you his number.” Paul said grabbing a paper napkin and handing it to Adam, an additional note on it that said, “Eleni is a perfect little sweetheart and really shy, don’t blow it.”

Adam smiled and shoved the note in his pocket. “I’ll make sure I call, I won’t blow it.” Adam said and Paul smiled and Adam turned to the sign in the window that said ‘help wanted’.

“While I’m at it, can I apply for the job?” Adam asked and Greg grinned.

“Can you flip burgers and make shakes?”

“Yup.”

“Then you’re hired kid. Monday through Thursday after school and all day Sunday. I don’t make high school kids work Friday’s or Saturday’s it kills the fun of youth.” Greg said shaking Adam’s hand.

“Can you start Monday?”

“Sure. There is still three weeks till school starts. Want me to come in full time until?”

“Sure, it’ll give you time to learn, it’s pretty easy. Come in at eleven Monday morning.” Greg said as the order came to the window and he handed Adam the sacks.

“Go eat and see you Monday Adam!”

“See ya!” Adam called as he and Eleni followed. Stacy trailing along and grinning.

“That seriously rocked. I am so glad to see someone else standing up to Marcus. I’m Stacy.” She introduced and Adam shook her hand.

“Adam Wallace. See you around Stacy.”

“You bet! Way to go Eleni, he’s a catch!” Stacy cheered and Eleni almost spilled the bag of fries in his lap looking like a deer stuck in the headlights of oncoming traffic.

Adam just smiled and started the car and headed back home.

“She was really standing up for you back there.” Adam remarked and Eleni nodded, still blushing a bright red.

“Stacy is nice. I’ve known her since kindergarten.”

“She seems it. For what it’s worth Eleni, Marcus is a pig and I want you to promise me something.”

“What?” Eleni asked as they drove home.

“If he tries beating on you again you come get me. I can’t stand bullies who pick fights with smaller guys because they know they can win easy. I think he’s a foul prick to jump you from behind. I won’t let him beat on you anymore.”

“I can’t have you do that Adam. It’s not your fault he thinks I was checking him out when I wasn’t. He knows that too. He just... I mean I’m sure he declared my sexuality publicly again. I’m gay and he thinks I’m horrible and it’s just that. I try to fly under his radar.” Eleni sighed and Adam sighed.

“Eleni, trust me. There’s no flying under radar like that. They look for you to hurt you on purpose for the fun of it. Trust me, I’ve been there, done that a million times with my step-father. I’ve been called every name in the book, beat on, shit on, stepped on, locked in rooms, gone to bed without supper you name it because he thought he could cure me and make me a man. The only GOOD thing he did for me was getting me into boxing. I was able to punch him back after a while.”

“You’re? You too?” Eleni asked and Adam laughed.

“Queer, fairy, faggot, Nancy-boy, rump ranger, shit shover, queen, and whatever else you want to call it. I’ve been called them all more than once, Yep.”

“I’d have never guessed in a million years. It took me years to finally figure out Greg and Paul were married to each other. I’m sort of clueless.” Eleni said and Adam smiled.

“I know and I think it’s really cute Eleni. Want to go out with me sometime?”

“Are you serious? You mean like a date?”

Adam laughed. "Yes, oh clueless one."

Eleni smiled brighter than Adam had ever seen. "Yes, I'd love to." Eleni replied and Adam's insides did a little cheer and somersault as they pulled back into the apartment carport.

"Then it's a date. But first lunch, then unpacking, I still don't know where my clothes are yet." Adam said as they carried the food upstairs and ate in Eleni's apartment at the table together since Penny's table was still on the truck.

After lunch, Eleni helped Adam clear the u-haul and carry the boxes upstairs while Cornelia helped Penny unpack and sort the mess inside.

Dinner was a repeat of lunch, this time over pizza and canned sodas on the shared balcony amidst Cornelia's potted geraniums and ferns. Eleni was dreaming and happier than he had been in a long time. Adam was such a nice guy, genuinely nice as was his mother. They both had great senses of humor and bantered together more like best friends than mother and son.

Not to mention Eleni thought Adam was sex on two legs to look at. He was all one lean hard mass of muscle. When he'd taken his shirt off that afternoon Eleni thought he'd died and gone to heaven. Adam's chest was so hard packed it was like an anvil of strength and his pecks were to die for they were so sculpted, as were his arms and abs. Eleni was fairly positive Adam was toned from stern to stern and back again and he'd have paid money to see him naked from behind.

Adam's dark blond hair was contained in his ever present baseball cap and his hazel eyes were always twinkling merrily amused with life. He was sinfully handsome and Eleni was thanking the heavens that a God was moving in next door.

"Penny for your thoughts Leni." Adam said catching Eleni spacing out.

"I'm just happy. I like you a lot Adam." Eleni said truthfully and Adam smiled.

"Good, then the feeling is mutual. I'm hot as hell right now too. Wanna make an ice cream run?"

"Oh that sound's good. Yes." Eleni said standing and offering Adam a hand up.

They went back inside where Cornelia and Penny were unpacking the china. Adam's arm was draped casually over Eleni's shoulders.

"We're getting ice cream. Want me to bring you back anything ladies?"

"OH! Yes! Hot Fudge sundae for me!" Penny said and Cornelia cheered.

“Chocolate Malted. Here and let me pay this time boys!” Cornelia said digging into her purse and slapping a twenty into Adam’s hands.

“No need to hurry back, have fun boys!” Penny said as they left and she turned to Cornelia.

“My son really likes Eleni. I know that look, he’s smitten.”

“Honey, I haven’t seen Eleni so happy in years. They can do whatever they damn well please if it makes them happy. Oh dear that Vase is lovely!” Cornelia said as she unpacked and Penny happily told her the story of the vase chattering on like mother and daughter.

The local ice cream parlor was packed with patrons as Adam parked the GTO and he and Eleni entered and got into line. Adam’s arm still casually draped on Eleni’s shoulders as they scanned the menu and Eleni pointed out what was good and what wasn’t in his opinion. He was really rather oblivious to Adam’s body language lost in happiness just being near the youth.

Adam was taking advantage of Eleni’s adorable lack of consciousness and loving every minute of it. Eleni was exactly what Paul had written on that napkin. He was rather shy, he blushed easy, he treated his grandmother like the Queen of Persia, he was kind and giving to the point of almost being servile, and he was totally oblivious to his own good looks. He had no idea just how beautiful he was to look at and Adam was staking claim to the gem he’d moved next door to as fast as his overheated, teenage hormones would allow. He wanted everyone to know that Eleni was HIS conquest and he wasn’t about to let someone move in on his territory. He was a leech and he knew it and didn’t care.

Eleni didn’t seem to mind after all, and the returned body language wasn’t totally absent. Eleni leaned into the touch, laughed more confidently, smiled more readily and his eyes spoke volumes. He was equally attracted to Adam as Adam was to Eleni. It was more than mutual as they inched forward in line.

“What’s the Blitz?” Adam asked wondering what the item on the menu was.

“A trip to the dentist tomorrow after they release you from the hospital from having to pump your stomach. It’s like one massive hot fudge sundae, banana boat and brownie bender in a vat smothered in whipped cream. It’s made for a group of people to binge on. It makes you ill just looking at the monstrosity.” Eleni said with a chuckle as both boys nearly toppled over as they were hit by a female torpedo.

“HI! I didn’t think I’d see you guys again today!” Stacy said grinning and linking her arms through both of theirs separating them.

“We just got done lugging all my mom’s crap up two flights of stairs. We’re hot and ice cream was calling.” Adam said, liking the vivacious girl.

“We just got back from a softball game over in the park. Ice Cream was calling us too.” Stacy said as her friends joined her giggling in line. Five girls and all of them staring at Adam like fresh meat, he sighed.

“Did you win?” Eleni asked nicely, looking like he genuinely wanted to know.

“Nope, but close. Ten to Eight. Tied going into the ninth. Sam’s Salvage beat us, but we play Bertie’s Barbershop Batters next weekend and they all suck.” Stacy said, wearing her Peterman’s Hardware Player’s jersey all dirt stained and her knees filthy.

“Too bad. Do you still play catcher?” Eleni asked and Stacy nodded.

“Yup and I miss you coming to the games Leni. Won’t you start coming back?” Stacy asked and Eleni sighed.

“Marcus, Stacy. You know that’s why I don’t go out anywhere. It’s not that I don’t want to go, I just don’t want to get beat up and left in dumpsters anymore.” Eleni said and Adam snorted.

“He’s so not touching you again, I promised you that Leni. I’m not letting that no good prick lay a hand on you anymore.” Adam said looking deadly serious and Eleni smiled.

“Oh my god, are you two going out?” Stacy asked and Eleni blushed and Adam grinned.

“I don’t know, This could technically be called a date I suppose and I did ask him out earlier. Whether he’d accept the job of being my official boyfriend however I haven’t asked him yet.” Adam replied and Eleni blushed a bright red.

“Eleni are you crazy! Say yes!” Stacy said and poked and Eleni’s face was hot with embarrassment even though he was smiling.

“I’d not say no if he asked.” Eleni said quietly and Adam grinned.

“So I guess there’s your answer Stacy.” Adam said moving behind Eleni and hugging his shoulders. “Yes, we’re going out.”

“Too Cool! So will you bring him to the game next Saturday?” She asked and Adam nodded.

“If he wants to go, yes. Leni?”

“I would, I haven’t been in years. The games are fun and the girls are really good.” Eleni said and Adam squeezed his shoulders.

“I love a good game too, count us both in as your cheerleading squad Stacy.”

“ROCK ON! Let’s celebrate. You all wanna go in on a Blitz?” Stacy asked and Adam nodded.

“Sure, why not. Leni?”

“There are enough of us, sure.” Eleni smiled as they reached the counter and ordered a Blitz with eight spoons and they took over the back booth and all ate like pigs laughing and enjoying the evening. Adam had his arm around Eleni in the back of the booth as the girls purposefully smashed them closer together.

“Leni, show Adam what you can do!” Stacy said and Eleni was blushing again.

“Stacy! I haven’t done that in years, I don’t think I still can.”

“Sure you can. Come on, show him.” Stacy said handing Eleni the cherry off the top.

“I can’t believe I’m doing this in public.” Eleni said popping the cheery, stem and all, into his mouth. His cheeks were moving rather like a camel chewing cud and then Eleni stuck his tongue out and there on the tip of his tongue was the cherry stem with a neat little knot tied in it using only his tongue.

Adam groaned and just started banging his forehead on the table muttering curses about tongues and obscene boyfriends tormenting him in public places.

Eleni leaned over and smiled and cupped his hands around Adam’s ear and whispered. “I’ll give you a private performance later if you’d like.”

“Baby, you’d better.” Adam answered right back turning his face and smiling at Eleni with his cheek on the table. Eleni smiled and brushed Adam’s bangs off his forehead with gentle fingers. The love in his eyes almost taking Adam’s breath away. Eleni was so gorgeous right at that moment, Adam wanted to just throw him on the table and have his wicked way with him. He opted however just to smile back. He’d devour his brand new boyfriend later, without prying eyes around.

“Oh God, I’m getting a toothache, you two are so lovey dovey I can’t stand it! Wait I want a picture!” Stacy said dragging out her cell phone. “Pose and say cheese!” She said pointing her phone with a digital camera in it at them. Adam sat up and wrapped his arms around Eleni and rested his chin on Eleni’s shoulder. Eleni leaned his head against Adam’s smiling brightly as Stacy snapped the photo.

“God Eleni, you look great on camera. You should be a model, look at this.” Stacy said handing the phone over.

“Wow, she’s right. I mean I thought you were hot the minute I laid eyes on you, but on camera, wow. I want to shoot you properly with good lighting.” Adam said looking at the picture.

“You take pictures?” Stacy asked and Adam nodded.

“I want to do it professionally. I’ve been everywhere shooting, but I’ve never shot a human model before. Basically just nature shots. Eleni would you pose for me?”

Eleni nodded. “If you want me too I guess. I never really had my picture taken much; I have no idea what to do. Am I really nice looking?” He asked totally innocently and Adam and six girls gawked at him.

“You’re not serious Leni? You’re so cute, half the girls at the school cry over the fact you’re gay and the other half will want to eavesdrop on you when they find out you’re dating Adam. Hell I want pictures!” Stacy said and Eleni coughed and sputtered and Adam had to slap his back to get him to stop coughing. He was laughing, he officially adored Stacy now, even if she was making his boyfriend choke with shock.

“I’m game for pictures!” Adam said and Eleni turned and slugged him, hard in the shoulder. “I guess that’s a no Stace!” Adam chortled and Stacy mock pouted.

“I get details then later Adam.”

“Adam! Don’t you dare!” Eleni said and Adam just grinned.

“Ah Eleni, you’re too easy to bait. I don’t kiss and tell... much.” Adam said and Eleni just sighed and laughed, it felt so good to feel free and alive from fear again. He’d missed Stacy, he’d missed hanging out with friends, and he’d missed social interaction.

Best of all he had at last something he’d always wanted. Someone to care about him, someone he could honestly love in return. Adam was heaven sent and Eleni was going to hold onto his new boyfriend for all he was worth.

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Chapter II - The Glorious Firsts

Adam and Eleni bid the girls good night and then ordered a Hot Fudge Sundae and Chocolate Malt to go and raced home before the ice cream melted in Eleni's hands.

Cornelia and Penny were still chattering away over a photo album box as they ate their treats and Eleni followed Adam into his room to help him finish unpacking his few boxes.

Eleni was admiring the boxing trophies he was setting on a shelf as Adam was hanging up his clothes. “Don't you get hurt boxing?” Eleni asked and Adam shrugged.

“Yeah, I had my nose busted twice, a dislocated shoulder, a dozen or more busted lips and a concussion once. I quit after the last tournament after the concussion. I really just do it now to keep in shape. I like it, but I don't want to end up a vegetable like some guys. I only really got into it to keep my step dad from beating me up too bad. I kept at it because it keeps me healthy and fit. I shadow box now really. I want to be a photographer, like one of those guys who gets the cover of National Geographic by following people like Jane Goodall around. You see exotic places and animals and get in and get dirty. I like that. Hands on work feels good, I'm not a nine to five type of guy.” Adam said and Eleni smiled where he sat on the floor.

“Do you have any pictures you can show me? I'm interested.” Eleni said and Adam went rummaging in boxes and pulled out a photo album and handed it to Eleni.

“That was a trip up into the Carlsbad Canyons with Mom.”

“Adam! These are amazing!” Eleni said flipping through the various shots. Adam could make a single blade of grass look like a work of art.

“You like them? Really?”

“Oh yes. These are wonderful you have a great eye.” Eleni said never taking his eyes off the pictures, fascinated with them. Adam smiled as he continued to put his clothes away, watching Eleni out of the corner of his eye. He couldn't wait to take pictures of his new boyfriend and he was already putting shots together in his head when his mom knocked on the door.

"It's getting late boys. Nelia went home a few minutes ago and said it was okay if you wanted to sleep over Leni. I really appreciate all the help and I'm heading to bed myself. Goodnight boys." Penny said shutting the door again. Adam's hand was frozen in mid-hang of his shirt and the photo album was slipping out of Eleni's stunned fingers. Eleni looked up at Adam who grinned.

"Wanna sleep over handsome?" Adam asked wagging his eyebrows and Eleni blushed.

"I, oh... Adam I." Eleni looked torn and Adam just smiled.

"Eleni, don't panic. There is no rush to do anything, honestly. I'm not gonna dump you if we do or don't. I'm rather in love with you just as you are, you're sorta stuck with me Leni. Do you mind staying, I'd really like you to stay." Adam said seriously and Eleni melted and his eyes lost fear.

"You're wonderful you know that? I do want to stay, I'm rather in love with you too."

"Good." Adam winked hanging up the last of his clothes and going to help Eleni finish emptying the last two boxes.

"So what do you wanna do after graduation?" Adam asked, curious what made Eleni tick.

"Would you laugh if I said I want to be a nurse so I can make sure I can be there for Grandma? She really worried me last summer, she's diabetic and anemic and she just stopped responding to all her meds and I felt so helpless to help her. The doctor's finally got her stabilized and I monitor what she eats and makes sure she doesn't forget to take her shots and stuff. I just worry something else might happen and I won't know what to do and she gives me so much I want to take care of her. I have a trust fund from my parents that matures when I'm eighteen and I can use that to go to nursing school. They have an RN program out of the hospital and I've already taken the application exam and been accepted."

"I wouldn't laugh I think that's great. Mom will love to hear that, she's always saying there are never enough nurses to go around, especially Registered Nurses. I bet she'd help you study, she's a radiologist and had her RN first before she went onto radiology."

"Really? You think she would help me study?"

"You can count on it when she finds out. You'll be the son she always wanted." Adam laughed and Eleni grinned.

"I'm sure she's proud of you. I heard her talking about you to grandma over those photo albums. I wonder how many nudie baby pictures of you Gran got to see before me." Eleni said and Adam chuckled.

"Tons. She's got my bare ass all over the place in those books." Adam said and Eleni grinned.

"Now I want to see Damn it." Eleni smiled and Adam leaned closer.

"You never have to ask when you want to see my bare ass beautiful. I'll fucking gift wrap it if you want." Adam said and Eleni blushed but smiled.

"You're so incorrigible. Down boy."

"Woof." Adam said licking his tongue over Eleni's cheek making him shiver.

Eleni turned to face Adam and their eyes locked and then shut of their own accord as Adam leaned in and Eleni received his very first kiss. It was magical and Eleni was wrapped in strong arms and lost in the kiss as Adam reached up behind their heads and flipped off the lights.

Eleni made good on his promise and Adam as delighted with that sinful tongue that kissed him back just as feverishly as he was kissing the dark haired youth in his arms. Eleni was pliant as clay as Adam lay him back on the floor as they kissed and hands tentatively touched backs and chests through cotton t-shirts.

"Come on, I want to continue this kiss in a comfortable bed." Adam whispered sitting up and pulling off his shirt and pulling Eleni up with him. Leading him over to the bed and reaching down to pull off Eleni's shirt.

There was no resistance, not even when Adam's shaking fingers ran down a smooth chest to toy with the button on Eleni's shorts.

Eleni sighed. "It's okay Adam. I want it too." Eleni whispered his voice shaking and Adam smiled and his fingers continued to undress Eleni until they were both quietly crawling into bed naked together.

Once under the covers Adam resumed the kiss, his hands stroking Eleni's chest and toying with nipples that grew hard under his touch.

Eleni was gasping for breath into the kiss as Adam rolled on top of him, grinding their erections together.

"I want you bad Leni. I'm gonna burst." Adam hissed, going mad with want and Eleni moaned quietly into the kiss.

“Me too. Just do it Adam, I don’t know what to do, just do it.” Eleni pleaded in a hushed whisper not wanting to wake up Penny in the next room across the hall.

Adam nodded and sat up. “I have to get... just don’t run off I have to go to the bathroom a minute. I’ll be right back beautiful.” Adam whispered as he carefully tip-toed out to the bathroom and rushed back holding a jar of Vaseline.

Eleni didn’t have time to lose the mood or the urge and was biting a pillow in his teeth to keep from moaning as Adam rolled him over and proceeded to do wicked things with his Vaseline coated fingers. Sliding in and out and stretching intimate places no one had touched before.

“Get on your knees Leni. It’s easier.” Adam whispered urging Eleni up on all fours and Eleni’s face was buried in the pillow sobbing with desire as Adam filled him and began thrusting. His hand snaking around to grasp Eleni’s erection and pumping it in time to his movements.

Eleni’s hands were fisted in sheets and his cries went muffled into bedding as they tried to keep very quiet while they made love for the first time. Eleni’s very first sexual experience and one he’d remember his whole life long.

Adam was wonderful. He never demanded, he never hurt; he never did anything but bring joy with his touch. Eleni felt complete and whole and he’d never get tired of Adam making love to him like this. Adam was grunting softly, trying to bite back his urge to cry out, he was sweating and his hand was furiously pumping Eleni while the other was gripping Eleni’s hip hard. The slap of skin on skin seemed so very loud in the quiet apartment to their ears above the rush of blood pumping and making the world focus only in the space of the bed, where two bodies were frantically seeking release.

Eleni’s whole body grew taught and Adam felt his hand grow wet and warm as Eleni came and his muscles constricted around Adam, pulling him deeper.

Adam wanted to shout and swallowed his own intense pleasure as he thrust a few more times and came hard in rigid spasms of release. Eleni felt the warm sensation fill him and he sighed as Adam melted against him, still intimately connected, his chest pressed against Eleni’s back as Eleni’s knees slid down the bed and he was pressed into the mattress by Adam’s weight, his penis still inside Eleni and slowly slipping out again as he grew flaccid once more.

Adam’s lips were sucking on the back of Eleni’s neck, nibbling and biting. “You’re incredible. That was fabulous.” Adam sighed in-between bites and nibbles.

“Mm, it was.” Eleni said right back in euphoric and sexually sated bliss. He didn’t even care that Adam was giving him a hickey he was going to have a hard time covering up later. He was too happy and too much in love with Adam to care.

“You alright? You’re not in pain right?” Adam asked and Eleni turned his head and smiled.

“It didn’t hurt at all. I’m fine. I’m a little sore now, but it’s so minor I don’t care. I feel and felt so good I don’t ever want to wake up from this dream.”

“Good, I was afraid I didn’t use enough lube. You were a virgin and all I was kinda scared I was going to hurt you.” Adam confessed and Eleni nudged him so he could roll on top of Adam and Eleni smiled down as they lay chest to sweaty chest.

“You didn’t. I love you.” Eleni said and in the darkness Eleni saw the flash of white teeth in a sincere smile.

“I love you too Leni. Don’t kill me in the morning when you see all the hickeys on your back.”

“I thought you were giving me hickeys you devil. Remind me not to take my shirt off in front of Grandma.” Eleni chuckled and Adam grinned.

“I will. Goodnight gorgeous.”

“Goodnight Demon.” Eleni said as they curled up together lost in each other’s arms under the sheets.

Both boys were awakened with a cough at the door. “Rise and shine love birds, breakfast is ready.” Penny winked shutting the door again. It was fairly obvious what they had done the night before and really, she didn’t care. She knew Adam was gay since before he realized it himself, she’d watched him all day stuck like glue to Eleni and Eleni equally as smitten. Both she and Nelia had decided they’d just make life easier for them both at home since out in the real world they’d face hell every day for wanting to love each other. The least the women in their lives at home could do would be not adding to their burdens.

Penny had told Nelia about how badly Adam’s step-father had treated him and Nelia told her about Eleni’s daily beatings from his former best friend. They had decided after sharing those stories that both boys had suffered quite enough prejudice and hate they were only going to have a loving sanctuary at home to contend with after fighting off hate outside.

Penny and Nelia also admitted the boys looked awfully good together Eleni was pretty enough to be a model and Adam was a handsome young man in his

prime. They seemed to fit together like hand in glove and if the boys were happy that was all that mattered.

They both came into the kitchen looking sheepish and Penny grinned. “Loves, I remember being seventeen. Don’t sweat it, sit and eat I know you’re both probably famished this morning. Nelia and I want you to both know we approve and we’re not going to interfere or get in the way. Just be happy and don’t hide it from us, we don’t care, we just want you both happy okay? We’d rather have you home SAFE, then out there getting caught by people who will hurt you. I see enough broken bones from hate crimes, I don’t want to be looking at your x-rays, got it?”

“Mom you’re the best.” Adam said kissing her cheek before he sat down.

“Yeah, yeah, Just eat.” Penny said smiling at them adjusting her robe.

Eleni looked stunned but happy and she ran her hands through his disheveled locks. “So damn cute. Your Gran tells me you want to be a nurse huh?”

“I do.”

“It’s hard work kiddo, but rewarding. I was an RN for ten years before I got my doctorate in Radiology. I can help you study if you’d like.”

“I’d love that. Adam was telling me you might.”

“Hon, we don’t have enough nurses, because the training is hard and most give up halfway through. I’ll help you as much as you need.” Penny said going over to pour coffee for herself.

“Taking science classes this semester?” She asked and Eleni nodded around his eggs.

“I’ve taken them all so far. I’ve got advanced biology first semester and advanced chemistry second semester. Physics both semesters and I’m taking math too, I’m in calculus this year.”

“Good, no wonder the application is already approved. Good boy, you’re going in prepared.” Penny said and Adam shivered.

“My boyfriend the brain. I barely passed math and science. I like English, I signed up for all the senior English courses they offered and P.E. and Photography. I was really glad to see Bedford had a photography program.”

“He’s good, did he show you his album Leni?” Penny asked and Eleni nodded.

“He did, so beautiful. He’s very talented. I can’t snap a photo without my thumb being in the frame.” Eleni said and Penny laughed.

“Me too baby. Me too.” She said as Nelia came over with fresh baked muffins and smiles.

The conversation carried on over breakfast as Nelia returned to help Penny finish unpacking and they shooed the boys out to have some fun on Sunday before Adam had to start his job on Monday.

Rather than drive since downtown was only seven blocks away, they walked hand in hand down the street, passed the park on elm where the men were playing softball and they both paused a while and watched a bit of the game before heading on to town.

Walking the strip, Adam got his first good look at the town he now called home and learned he liked it quite a lot. He had his camera slung around his neck and he was taking pictures of bits and pieces that grabbed his interest.

The painted wrought iron sign over the antique shop. The unique shaped pothole in the cross walk that was filled with water and the oil from the road was catching the light just right making a beautiful rainbow like swirl in the middle.

He took a picture of Eleni when he wasn’t looking and was engrossed with playing with a box of puppies in front of the local pet shop. Eleni was in mid laugh as a puppy was licking his face. Adam was sure that picture was going to be one of his favorites as they continued on passed Peterson’s hardware and over to Greg’s Grill. Adam took more pictures around there and Paul and Greg posed for him all smiles and Paul was teasing Eleni as he caught sight of a hickey on the back of his neck that was almost covered by his turned up polo shirt collar.

“My baby boy is all grown up and has got hickeys! I remember when you used to come here with your Gran wanting peanut butter and now look at you.” Paul grinned and Eleni blushed but smiled.

“Aw, leave him alone Paul. It’s about damned time if you ask me! That little pecker had him cooped up too long. Adam I’ll fire you if you let that prick at Leni again!”

“Trust me Boss. I’m the jealous sort. Besides, we live in Vermont! This is Queer Mecca!” Adam said and Greg bellowed.

“How true! First state to allow same sex marriages and I like the snow. Paul and I came here from Jersey to get married and we stayed cause it’s a pretty state. Been here about twelve years now.” Greg said as he wiped outside plastic picnic tables with a rag as Paul wrote that day’s specials on the dry erase board.

“How did you meet?” Eleni asked sitting on a table his chin in his hand.

“In the Marines actually. In those days you lied if your were queer to get in. Now they have that don’t ask, don’t tell rule. Then they asked point blank if you were gay and you lied about it. We were both stationed in Germany when we met by accident in a gay bar we had both went incognito to. I recognized him as the requisitions duty officer and I was in communications. We started seeing each other on the sly and when we got out we moved in together and the rest is history. We’ve been together almost twenty-five years now.” Greg said and Paul smiled.

“I nearly shit myself when you walked into that bar. However, I am so glad you did. It was hard when they shipped me back to the states and we were apart for almost two years, only seeing each other on extended leaves. But you manage, and phone calls and letters help.” Paul said hanging up the sign and wiping his hands on his apron.

“Phone sex sucks Paul.” Greg said and Adam laughed.

“You do what you have to.” Paul replied right back looking at Eleni who was blushing bright red.

“I’m sorry I asked.” Eleni said and Paul just ruffled his hair.

“It’s life hon. Pure and simple you don’t really choose who you love, you just sort of fall into it and before you know it you’re doing stupid things for each other. It’s part of the magic.” Paul said hugging Eleni’s shoulders.

“I’ve watched you grow up since before you were tall enough to look over our counter. Back when your Mom and Dad used to bring you here for chocolate shakes and French fries on Saturday afternoons after your mom played softball for Peterman’s. I saw you start to realize your own leanings when you were about thirteen, and then my heart broke when you turned fourteen and realized the truth and had that boy turn on you. I’ve been praying every day you’d find someone who’d love you like we do. You’re like family Leni, hell your Gran keeps us in business!” Paul said and Eleni smiled.

“She’s a burger fiend Gran. The doctor’s told her to cut down you know.”

“I know and I’ve been feeding her veggie burgers blended with just a little beef for weeks now and she hasn’t caught on, don’t tell her I made the switch!” Greg said and Eleni laughed.

“I won’t! She was saying how much BETTER the burger’s had gotten recently. I never knew. I won’t tell honest! That’s great!”

“We love the old bat too ya know.” Paul winked turning to Adam.

“So tell us about you Lad. Where do you hail from?”

“I was born in New York, but grew up just outside of Boston.”

“I thought you sounded Bostonian.”

“Yeah, the accent is a dead give away huh? Mom just got divorced, thank god, and here we are, she’s a radiologist and starts work at the hospital on Monday. She picked Vermont really because of me, bless my mom I never had trouble coming out of the closet to her, my step-father on the other hand was a really macho guy with a chip on his shoulder who felt threatened by a thirteen year old faggot. I wasn’t even OUT then, just showing signs I guess, whatever those are. And Wham, I’m in the gym learning to ‘be a man’ and then I did come out of the closet when I was fifteen and he tried to beat the hell out of me, but I punched the fucker back and KO’d him. He wasn’t happy to be beaten by a kid and a queer at that. He was the one who had me learn boxing after all it served him right. The glass jaw.” Adam grinned and Paul chuckled.

“Sounds like my old man. He still thinks Paul is my roommate and not my husband and we sent the geezer wedding photos. He’s in denial.” Greg said as he flipped on the neon open sign.

“You boys hungry?” Greg asked as the grill began to warm up.

“It is getting close to lunch isn’t it? I could eat. Leni?”

“I always have room for Greg’s cooking. Do you have pastrami?” Leni asked and Greg smiled.

“Always. You want it on a small roll right?” Greg asked tossing meat on the grill.

“I can’t eat a regular, it’s too big, yes.”

“Adam?”

“I love Pastrami, make it two!”

“Done.” Greg grinned as he grilled the meat and Paul went inside and passed them both sodas.

“On the house, congratulations on getting together.” Paul said and Adam smiled liking his new bosses as much as he liked his new town and loved Eleni. He was going to be happy here at last.

The grill was packed in no time and Adam and Eleni ate quickly and waved goodbye to Paul and Greg before they continued Adam's tour of town.

They came to the local super market and set up in the parking lot was a traveling carnival. One of those dime a dozen, rickety ride ridden and carnie barker game calling Americana standards.

Adam grabbed Eleni's hand and practically dragged him along. "Now, we can have a proper first date. I'm taking my boyfriend on a good old fashioned Ferris Wheel and feeding him cotton candy with my fingers!" Adam grinned and Eleni laughed and interlaced his fingers with Adam's as they walked the packed little carnival.

First stop was the ticket booth and Adam purchased two unlimited ride bracelets for them both, refusing to let Eleni go halves. "I asked you out, I'm paying." Adam said sticking his tongue out and Eleni just shook his head and stuck his wallet back in his pocket.

From there Adam had a vice like grip on Eleni's hand and made a beeline for the Ferris wheel. They sadly didn't get stuck at the top, but were close enough to the top when Adam seized the moment and kissed Eleni breathless before the ride started again.

Eleni felt a hundred feet tall, Adam was the most wonderful person he'd ever met in his life and he was so in love his heart pounded every time hazel eyes twinkled at him and every time Adam graced him with an affectionate smile.

Adam liked to have fun, and anyone lucky enough to be with him was taken along for the ride. Eleni was doubly blessed because Adam was going all out to show him a good time.

From the Ferris wheel, they hit the Tilt-a-Whirl and the Scrambler, the Gravitron had them both digging their underwear out of the cracks of their asses laughing as they exited the ride and hit the food vendor for cotton candy. Which Adam insisted on feeding Eleni who rewarded his boyfriend with slobbery sucking on fingers that made Adam shiver and immediately get hot under the collar.

"You're making me horny!" Adam hissed as Eleni sucked on a finger up to the first knuckle.

"I know." Eleni winked and chuckled and Adam retaliated by sticking a sticky bit of pink candy on the end of his nose before licking it off.

New Love was a spiritually uplifting experience and Eleni was having the time of his life as they walked the games and Adam won him the traditional and stereotypical ugly and cheap stuffed bear from the star cut-out dart booth and a Jack Daniels Logo mirror from the whiffle ball and muffin tin game. Adam pausing every now and again to have Eleni pose by something to snap a picture, marking their first official date on 35mm film to remember it by.

They ran across Stacy and her softball teammates over by the goldfish game and she begged Eleni and Adam to help her out. She was a catcher not a pitcher she claimed and it was Eleni's shot that won her the goldfish she toted around in a plastic baggy afterwards.

From there was skee-ball where it was Eleni's turn to win something for Adam, just cheap plastic Mardi Gras beads that Adam wore proudly as they hit the rides again with the girls.

It was late afternoon and the carnival was really getting full of people and the group was standing off to the side and putting booty into the trunk of Stacy's car so they didn't have to tote around stuffed toys on rides. When suddenly a rock whizzed by Eleni's ear and struck the car and Adam and the others turned around to see Marcus and his football cronies standing there leering and grinning.

"Stacy you hang around people that will give you a bad rep. You wanna be a fag hag?"

"Oh for Pete's sake Marcus. Stuff a sock in it already, I really give a shit what you think asshole. Adam and Eleni are a whole lot more fun to hang with than you and your monosyllabic grunting and chest beating gorillas." Stacy said rolling her eyes and then planting her hands on her hips, annoyed.

"Please Marcus, can we end this? We used to be friends, please." Eleni said and Marcus sneered.

"I thought I told you to keep quiet queer! I don't want to hear you speak or I'll kick your ass fag!" Marcus growled and Adam crossed his arms over his chest.

"Touch him ever again jock boy and I'll feed you your own testicles for dinner. I'm not bluffing. I don't want you talking to him, I don't want you threatening him, I don't want you within fifty feet or it's not Eleni's ass in line for a beating it will be yours. Kapish?" Adam said looking deadly serious and Marcus turned his lip up.

"Oh you really scare me faggot. Aren't you afraid you might break your limp wrist?" Marcus said and Adam actually laughed.

“Christ, you’re nothing but one stereotype after another spouting mother fucker aren’t you? I didn’t think cretins like you still existed in this day and age. Newsflash jock boy. My wrist is just fine, my dick, last I checked, is still dangling nicely between my legs and just as firmly rooted as yours and you can’t intimidate me, I’m not scared of you nor will I be. I don’t know if I should laugh at your stupidity or pity it, you have a serious issue with your manhood if you think being a bully to guys smaller than you is a turn on.” Adam said and got the reaction he expected. Marcus dove at him like a raging bull.

Adam shoved Eleni and Stacy out of the way and let Marcus’ momentum be his mistake. He waited until he was close then fancy footed it out of the way and Marcus went tumbling over the bumper and fell into Stacy’s open trunk.

Adam quickly slammed the trunk shut and pounded on it. “Cool off boy. We’ll let you out later.” Adam said and Eleni was covering his mouth with his hands trying hard not to laugh out loud.

Stacy however was howling with amusement.

“Let me the fuck out of here!” Marcus screamed from inside the trunk.

“Will you be a good boy?” Adam called back patronizingly and the air turned blue with swearing. “I guess that’s a ‘no’ then.” Adam said sitting on the trunk while Marcus banged from the inside.

“Hey, let him out man!” One of his cronies said and Adam fixed him with a look.

“Only if you promise to keep the rabid dog on a better leash. I don’t want ANY of you bothering Eleni again is that clear?”

“Man it’s all Marcus dude. We always tell him not to fuck with Leni. He never hurt no one. Hell, my brother is gay and can kick my ass. It’s just Marcus, we got no beef with Leni. Tell him Leni, we never hit you did we?”

“No, but you never stopped him either Sam.” Eleni said and the boy rubbed his neck.

“Sorry man. Yeah, we didn’t. But Marcus is like one minute okay and the next he’s beating on you dude. What did you do to piss him off so bad?”

“Nothing and that’s what I have been trying to tell him for years. It was your brother who pinched his ass in the shower, I saw it all, and when he turned around all he saw was me, looking at him. Granted yes, I was looking at his ass because it was bright red from the pinch and well he thought I did it and beat the hell out of me right there in the shower and every day since. He never believed me that I didn’t do it! He was my best friend and ONLY my friend, he wasn’t gay

and I knew that and I never did love him like that and never would. Maybe he'll listen to you if you get your brother to tell him the truth. He certainly never takes my word for it." Eleni said and at this point in time the pounding on the trunk was quiet, like Marcus was listening.

"I'll murder Steve. He was always pinching guys asses in the locker room. Hell, Marcus knew that too! Marcus why the hell did you think it was Leni? You knew Steve was a fucking pervert who thought it was funny fucking with straight guys!" Sam asked the trunk of Stacy's car.

He got no answer.

"Fucking hell. Let him out of the trunk and I'll kick his ass man for you!" Samuel Parkinson said and Stacy grinned.

"Sam, you're all right. Let's make a pact here and now, we all make sure Marcus keeps his hands off Leni?" She asked twirling her keys on her finger.

"No shit Stace. He always said it was that he caught Eleni jacking off watching him."

"I NEVER!" Eleni said looking horrified.

"We never believed it either man. Let him out Stace." Sam said and Adam got off the trunk and Stacy opened it. Marcus jumped out looking livid and Sam hauled off and punched him in the gut.

"Son of a bitch, you lying sack of shit! Fuck off!" Sam said and Marcus turned and stalked off without a word and no apology.

Sam held out his hand to Adam. "Sam, nice ta meet ya. Sorry about all his shit."

"Don't apologize to me. My boyfriend is the one who suffered." Adam said and Sam smiled at Eleni.

"Boyfriend?" He asked and Eleni smiled and nodded as Adam draped an arm over his shoulders.

"Since yesterday." Eleni said shyly and Sam grinned.

"Whoa, cool. So Hey... is the fair any good?" Sam asked totally changing the subject.

"Good enough. We were hitting rides again, wanna join us?" Stacy asked slipping her arm through Sam's

“Sure. It’s the only way I can get you to go out with me Stace.”

“Maybe I’ll be easier swayed in the future after that performance. We’ll have to see.” She winked and everyone headed back to the carnival again, crisis averted and Eleni truly felt vindicated at last and happier than he’d ever been holding Adam’s hand openly as a couple with all his old friends once again his friends.

They too had been under the fear of Marcus, afraid if they pushed too hard Eleni would suffer more and all it took was Adam to come along and show them all how to stand up to a bully.

It was late and everyone was asleep as Adam and Eleni cuddled together in Eleni’s bed this time. The sheets askew and both happily sated as they watched the moon out of Eleni’s window.

“I love you Adam.” Eleni sighed and yawned.

“I love you too Leni. Christ it’s late and I gotta go to work tomorrow but I don’t want to sleep yet. I had a great time today. Did you?”

“Mm, I did. Even if I have heartburn from one too many corndogs.” Eleni chuckled and Adam smiled.

“I can watch you eat them all day long you realize however. I kept seeing my cock covered in mustard.” Adam said crudely and Eleni laughed.

“I don’t need yours covered in mustard. Whipped cream however might be nice next time.”

“Oh man, don’t turn me on again when I’m sleepy Leni. But thank you, that tongue of yours should be insured, my golden throat.”

“Glad you liked it. I certainly did.” Eleni said turning to kiss Adam’s shoulder.

“Where did you learn that?”

“I’m not totally naïve Adam. I did look at my fair share of dirty magazines too you know.”

“Thank God. That was hot stuff Leni.”

“Thank you.” Eleni chuckled and yawned again. “We need to stop talking and go to sleep.”

“Yes, we do. Goodnight Baby.”

“Goodnight Adam. Sweet Dreams.”

“They will be after a blow job like that.”

“Adam, go to sleep.”

“Yes mother.” Adam chuckled and at last the pillow talk died and both teens fell asleep with the moon’s glow shining down on them in peaceful slumber.

“The Boy in Apartment 2B”

A “Young Lovers” Story

Author: D. Sanders

Chapter III - Real Love Lasts

Adam started work over at Greg’s the following day and genuinely liked his job. Yes, it was hot in that little tiny building, but it was clean and the food was simple fare. Paul and Greg were hilarious to work with and even though they ran a tight ship it was easy to follow their directions and he ate for free whatever he wanted during his break. Adam couldn’t argue with the benefits of his part time gig and it paid decent too on top of everything else.

Eleni would walk over after the dinner rush and sit outside on the plastic table and talk to them all while they worked and Adam finished his shift and then would ride home with Adam and tease him that he smelled good enough to eat. To which Adam would counter that Eleni was just as bad as his Grandmother and had a hamburger grease fetish.

Three weeks flew by and before they knew it, summer vacation was over and school had started and the leaves were turning colors as they rode to school every morning together in Adam’s car. Adam drove for two reasons even though it was so close. The first being he just plain loved his car and the second being he went right to work after school. He’d drop Eleni off at home and then head right in to work. He only worked until eight to help with the dinner rush and had plenty of time to head home and do his homework.

He was quite grateful his boyfriend was as intelligent as he was pretty; homework took no time at all when he had his “brainiac” to ask questions of as they sat in Eleni’s living room at the coffee table together.

Nelia was always making snacks for them and was a retired English teacher so Adam had help with his English from her too.

Adam spent more time with the Boy in Apartment 2B than he did in his own apartment of 2A. His mother worked long shifts and strange hours at the hospital and was rarely home to begin with, but she never worried. Nelia had become like a surrogate mother and grandmother to Penny and Adam and was always home for both boys and made sure Penny didn’t forget to eat dinner and breakfast, saying she was cooking anyway and a working mom needed the time to herself and shouldn’t have to also find time to cook. Therefore, meals were usually spent like an extended family over at Nelia’s large table.

She looked happy and joyful to feel needed, Eleni was happy to see her active and occupied and her health was getting better by being active. On the days Nelia needed to visit the Doctor, Penny would drive her rather than have Nelia take the bus since she worked in the hospital and clinic facility anyway and they’d

have lunch together at the cafeteria before Penny dropped Nelia back off at home.

Saturday Mornings both women would combine shopping lists and do the weekly shopping together at the local supermarket and Nelia would do the cooking and tidying in both apartments and the trade off was Penny paid it was a great arrangement and everyone was happy.

Adam spent more time sleeping in Eleni's bed than he did his own. Eleni had a nice soft double bed and Nelia slept like the dead and they never worried about waking her up when they were playing together in Eleni's bedroom and they only slept in apartment 2A when Penny was working graveyard shifts and they had the whole apartment to themselves.

They were in essence one big happy family and as close as one. It was early October when one Saturday Nelia and Penny called the boys up from outside where they were helping with the laundry out in the laundry shed and Penny held up a real estate brochure.

"I got wind of these new houses being built over in that empty field across from the hospital. Nelia and I went over Thursday during lunch and toured the model homes there and they are gorgeous! We got to talking and when we combine what we both pay in rent we can get a beautiful five bedroom over there together for about a two hundred less a month combined. What do you say boys? Do you want to make it official and all move in together?"

"Mom are you kidding? That's great!"

"When do we move?" Eleni cheered and Penny and Nelia smiled.

"Let's all head over there and pick the lot and the house and sign the papers then we'll know." Penny said grabbing her purse and everyone piled into her Volvo and drove the short distance across town to the new homes.

They took Adam and Eleni over and showed them the model both Penny and Nelia had liked. Penny had loved the family room and the fireplace and Nelia was in heaven over the totally tricked out kitchen. The best part was the finished basement; it was like a completely separate guest apartment which both Nelia and Penny said would belong to the boys to share. Their own little sanctuary together that had not only a nice sized bedroom and private bath but a little kitchenette and living space where they could escape and watch TV without disturbing the women and just have good old fashioned privacy. The only time they'd be invaded was when the laundry needed doing, but since that was their chore for the household it wasn't much of a compromise.

Adam and Eleni were just as excited as Nelia and Penny when both women signed joint mortgage papers and they all picked a nice corner lot with a big yard.

“Can we get a dog?” Adam asked and Penny smiled.

“Sure, we’ll finally have a yard and no apartment rules. A little dog though Adam, don’t be bringing home a huge monstrosity like a Great Dane. They wreck places with tails wagging.”

“Great!” Adam cheered as the real estate broker came back in and said the house on the lot they wanted was almost finished and he brought out the swatches and samples so Penny and Nelia could choose what carpets and colors they wanted in the house. Once they selected tiles and extras the man did some final calculations and said the house would be ready the weekend before Thanksgiving giving them all six weeks to pack and make ready for another move.

However, the day wasn’t over yet, they stopped at the furniture store on the way back and Penny and Nelia picked out some nicer new furniture to go in the house and they let Adam and Eleni pick out furnishings for their new room. It was sort of embarrassing picking out a bed they’d share together with Nelia and Penny along oo-ing and ah-ing over pretty bedroom furniture and Penny’s lewd comments about four posters didn’t help either.

Eleni was bright red as Penny hugged his middle and rested her chin on his shoulder. “Face it Leni. I come with Adam as a package deal cutie-pie.” She teased as they indeed chose a cozy four poster in cherry wood with matching twin chests of drawers, nightstands and a dresser.

They scheduled delivery for the furniture to coincide with the move in date and then they headed to lunch at Greg’s and shared the news before heading home to begin a nice leisurely pack and turn in notices to the apartment management.

They were all moved in and still only partially unpacked as they all sat around the table that Thanksgiving in their new house. Nelia had gone all out and for days the kitchen had smelled wonderful.

Adam and Eleni were in heaven and their new bed was broken in nicely and it was nice to know they could be as noisy as they liked and they had two floors separating them from Penny and Nelia whose bedrooms were on the second floor.

It was family at it's finest and Adam mused it was the best day in his life when he'd fallen for the boy in Apartment 2B that very first day they'd moved to Bedford Pines and made it their home.

Penny was happy; she loved her job and the town. Nelia was happy because she wasn't feeling so at odds with retirement anymore and felt alive being needed again to help maintain a house. Eleni was ever walking around with a huge smile on his face and Adam was basking in the glow of everyone and soaking it all in like a drug.

This was what family was all about; he had the love of his life in his bed every night, and had him there to support him when he was struggling. He had his mother who was the best woman in the whole damn world and he had Nelia which somewhere along the line he'd started calling Gran too. She fed him and harassed him and kept him on his toes as much as she did Eleni.

Life was pretty damn perfect all around.

Winter came and Adam and Eleni were up on ladders hanging Christmas lights on the eaves with the enlisted help of Stacy and Sam, who were now officially boyfriend and girlfriend. Stacy was holding the ladder that Eleni was perched on feeding lights to Adam and Sam who were dangling off the roof with staple guns.

"When you kids are done, I made hot chocolate!" Nelia called out the door and as soon as the teens were finished they all headed inside to warm up over Nelia's famous cocoa and cookies.

Winter break was long and fun. There was a whole festival in town the entire two weeks before Christmas and two weeks after. Food, dancing, craft fairs, music Bedford Pines came alive in winter and Greg's grill was always busy with customers out having a good time.

Greg insisted Adam take Christmas Break off from work too to enjoy and recharge. He was a hard worker and Greg and Paul had adopted him as much as they had adopted Eleni as a surrogate son. They shooed him away with a bonus paycheck and ordered him to have a happy Christmas and to just have fun.

Which he did. He did every day anyway; he had Eleni to go home to every day after all.

Adam was no fool, he knew real love when he had fallen into it and he was thanking the heavens every day for the boy from Apartment 2B. Eleni was perfect, they never argued, they were more than compatible in personality and Adam agreed with Nelia that they fit together like hand in glove.

On a daily basis one of them would finish the other's sentences or pick up on something the other needed without being prompted. To say they were 'in-tune' with each other would have been an understatement of the century.

They were in love and it showed in everything they did for one another. It was agreed that Eleni was not going to get a part time job, he had three times as much homework as Adam and he was prepping for a medical career and Penny was adamant he stay focused on his goal. Adam agreed with her, Eleni had enough on his plate than have to deal with a job too, and he'd be going to school practically across the street from the house come the following fall.

Adam however was checking out the Photo Journalism courses from several universities. There was a branch of Columbia about an hour away in the bigger city and he'd have to get a better fuel efficient car if he was going to commute to school rather than live in a dorm on campus. Just the thought of being away from Eleni gave him nightmares, he wasn't straying away from his man if he could avoid it, he was rather addicted to sleeping with him and if Eleni wasn't in bed when he woke up he felt off center. He needed Eleni like he needed air to breathe. Living far away was not an option at this point.

Penny just told him to use the Volvo since she walked to work everyday now anyway, so car worries aside he applied to the Columbia annex and sent his portfolio. He was accepted come February and they all celebrated over dinner and sparkling apple cider instead of champagne.

Prom was an event, both boys stood in the living room in rented tuxes with Stacy and Sam as Penny and Nelia took about thirty-seven rolls of film of them all. Gushing over Stacy's dress and how nice all the boys looked all dressed to the nines. They all drove to school in Adam's GTO, Eleni giving Stacy the front seat with her hoops and skirts and they all danced to retro eighties dance music in the bedazzled gymnasium of the high school.

Marcus had stopped harassing Eleni and just ignored him now which was fine with all parties involved and Adam was dancing with Eleni rather lewdly to Frankie Goes to Hollywood's "Relax" dance remix.

Eleni was a walking blush that evening but was having a blast and never wanted the night to end. Adam was the center of his young universe and he liked it that way. He loved him more now than he did that first day they had gotten together.

Life couldn't have gotten any better, when you found "the one" you just knew, just like Paul said. You just sort of fell into love without preamble and didn't realize until afterwards how lucky you were to have found each other. Eleni didn't foresee a life now without Adam as a major part of it. His first thoughts each morning were of Adam and Adam was always the last thing on his mind at night when they went to bed together.

Whether they had sex or not didn't matter, they were an item and where one was the other wasn't far away. Eleni was full of joy and happiness and Adam was used to the spontaneous tears that just sort of came on without warning and he held Eleni close as they danced.

"I love you Leni. Don't cry you know I'm not going anywhere."

"That's why I cry Adam. Because I love you and I know you're not going anywhere and I love you even more for it. I'm so lucky."

"I'm the lucky one Baby. I have the hottest guy in town in my bed every night and he's a soft hearted sweetheart to boot. I'm one lucky bastard." Adam said taking Eleni's hand and leading him off outside.

Eleni wondered what Adam was up to and his eyes widened when Adam went down on one knee and pulled a small box out of his pocket.

"Leni, will you marry me?"

"Adam! Are you serious?"

"Oh yeah baby. Will you?"

"Are you kidding? YES!" Eleni cried more tears as Adam slipped the simple little silver band on his finger.

Their kiss lit up the night and Eleni was showing everyone his new ring afterwards drunk with joy.

Adam felt King of the world right at that moment. The boy from Apartment 2B had agreed to marry him and he knew damn well his mother was sitting at home on pins and needles waiting to know what Eleni said.

Adam pulled his cell phone out of his pocket and dialed home.

Penny answered. "Well?"

"He said yes."

"Whoopee! Nelia he said Yes!" Penny called out to Nelia in the kitchen.

"Like you both thought he wouldn't?" She hollered back and Adam chuckled.

"Go back to the dance Baby! Congratulations!" Penny said and Adam hung up all smiles.

They wouldn't actually marry for a while yet, but being engaged was a joy in and of itself and Eleni was glued to him all night and made his fiancé quite happy much later after they returned home and two tuxes were laying on the floor of their bedroom and Adam was moaning his gratitude until dawn.

It was a simple ceremony in the courthouse. Nelia and Penny were all teary eyed and Paul and Greg were the Best men witnesses and Stacy and Sam and a handful of their friends from school were all there as the judge presided over their civil union that early August morning on Eleni's eighteenth birthday.

Everyone went back to the house for a small catered reception in the back yard. They'd begin college married; it seemed silly to wait when really nothing else was changing much in their lives. It was more a re-affirmation of the love that was obvious to all they shared.

They each wore a gold band next to silver ones. Matching engagement and wedding bands for simple young men who really needed nothing more than love to sustain them and make them happy.

The way life was meant to be lived.

From the heart.

END