

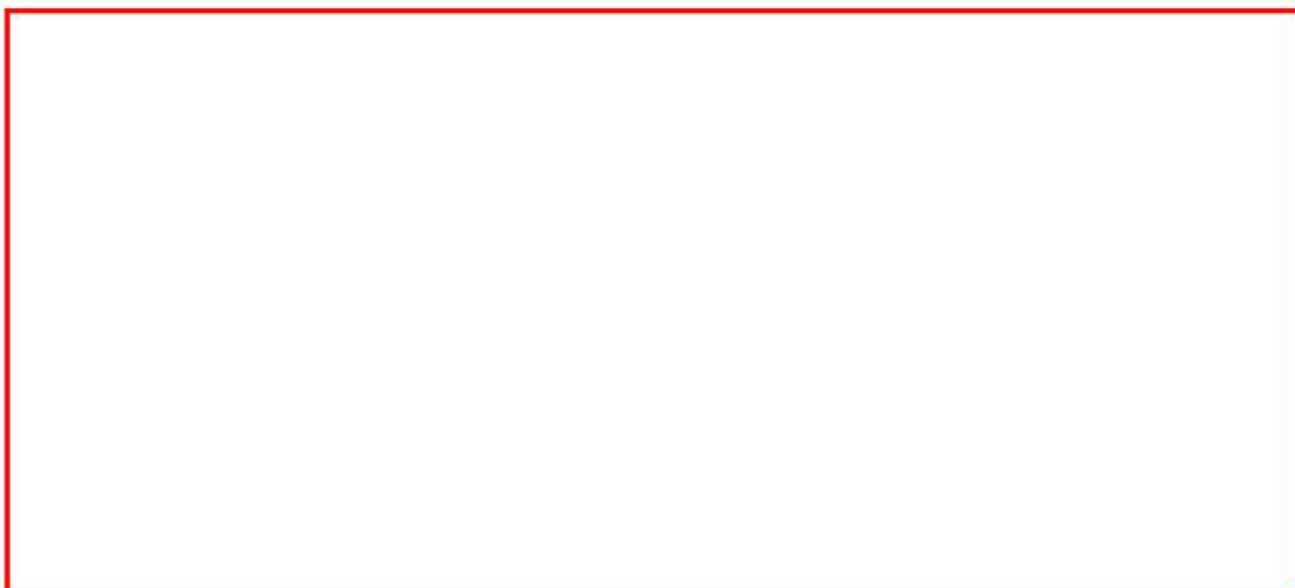
CHAPTER TWO



Casey The press covers Alex and Henry toppling the royal cake as though it is an international incident, dubbing it “Cakegate.” President Ellen Claremont and Zahra, the president’s chief of staff, are unamused by the events. They tell Alex that, for the sake of America’s relationship with the British monarchy, Alex has to go to London and pretend to be close friends with Henry. Nora and June quiz Alex on the dossier of info about Henry that the crown has sent over, and the three make a drinking game out of it. Alex judges all the facts he learns about Henry and is convinced that Henry is boring, fake, and intolerable.



Once in London, Alex sits with Henry for a TV interview, and the two pretend to be the best of friends. They also go to a children's hospital, and Alex overhears Henry talking to a child with leukemia about Star Wars. Alex is impressed with how warm and genuine Henry is. Just as Alex says he is surprised Henry has normal human emotions, there's a sound like gunfire, and the two are rushed by security into a supply closet. The two end up on top of each other and have a brief fight, physically tussling and insulting each other. But while they wait in the closet, they talk about the first time they met in person at the Olympics, and Henry apologizes for being rude to Alex, saying his father had just died at the time. They talk about Star Wars and playfully argue about which movie in the original trilogy is better. Alex is surprised by Henry, and they exchange phone numbers.



CHAPTER THREE

Alex and Henry's fake friendship goes over very well in the press, and the public becomes fans of the two famous sons hanging out together. Though they continue to give each other a hard time, they slowly move away from antagonism and begin to develop a real friendship. Alex and Henry text, and Henry reveals to Alex that he doesn't want any of the crown's money because of his country's legacy of genocide. Alex is impressed. Alex sends Henry a box of campaign buttons with his face on them as a joke. They tease each other about Star Wars and Harry Potter and exchange stories about their families.



Alex goes to visit Rafael Luna, the youngest US senator and a friend of the family. Alex is trying to lobby for a political endorsement for his mother's reelection campaign, and Luna teases Alex about when he used to intern for him. Alex, June, Ellen, and her husband Leo have a family dinner, and they each share one good thing and one bad thing that happened in their day, which is a family tradition. Ellen offers Alex and June jobs in her reelection campaign, Alex as a researcher, and June in communications. Alex is eager to accept and thrilled he doesn't have to wait until he's done with college to start officially working in politics. June, who wants to be a journalist, is resistant because the position would further compromise her ability to work in journalism.

CHAPTER FOUR



Alex learns that the turkeys that are pardoned by the president every year are put up at a five-star hotel by the taxpayers. This upsets him, and he decides to house the turkeys in his room. He finds that he is, however, afraid of the turkeys. He ends up calling Henry for moral support, and they talk on the phone for the first time. Henry teases Alex mercilessly, goading him into getting very close to the turkey so Henry can hear the turkey's frightening gobble. Alex insists that Henry show him a picture of Henry's dog, David, whom Alex learns is named after David Bowie. This makes the name seem much cooler than he'd originally thought.



During Christmas dinner, Ellen and Oscar, Alex and June's dad, get into a fight when Oscar suggests campaigning with the family. Deeply upset about their holiday meal being ruined, Alex reaches out to Henry again, and they have a heart-to-heart on the phone. Alex tells Henry the story of his parents' divorce, and Henry listens sympathetically and tells Alex he did his best. Henry and his best friend Pez come for Alex, June, and Nora's famous New Year's Eve party. They all have an epic good time, and Alex teaches Henry to dance to popular American music. At midnight, Alex kisses Nora, who Alex used to date, and Henry is jealous. Alex finds Henry in the garden and Henry kisses him. Henry disappears before Alex can say anything.

