

Jason

Everything in your life is the best it's ever been, and you have no idea what to do. Growing up, you were always a shy kid, more comfortable with your books than with the other kids in your class. Somehow, you wound up cast as the romantic lead in this play, you have two wonderful partners, and you just landed your dream job. If only they weren't all pulling you in different directions.

This past summer, you finished your Ph.D. in history. After a brief celebration, you spent the fall applying for jobs and teaching adjunct courses at two different community colleges to make ends meet. You know how bad the academic job market is right now, and you've spent a lot of your time thinking about what you'll do if you don't get a job. Maybe you could teach high school? Or find a visiting professor position somewhere? You love teaching and you love reading and writing about history. You can't imagine leaving your field. Out of nearly thirty applications, you only had two phone interviews, and one in-person interview. You tried so hard not to get your hopes up. It was exactly the job you wanted: a liberal arts school, a nice college town, exactly the sort of place you want to be.

There are only two problems: Maria and Skylar. The job is at Hendrix College in Arkansas. You don't know if they'll follow you, and you don't know if you can handle starting over without them.

You and Maria met your freshman year of college. It was a classic story. You lived in the same building. You helped her with her papers and she helped you pass enough math to meet your gen ed requirements. You were dating by October, and by November you were convinced that this was the woman you wanted to be with for the rest of your life. She felt the same way, and by spring semester you were planning a life together and joking about what you would name your kids.

You only had one worry. You had dated a few girls in high school and were feeling like, despite how young you were, you could be ready to settle down. Maria, on the other hand had never really dated before. She came from very strict parents and had lived a sheltered life. You didn't want her to miss out on everything else. Besides, she was starting to realize that she was also interested in girls. You didn't ever want her to feel like she had to choose between being with you and experiencing life, so you talked it over and agreed to keep the relationship open.

At first, it was all pretty casual. You tended to maintain one or two friends with benefits relationships, and Maria liked to pick up people at parties or actors from the shows that she ran tech for. You graduated college, and moved to another college in the state to start grad school. Maria came with you, and found a job at a local accounting firm. She wasn't too happy with her job, but she got involved in theater again, which she always loved, and even managed to pull you into acting now and then. Over the years, you got more and more involved, and even found yourself cast as the lead, now and then, a role that you never would have seen for yourself.

About three years ago, Maria met Skylar. At the time, Skylar was still identifying as male, but Skylar was beginning to explore gender, and Maria encouraged them. You met Skylar several times, and started to become friends with them. Then Maria came to you with her confession: she thought she was falling in love with Skylar. If you said she had to choose, she would stay with you, but she hoped you would be willing to give her and Skylar the chance.

This was a shock to you and you weren't really ready to deal with it. Sex was one thing, but love was another, and it scared you. But you knew and liked Skylar, and, after thinking on it for a couple days, decided you couldn't force Maria to make that choice. You gave your ok, and decided to welcome them into your life. You and Skylar became very close friends, and they were over at your place almost all the time: watching movies, making dinner, just hanging out.

Then one night, you were all curled up on the couch watching a movie and you found Skylar's head in your lap. You always thought of yourself as straight, but you realized, somewhere along the line, you had started thinking of Skylar more as a girl than as a guy, even though neither was quite right. You leaned down and kissed them, and things went from there. A few months later, Skylar moved in with you and Maria, and that's how things have been for the past year. You're still not sure what to think about Skylar's gender, or your sexuality, but you love Skylar, and that's what really matters. You, Maria and Skylar had even started to talk a little about the future. Maybe a few years down the line you might buy a house together and start thinking about kids, once you were finished with grad school and things were a little more settled.

But this new job could change everything. A year ago, you would have been sure that at least Maria would just follow you, but a few months ago, she got her dream job. She enjoys being an accountant, but she hated working at the firm, feeling like a cog in a big corporate machine. Recently she took a job as an accountant for Planned Parenthood. For once, she feels like she's doing something useful with her life. That's not a job that she can find just anywhere, and you feel terrible thinking about taking her away from that.

You don't know if you can uproot Maria, you don't know if Skylar will want to follow you, and you don't know if you can take your dream job if they don't. They know you had the interview, and you have to tell them about the job sooner rather than later. You just hope you don't ruin the cast party. You should be celebrating with your lovers and friends, not struggling with difficult decisions. But this isn't something that can wait. Maria and Skylar need to know, and you only have two weeks to get back to the school with your decision.

The Cast:

Maria is the love of your life, the person you intend to have kids with, marry and grow old with. You have been together your entire adult life, and intend to spend the rest of your life with her. You just need to figure out what the next part of that looks like, with your new job offer, and Skylar. Whatever happens, Maria is the most important person in your life.

Skylar is absolutely not someone you ever planned for. Sure, you are Maria were never monogamous, but you didn't expect anyone to become this involved in your lives, and you certainly never saw yourself with someone like Skylar. Even though you tend to think of Skylar as a woman, you know that's not quite how she sees herself, and you still don't know what to think about the situation. What you do know is that you love Skylar and want them to be happy.

Tyler is a good friend of Maria's. You have never been as close with him, but any friend of Maria's is a friend of yours. You know that he and his partner Dan have been having some issues and Maria has spent a lot of time recently trying to comfort him.

Dan is a pretty good actor and teaches theater at the high school. You have a lot of respect for that: you can't imagine working with high school kids. College freshmen are hard enough. You've had some good conversations about teaching, and you have learned a lot from him. He's dating Maria's friend Tyler, so the four or five of you have dinner together every so often.

Crystal is the leader of the theater company. She's the sort of person that everyone loves, but no one knows that well. She cares deeply about the company and all the people in it, but never seems to get that close to anyone. She flirts with everybody, but if she's ever dated anyone in the company, you've never heard about it.

Angela has recently rejoined the theater company. She was part of it years ago when you joined, but then disappeared for several years into a relationship that she recently left. She's absolutely beautiful, and you loved playing her love interest in the play. There was a definite spark between you and if she

recovers enough to be interested, you wouldn't mind seeing if there is anything else there.

Olivia has been a friend of yours for many years. She is constantly bemoaning the lack of a lesbian dating scene in town, but refuses to leave. You're glad that she's still here, but you worry that she's just making herself miserable. She's a tech geek. She can find a job anywhere. Recently, she's been a little distant and awkward around you and you're not quite sure why.