

UNEXPECTED LOVE

by Lorena Conjar, 2.e

Rosely Hattwitch is an 18-year-old freshman at Montana State University, majoring history. She had dark brown hair and green eyes, which looked like polished jades. She is impulsive and hot-headed, but also a kind and selfless person who always puts the needs of others before her own. That is also why she is at this college instead of Washington University majoring Criminal Justice. She is here because she didn't want to leave her best friend since childhood alone. But something unexpected was about to happen to her and she wasn't even aware of it.

It was a normal winter day in Montana. I was walking to my next lecture alone. Lissa was sick so she didn't come with me. As I was gazing into the sky while I was walking, I bumped headfirst into something on my way. When I looked up, I saw that I had bumped into some guy. He was mesmerising. He had shoulder length chocolate brown hair, dark brown eyes, almost black. As I looked up at him, I realised that he was looking at me. Then I spoke: "I am sorry! Didn't see you there. I was looking at the sky. It is remarkably beautiful today!" When I finished, there was a moment of silence, and then: "Apology accepted. Indeed, the sky is beautiful today," said the guy with a bit of an accent. "Russian?" I thought to myself. "Well, see you around the campus," I said as I went to my lecture.

Lissa had asked me to take notes for her, but I just could not concentrate in this boring lecture hall, thinking about that guy from earlier. I admitted to myself that he was handsome! I didn't see him at the start of the semester. Maybe he's an exchange student from Europe? While I was in my own world thinking about the guy, the bell for the end of the lecture rang. When I exited the lecture hall, I went straight to mine and Lissa's dorm. After a few minutes, I entered a small room with two twin-sized beds, nightstands, and desks. The walls were painted white but had many different posters scattered around. Lissa was lying in the bed, but when she heard me enter, she flew from her bed. "Did you take the notes I asked you to?" She seemed excited. "*Oh, shoot, I forgot about those!*" I cursed in my mind. "I am so sorry Lissa. I didn't mean to, but I bumped into this guy, and he was just soo fine, Lissa, if only you had seen him!" I suddenly felt butterflies in my stomach. "Tell me about him." Lissa forgot about her notes and just excitedly listened to me. "He was tall, like 6'1 tall, he had chocolate brown shoulder length hair, dark brown, almost black eyes, muscular build, and he had a Russian accent!" While I was describing him to her, I felt butterflies in my stomach again. *Oh my God, what is this guy doing to me?!* I had never felt like that before!

Lissa and I were lying in our beds, and we struck up a random conversation.

"So, Liss, are you feeling better now?"

"Yeah, thanks to you. If you had not got me that medicine, I think that I would be even worse now."

"No need to thank me, Liss. That is what friends to."

"I am sorry that you could not get into that university in Washington. I know that you wanted to study Criminal Justice and that they don't have any criminal degrees here." Lissa apologised.

"Don't worry, Lissa. As long as I have you here, it will be ok." I lied about not being able to get in. I got in, but I declined. I really wanted to go to Washington, but I had promised her

parents on their death bed that I would keep her safe. Their death was caused by injuries received during a car crash 2 years ago. That is the main reason I am here in Montana. After that short conversation, we went to sleep. I woke up to my alarm going off at early. "Ughh, I hate mornings," I whisper-yelled while I was getting up. After I got ready for the day and checked on Lissa, I went to the lectures. On my way to the lecture hall, I spotted the guy. Let's be honest, it wasn't that hard to find him because he was so tall. I went up to him. "Hi! I am the girl that bumped into you yesterday. I came to give you a proper apology. Hello, I am Rosely Hattwitch, but friends call me Rose. I am sorry for bumping into you." I offered a handshake. He shook my hand and spoke. "Hello, it is a pleasure to meet you, Rosely. My name is Aleksei Belinsky. Your apology is accepted." Now that we had made amends, I decided to ask him something. "Would you like to grab a lunch with me tomorrow?" "I would be honoured to grab a lunch with you, Rose." He had that flirty look in his eyes, and I liked it. The day went as usual as. I couldn't focus on the lectures because I felt so excited about tomorrow, but I took notes for Lissa. The lectures ended for the day. Those few times I saw Aleksei, we exchanged a few glances, and I could feel every time that my cheeks were burning up. I went to my room and told Lissa everything that had happened. But when I showed her the notes she had asked for, she was so happy and forgot about everything I had told her, and studied them carefully.

Aleksei Belinsky is a 22-year-old senior at Montana State University, majoring foreign languages and literature. He transferred to Montana from Russian university in Omsk, where he had studied linguistics. His 6'1 muscular built can be sometimes threatening but his face makes you melt on the spot. Chocolate brown shoulder length hair compliments his face shape and dark brown (almost black) eyes are like a void you could get lost in.

The last two days here in America were pretty exciting. A random girl bumped into me yesterday and tomorrow I am going to get a lunch with her. After a long time, I actually feel nervous. Rosely is such an attractive girl. She is around 5'5 with long wavy dark brown hair. Her eyes are like green Swarovski jades. I can't help but smile every time I see her. We agreed to meet at the campus gates at around 5 o'clock.

I took a shower and went to sleep. I woke up at seven in the morning. I decided to get up and go to the campus gym, which was massive. It had sparring corner, section with machines, yoga section, showers, and locker rooms. I spotted a familiar figure in the yoga section. As I went closer, I realised it was Rosely. "I am starting to like her even more," he thought to himself.

"Hey Rose!"

As she turned, he waved at her.

"Hi Aleksei!" she waved back. "What are you doing here?"

"Oh, I came sightseeing. What about you?" I answered her as she chuckled.

"I am also sightseeing."

He chuckled at her joke. "Could you give me a tour of the gym, I am kind of a new here?"

"Oh, of course Aleksei, I would be delighted!"

After a short tour and work-out with Rosely, at half past ten I went to my dorm room.

I took a shower and decided to take a quick nap. Let's just say that the nap wasn't quick - I woke up around the noon. When I looked at the clock, I bolted out of my bed to get ready. While we were at the gym, we decided to move lunch to two hours earlier. So, we could go to the movies after the lunch. While I was getting ready, I remembered that Rose had

mentioned that she liked my hair when it was down, so I decided not to tie it up into a ponytail.

Meanwhile, at freshmen dorms.

“Lissa, where’s my white vest?!” I asked Lissa as I was digging through my wardrobe.
“I don’t know Rose; don’t you have any others?” Lissa answered.
“No, I don’t have any that go well with these pants.” Lisa handed me one of her tops: “Here, take this one.” I took it and went to meet Aleksei.

When they met at the gates they decided to go to a nearby restaurant. When they entered the restaurant and sat at the table they started to talk a little bit.

“So, Aleksei, I wonder - are you from Russia?”
“Yes, indeed I am. You recognized my accent.”
“Well, it is kind of not as common in this part of America.” He smiled at her. “And I guess you are not an American either.”
“No, I am not an American - my mom is from North Ireland and my dad is Spanish.”
“How did you end up in America then?”
“My mom works for a security company and when she realised that she couldn’t work and raise me at the same time, she left me at an orphanage in Montana when I was 7, but she sends me monthly email or message.”
“I am sorry.”
“You don’t have to be.”
“And your dad, why didn’t he get you out of there?”
“I don’t know, he was never around. All I know is that I have his eyes and that he is from Spain. What about you? Is your story as messed up or is it just me?”
“It’s not just you. My mom and dad were young when they got me. Mom was 19 and dad 21. It was a one-night stand. Their parents forced them to get married. They were married for 6 years and then mom just left. We never heard from her again. After some time, dad got remarried and left me with his parents when I was 12. Him and wife moved, and they rarely visited or called. They would visit once a year and for the most of his visit he wouldn’t talk to me.”
“I am sorry that you had to go through that. I don’ know which one of us has had a harder time.”
After some time talking, they decided to go to the movies. The only available seats were couple seats, so they took them.

I enjoyed talking to her. She is really smart and charismatic person. We were watching *The Exorcist: Believer*. After the movie ended it was getting pretty late, and we decided to go and sit at the park. Because it was winter, it started snowing lightly. As we were in the park, we sat on the bench watching the stars as the snow was falling. It was cold so we got closer to each other. Siting in the comfortable silence... Then my phone rung. When I looked at caller ID I saw it was my boss.

“Sorry Rosely, I need to take this.” I got up and distanced myself from her. I spoke in Russian in case Rosely could hear me.

“Hello, Sir.”

"Ah Aleksei! I am calling to see if you have found the girl."

"I have not found Sergeyev heir yet." I told him wanting for this call to end soon.

"You need to be faster, boy. If we don't eliminate her, it's over for us."

"I know. As soon as I find her, I will call."

I then returned to Rosely and offered to head back to the campus. As we returned to the campus, I escorted rose to the freshman dorms. When I returned to my room, I took my work laptop and hacked into administration of Montana State University, went to student list and searched for Lissa Arthur. I found her. Out of curiosity I opened Rosely's profile and spotted something. Both of them went to the same middle and high school. And after my colleagues assassinated her parents, she was at the same orphanage as Rosely. Interesting. The next day, as I was heading to my lecture, I spotted Rosely and some other girl by her side. As I approached them, I realized it was my target. Then Rosely saw me and came to me. "Hi Aleksei!" she said as she hugged me. I hugged her back.

"Hi to you too, Rosely."

"Oh, by the way Aleksei, this is my best friend Lissa." Rosely introduced us. I extended my hand to greet her.

"Hello, I am Aleksei Belinsky." She shook my hand and introduced herself. We parted ways and went to our lectures.

Over the next few weeks, Aleksei observed Lissa while going on occasional dates with Rosely. He was starting to recognize feelings for her. One day he decided to call his boss and inform him about Lissa.

"Hello, who is it?" answered the boss.

"Hello Sir, it is Aleksei. I am calling to update you about our target."

"Oh, good, let's hear about it."

"She will be in Russia in two days."

"Well done, son. See you soon."

The call ended and Aleksei Started planning.

Rosely was sick and stayed in her dorm. He decided to ask Lissa to help him buy a gift for Rosely. He would drug her and drive to the airport, from where the plane will take them to Russia. Easy! A piece of cake!

"Hey Lissa!" Aleksei greeted.

"Aleksei, good to see you."

"Could you help me buy a surprise present for Rosely?"

"Of course I will help you. When do you want to buy It?"

"Today, if today possible. I want to give it to her tomorrow."

"No problem. Meet you at gates in about 15 minutes. I need to return some books to the library."

"Ok."

They entered the car that Aleksei had got from his boss to do this. They drove to the shopping center out of town where not many people went. There they did some fake shopping and when they were getting back to the car, someone "attacked" them. Lissa was sedated. Aleksei got back to the campus to get his things. Then he went to the administration office and informed them he was dropping out. He took his things, went to the private airport and boarded the same plane as Lissa and his colleague.

It was getting late, and Rosely was getting pretty worried. Whole day she hadn't seen Lissa or Aleksei. But she decided to go to sleep thinking that maybe Lissa was in library and Aleksei was in his room studying. But next day, when she saw that Lissa was still not back in her dorm, she decided to go to the administration and ask about her. When she got there, she asked about Lissa and Aleksei. They told her that he had dropped out because of personal reasons and that they hadn't seen Lissa whole day. After another day, Rosely was getting worried and not knowing what to do, she contacted her mother after a whole year of silence. When she answered, Rosely explained what was happening and asked for her help. Her mother told her to wait and said she would call her when she found out something. A few hours later, she called.

"Rosely, I found her! She is in Russia. Board the earliest plane and come here! I will be waiting for you. We will get Lissa back.

No questions asked, Rosely boarded the first plane to Russia. After 12 hours, she was there, meeting with her mother.

"Hi mom."

"Hi Rosely! She is at the warehouse outside of the town. We need to go there right now. The same people that are keeping her captive are the ones that had participated in the car crash."

Rosely understood and went with her mother. When they got to the warehouse, Rosely would not have imagined in her wildest dreams what she saw. There were Aleksei and Lissa, both tied to chairs.

"Aleksei, Lissa!" yelled Rosely. As she yelled, a gunshot was heard. It was Aleksei's boss who was shooting.

"Oh, hello! So, you are the one who has been hiding this beautiful Arthur heir away from me," said the boss as he pointed the gun at Rosely. "You have seen too much, now I need to get rid of you, too."

"No! Let the girls be. This is between you and me," said Aleksei. Then, as the boss was about to turn around, he was shot in the head by Aleksei. Rosely ran to Lissa's side to untie her. Lissa started yelling at Aleksei for kidnapping her. He explained that his father had owed money to the boss, and he needed to work for him to pay off the debt because his father had been killed while trying to escape from Russia.

A few months later, Rosely and Aleksei went on another date. After the dinner and a movie again, they were at the same park watching summer sunset.

"I love you." She said as she looked at the void in his eyes. He looked at her jade green eyes and just leaned closer. They closed their eyes and kissed while the stars were starting to show. And that was the start of their unexpected love story.