

## **When the stars began to form a supernova (Secondary)**

I barely recognized myself after I stopped swimming because my best friend had a heart attack in the pool during a competition and drowned. I pulled him out of the water, terrified, and after that day, I was never the same. I was irritable because of it, and I felt like a part of me had died along with my first love, the one who shared my first kiss. I loved him so much, and since his death, I see all boys as the same. Above all, I'm unable to swim again because of the panic, the anxiety attacks, and the nightmares I have about that day. There's no one interesting or who stands out in that group of guys until Jason and his friends came after me when they beat up Dante for talking badly about my late almost-boyfriend. I couldn't believe it, because they were the popular from school. I don't know what they want from me, especially Jason, whom I've hated since I was little. But, although I distrust some of them, I trust the girl I like and her two other friends who are just as good people. However, things are improving to the point that I've even started to trust the guys I used to distrust, and I get along really well with Jason; in fact, he was asking me to we would have stayed. We were just friends, and I had a great time with him. He was also a huge support in healing that past wound, along with his friends, who became my friends too. The following year, I met a guy named Duncan at a bar in Palma with my friends. I was attracted to him because he gave me the security Jason didn't, and because he was mature and attractive. From then on, whenever we go to Palma, Duncan, despite being three years older than us, joins our group, and we spend all our time talking, something Jason doesn't like. When we turn eighteen, Duncan and I confess our love for each other, and we not only kiss but also have incredible sex. When we tell our friends about our relationship, the group splits because Jason doesn't want to be with us when Duncan is around and only shows up when he's not. Incredibly, I miss Jason a lot, more than I'd like to admit sometimes. But one day we argued, and she told me to be careful around him because he gave her a bad feeling. I found out she was right the day I went to a bar with my friends and saw him passionately kissing an older, more mature woman. I stormed over to them and prepared to ruin him the night with his lover and not only that retains I challenged him to a duel with training sticks for his betrayal in ending our relationship. My friends disagreed, but they let me do it because I knew I needed it and that Duncan deserved it.

After that incident, I stayed in bed crying, but Jason appeared in my room and took me outside to a place where you can let off steam by smashing things. And so, we continued having fun without me realizing that the unexpected attraction I felt for him was growing.

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### **When stars almost exploded in a supernova (Higher Education)**

I couldn't believe I liked Jason. After what I went through with Duncan, I was afraid Jason would do the same to me because he reminded me a little of Duncan, and I didn't want to repeat the same experience. I didn't understand it. Hadn't I learned my lesson? It's true that his gaze seems to pierce the barriers I've put between myself and the world, and that he can see right through me. And it's also true that just looking at me ignites me like no one else ever has. But, he's Jason! The guy didn't treat me well, and he could do it again without me even knowing. And even though Jason makes me burn and clouds my thoughts like Duncan never did, I can't help feeling that fear. Even so, I have to admit that sex with him is incredible! And wow! I've never felt anything like it. He pushes me to the limit, and it seems like I'll never get enough of him. He's pure fire and passion, and I don't regret making that decision. In fact, we remained exclusive lovers until two months later, when we decided to have a serious relationship. And Duncan found out and wished me well. From then on, fear didn't control me. However, we decided to end our relationship when we learned we'd be going to different universities. After all, we're very young, and anything can happen. My first year wasn't great, but thanks to new and old friends, I gradually overcame it, and I even had one-night stands with other guys. Jason had turned my life upside down and left marks on my life and mind that I couldn't erase. It was hard to let him go, but I had to because I cared so much about his happiness. I went to parties my new friends took me to, and we went to bars frequented by other students from UAM University. Despite everything, I didn't find anyone who caught my eye.

Two years after graduating, I was offered a promotion to Editorial Coordinator at the prestigious publishing house "Professional Novelists." Although I had dated a few guys, I still hadn't found anyone who made me feel what I felt with Jason. I couldn't find any man as passionate and attractive as him. However, I didn't know that seven

years later, without seeing each other, I would see him again, and he would turn everything upside down once more.

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### **When the stars finally exploded in a supernova (Adult stage)**

After three years, I continued with my life as Editorial Coordinator, and I loved it! I was doing so well that they put me on probation to be the director of the new branch opening in Palma. When I told Lu and Marcos, they jumped for joy, as did my friends in Madrid, whom I'll miss. Leaving the airport terminal, I had a huge smile on my face because Lu and Marcos were coming to pick me up. After settling into the large house the publishing house offered me in Son Vida, Lu and Marcos came to get me to spend the night with them, but they weren't alone; Jason was with them too. My ex-boyfriend, who had become a very attractive man, more passionate and carefree than when we were together, the only difference being that he had become an arrogant jerk. And although he told me that was enough, it wasn't. If the old Jason ignited my fire, this one ignited every last corner of my being, and I tried to ignore the sexual tension between us. However, that only made it worse, and I tried to run away because I didn't want to get involved with someone who drove me crazy. The fear of commitment I hadn't had before blossomed after nine years of one-night stands, the occasional date, and short-lived relationships. Men Jason overshadowed.

At Lu's birthday party at their summer house in Colonia de Sant Jordi, we almost kissed in the pool, but I pulled away and went to my room without saying a word. The other time we almost kissed was at the dinner Lu hosted at the house she shared with Marcos after the Carnival celebrations in town. I was dressed as Violet Sorrengail, a costume Maya gave me for getting the job as the director of the publishing house building in Palma, and Jason was dressed as a secret agent. We both cleared the table while Lu and Marcos went off to talk somewhere else. In fact, what broke the tension was the couple's happy chatter because Marcos had proposed to Lu. After that moment, there was another tense moment when our friends made us hold hands and dance because we were the godmother and godfather at the wedding. Upon arriving at the wedding, the tension reached a point where it seemed about to explode, and it did when I ventured into a small maze in the hotel to get away from Jason, who followed me so we could talk about the palpable tension between us. And I didn't want to; I wanted to stay single and get rid of this sexual tension so I could have another one-night stand. But Jason had

become bold, and as he approached me, he asked, "Tell me..." I stood up and...I will go Tell me you don't feel the same sexual tension between us, and I'll leave too. And I couldn't refuse; in fact, I was so attracted to him that I didn't think twice and kissed him passionately. We had sex in the maze, and wow! It was spectacular. I felt my skin burning with desire coursing through my entire body. And I have to admit it was more incredible than with Duncan, and that's saying something because with Duncan, he was very good. And we went back to my room to do it three more times. The next morning, we told Lu and Marcos, somewhat nervously, that we had had sex, and despite their initial surprise, they were very happy for us. Lu said to Jason, "Of all the girls in Mallorca, you had to go for my best friend." From that moment on, we were uncomplicated lovers and had a lot of fun. I was able to discover, through Jason and later Marcos and Lu, that I had changed in high school, just as I had previously thought. And at a restaurant we went to for dinner in Palma, we ran into Duncan and his girlfriend, who had been together for two years, and they sat at a few tables near ours. And it was even better. more than I expected, and that only encouraged Jason more to ask me to be his girlfriend, and I gladly accepted.

### **Prologue to When the Stars Shined Again**

...However, when I least expected it, he reappeared in my life, and now he seemed like a very different man. But I had changed too; I wasn't the same as before, not that imaginary woman I once was who imagined different versions of us, although my fear persisted. I was still terrified by the magnetism he exuded, drawing me closer to him without my realizing it. Of all the men I'd been with, only he provoked such strong and intense reactions in me, and I didn't like losing control or being seen as vulnerable. I preferred to be in charge myself to feel more comfortable, and that way I also ensured that no one else could hurt me. That's why it was easier to hate him

than to face the truth that his kisses...they were out of control So much so that it was difficult for me to handle everything. For that reason, and a thousand others, it was easier to argue with him and not think about his body touching mine, his intense gaze that made me feel naked, and much less about tasting those lips I so desperately wanted to kiss. But I couldn't forget that he was part of, or perhaps still is part of, the group of friends who made my first year of high school miserable, but also my second, and I was a very resentful person. And if the situation worsened, I could even become vengeful, because I am, after all, one of the women who led an organization that wanted to end the government's tyranny.

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First impressions don't tell us everything we need to know about a person. It's something we do unconsciously, and most of the time we can't control it, or it's even done intentionally. And that's very dangerous, because you can hurt someone if you judge them without knowing why they act that way or why they behaved that way. But we must keep in mind that people's emotions and actions are more complex than we think. However, I don't believe that will change. There are many people who want to take it for granted and not listen to those who are being judged by others in a way they don't deserve. I know it's a somewhat negative view, but it's what I see every day, every week, every month, and every year; it's nothing new. I hope I'm wrong, but that's how it is, and it always has been. Therefore, I have many reasons to believe that this will continue, harming people who deserve to be heard but are instead being judged unfairly. I myself am one of those people; if I weren't, I wouldn't be here saying this, much less saying that even if I give my side of the story, people won't listen to me. That's the truth.

### **Excerpt: I Will Always Be With You**

"Keila Sullivan's legacy destroyed by you, especially by you," Francis Volski accused me. "Because of you, the only hope of this world is dead!" he exclaimed furiously. I was paralyzed by the guilt that overwhelmed me, and he took advantage of that moment to stab me. Almost immediately, my enemysurprisedHe removed his weapon from my body and I fell to the ground feeling life leaving me.

"After all this time, you still liked Keila Sullivan, Jason Walker?" she said, still looking at me. "Don't worry, you'll be with her soon."

Then my eyes started to close and then everything went black.