

08 | Luke's Orbit

Big week - posting 3 chapters this week! And it's honestly boosted by how you guys voted on the last chapter. So here it is!

This one up 1 day later :)

7

Chapter 8: Luke's Orbit

6

We rolled into Camp a er midnight. Luke's Jeep drove over leaf covered trails, taking us back to our little cabin by the lake. I was tired.

4

It felt strange returning here a er so much had happened today and yet nothing really changed. I was still the clumsy nerd no-one cared about. And he was still the boy everyone chased a er.

8

"So, that's it?" I asked.

0

We were parked right outside our cabin. I looked at him, all bruised and broken up. He looked so damn hot. What's new?

6

"You want round two?"

51

"The VIP treatment would have us coming back in stretchers," I said.

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He laughed, "I never expected you to be such a wild card."

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His blue eyes had flecks of silver in them that pierced through me, vivid against the dimly lit car. My heart did uncontrollable jumping jacks and it was my cue to leave. The way he was looking at me...

6

"You got me beat up today but I guess a milkshake nets it out to a neutral day," I said, "Oh and the sunset by the beach adds a-

9

"Just a thank you is enough Millie. You don't need to do any math."

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"Right."

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I bit my lip. I talk too much when I'm nervous. I bet all the other girls he hung out with were smooth talkers. Smooth and chill like him.

161

"I'll see you in the morning."

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"You're not coming in?" I asked.

7

"I'm checking out a party first. You go ahead."

202

I nodded and got out of the car. I walked alone towards the front door and the car's flashlights reflected in the front window. As I opened the door, I heard the car pull out of the drive way.

7

I couldn't believe it - today I actually hung out with Luke Dawson and Austin Taylor. Me. A day like today never happens to me

70

While we were gone today, Luke had gotten someone to watch over our campers. As soon as I walked into the house, the girl barely acknowledged me except to shove a note in my face. It was addressed to Luke with a heart next to his name. I le it on the

kitchen counter for him. She le .

17

I walked into my room and sat on the edge of the bed. I checked my phone for the first time today. 0 messages.

97

I texted my mum: Hi mum, I'm in camp and everything's good. How are you?

229

I texted Julia: How's it going, Julia? I have a crazy story to tell you about camp. Hope all's rosy.

411

And then I sat there. There was nobody else to message. No one messaged me back. I have a sister, but we don't have much of a

relationship. I think the last time she texted me was three years ago...

by accident.

1K

It's tough when you try to be friendly, but no one reciprocates. I

spend all year alone and all summer at this camp where everyone

rejects me. Sometimes I feel like I missed out on the day that

everyone chose their friends. Why are some people so closed o to

being friendly? Does it hurt to be nice?

904

I looked back at the last message my ex-boyfriend sent me. He was

the one person who made me believe that I wasn't a weird freak.

Maybe I could be normal. Maybe someone could love me.

172

Until he broke my heart.

231

I made the right decision Millie. Kelly is a lot of things you never were.

I couldn't help it. I know I cheated on you, but I le you a lot of clues

to figure it out. You're so blind sometimes.

23K

He made it seem like it was my fault. That was his text. The last one

he ever sent me. Time stamp was 1 month ago and I never replied.

57

He cheated on me and I was the last to find out. He called me stupid

for not figuring it out earlier.

109

But I'm not stupid. I'm trusting. I love with all my heart and I believed

in him. I didn't want to doubt him.

245

I learned my lesson. Who could ever love me?

1.7K

I changed into flu y pajamas and crept into bed. I stared up at the

ceiling, wishing something could take the pain of heartbreak away. I

turned the lights o .

4

A few hours later, I was fast asleep when a certain Jeep wrangler

pulled up to the cabin.

4

**

5

"No! I don't want to move! They made me do sport yesterday!"

195

I stared into the angry face of an 8-year-old. He was gripping onto the

wooden side of his bunk-bed with all his might. This was too

theatrical for 8.15 AM.

4

"Come on, Dupree. I'll let you take your iPad to breakfast if you get

up," I bargained.

235

His scowl so ened, "Can I keep my iPad with me all day?"

3

"OK." You're going to be some other counselor's problem during the

day, so knock yourself out, kid.

3

A small hand tugged on my trousers. I looked down and found Alicia

holding up a hairbrush for me. I knelt towards her and helped plait

her hair into braids.

343

"Bus is here!" Malik pointed out the window, jumping up and down

on his bed. He was the very energetic one.

832

The kids screamed and started to run outside, yelling out breakfast

foods. Dupree trotted out last, proudly clutching his iPad.

4

If only someone would care about me like Dupree cares about his

iPad...JK. But not really.

782

They were gone. I could finally breathe.

6

It was Day 3. The final day in the ultimatum Luke had given Mr

Woodhouse. I remember it clearly. His deep voice as he demanded to

change rooms, "I'll give you three days to fix this. Otherwise I'm out."

60

So, this was it. When I come back to the cabin later tonight, I would

find another co-counselor in his place.

0

The end of my 72 hours experiencing the world in Luke's orbit.

0

It had been crazy living with Luke Dawson. Every day was a surprise;

from the model eating my fruit loops in the morning to the gang of

gamblers fighting with us outside the Surfside Shack. From the way

he didn't respect my privacy while I was in the shower to how he

knew exactly which of my buttons to press.

63

He was spontaneous, risky, dangerous. And **hot**.

4

Without him, my life had none of those things.

2

Thank god. I guess drama is overrated.

2

But Luke Dawson is not.

298