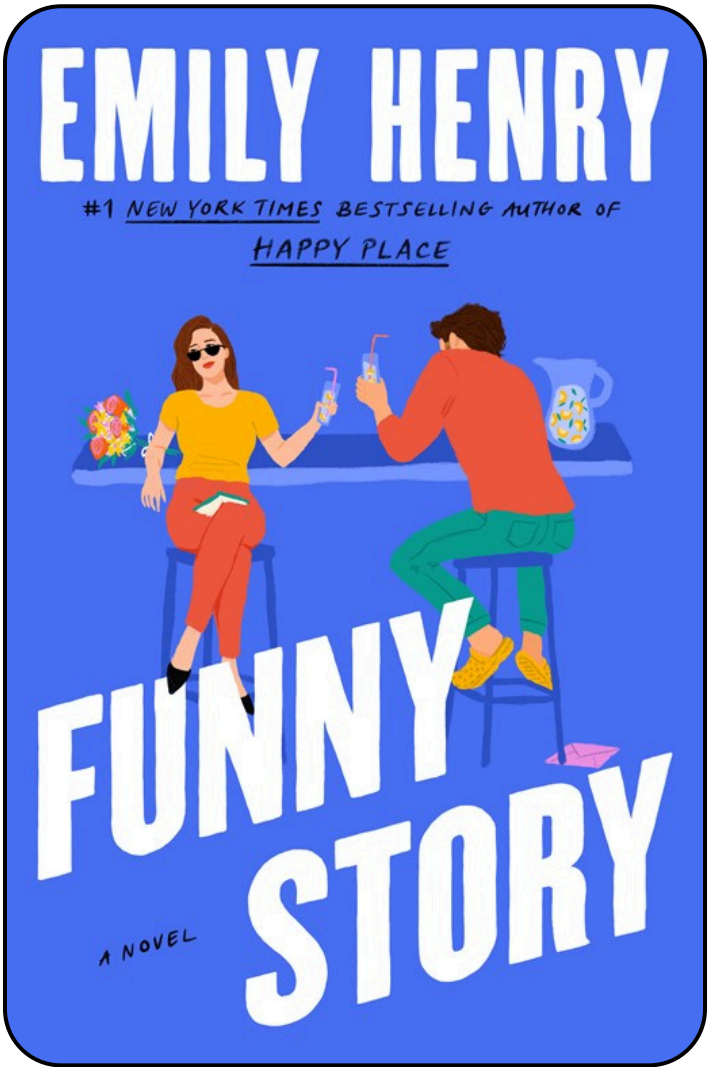
BOOK SUMMARY

Bored to Death Book Club



"Funny Story" is a romantic novel by Emily Henry released on April 23, 2024. The story circles around Daphne, a children's librarian who moves in to Waning Bay, Michigan, in support of her fiancé, Peter.

CHAPTERS	PAGES	TIME TO READ
38	23	29 min

Chapter 1

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST / 108 DAYS UNTIL I CAN LEAVE

So get this - three years back, when Daphne was 33, she bumped into Peter Collins right in their Richmond neighborhood. Talk about destiny, right? She was rocking this super cute floppy hat (a gift from mom) while taking a walk in the park. Then - whoosh! - the wind grabbed her hat and dropped it right at Peter's feet, but plot twist: it didn't stop there! The hat did a perfect dive straight into a trash can. Daphne, being Daphne, went full-on hat rescue mode and ended up sprawled on the grass. Peter still loves telling everyone, "I took one look at her and boom - totally fell for her right there."

Ugh, Peter seriously couldn't shut up about that story - he'd tell it to literally anyone who'd listen. They got engaged and everything seemed perfect. But then, surprise surprise! Right after his bachelor party, he ditched her for his supposedly "just friends" bestie, Petra Comer.

Like, get this - Peter and Petra had been joined at the hip since third grade (thanks, alphabetical seating chart!). They were total nerds together, obsessing over Pokémon and going on family trips. Peter kept insisting they were "basically cousins" - yeah, right - even though Petra was basically a supermodel.

Fast forward to now: Petra and Peter are playing happy couple while Daphne's stuck bunking with Miles Nowak (aka Petra's ex-fiancé). When Petra bailed to move in with Peter, Miles (he's 36, btw) was nice enough to offer Daphne crash space. It's been three weeks of pure awkward.

The apartment's actually pretty neat, except for Miles's room - it's like a tornado hit it. He's just been getting high and having a total Bridget Jones moment, blasting that "All By Myself" scene over and over. Poor Mr. Dorner next door is probably losing his mind!

Chapter 2

BACK IN APRIL / BEFORE I KNEW I NEEDED TO LEAVE

So, you know how Daphne's a book nerd (aka librarian)? Well, Peter was totally different from her usual type back in her twenties. Being a tech guy and all, he actually had his life together - shocking, right? They went from zero to living together in like five weeks flat, and get this - their besties Cooper and Sadie even caught the love bug too! Before anyone knew it, Peter popped the question.

Fast forward a year, and they're deep in wedding planning mode. Then Peter's folks stumble on this killer house in Michigan - total dream spot. With Peter doing his coding thing from home and Daphne landing this perfect kids' librarian gig nearby, it felt like the universe was giving them a high-five. Peter snagged the house right away.

But then, ugh, everything went sideways during Peter's bachelor party three weeks ago. Daphne kept seeing these pics Peter sent - and guess who was glued to his side in every single one? Yep, Petra. Miles (you know, Petra's fiancé) wasn't even invited because Peter was all judgy about him being a stoner with no degree. Pretty rich coming from him, since Petra was basically in the same boat.

Next thing you know, Peter comes home and drops this massive bomb on her. He's all "Nothing happened, BUT..." (isn't there always a but?) and confesses he's in love with Petra. They're like "We'll peace out for a week so you can move your stuff." Later, Daphne finds out their little "space-giving trip" was actually a romantic vacay in Italy. Like, seriously?

Just when Petra and Peter are driving away looking all cozy, who shows up at the door? Miles, totally clueless, looking for Petra. And that's when everything really hit the fan.

Chapters 3-4

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH / 91 DAYS UNTIL I CAN LEAVE

Living with Miles is pretty chill - he totally gets the whole personal space thing, which is exactly what she needs right now.

Looking back, she used to be all about that minimalist life before Peter came along. Then she went full-on nesting mode with him, making their place super homey. Now? Her stuff from their massive three-bed house is squeezed into this tiny guest room, plus there's all this wedding junk she's been avoiding like the plague.

So she walks in from work one day to find Miles doing his best pancake impression on the couch, looking totally crushed. Turns out he got hit with Peter and Petra's wedding invite - talk about salt in the wound! They're tying the knot on Labor Day weekend, barely a month after when Daphne was supposed to have her big day.

Miles (our friendly neighborhood wine guy) comes through with some bottles, and they end up having their own little pity party. After a while, he's like "Let's blow this popsicle stand" and drags them to this place called the MEATLOCKER.

At the bar, Miles is in his element - total social butterfly! He hits it off with everyone, especially this guy Gil who keeps buying rounds and spilling his life story. Daphne's just sitting there thinking "Dang, this guy could make friends with a wall." By the time they stumble home, Miles gets this mischievous look and goes "Hey, what if we actually showed up at their wedding?"

Chapter 5

SUNDAY, MAY 19TH / 90 DAYS UNTIL I CAN LEAVE

OMG, so the next morning, Daphne wakes up to find she'd gone and downloaded some dating app in her wine-fueled haze. And guess what? Peter had called - apparently wanting to chat about her wedding RSVP (like, seriously?).

So they get on the phone, and Peter's being totally patronizing, all "Oh, you shouldn't come, you'll just feel sooo sad and awkward." Ugh! Daphne gets super annoyed and before she knows it, she's blurting out that she's bringing her boyfriend. When Peter's like "Um, but you didn't check the plus-one box," she just goes for it and says she's dating Miles!

Later, she spills the tea to Miles about her little white lie. He thinks it's hilarious and is totally down to play along - anything to mess with Peter and

Petra! He even suggests they should snap a cute pic together for social media to sell the story (which is perfect since he's not even on there).

Chapters 5–9

FRIDAY, MAY 24TH / 85 DAYS UNTIL I CAN LEAVE

So Daphne's chatting with her work buddy Ashleigh about needing to shake things up a bit. Ashleigh's like "Hey, let's hit up Chill Coast Brewery!" but Daphne's all "Ugh, no way - that's totally Peter territory." Instead, she suggests swinging by Miles's wine place, Cherry Hill. Ashleigh's down, so Daphne shoots Miles a quick heads-up text.

That evening, they're all dolled up at the winery when Miles spots them and throws out this super cheesy "Hey girlfriend!" which gets everyone giggling.

Over some seriously good wine, Daphne and Ashleigh have this heart-to-heart about why they never hung out before. Turns out Ashleigh thought Daphne was too wrapped up in couple-land to want new friends - whoops! They end up spilling all sorts of tea - Daphne dishes about her fake thing with Miles, and Ashleigh tells her about her kiddo Mulder (yep, named after that X-Files guy!).

After Ashleigh bounces with some random cutie she met, Miles offers Daphne a ride. On the way, he's like "Oh my god, you HAVE to try Big Louie's!" - this greasy spoon she'd never checked out because Peter was such a health nut.

While they're chowing down, Daphne's feeling kinda guilty about buying into Peter's whole "Miles is such a slacker" thing. Like, hello - Peter was just

jealous of him and Petra the whole time!

They hit the beach after, and Miles totally roasts her for being such a tourist (or "fudgie" as the locals say). Daphne gets real about feeling lost - like, should she bail to Richmond? But her bestie Sadie's playing Switzerland between her and Peter, which totally sucks. Or maybe she should run home to mama in Maryland?

But Miles is all "Hey, stick around!" He even offers to be her personal tour guide every Sunday, which is pretty sweet.

Then - drama alert! - Petra texts Miles saying she's "sooo happy" about his new relationship. Instead of getting bummed, they decide to ham it up and take these totally ridiculous couple-y photos. Super childish? Maybe. But hey, sometimes you gotta laugh!

Chapters 12-14

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH / 72 DAYS UNTIL I CAN LEAVE

OMG, Daphne can't help crushing on Miles - especially after that Thursday night when she bumped into him all shirtless and hot! Then on Sunday, they hit up Sleeping Bear Dunes and went totally wild on a dune buggy. She couldn't stop thinking about their kiss while she was holding onto him during the ride!

Next Sunday, they're being all domestic at Miles's fave farmers' market, grabbing stuff for pizza. Over dinner, they're swapping stories about their picky exes - Miles is like "Petra would never do sunrise kayaking, she's such a

sleepyhead" and Daphne's all "Peter was so boring about action movies!" So naturally, they decide to do both!

Mom calls and tries to get Daphne to come back home, but she's like "No way, got this Read-a-thon thing!" Mom offers to help with cash, but Daphne's not having it - she remembers how hard Mom worked after the divorce, raising her solo. No way is she letting Mom play superhero again!

Later, Miles shows up for movie night (they've been totally binging action flicks with popcorn since pizza night). Things get pretty steamy - they're kissing again and it's getting hot and heavy until Miles's phone starts blowing up.

Turns out his sister Julia's pulled a total surprise move and landed in Traverse City! Miles is kinda worried 'cause she's always doing crazy stuff like this. Before he heads out to grab her, they have this whole "we probably shouldn't hook up" talk - Miles is all about protecting their friendship, while Daphne's internally fighting between being Miss Responsible and wanting to just go wild for once.

While Miles is gone, Daphne goes full mom-mode - cleaning up and stocking the fridge like crazy. She starts thinking about her past - you know, growing up in tiny apartments with her super-hardworking mom, being the responsible kid while mom climbed the career ladder, then becoming the ultimate party planner in college with her bestie Sadie.

Julia shows up all bouncy and fun, and they spill the beans about their fake dating situation. She's totally cool with it and gets super pumped about Daphne's library story hour - she's like "We're SO going tomorrow!"

Chapter 14

SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND / 56 DAYS UNTIL I CAN LEAVE

So Julia totally keeps her word and drags Miles to watch Daphne do her thing at Storytime! BTW, she somehow convinced Miles to ditch that sad breakup beard he'd been rocking, and wow - who knew such a hottie was hiding under there? After story time wraps up, Ashleigh's like "Hey guys, we should totally hit up this cool spot called BARn - they've got awesome live music and food trucks!"

Next morning, while Julia's catching her z's, Miles and Daphne go kayaking at sunrise. While they're paddling around, Miles gets curious about Daphne's dad. She tells him the not-so-great story - he's out in Cali, basically the king of empty promises. Then Miles opens up about Julia, sharing how he was basically a teenage big bro when she was born. Super sweet how he'd come back home just to hang with her on weekends! He's still scratching his head about why she randomly showed up, even though she keeps saying she's just there to have his back.

Later, the squad hits up BARn together. The place is totally buzzing - live music, killer tacos, the works. And OMG, the way Miles and Daphne keep flirting with each other? You could cut the tension with a knife!

Monday rolls around and Ashleigh just comes right out with it - "Are you and Miles hooking up?" Daphne's like "Nah, we've just kissed." Then she asks about Ashleigh's ex, Duke. Talk about drama! They were high school sweethearts, split in college, then got back together and - surprise! - baby

makes three. They tried the whole marriage thing for their kid, but turns out having a baby was literally the only thing they had in common. Duke wouldn't even try therapy, and everyone was Team Duke after the split.

All this gets Daphne thinking about how Sadie's been MIA since the whole Peter mess went down.

Chapter 16

TUESDAY, JUNE 25TH / 53 DAYS UNTIL I CAN LEAVE

So Miles hits Daphne up about ditching their usual Sunday hangout for a concert on Saturday instead. Even though she's totally dying to go, Daphne's like "better not" - trying to keep things from getting too complicated, you know?

Later she's mindlessly scrolling through her feed when - bam! - there's Cooper's post showing him and Petra living it up in Richmond. Ouch! But then she remembers what Miles keeps telling her - stop obsessing over what's gone and start creating something fresh!

So she's like "whatever!" and shoots Ashleigh a quick "I'm in!" for that thing she mentioned, plus tells Miles she's changed her mind about the concert after all.

Turns out Ashleigh's thing is this super random poker night with their work buddy Harvey and these two awesome ladies, Lenore and Barb (who Ashleigh met buying asparagus, of all things!). Fun fact: these ladies actually knew Ashleigh's mom from when she was doing her priest thing at their

church. By the end of the night, they've roped Daphne into helping plan Harvey's big 75th birthday bash in October.

After everyone leaves, Ashleigh drops this truth bomb - she tells Daphne she's totally a "we girl" who always needs her person. Daphne's like "mind blown!" as she realizes she's always been latched onto someone - first mom, then Sadie, then Peter. Pretty wild how she's finally figuring out how to do her own thing!

Chapters 17–19

SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH / 49 DAYS UNTIL I CAN LEAVE

So get this - Daphne and Miles roll up to what she thinks is a concert, but surprise! It's actually this super cute Senior Prom fundraiser thing for the Waning Bay Historical Society. Miles is like "Trust me, this'll be perfect for finding Read-a-thon sponsors!"

Everything's going great until - ugh - Peter and Petra show up. Daphne's first instinct is to bolt, but she's like "Nah, I'm gonna stay and have fun!" Miles is such a rockstar, introducing her to everyone, and before she knows it, she's got tons of people wanting to donate.

Then comes the awkward part - they bump into Peter and Petra, and Miles and Daphne have to keep up their whole fake couple act with a kiss. Peter's being totally petty, throwing shade at Miles's job. Later, Daphne asks if that bugged him, and Miles just shrugs it off, saying Petra's family always made him feel like he wasn't fancy enough for their precious daughter.

Things get real when they kiss again, and this time it's definitely not just for show. Daphne totally freaks and runs outside (smooth, right?). When Miles catches up, she's all "I need to go home, I'm getting dizzy" and spills about how this fake dating thing is messing with her head - she's not cool with being used to make Petra jealous.

But then Miles just goes for it and kisses her again, making it super clear this has nothing to do with Petra anymore. They're totally getting into it until Miles pulls back and opens up about how he tends to shut down when stuff gets messy. He gets real about his childhood - how his mom was this emotional tornado and he learned to just bottle everything up to keep the peace. Now he feels bad about not standing up for himself and his sister Julia back then.

Chapters 20–22

THURSDAY, JULY 4TH / 44 DAYS UNTIL I COULD LEAVE (IF I STILL WANT TO)

So, they're all living their best lives at the Traverse City Fourth of July Parade! Then on Sunday, they hit up the Cherry Festival with Ashleigh tagging along. At this point, Daphne's kinda warming up to Waning Bay - like, maybe leaving isn't such a no-brainer anymore? She's totally vibing with these cozy dinner nights with Miles and Julia.

Then boom! Daphne spots this job listing for a children's librarian gig in Worcester County, Maryland - right by her mom's place. She's super torn but fires off her résumé anyway, like "why not?"

That night, Julia drops this bombshell - she's moving to Waning Bay! Her boxes are already taking over the living room. She's hunting for jobs and apartments, but something's definitely up with her.

Things get awkward when Julia's organizing and accidentally unleashes an avalanche of Daphne's wedding stuff from the closet. When Daphne's like "what's the real deal with moving here?" Julia spills the tea - she'd been worried about Miles staying places just for her sake, but now she's pretty stoked that he's actually choosing to stick around in Waning Bay.

Julia and Ashleigh are all "girl, dump that wedding dress!" but then they flip the script and convince her to try it on. Daphne's like "ugh, fine" and wrestles with this fancy number her mom splurged on.

Plot twist! Julia and Ashleigh bail for milkshake supplies, leaving Daphne stuck with Miles. The dress zipper's being super stubborn, and while Miles is helping her wrangle it, he opens up about how Petra totally shut down the marriage talk when they were together - but now she's all about marrying Peter? Wild!

Finally, they win the battle with the zipper, and Miles saves the day with a shirt for her to throw on.

Chapter 23

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH / 24 DAYS UNTIL THE READ-A-THON

The Read-a-thon cash keeps rolling in like crazy! Then Daphne gets this random call and text from her dad Jason - you know how it goes, the whole "call me" thing. During poker night (which is totally becoming her jam), she

volunteers to help Ashleigh paint her place for her birthday - because who doesn't love a good paint party?

So her dad keeps trying to reach her (classic dad move), and she's just like "yeah, here's my address" when he texts. But hold onto your hats - when she gets back home, who's standing there? Her dad! And get this - he's got this woman called Starfire with him. Like, what even?

Chapters 24–26

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1ST / 16 DAYS UNTIL THE READ-A-THON

So guess what? Jason shows up and gives Daphne this big hug, then introduces her to Starfire - yeah, that's really her name! They're doing this super fun road trip to Vermont to meet Starfire's fam and celebrate their wedding plans. Miles and Julia are like "whoa" when they see them. Daphne's worried about space in her tiny place, but Jason's all "no worries, we've got a motel booked!"

Daphne can't believe how different her dad is acting - like, he's actually being considerate? He's marrying someone normal-aged and not trying to crash at her place? Wild! She's still kinda iffy but figures why not give it a shot. She asks Miles if her dad and Starfire can hang with them, and Miles is like "Hey, let's take everyone out on my buddy's boat!"

The day turns out perfect - they're all swimming and chilling on the lake. At dinner, Julia's super sweet and invites Jason and Starfire to check out Daphne's Story Hour at the library on Saturday.

Then things get kinda heavy when Jason starts telling this story about little Daphne carrying around tons of books at the library. But in Daphne's head, she's remembering how it really went down - her running around trying to get his attention while he was too busy flirting with random librarians. Talk about being put on the back burner!

Daphne has to bail to the bathroom 'cause it's all too much. Miles follows her, and she spills her guts - she's scared to trust her dad again, you know? And seeing him be all lovey-dovey with Starfire? Ouch. That's the kind of love she wanted from him growing up.

Back at the table, Jason totally surprises everyone by paying for dinner and bringing out this birthday cake for her. Later at the beach, Daphne's letting herself dream a little - like maybe these new relationships with Miles, Julia, and Ashleigh could stick around. And hey, maybe her dad's actually changed for real this time?

That night she googles their motel and yikes - it's super far and looks totally sketchy. She feels bad and tells them to crash at her place, promising to help them find somewhere better tomorrow.

Julia mentions she's gotta head back to Chicago soon to wrap things up with her old place and grab her car.

Friday's actually pretty chill - Daphne hangs with Jason and Starfire at this brewery, talking about her Read-a-thon plans. Then they hit up Cherry Hill Winery, where Miles joins after work. The whole vibe is super relaxed, and Daphne's starting to think maybe, just maybe, her dad might be different this time around.

Chapters 27–28

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD / 14 DAYS UNTIL THE READ-A-THON

At Saturday's Story Hour, Miles shows up unexpectedly alone, and Daphne realizes her dad and Starfire aren't coming. Miles hesitates before telling her they got an invitation from friends to meet up in Mackinac and left town earlier that day. He says he suggested her dad call, but Jason left only a note instead.

Daphne brushes it off, though her heart aches. She reflects on how she managed to let go of the pain from Peter's betrayal but struggles to do the same with her father. She tells Miles she's fine and encourages him to head to work.

Later, Daphne asks Miles to take her somewhere new to distract her. He immediately grabs his keys and takes her to a wooded trail that leads to a stunning, secluded beach. They run into the water together, holding each other as they let the moment wash over them.

Back at the apartment, the tension boils over, and Miles kisses Daphne. They end up having sex for the first time.

Afterward, while snacking, they talk. Miles calls out her dad's behavior as an "asshole move," but Daphne admits that despite everything, she'd still be thrilled if her dad came back and asked for her trust again.

Miles shares his own family troubles: his father has been calling him recently because Julia won't respond. Julia had reconnected with their dad, only for him to tell their mom where she worked. Their mom showed up at Julia's

job, leading her to walk out and lose her position—spurring her move to Waning Bay.

Miles tells Daphne that her dad avoids her because she sees him for who he truly is, while it's easier for him to be around people who only see the idealized version of him. As for Peter, Miles bluntly says Peter is bored with himself and thinks being with Petra will make him more interesting.

Chapter 29

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4TH / 13 DAYS UNTIL THE READ-A-THON

Daphne rolls out of bed super late on Sunday, finding Miles still crashed next to her. They end up having the most chill day ever - just wandering around town like they've got nowhere better to be, grabbing some food together, and getting all cozy and close (if you know what I mean). Between all the snuggling and hanging out, they keep finding excuses to slip back into bed.

Chapter 30

MONDAY, AUGUST 5TH / 12 DAYS UNTIL THE READ-A-THON

So Daphne sneaks out, leaving Miles snoozing away. She spots her dad's note and tosses it straight in the trash without even peeking. Then - ugh, total face-palm moment - she remembers she totally spaced on helping paint Ashleigh's place for her birthday on Saturday. Plus, Ashleigh had called in "sick" that day, and Daphne hadn't even sent a quick "you okay?" text.

At work, Daphne practically sprints to apologize, but Ashleigh's giving her the cold shoulder. When Daphne's like "must've sucked being sick on your birthday," Ashleigh drops the bomb - she wasn't even sick! She'd taken the day off to get ready for their painting hangout. She'd blown up Daphne's phone, but Daphne was too busy living her best beach life with no signal to notice.

Ashleigh's not having any of the apology, calling Daphne one of those people who ghost their friends the second they start dating someone. Super bummed, Ashleigh just goes back to work.

Later, Miles is supposed to scoop Daphne up after work but he's MIA. She rings him up and he's all "something came up, can't make it, sorry!" Talk about adding insult to injury - Daphne's left trudging home, feeling pretty over everyone letting her down.

Then boom - she gets this call about that librarian gig in Maryland. They wanna set up an interview!

Chapter 31

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6TH / 11 DAYS UNTIL THE READ-A-THON

So Miles is MIA all night (ugh). Daphne tries to patch things up with Ashleigh by bringing over these amazing Portuguese treats Ashleigh's obsessed with. Ashleigh takes them but is still giving her the cold shoulder.

Back home, the place is totally empty except for this box of fudge and a "sorry I missed you" note from Miles. Her dad tries calling but she's like

"nope, not today" - she's way too drained for that drama. Then - plot twist! - there's a knock and who shows up? Peter!

Get this: Peter drops the bomb that he and Petra called it quits on the wedding. He spills the tea about how he totally freaked during their engagement (which is why he bounced to Petra). He's all "it was mutual" and "I knew I messed up after like a week" and "we just got caught up in the moment."

Peter goes full rom-com, saying he wants to spend forever making it up to her, but Daphne's just like "nah." She's finally seeing clearly how his whole life - his house, his friends, his priorities - never really had space for her.

Before he leaves, he tries to play nice guy and offers his couch if she needs a place. Then he drops this little bomb: apparently Miles spent all day helping Petra move out, and they'll probably get back together.

But you know what? Daphne's not buying into that backup plan nonsense. She's feeling herself and tells Peter "bye bye!"

Chapter 32

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7TH / 10 DAYS UNTIL THE READ-A-THON

So there's Daphne, trudging home in the rain when - surprise! - Miles pulls up in his car. He's all "Hey, I was trying to catch you at the library but got stuck in traffic!" He's super apologetic, saying he freaked out because this "friend" needed help (yeah right) and totally lost track of time. When Daphne asks if it was Petra, Miles does this awkward pause before admitting it.

Daphne's thinking, like, there's always gonna be a Petra, right? Someone who seems cooler or less messy or whatever. Miles is all "I messed up, let me fix this!" but Daphne's just like "Look, I don't need some big romantic gesture - I just want someone who actually shows up when they say they will." She tells him how much it stings that he broke her trust, then drops the bomb about maybe taking this job near her mom's place.

Once the rain lets up, Daphne's like "peace out" and starts walking. She can't help thinking about how her mom's literally never let her down - not once.

Later, she calls her mom and spills all the tea about her dad. They get into this deep convo about her childhood, and her mom's super real about it - admits she moved them around so much 'cause she was scared. She's like "I've always been this total pessimist, afraid to hope for anything good" but tells Daphne not to be like that. Her advice? Sometimes you gotta face the uncomfortable stuff head-on instead of running away.

That hits different, and Daphne's like "You know what? I'm done running from this mess." She shoots Harvey a text asking him to set up poker night and make sure Ashleigh's there.

Chapter 33

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH / 8 DAYS UNTIL THE READ-A-THON

So Friday rolls around and Ashleigh shows up with coffee for Daphne - still not super chatty, but hey, baby steps toward fixing their friendship, right?

Next day, Daphne sneaks into Ashleigh's place (thanks to Harvey's spare key hookup). The house is giving total empty-nest vibes, but Daphne's on a

mission - grabs some paint and gets down to business.

Plot twist! Ashleigh walks in mid-paint job. Turns out Harvey's "super spontaneous" poker night wasn't fooling anyone. Daphne goes for another apology, and this time? Score! Ashleigh pulls her in for a hug.

Ashleigh comes clean - admits she might've gone a bit overboard about the birthday thing. She was just stoked about having a new bestie and maybe got too intense. Plus, she confesses she pulled that whole silent treatment move instead of just talking it out - apparently an old habit from her marriage days.

They end up spilling all the tea - Daphne dishes about the Miles drama and her possible new job. Before they know it, they're both painting away, their friendship getting its groove back.

Chapter 34

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH / 7 DAYS UNTIL THE READ-A-THON

Ashleigh throws out this super sweet offer: "Hey girl, why don't you crash at my place till the Read-a-thon? You know, take a breather from all this Miles drama." BTW, her place? It's this totally insane mansion her ex Duke (Mr. Cookie Fortune himself, LOL) let her keep after their split.

OMG, what a week! Monday was like ninja-mode - sneaking into the apartment while Miles was out to grab her stuff. Tuesday she met Ashleigh's little one, Mulder (how adorable is that name?!). Wednesday was all business with this video interview for the Maryland gig, and Friday? Back at Miles's place digging through stuff for the Read-a-thon.

Here's the tea - she finds her dad's note chilling in the trash and has this total moment. Like, she's been playing this epic game of dodge-ball with everything - the note, Sadie, anything remotely Peter-ish. She's not ready to deal with it yet, but she grabs it anyway (just in case, you know?).

And then - OMG awkward! - who does she bump into? Julia, fresh off the plane from Chicago! She's giving Daphne this look about ghosting Miles after his whole heart-spilling thing, but get this - she's actually super thankful Daphne got Miles to open up. Apparently it fixed their whole brother-sister situation!

Then Julia drops the real truth bomb about Miles - poor baby's got these major confidence issues (thanks a lot, parents). He's always freaking out about not being good enough. But Julia's like "Trust me, my brother's totally capable of being there for someone - he just needs to believe it himself!"

Chapter 35

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH / 1 DAY UNTIL THE READ-A-THON

That night, Daphne finally bites the bullet and checks out her dad's note. Turns out he's ditching town for some supposedly amazing opportunity (eye roll), but hey - maybe he'll pop back up in October! After reading it, she totally breaks down and speed-dials her mom for some much-needed TLC.

Chapter 36

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH / READ-A-THON DAY

OMG, it's finally Read-a-thon day and the library's totally buzzing! Our awesome volunteers are turning every corner into these super cool genre-themed spots. Things get a bit crazy when someone calls in sick and a few volunteers ghost us, but Ashleigh's like "No worries, we got this!"

Then - plot twist - Dad calls to wish me luck. Turns out he and Starfire bailed early because some random people they met at the dunes invited them to crash. But here's the tea: Miles actually drove all the way up to Mackinac to try and get them to come back! He even got into it with Jason, which totally upset Starfire.

That's when it hits me - Miles wasn't here today 'cause he was trying to bring my dad back, knowing how much it meant to me. He didn't say anything 'cause he didn't want me to know Dad said no. Sweet but kinda heartbreaking, right?

I'm so done with Dad's nonsense that I call him back and just let it rip. Like, "You've been the worst dad ever, always leaving me hanging and never making me feel important."

Back at the library, Ashleigh's got me doing this whole speech thing for the volunteers. And OMG, guess who shows up? Julia, Miles, Barb, Leonore, and even Katya from Cherry Hill! Pretty sure Ashleigh pulled some strings there. I'm literally getting all emotional because, like, I'm so used to life throwing me curveballs, but these are actually good surprises for once! I'm basically crying while thanking everyone for being so amazing.

The whole day is just nuts - kids everywhere, grabbing prizes and checking out all these cool reading spots we set up. By 6:30, things finally start chilling

out. Ashleigh's like "Go talk to Miles, I'll handle the cleanup!" Such a bestie move!

Chapter 37

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18TH / FINALLY

So the next night, Daphne and Miles hit the streets for a heart-to-heart. Daphne's like "Hey, I know you went to see my dad" and brings up the whole Petra situation. Miles spills the tea - yeah, Petra called him all crying and stuff, wanting to get back together, but he was straight up like "Sorry, I'm totally in love with Daphne!"

Miles gets real vulnerable, sharing how Petra messed with his head, saying he wasn't cut out for the life Daphne wants - you know, the whole kids thing - because of how he grew up. Then he drops this bomb about how Petra and Peter split 'cause she's not into having kids. Miles gets all deep, saying "I feel like there's this huge gap between who I am now and who I wanna be, and I'm kinda lost on how to bridge it."

Daphne's like "Look, I'm down to give us a shot" but makes it crystal clear - she's sticking around to build her own awesome life, not just to be Miles's plus-one.

Chapter 38

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD / 412 DAYS SINCE I STAYED

Fast forward a year - Daphne and Miles have finally moved in together (like, their own actual place!). They're throwing this super fun housewarming shindig, and of course Ashleigh and Julia are the first ones through the door. BTW, Julia's totally living her best life now as a barista! The party really gets going when Edna, Leonore, Harvey, and Elda show up. Then - OMG - Daphne's mom makes this grand entrance straight from the airport, all excited to meet everyone. Oh, and get this - Sadie's planning to swing by next week (talk about progress!).

So they're all hanging out when someone's like "Wait, what's this about Miles being your ex-fiancé's ex-fiancé?" Everyone who doesn't know the story is totally dying to hear it. Miles just sits there with this big goofy grin and goes "Oh man, it's such a funny story." Everyone gets comfy as Daphne starts spilling the tea.

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