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NON SPOILER EDITION!

Included in this special download are some interesting little tidbits, deleted scenes, and information from the guys' point of view on certain topics. There's a second *cheat sheet* for download. This one doesn't contain spoilers but the other one does.

This is information either that won't be available, questions people wanted answers to that isn't addressed in later books, or information, like favorite colors, that may not be openly obvious.

Just don't tell Mr. Blackbourne I let these out. He hates when I give up secrets. ♥





1. *Will there be more in Kota's POV?*

A. The A reports should continue to contain point of views from all the major male characters. Kota will get another POV A report in an upcoming book.

2. *In the first book. What did Victor ask Kota in the mall food court that had Victor not wanting to continue the conversation?*

A. They were discussing the classes that Kota would like to take. Kota had an interest in a high level physics class and Victor mentioned that the class was theoretical, and there was no practical use for it. Kota was explaining how such physics could be practical.

It got to the point where Kota was talking over Victor's head, discussing physics that Victor didn't understand. Victor kept trying to cut him off, saying essentially, "Fine, take whatever classes you want." Kota was still trying to clarify himself.

But it's like whenever anyone talks over your head about things, and with Victor having little patience, he thought the easiest way to stop the conversation was to get up and walk away.

3. *Who is the boy that sits next to Sang on the bench and what will be his future role?*

A. He, like Karen, like Rocky and others, is simply another student at Ashley Waters who will start to have a more substantial role as the series continues. They are all pieces to this puzzle, in one way or another. There are also some players in this game that have not been revealed yet. They are working behind the scenes.

4. *Why is Karen the only girl to get close to Sang?*

A. Sang's early life with her mother and her sister have practically been her only close female contact for several years, and both have been very unfriendly, to downright abusive. As the series progresses, it will become more clear that she shies away from female contact in general.

The reason she gets on with Karen so well is that Karen doesn't force a relationship between them. Karen is a casual friend. Plus, Karen doesn't act like a girl, and with her short hair and lean figure, Sang doesn't get that 'girl' vibe from her. So while Sang doesn't get super close to Karen, she doesn't shy away from her much either, not like she does with other girls.

5. *Will there be more sexual situations as they progress? Also are the main 7 guys really 15/16 sophomores as they seem written a tad older like 17+*

A. The guys happen to be all the same age 15/16. Except for Blackbourne and Green, of course. They do act more mature, I know. I want to blame it on Academy training and being roughed up at a young age. These incidents have them more mature now, but at the same time, they do stupid boy stuff. Like Luke with his pranks, and there are occasional spats among them all. And mistakes! They make a ton.

Regarding the intimate scenes, it will be a very slow progress, but I expect there to be a lot of details. It will take a number of books and you should see it coming a mile away. If you read it and see it starting to happen, I plan for it to conclude by the end of the chapter, so it shouldn't be a problem for those wanting to skip those



parts in the story. If you see it happening, skip to the next chapter and it should be concluded. Gives it a nice way for those who don't want it to skip and still stick with the stories ongoing.

But so far four books and no kiss. So it is a slow series regarding this altogether.

6. *Did Marie overhear her mom saying Sang wasn't hers and that's why she doesn't like her?*
 - A. Marie heard and Marie knows, but in Marie's head, she's always thought something was wrong with Sang because her mother would dole out these exotic punishments to her. She was inwardly jealous of the attention Sang got (weird thing because Sang was getting attention, but it was in a bad way). Marie's not totally evil, like she wouldn't physically hurt Sang or anything, but she's got this "watching out for me" attitude.
7. *In book 3 Friends vs. Family, Sang is telling the boys about her sort of first kiss. North says "huh"... I was wondering if there was more to it. Like maybe that was him that tried to kiss her in the 3rd grade.*
 - A. Nope! Wasn't North. He was over in Europe at the time. That would have been cute, though. North just didn't like to think of Sang in the closet with some bozo boy. No, the boy in the closet was just a kid from her old school district who had a thing about kissing girls. Probably why he got called in from recess.
8. *About different POVs, I admit that I would be really interested in being in Silas and North's heads during the sleepover when they went to sleep with Sang between them. Hmm well, maybe it would not be YA anymore then, ah ah ah !*
 - A. Silas and North were fully aware the other boys were going to fix up Sang's room in book three. They were keeping guard over her. So placing Silas next to her so she couldn't peek over his shoulder and see the boys were gone was what they were up to. North was half awake. He'd worked hard that day, as did Silas, so they were supposed to be relaxing. Of course, North couldn't sleep because his team, including his brother, was out and he was partially listening for Erica as well.
9. *What were the guys thinking after Sang overheard them in the courtyard at registration?*
 - A. "Uh oh. We messed up. We'll never see her again." But they felt really bad. Especially Nathan. Everyone knew what he meant, but they were really ticked off at him. They were like, "You better fix her." But really they were all waiting until she cooled off. Kota told them to go easy on her, but they were trying to text and call anyway.
10. *In the beginning of book 2, how did North know that Sang was softening the truth after getting in trouble for being in Kota's house?*
 - A. Sang's the worst liar on the planet. She'll talk really strong until she lies and then her voice gets all soft like she's unsure of what she's saying herself. It doesn't come out in the text right now, but yeah. Worst liar ever. And North just had a feeling. Especially after the vinegar and lemon. He highly doubted things just smoothed over.



11. *Did Victor know what Dr. Green said to Sang in Japanese on the first day of school?*

A. Yes. He knew and he was ticked off. He thought Dr. Green was being a flirt and playing with Sang's heart. He lied to Sang about not knowing.

12. *Based on the comments from Kota about North falling asleep in class or knowing more than the teachers, as well as North glancing at Sang's homework, does he have a photographic memory?*

A. It's not photographic per se, but he retains a lot. They're all smart. North gets REALLY bored when he's relearning the same stuff, and he's been through all these classes already so he really feels like he's just there to warm the seat. And for Sang's homework, he's checking for spelling and to make sure it didn't feel like she phoned it in and gave wimpy answers. But she's not like that. He's just playing mama bear.

13. *Why is that the only photo in the house?*

A. The one photo of Sang's stepmother is the only one the stepmother took from her old life. Even when her stepmother was healthy, she was not the lovey-dovey type, and had a lot of low self confidence levels on her own. Like you know how there's people who refuse to have photos taken? They'll dodge the camera? She never bought a camera to take pictures of herself or her family. She dodged cameras. Her illness perpetuated this a lot, too. And for Sang and Marie, they weren't given money and in Sang's case, it wasn't really an immediate thought. Like if you've never tasted cherries, never saw them in your life, you don't really think about it until you see one and go... "Oh, wow, why haven't I tried that?"

14. *What were their reaction/thoughts after finding her tied up in the shower?*

A. They wanted her out of the house. Like that was a no brainer to them. That was it, Sang was done living there. One way or another, they were going to move her out.

15. *Do the guys realize she's terrified of showers now?*

A. Victor's the ONLY one who thinks something's fishy with her, but it was a passing thought and he hasn't put two and two together yet. He's not really sure it's the shower itself. He asked her something and she lied and he knew. He just can't figure out what she's lying about, which is driving him crazy. No one else has a clue.

16. *What exactly is homework duty?*

A. The boys do each other's homework when they're busy with Academy stuff. It doesn't matter to them because they're beyond this kind of work. But they have to maintain that image at Ashley Waters and retain their good grades. So if things get busy, someone ends up with homework duty and they have to complete the homework for everyone.

17. *Why did Nathan need to get out of the house the day they walked into the stinging nettle?*

A. They'd been in school and working and Nathan's an outdoors type. He thought it would be a good day to show Sang those woods, since he promised her.



18. *Why did Gabriel turn partially away at the end of Sang trying on the swimsuit?*
- A. He's hiding the fact that he's really turned on. He talks a big game, but Sang's still a hot girl. He tells himself he'll treat her almost just like the guys when it comes to dressing her. To him, he thinks he can dress her and maintain that 'professionalism'. It's meant to make her feel comfortable. But he's going to fail miserably. He likes her too much and she's too pretty for him to ignore.
19. *Danielle is just jealous right?*
- A. Jealous, yes. She's ticked off that Nathan's into this new girl. A few years ago, Danielle had a crush on Nathan and she would come over. Nathan's nice and thought she was trying to be friends so he hung out with her. It wasn't really until she was trying to get close that he rejected her. He wasn't that into her. To her, he's like the ex that she still has a crush on and won't admit. She's hurt that he rejected her. Danielle tried stealing Sang's clothes to wear to attract him. Didn't work, obviously. That girl has no clue what's going on.
20. *Does Kota's bathroom door lock?*
- A. Yes. They know how to twist it just right to unlock it. They know how to unlock doors. It's like a pointless thing to them. If they want in, they'll get in.
21. *How long did it take for the guys to figure out Sang was in trouble after she got back from Nathan's?*
- A. It took as long as Sang not responding quickly enough for Nathan to think either she's in the shower or something. But when he tried later and Marie responded, he could tell it wasn't Sang. Marie texts all weird. He only had to ask Marie a few more text questions to figure out Marie had the phone. That started the process of trying to figure out exactly where Sang was.
- But of course, there wasn't a camera in the closet so they had to be careful and figure this puzzle out.
22. *Why does Sang's father ask her to stay and take care of things after all she's the younger sibling?*
- A. He knows Sang is more responsible. Sang's room is always clean. Sang's grades are always better. He relies on Sang to take care of her mother. Sang doesn't realize she's fallen into this role at times but she assumes Marie does the same stuff.
23. *Who is your favourite?*
- A. It's whoever I'm writing about at the moment. Right now I'd tell you Silas, but then next scene has Dr. Green so I'll switch.
24. *Who would you want to punch in real life?*
- A. From the characters in the books? Nathan. He's probably the only one who wouldn't pop me back. Maybe. Depends on his mood. For picking the bad people in the story, probably McCoy. In the gut. From real life people, it'd probably be anyone who says a book isn't worthwhile unless it is literary. ;)



25. *If you had to choose one (and only one) of the boys to date, who? And why?*

A. Gah! It's usually the one I'm writing about right now. Although dating wise, I think the most interesting one would be Dr. Green or Mr. Blackbourne. Their intelligence levels are through the roof, so like imagine those dates. Creative. Like Mr. Blackbourne would probably take you to a haunted house to test your stamina and reaction time.

26. *Who would you...kiss....date.....marry? (Out of the characters)*

A. Kissing: Silas. Hands down. Gabriel would be amazing. Mr. Blackbourne.... yeah. No I can't choose.

Date: Gawh. It's whoever was available! North. He'd take girls to the beach. I love the beach. Kota's particular about taking you where you want to go. Nathan's into movies. Dr. Green because he's crazy.

To marry, probably Gabriel. Or Silas. Or Mr. Blackbourne. Or Luke. Or Victor.

27. *So far which book have you enjoyed writing most?*

A. It's always the one I'm working on right now, and I'm writing the rough draft for book seven now. Very entertaining to see how the boys pull themselves out of the trouble I set them up with.

Out of the ones that are out, book three was fun, I think mostly because of that slumber party and the shopping scenes where I could play with the boys together.

28. *Would you let your series become a TV series?*

A. Absolutely, although you know whenever it happens, it'll probably get ruined, because books are better than the show or movie. They'll change the boys or what not. That'll drive me crazy. I wouldn't want to watch it until I was done with the series because I'd hate the thought that I might try to change my characters to fit the personalities they'd place on TV.

29. *If so to the above question, who would you cast as the characters?*

A. I'd probably want fresh actors who haven't been in anything. And then I wouldn't want them in any other TV shows or movies because I want them to always be the guys.

I don't think anyone could play Gabriel. That would take a manhunt.

But I have my own ideas of what the guys look like, and when I show them to others, they'll go "That's not what I have in my head."

I think everyone just gets their own ideal in their heads and I just provide the paint brush. So I don't want to ruin that image.

How's that for not being able to choose!

30. *When Victor took Sang, Nathan and Gabriel shopping, were North, Silas, Luke and Kota really at the diner? I'm just curious as I don't understand how they could get everything in the attic space in Sang's room, plus installing cameras throughout the whole house?*

A. Good question! They were installing the walk in freezer, and by installing, I mean North is monitoring the installation as a professional crew put it together. But they



were also getting ready for that evening. Silas and North spent time beforehand prepping the furniture. (Making the tiny wardrobe and the bookshelf.) Kota made sure the bed was delivered and the supplies were organized. (Inside the church/diner! Convenient storage there.)

The cameras they're pretty used to dealing with trying to get those installed quickly. It's a system. Thanks to Kota, master of organization, he's got the flow down. It really did take all night for the boys (Nathan, Luke, Gabriel and Kota) to get it all together. It's lucky Kota kept an ear out (monitoring his house via his cell phone) and ran back in time to stop the fighting.

31. *In the A Report at the end of book three it says that Kota saw Sang naked when she went into the bathroom, but I was wondering was it only Kota who was watching the cameras or were they all watching and waiting?*

A. Kota was upstairs, at the time, with Gabriel, Luke and Mr. Blackbourne. Kota had the laptop. Mr. Blackbourne was checking for updates on his phone. Luke and Gabriel were waiting for orders. (And playing with Sang's stuff.)

Kota had a laptop to view. He saw the whole shebang, and by the time he snapped out of the "Oh there she is! Oh holy crow, she's naked." type of internal surprise, and he called the others over, she had the towel wrapped around her body.

And then Mr. Blackbourne said go get her and Gabriel beat Luke to the window.

32. *With seating arrangements in some of the lessons, was it planned between the boys for Sang to sit in the middle row with one of them in front and behind her?*

A. The boys naturally wanted to sit next to her, and sitting in front or behind her was a protectiveness of sorts. If you sit in front or behind, it is closer to her than sitting next to her. Sitting in the row beside her meant you have to stretch out and that could draw attention. For Kota, he only has to turn around, for example. And Luke has free access to playing with her hair, etc. Poor Gabriel only has the one class and has to sit beside her because the others beat him to it.

33. *In the second book on chapter 'Flirting', did Silas notice Sang's foot resting on his once he relaxed and put his foot back under her chair? I hope this makes sense. Curiosity getting to me.*

A. He noticed. And he loves it. They do it all the time now for class. He finds it really cute.

34. *What did Dr. Green say to Sang in Japanese?*

A. "You make me happy. I am in love." - He was flirting with her.

35. *In Dr Green's lesson when he said what he did in Japanese to Sang, (I read your newsletter about it being something like 'I'm in love' [see above]) did Victor know what he said and just didn't want to tell Sang?*

A. Victor knew what he said (maybe not the entire thing, but he heard "in love" and he knew he was flirting). He didn't want to tell Sang because he didn't want her to get all teacher crazy. This is jealousy talking for Victor. He also doesn't think Dr. Green is being serious, so he thinks it's wrong to play with Sang like that.



36. *How did you come up with the idea of The Academy series? And is there anything you wish you could change about the first books?*

A. The whole thing started last year around this time. I'd been daydreaming certain things like if I were back in high school and could change things, what would be interesting?

At the same time, I was watching things like Ouran High School Host Club and Fruits Basket, which are reverse harem theme anime series. Plus I was reading love triangles in books like in Hunger Games and so on. I was comparing how different something like Ouran was to some of the more Westernized stories.

And then I was listening to someone talking on YouTube who was describing how the Japanese have certain way of thinking. They separate fantasy and reality. For the reverse harem thing as an example, in their culture, they wouldn't normally have one girl and a bunch of guys in a relationship. It **normally** doesn't work out. But they let it happen in anime and manga and books and all sorts of things because it's fantasy. It doesn't matter because it isn't real.

And that's something you know about books, but we here in the West don't really accept sometimes. In our love triangles, we force the heroine to choose **the one**. Because to us, that's widely more culturally acceptable. We can follow in the minds of killers all day long with books, but throw in a taboo relationship and then suddenly everyone has to have it traditional and culturally acceptable!

But the moment I stopped thinking about what's acceptable, and deep down, what greedy, indulgent fantasy I could drum up, it all started to click.

I thought about my own favorite boy personalities from different places, from real people to anime and book characters and in between. I threw a bunch of them in, and the next thing I knew, there were nine.

And I daydreamed about them for a few weeks. I hadn't planned on writing this at all. It was just a secret little fantasy I had about nine guys and one little girl and what circumstances I could create that would bind them together.

Last year, in November I was planning on giving myself a break. I'd been writing other books (Smoking Gun/Spice God) and wanted to just take a month off.

A week into November, the daydreaming of this crew was pretty strong. I gave in and went, "Well, I'm just going to write whatever I feel like just to see..."

I wrote book one in four days. That's how strong this story was. I had so much fun with it; I started writing book two immediately after. I was nearly three books in before I published the first one.

It was a completely self-indulgent series. I wasn't sure if it would be accepted at all, but the boys, once I released them, wouldn't shut up, so I kept writing.

The only thing I'd change about the first three books is probably giving them a bigger problem to deal with in book one. I knew introducing a crew this size needed probably a book on its own. I like how it turned out, but I know it's a cozy read for a first book. Some may see it as slow and a tease, and I agree.



But at the same time, I like how it is. I wanted to focus a lot on these boys. I needed to know those tiny details about them, so those images carried in future books without me needing to repeat each of the boys' finer features every first chapter. When Gabriel messes with the blond bits and shouts "Oy!" I wanted to be sure everyone knew exactly who I was talking about.

Otherwise, if I changed anything I may have held on to book one for a while, until I was sure books two and three and so on were closer to finished, and released them closer together. I don't like waiting for sequels, either. But I was in a hurry because to me, I just wanted it out there.

37. *After school when Sang, Gabriel and Kota were at Kota's house, Sang cleaned up Victor's cut on his face. When Sang said about Kota's mom seeing bruises on his face Gabriel said "She..." But Kota sent him a 'look'...what was he about to say?*

A. "She doesn't notice because they cover it with makeup." Victor went to Kota's before going home so he could clean up his face, and cover with makeup (which Kota keeps a secret stash). Kota didn't want to worry Sang by suggesting this type of thing does happen often enough that they have strategies on handling it before going home.

38. *In your non-spoiler download you mentioned that that Mr. Blackbourne would have a heated discussion with Dr. Green the night of school registration concerning Sang. How would the discussion have gone since there is some shifting of emotion from cold disdain to curiosity after he learns that Sang knows Kota and she reveals that she'd like to learn how to play the violin?*

A. The first part is trying to figure out who she is in correlation with Kota. How much does she know? Mr. Blackbourne will scold Dr. Green for hitting on a student, thinking this isn't going to go well if he's going to be teaching classes at the school. School year hasn't started yet and he's already flirting.

He'll have to point out to Dr. Green that if Kota is friends with Sang, there's probably a reason, and it might be he's interested in her. To which Dr. Green would say Kota would have said something if he had a girlfriend. He would also kindle a hope that Kota's interest is minor because she's really adorable and he's a positive thinker.

Mr. Blackbourne will work hard to not entertain the idea that Sang could possibly be interested in him. He's pessimistic in this instance.

The other part is: should they approach the boys about the fact that they know? Should they make a big deal about it when, from their POV, this might not be a big deal at all? There wasn't time for a family meeting between book one and two, so at that point, it isn't until book two that Kota's and the boys' interest comes to light for both Mr. Blackbourne and Dr. Green.

39. *Does Mike continue to ask Sang to marry him in the days after the Friday Fall incident or does Rocky put a stop to Mike's endearing question?*

A. He stops on this because of Rocky. Mike may tease her about it later, but he won't bluntly ask again. He was just being friendly and teasing her, that's what he does. He just goes overboard.



40. *I've wondered what the boys' thoughts were and how they reacted throughout the afternoon and evening after Sang caught Nathan's stray dog remark at the end of registration. Would they have argued on how to rectify the situation? Would they have had second thoughts bringing Sang into the fold? Would one or more of them have tried to climb the roof and peer into her room to see how she was doing since she was not answering texts or phone calls? As I assume most boys would be in handling a teenage girl, I figure they would be floundering on how to deal with this girl they've all become "in like" with.*

A. Most were thinking "Oh boy, we screwed up. We'll never see her again."

They tried calling. She was still new, though, so like Nathan didn't want to just rush to her window. The thought came to mind but he was the one that said the thing so he felt really bad.

Then there's the fact that her mother is getting her to destroy her throat with lemon and vinegar. That alone doesn't allow them to just give up completely. At the very least, if she didn't want to talk to them again, they would have then called in the Academy and asked for help, just to make sure she wouldn't get hurt. It would be their own way of making up for it, even if she never forgave them, and they'd feel better knowing they helped at least.

And yes, they didn't know how to handle it, because she's a girl. Kota's the one with a mom and a little sister, so his answer to them was to try to call, but don't approach her. Give her time to calm down a bit and then approach her. If she was still determined to go, that's up to her, but he would have made sure he explained himself.

He just didn't expect to see her that night. He was waiting until morning.

41. *Why is North so sensitive about getting touched on the chest? (Book 3)*

A. Guys, like girls, have different spots to where they get turned on more than other spots. If someone they like brushes it, they get super excited. Kota's is behind his ear. North's is his chest. They all have different spots.

42. *Are we going to know how all the boys were abused/abandoned?*

A. Yes. All of these issues will come up in later books. It will take time, but they will be revealed.

43. *When is Sang's birthday?*

A. October 6th! Same as mine so I never forget

44. *What are the "debts" they have with The Academy?*

A. There's a lot to the debt, but I'll take one as an example.

So let's talk about Kota's debt. When you join the Academy, you get a negative favor debt of something like 10 favors and \$10k financial debt.

You can't pay off your financial debt directly. It can only be through work from the Academy. Recovery is their team's way of making money for the Academy, so they recover stolen goods, (one of their many jobs) and the *reward* goes to their Academy accounts.



So when Kota's sister needs to go to a private school, the Academy will fund it. If Kota's mom Erica ever needed expensive house repair, the labor and materials would come from Academy stuff.

Kota had family issues early on even after he joined the Academy. His father was abusive. The Academy took care of it, which dipped in to nearly all of the available favors he had. You max out at around 30 favors. After you are negative 30 favors, you can't ask another favor, unless you borrow one from another family member, or you have to go to a group of other Academy higher ranking people in order to present your case as to why you need this favor.

Favor debts are harder to earn back, because it required you knowing a skill someone else was willing to give you a favor for, or gaining a favor from the Academy in general. If you gain enough that you're in the 'positive' for favors so you have extras, you'll have graduated from the Academy.

There's a lot that goes into it, but most of Kota's debt comes from dealing with his father, and favors pulled for his mother and sister. He has been working to gain back favors through odd jobs, but funny enough, favor debts are the hardest to keep, because something always crops up that requires you pay out a favor for assistance.

Favors are only counted against you when you're asking the Academy for help. It helps prevent people from just asking for help all the time. Family first, one of the rules of the Academy, has a duo meaning. Your family is important, so if it came down to helping your family vs. an Academy job, they push you toward helping your family.

But it also means turning to your own family first when you need help. It won't cost you favors to add to your debt. Help yourself the best you can before asking the Academy.

45. *Are we going to know the purpose of The Academy?*

A. Eventually. The Academy itself is complicated, a network that I think you can guess, is more than just a school. This is why it will take a lot of books to cover their interests and purposes.

46. *Would love some more insight into Gabriel's breakdown in the closet. Especially the part where he keeps telling Sang "I need you".*

A. Without rewriting the scene (which would take time!), Gabriel's mimicking the same things that brings him back when he's on the edge. They've all gone through their own troubles, and the way they "come back" is discovering someone else needs them there. Kota and the others have done this for him. Mr. Blackbourne taught them how.

But there's a duo meaning for Gabriel. The more he learns about Sang, the more the others discover about her, the deeper involved they feel. She's like this missing piece in their life right now. They didn't realize they needed someone like her until she was there. Now suddenly she's becoming that soft spot on their team. They fight over her. They take care of her. She is starting to take care of them.



47. *The A chapter at the end of book 3. Need I say more? Talk about leaving us hanging--you are cruel. It seems that the responses during this segment show us a little about the personalities of the guys. Silas who likes Sang a bunch is mostly silent (I'm assuming because he is the quiet one). But then Kota is very quiet during the whole kissing Q & A. I'm assuming that is because he is very calculating. The one that catches my attention is Gabriel. You said he is a bit insecure about his relationship with Sang, yet he is the most outspoken when it comes to the kissing discussion. INSIGHT PLEASE!*

A. Kota is quiet during the A report in book three, as are a few of the others, because they're listening and kind of in shock with what's going on, not realizing they're all starting to feel the same way. They don't know how to react. A lot like Kota's conflict of "I want to steal her, but I love my family. Do I really mind this?" Kota is calculating, but it's very much a surprise and they don't know what to do about it.

Gabriel's REALLY insecure in general about a few different things, but it doesn't mean he won't fight for her. Despite talking himself down about it, he can't help himself trying. He'll go down swinging. He keeps trying to tell himself he should stop and not to do it. There's no point.

Also Gabriel bosses her around a lot the more she does things with him and shows she likes him.

And he's also adamant about this being a very casual thing for forever. To himself, he just says "Oh we're just young and flirting and she'll leave later. I'm just going to enjoy as much as I can now." A kind of "Would rather love and lost than to never have loved" type of motto. He's really struggling with this.

48. *Mr. Blackbourne shows us a side of him that I did not expect. When they are discussing dating, Mr. Blackbourne says "Just remember, though, if you're taking her out, you have to allow the rest of us, too." I did not expect him to reveal this part of his intentions to the group. Insight please!*

A. He's talking specifically about getting to know her, taking her out and spending time with her. If they are going to work on her trust with their team, he can't have like Kota telling the others to back off for exclusivity. They either have to be all in to help her, or they have to let the Academy in to assist. This situation is going to require all of them to control jealousy to work together.

It's what he meant, but the way he says it is a Freudian Slip type of thing. He really wants to date her, too. He won't admit it.

49. *Dr. Green does not reveal the same kind of intentions as Mr. Blackbourne at this time. This intrigues me because I had gotten the impression that Blackbourne has more self control than Dr. Green. So I would love some insight into Dr. Green's brain during this discussion.*

A. A lot of this is simply that Dr. Green is kind of a sleeper character right now, mostly because he lacks the time he's spent with Sang. He finds her adorable, really is getting into her, and hears a lot about her from Mr. Blackbourne and the others.

He's also in and out about the whole thing because she's got all these other guys around her, and she's younger. Dr. Green's resolve will disappear with time the more he spends time around her. It's just one of those slowly developing relationships.



During this discussion, he's happy about the situation where they've chosen to let everyone kind of date her. He's also worried about her and trying to monitor her mental state. There's so many things going on in his head and he barely knows her. But the funny thing is he's being consumed by taking care of her and is absolutely smitten by her at the same time. Like all of them now, they spend so much time and energy on HER for her safety and for bringing her into their little family. She's so hard for them not to care for.

50. *As a matter of fact, I would love a little insight into all of their heads during this discussion. Kind of like the way you did some insight into what they thought of Sang when they first met her!*

A. When it comes to what they think about Sang after the A report in book three, most were already very interested in her, in one way or another. Even if they were in denial, they still wanted to hang out with her.

But they were all worried about her and her safety. Their number one priority was to make sure she was safe. The boys, however, were thinking up ways to get Sang to kiss them or wondering how she felt about them. Some toyed with the idea of taking her and running away with her.

But this was the eternal conflict Mr. Blackbourne was worried about. If one fell in love with her and ran away with her, the others would be heartbroken and he was sure it would shatter this team they'd worked so hard to build. None of them wanted this. They cared about one another, too.

51. *What is the birth date and age of Sang, Kota, North, Victor, Nathan, Silas, Luke, Gabriel, Mr. Green, Mr. Blackbourne, and Marie at the beginning of the series?*

A. Sang is 15, as is Nathan, North and Gabriel as of book 1. The others are 16, except Dr. Green and Mr. Blackbourne, who are 19. Marie is 17, turning 18 in the summer. I don't want to release birthdays yet. Sang's is Oct. 6th. But everyone else, it's kind of a surprise but this is coming up in book 5.

52. *How old are the characters going to get in these books?*

Up to 18 and beyond. So there's a lot of books that I have to write to get them all to that age. ☺

53. *What were the boys in Kota's room talking about while Gabriel washed Sang's hair in the bathroom in book one?*

A. Kota was addressing the others by saying they don't have to get involved. He had promised he'd helped her so he felt she was his responsibility. Of course they weren't going to let Kota do this alone. They made mutual decisions on how they wanted to help her, but to help her out, they needed to figure out what was really going on. They also wanted her to get that cell phone, so they could contact her. They felt that was important.



54. *Can you list all of the guys' birthdays?*

A. For this one, I can't, and for a very specific reason. But in book five, it's revealed and will mention all birthdays. It's just a kind of spoiler right now. ☺ And a big one, so even though there is a spoiler sheet, this is a big surprise you probably don't want to know yet.

55. *What is the class schedule for each of the boys?*

A. Erm. ☺ All of them? Most have similar classes, but they're at different times. Kota's got some high level classes he's taking for fun. Some tried to get at least a couple of fun classes (Gabriel's art class, Nathan in gym class.) but for the most part, they feel like they are there to warm the seats. Most of what they are learning they either already know or won't use so they don't find it important. They have a mission there anyway, so they didn't need too many people in high end classes to distract them from what they were there for.

56. *Did Kota notice Sang was awake in his bed before Victor got there (in the Victor chapter of book 1)?*

A. No. Kota went downstairs while she was still asleep. He was doing chores and picking up around the house. He didn't even know Victor was on his way so early. He thought Victor was going to show up later.

57. *What did Victor think about Sang being in Kota's bed on that first morning?*

A. She was a real mess with her hair all over and wearing Kota's clothes. And for a moment, she looked *REALLY* younger than she really was. It was because of the baggy clothes and everything. So he was really confused. And he couldn't ask about her with Erica around downstairs.

It wasn't until she got dressed and came downstairs in her own clothes that he really was impressed by her.

58. *Has Silas ever slept over?*

A. Yes. He did in book three. He slept in the attic space and then woke her up because she was shaking.

59. *Did the boys pick Silas as Sang's school boyfriend without discussing it with Sang?*

A. Silas picked himself as her boyfriend without talking about it with anyone, but it wasn't totally his fault. The guys in the locker room after football practice were talking about Sang, and Silas claimed her to save her reputation. It wasn't until this moment that he realized everyone claiming Sang as theirs wasn't going to work. Too many people were paying attention. He had to do it and then had to tell the others later.

But he's a logical choice. As Silas becomes more respected with the football team, she'll be more respected and "looked out for" by the football team. It would help stop some of the rumors going around about her.

60. *Does Marie know about Sang's parentage?*

A. She only knows what Sang knows now. She doesn't know who Sang's real mother is.



61. *Why does Marie think Sang is punished but she is not?*

- A. Marie thinks something is wrong with Sang, and assumed she was adopted or something. She sympathizes with her sometimes when she gets really abused but until book three, she hadn't figured out why she was different.

62. *Did they do the DNA tests Blackborne and Phillips talked about yet? Have they gotten the results of the DNA tests back yet? What were the results?*

- A. It only confirms later what they know already now, that Sang's mother isn't her blood mother, but her father is her father. What they were trying to make sure was to see if Sang was kidnapped from another family, which would force them to return her to her real parents and thus would kill her ghost bird status. While the circumstances are dreadful, Sang really is one of the cleanest ghost birds they've ever had.

63. *Why doesn't Kota want Sang or his sister to join the Academy?*

- A. The Academy assignments can be dangerous, and Sang (and his sister) are kind enough and eager enough to jump in on those assignments. He doesn't want to see them hurt. And also because the Academy itself isn't for everyone. Kota's sister in general probably wouldn't be admitted because she is Kota's sister. Normally siblings and relations don't join the Academy. As in, if your dad is in the Academy, it doesn't always mean your kids will get in. It doesn't work like that. It depends completely on your individual wants and needs, and it takes a high caliber of person in order to get in. There's a high level of testing involved and you have to REALLY want to be in there to succeed.

64. *How do the boys get Sang to stick up for/defend herself?*

- A. She's already started. She not only flipped North over, but she has completely honest conversations and asks questions with Mr. Blackbourne. She feels she can ask him anything, it is just trying to figure out what to ask first and there's usually a limited amount of time they spend together. She argued a little with Kota at the end of book four but realized she wasn't going to get anywhere, because she'd just been saved from the sawdust pile and everyone was very defensive right then. That's girl intuition that she knew she wasn't going to win her argument to join the Academy right then.

But sticking up for yourself doesn't always mean arguing or even saying what you want every single time. She doesn't want to do what she wants all the time. Like choosing where to eat. Sometimes she's in a mood for something, and sometimes she really doesn't know what she wants and will look at one of the guys to help her out. And she is highly interested in doing what the boys want to do.

Sang does a lot of sticking up for herself, but she doesn't always say what's on her mind. And they don't always understand her. Sang may seem like she's not responding to things, but she's really listening and learning from everyone. She stuck up for herself with Mr. McCoy, with the waiter that tried to give her his phone number, when Jade tried to get North into the closet. There are lots of instances.

Sang is a quiet girl by nature, but she's really not as shy as she thinks she is. It's only with the guys that sometimes she's trying to listen and learn from the guys.



And she's got a sweet, trying to please personality. I don't think she'll ever be without that. It's what they love about her.

What they will need to understand, eventually, is that just because she's quiet, it doesn't mean she won't speak up for herself if she really believes in something. Sometimes it's just that she doesn't know what she wants. She'll say it if she knows.

But don't mistake her being quiet for being unable to defend herself. She'll voice her opinion a little more, but she'll always be a sweet, quiet, observant person and always considerate to what the boys want.

65. *Is book 5 going to be long like book 3?*

A. Book five will be about the same as three or book four, so around 130k words (vs. book one, which was 60k).

66. *In the last book, Sang's house phone was disconnected. Has Sang's dad abandoned her?*

A. Not completely. He had the phone turned off but he didn't think they would need it. He's a bit busy with his new life, and from his point of view, he doesn't think anything is wrong on their side, so he hasn't bothered to contact them.

67. *What was Kota's job to do while Gabriel and Luke stayed with Sang that first night?*

A. He had to organize the cameras and equipment and get started with internal security for Sang. He'd take Luke's map and pencil in all the places and angles for cameras and send those schematics to Victor, who would do all the computer work. He had a handful of other tasks, too, such as helping Mr. Blackbourne juggle everyone's schedule with family tasks and with Academy things.

68. *Did Sang get a copy of the schedule Blackbourne made and sent to "everyone" after the meeting in the Secret Plans chapter of book 3?*

A. No, she didn't get a copy. Part of this schedule included Academy things and she can't know about those. Although if he thought about it, and if she asked, he'd be happy to make her a customized version of schedules. It just hasn't come up yet.

69. *Did Sang's mom really forget or did Sang's need to see the good in people let her tell herself that her mom forgot?*

A. Sang's mother has a lot of trouble with her memory. A lot of this is in the prescriptions she takes. Her mother did forget a lot of the time, but to be honest, it was probably a good thing she did. Otherwise, Sang would have had a harder life. Sometimes her mother would forget the punishments and the thing that caused the punishment in the first place.

70. *How long was it between when Sang moved in and when Kota managed to meet her?*

A. I think it was a few weeks, possibly as long as a month. There was a generous amount of time for her to wander around the woods and get the attention of both Kota and Nathan, who recalled seeing her around before the first night she bumped into Kota.



71. *What exactly are the three rules everyone must agree to in the A report at the end of book three?*

A. From book 3's A report, Mr. Blackbourne says, "So rule one, no one touches her further unless she moves first. Rule two, no intimate date locations unless she suggests it first. Three, until the appointed time where a decision is made, no one should date another girl and no more guys can join the group."

72. *Who is on the cover of the second book? Is it supposed to be Kota or Mr. Blackbourne?*

A. For the new covers, it isn't really supposed to be any of the boys in particular. The reason why we changed from the original covers was because people were never happy with the 'boy' we put on the cover. Everyone has their own ideas as to what the guys look like. We discovered it was best to have a general 'theme' and a cool look vs. trying to reflect actual people in the book.

So I guess the question is, do you think it looks like Kota?

73. *How many books do you intend to write in this series?*

A. For this series, there may be over 20 books. It is intended to be an ongoing series. I do have an 'ending' point in mind, but it will take a long time to get there.

74. *Will the series stay YA all along or is it going to be more New Adult later on?*

A. It will be a slow transition to a new adult genre. Thank goodness because it will be difficult for the boys to keep their hands off of her.

75. *Have you ever thought of adding music to your books?*

A. The tricky part about music and adding it to your book is that you must own the rights to it. Not that it may not happen in the future, but if I added music, I'd also want to add pictures and voice and sound effects. And then I'd have a complete visual novel. This may happen in the future but it might take a while.

76. *When are the rest of the books being published in paperback? Where can I buy them?*

A. We're working on this now. All four books should become available in December. They should be available on Amazon, and CreateSpace. We're hoping, moving forward, that the print books will be made available shortly after the ebooks are released.

77. In the newsletter I saw that it was possible to buy a signed edition of the paperback, I would like that but on the website I saw only a link for the kindle version of the book on Amazon ... Could you please tell me where I can buy it and if it's available internationally?

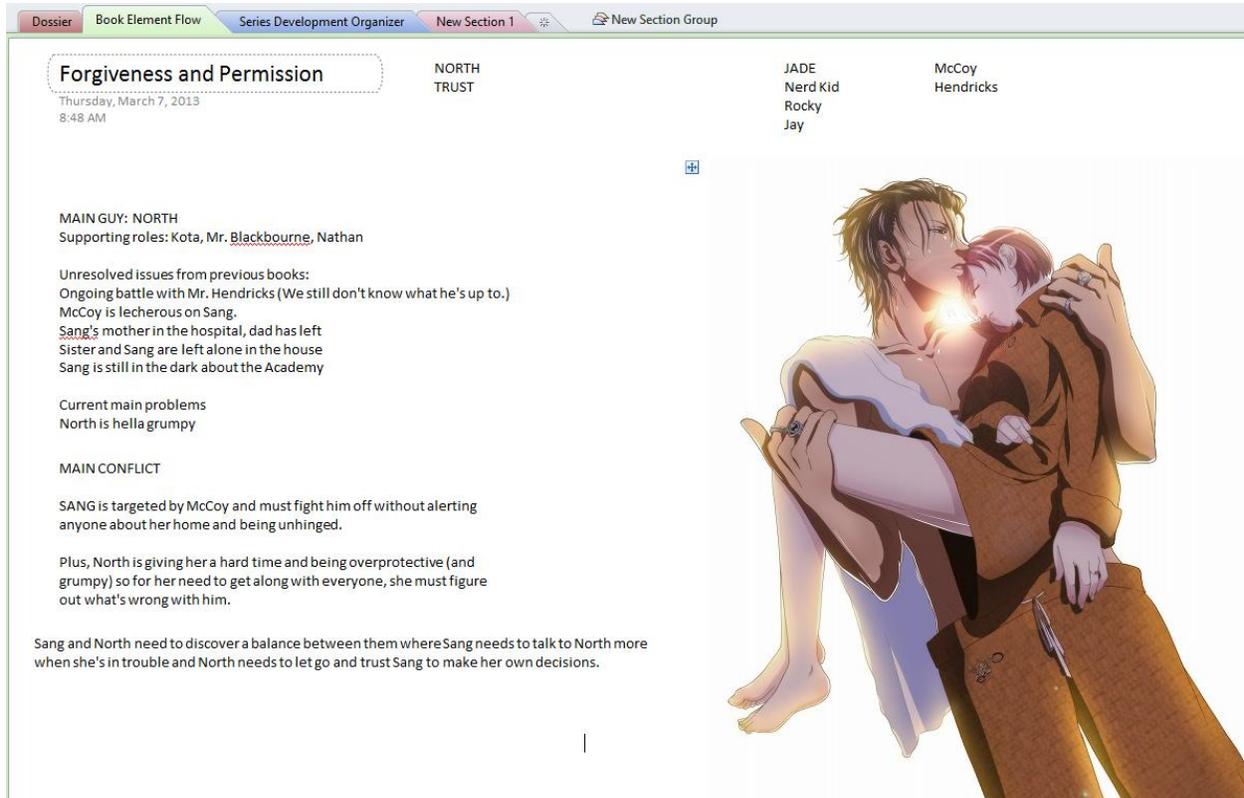
A. I am trying to make delivery of this available worldwide. I'm looking for the lowest possible cost for the book itself, so I can keep stacks here and you'd only pay for the cost of the book plus shipping for delivery worldwide. I may also do this as an option to those living outside the US. I would like to have lighter swag/bookmarks and things that will be cheaper to ship. So the option will be there to get a signed physical copy, but if you'd like to save money, buy the books locally and then you can order a signed bookmark from the website.

The Dossier Files

Some people know I keep a continual running Dossier file for this story. Each boy has their own section, each book has their own section, and I develop, map and plot as I go.

I thought it would be interesting to share a glimpse as to what goes into some of the dossier pages. Below are some elements I thought you all might enjoy.

Book four's general outline:



The screenshot shows a web browser window with several tabs: 'Dossier', 'Book Element Flow', 'Series Development Organizer', 'New Section 1', and 'New Section Group'. The active page is titled 'Forgiveness and Permission' and is dated 'Thursday, March 7, 2013 8:48 AM'. The page content includes:

- MAIN GUY:** NORTH
- Supporting roles:** Kota, Mr. Blackbourne, Nathan
- Unresolved issues from previous books:**
 - Ongoing battle with Mr. Hendricks (We still don't know what he's up to.)
 - McCoy is lecherous on Sang.
 - Sang's mother in the hospital, dad has left
 - Sister and Sang are left alone in the house
 - Sang is still in the dark about the Academy
- Current main problems:**
 - North is hella grumpy
- MAIN CONFLICT:**
 - SANG is targeted by McCoy and must fight him off without alerting anyone about her home and being unhinged.
 - Plus, North is giving her a hard time and being overprotective (and grumpy) so for her need to get along with everyone, she must figure out what's wrong with him.
- Summary:** Sang and North need to discover a balance between them where Sang needs to talk to North more when she's in trouble and North needs to let go and trust Sang to make her own decisions.

On the right side of the page, there is a list of characters: JADE, Nerd Kid, Rocky, Jay, McCoy, and Hendricks. Below the text is a large illustration of a man with long blonde hair (North) and a woman with short red hair (Sang) embracing and kissing. The man is wearing a white shirt and the woman is wearing a brown jacket. The background is a soft, glowing light.

Who the boys are:



When I first started, I needed to know who each of the boys were. As I continued to write, I realized that the boys were something specific when around Sang, and Sang molded and became something for the boys when around them.

And inside each of the personalized dossier files, each of the boys has a phrase that reminds me of who they are together.

Kota

She is his passion.
He is her backbone.

Victor

She is his kindness.
He is her compassion.

Silas

She is his voice.
He is her strength.

Nathan

She is his softness.
He is her hero.

Gabriel

She is his muse.
He is her fresh air.

Lucian

She is his fantasy turned real.
He is her dreams.

North

She is his dream.
He is her foothold.

Dr. Green

He is her light and tender heart.
She is his focused determination.

Mr. Blackbourne

He is her doting master.
She is his greatest prodigy.



Have a request? Complaint? Want to ask more? Email me!

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