

FRIDAY I'M IN LOVE

Written by

Sanjana Deshpande

A college junior goes on her first ever date and quickly learns that despite her lack of experience, she can only be successful in her romantic endeavors if she stays true to herself.

5/12/25
sanjanad2005@gmail.com
617-637-5865

INT. LINA AND GRACE'S DORM ROOM - FRIDAY NIGHT

LINA (20, hopeless romantic, emphasis on hopeless) sits at her desk. She applies eyeshadow with shaking hands.

She leans back, appraising herself, as the door pushes open and then SLAMS. Lina turns to face her roommate GRACE (20, confident and chaotic), who's sprawled out on her back.

LINA

I thought you left already.

Grace shakes her head, her hair dangling off of the bed. In her hand is a plastic water bottle filled with clear liquid.

GRACE

Abby's room got raided by RAs so we're just meeting at the house. You heading out soon?

Lina nods, reaching for her eyeliner. Grace watches her, frowning, then holds out her bottle. Lina turns to look, then looks up at Grace incredulously. Grace shakes it invitingly.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Liquid courage.

LINA

You're a freak.

GRACE

Come on. You're obviously nervous. Maybe it'll help.

LINA

I'm not pregaming a date. That's how people get murdered, you know.

GRACE

Nicolas is *not* gonna murder you.

She sits up, watching as Lina tries not to stab herself in the eye, and chugs half of her bottle.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Speaking of Nicolas, I put a bunch of condoms in your purse when you were in the shower.

Lina whirls around.

LINA

You put a-- *what?*

GRACE

Oh, *my fucking bad*, Lina, I didn't realize how badly you wanted *chlamydia*.

Lina covers her face with her hands. Clearly freaking out.

LINA

Do you think I should just--

GRACE

Do *not* finish that sentence. Lina, this is your first date. If you cancel now, you're gonna regret it for the rest of your life.

Lina sighs.

LINA

I just-- I really like him. I don't wanna screw it up.

Grace gets to her feet and walks over to Lina, swaying violently. She plants her hands onto her shoulders.

GRACE

You'll be okay. Just, you know. Try not to be a nervous wreck like you always are and it'll be fine.

As Grace speaks, Lina stares at her reflection in the mirror, anxiety growing with every word.

INT. THAI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Lina nervously approaches a table where NICOLAS (20, hot nerd core) is sitting. He looks up when he sees her and smiles, then gets to his feet.

They have an endearingly awkward "are we supposed to hug right now" exchange before Lina sits down. She opens her menu in an attempt to hide her shaking hands.

NICOLAS

First time I'm seeing you without a lab coat on.

Lina looks up, then laughs a little.

LINA

Yeah. I guess you're right.

NICOLAS

But you look really pretty.

Lina stares at him, then raises her menu to hide her blush.

LINA

Thanks.

Nicolas stares at her holding a menu in front of her face, then smiles a little. He shakes his head.

NICOLAS

You live with Grace, right?

LINA

Yeah. She went out tonight.

She pauses.

LINA (CONT'D)

Usually I go with her, but, you know. Tonight I'm here.

NICOLAS

You're into that?

Lina freezes, taken aback. She lowers her menu.

LINA

What does that mean?

Nicolas frowns.

NICOLAS

I didn't-- it doesn't mean anything. I just thought--

LINA

Like, do I just scream "she's such a loser, she's never been to a party before", or...

NICOLAS

Sorry. That's not what I meant.

Lina's eyes widen, embarrassed. She tries to give him a smile, but it comes out more like a grimace.

LINA

It's okay.

Nicolas smiles tentatively back.

NICOLAS
So, um, about that--

As he speaks, Lina reaches for her water. Her hands are shaking so badly that as soon as she picks it up, it slips out of her grasp and spills across the table. She gasps.

LINA
Shit, sorry--

She reaches for a napkin to clean it up, but misses and hits Nicolas's water instead-- sending it flying all over him.

They both freeze. Nicolas looks down at his wet shirt, then back up at Lina. She stares at him, her face flaming, before she shoots to her feet.

LINA (CONT'D)
I-- I'll go get some towels. Sorry.

She runs off, and Nicolas watches her as she goes, confused.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lina bursts into the bathroom and takes a few deep breaths, but then screams into her hands after a moment. She reaches into her pocket for her phone, then dials a number. It RINGS a few times before someone picks up.

GRACE (O.C.)
HELLO?

LINA
Hey, I'm-- can you hear me?

INTERCUT: INT. BATHROOM/EXT. FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT

Grace pushes her way through crowds of people before making her way out onto the front porch. She sits down on the steps.

GRACE
(slurring her words a little)
Yeah. Sort of. What's up, dude?
Shouldn't you and Nicolas be--

LINA (O.C.)
This whole thing was a mistake. I'm gonna tell him I'm sick or something, I just-- I'm going home.

Grace frowns, setting her bottle down.

GRACE

What are you talking about?

Lina sighs, rubbing her eyes.

LINA

It's going really badly. I tried to do what you told me to and--

GRACE (O.C.)

What did I tell you to do?

LINA

Just, like, not be like I always am, and I tried and--

GRACE (O.C.)

And you *listened to me*? Man, I was on, like, my sixth shot when you left! Why would you do that?

LINA

I fucked up, Grace. I spilled water all over him and I-- whatever. I'm going home.

GRACE (O.C.)

BIIIITCH, don't even *think* about doing that. Get your ass back out there right now and *fix it*. What the hell are you on about?

LINA

But I--

GRACE (O.C.)

Lina, I swear to God, if you don't get back out there, I'm gonna come there and beat the *shit* out of you. You're

LINA

OKAY, OKAY! Jesus.

She takes a good long look at herself in the mirror, psyching herself up, and takes a deep breath.

LINA (CONT'D)

I'm going back out there.

GRACE

You better be. You're a fucking bad bitch, Lina.

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

You're funny and you're smart and
you're the hottest motherfucker in
that entire restaurant and--

LINA (O.C.)

I'M HANGING UP NOW!

GRACE

AND--

The line goes dead. Grace shakes her head in disbelief, then
turns to see a GUY (20) watching her.

GRACE (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you looking at?

INT. THAI RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Lina approaches the table, *filled with a sort of nervous
confidence*. Nicolas looks up as she walks over.

NICOLAS

Are you feeling okay--

LINA

I'm a loser. I've never been to a
party before.

NICOLAS

Okay.

LINA

I hate them. I have, like, levels
of social anxiety that have never
been seen before. And you're the
first person who's ever asked me
out, and I'm sort of freaking out a
little. A lot.

NICOLAS

Lina--

LINA

People looked at me and went "ew"
when we played spin the bottle in
middle school. Point is, I'm not
used to any of this. And I'm sorry
that I'm acting like a freak. I
just thought--

NICOLAS

Lina--

LINA

I thought maybe if you got to know who I actually was, you wouldn't like me anymore. But it doesn't--

NICOLAS

Lina.

She looks up nervously.

NICOLAS (CONT'D)

It's *okay*. I know who you are. That's why I like you so much.

Lina pauses. Taken aback. She frowns.

LINA

Really?

Nicolas smiles at her.

NICOLAS

Why do you sound so surprised?

Lina blinks, a little taken aback. She shrugs.

LINA

I guess-- I don't know. I didn't expect you to say that?

Nicolas's smile widens.

NICOLAS

And I thought I was being so obvious. I'm better at this than I think.

Lina stares at him, a smile growing. She shakes her head.

LINA

Do you think that-- maybe we can start over?

NICOLAS

Yeah, I think we can do that.

He points down at the menu.

NICOLAS (CONT'D)

You ready to order?

Lina smiles wider and nods.

FADE TO BLACK.