

SMASHED BY MY BEST FRIEND'S RIVAL

Written by
Eda Benjakul

LOGLINE: Pre-med Lila swore she'd never fall for players – until a forbidden moment with her best friend's rival becomes a secret she can't hide. Torn between loyalty and the man who makes her lose control, she's up against a world that could cost her everything. In a game where love means nothing, will she go for the smash?

eda.benjakul@gmail.com
310-822-0055



EPISODE 1 - INT. TENNIS COURT - DAY

SUPER: INTERNATIONAL COLLEGIATE CUP

A serve. A return. A THUD.

MATT BOWMAN (late 20s, boyish cockiness) hits the court clutching his ankle.

GROUPIES swarm.

LILA MONROE (mid-20s), medical kit in hand, cuts through them.

LILA
Trainer. Move.

She examines Matt's ankle.

MATT
Easy. I'm fragile.

LILA
Could be a grade two sprain. I need imaging.

MATT
Qualifiers are in three days.

Lila rotates his foot. Matt YELPS.

A whistle from the next court.

RAPHAEL "RAFE" MARCHITELLI (late 20s), expensive without trying, finishes a punishing serve.

He pulls off his shirt.

The groupies abandon Matt.

MATT (CONT'D)
Seriously?

Rafe crosses with an ice pack.

RAFE
Can I help?

MATT
We're good.

RAFE
Are we?

Lila looks up. Takes the ice pack.

COACH MARTINEZ arrives.

COACH
Matt, Raphael Marchitelli. Oxford.
First alternate.

MATT
Oxford doesn't have a tennis team.

COACH
Rafe moves onto the active roster.

The overhead board changes:

COURT ONE: MARCHITELLI

MATT
That's my spot.

COACH
Until Lila clears you, it isn't.

Matt looks at Lila. Rafe does too.

COACH (CONT'D)
**Qualifiers are in three days. Lila
decides which one of you plays.**

EPISODE 2 - INT. ICE BATH RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

Lila enters, clipboard up, all business.

LILA
Matt?

A ripple.

Rafe sits in the plunge, calm as a statue. He opens his eyes.
Lila tries to hide her surprised smile.

RAFE
Disappointed?

LILA
I'm looking for my patient.

RAFE
He iced. He elevated. He left.

LILA
You're not injured.

RAFE
Coach wants a baseline assessment
before qualifiers.

LILA
OK. I can do that now.

Rafe starts to stand.

LILA (CONT'D)
I mean when you're out of the ice
bath. With clothes.

Lila steps back. Her clipboard slips.

SPLOOSH—into the ice bath.

LILA (CONT'D)
Great. Perfect. Love that.

Rafe stands. Water runs down him. He reaches for a towel.
Slowly.

LILA (CONT'D)
No. No. Don't get up. I'll just
grab my...

She plunges her arm into the ice after the clipboard.

RAFE
You're blushing.

LILA
My circulatory system is reacting
to temperature.

RAFE
Do you get this close with all your
athletes?

LILA
I'm a professional. I don't date
players.

**She grabs the clipboard, steps back—and slips on the wet
tile.**

**Rafe catches her against his bare chest. One hand at her
waist. One breath between them. Her hand is still on his
chest**

LILA (CONT'D)
I should move my hand.

RAFE

You could.

Neither of them does.

The door opens. Matt sees everything.

EPISODE 3 - INT. ICE BATH RECOVERY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lila springs back from Rafe. Too fast. Too guilty.

MATT

I'm sorry. How is this part of my recovery plan?

LILA

I slipped.

MATT

Into him?

RAFE

She was retrieving her clipboard.

MATT

From your abs?

LILA

Out. Both of--no. Matt, sit. Rafe, clothes.

RAFE

Yes, doctor.

LILA

Not yet.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Matt and Rafe sit on separate tables, split by a curtain.

Matt's ankle is wrapped in ice. Rafe wears his warm-up unzipped over his bare chest. Lila works his shoulder.

LILA

Rotate. You're overextending on your serve.

RAFE

Show me.

Matt yanks the curtain open.

MATT
Oh, yeah. I'd love to see the
technique.

LILA
This is specific to Rafe's issue.

She pulls the curtain shut.

Lila guides Rafe's arm through the motion. Close. Too close.

RAFE
You always know exactly where to
touch?

LILA
That's your rotator cuff talking.

MATT (O.S.)
Her bedside manner gets worse when
she likes you.

Lila blindly throws a roll of athletic tape over the curtain.

THUD.

MATT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Ow.

LILA
Good catch.

She adjusts Rafe's shoulder. Near his collarbone – a mark.
Crest-shaped, soft-edged. Not ink. Not a scar. A birthmark,
the kind you're born with.

Lila touches it before she means to.

Rafe goes still.

LILA (CONT'D)
That's unusual.

RAFE
Family thing.

Rafe's phone BUZZES, screen up on the table. Lila's eyes
flick to it before he can move.

ON SCREEN – ANALISE: YOUR FATHER KNOWS YOU'RE PLAYING.

Rafe snatches the phone, zips the crest away, walks out. Door
slams.

Matt opens the curtain.

MATT
You okay?

Lila looks at her clipboard. On the injury sketch, out of habit, she's already drawn the crest.

She uncaps her pen. Under it, she writes one word: FATHER.

LILA
(doesn't look up)
I'm going to find out who he is.

EPISODE 4 - INT. TRAINING ROOM - LATER

Matt watches Rafe take practice serves. Clean. Fast. Effortless.

Lila watches too. A beat too long.

MATT
He's showing off.

LILA
He's training.

MATT
For you. So you analyze his... everything.

LILA
His hip rotation is compensating for his shoulder.

MATT
He's compensating for something.

Matt laughs. Lila doesn't.

MATT (CONT'D)
He wants my spot. Now he's looking at you like you're part of it.

LILA
Matt.

MATT
Am I wrong?

Matt scrolls his phone.

MATT (CONT'D)
I searched him. Junior rankings.
Then nothing after 19. No
interviews. Nothing.

LILA
Maybe he's private.

MATT
He takes off his shirt in public.

INT. EQUIPMENT ROOM - LATER

Lila reaches for a brace. Rafe steps in.

LILA
No.

RAFE
I didn't ask yet.

LILA
Your face did.

MATT (O.S.)
Lila?

**Lila stiffens. Rafe pulls her behind a shelf. His hand lands
on her waist.**

Matt's footsteps approach.

MATT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You in there?

EPISODE 5 - INT. EQUIPMENT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MATT (O.S.)
Lila?

The near-kiss shatters. Lila pulls back - caught, flushed,
furious at herself. Her hand is still fisted in his warm-up.

LILA
(under her breath)
That didn't happen.

RAFE
(breathless)
It almost did.

MATT (O.S.)

Lila?

Lila BLINKS. She's flushed from the fantasy.

She and Rafe are exactly where they were. His hand at her waist. Their mouths inches apart.

Nothing happened. Lila removes his hand.

She steps into the hallway while Matt is still there. Rafe follows.

Matt sees them emerge together.

Across the hall, unseen, Analise raises her phone.

CLICK.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - LATER

Lila tapes Rafe's wrist. Close. Unhurried.

RAFE

You're going to the gala tonight,
aren't you?

LILA

I don't do galas. I do ice packs.

RAFE

Please Lila. It doesn't have to be
a date. It's whatever you feel
comfortable with.

Rafe's phone BUZZES.

ANALISE - 5 MISSED CALLS.

He pockets it.

LILA

Someone wants you.

RAFE

Someone always does.

MATT

Secret wife?

Analise enters. Glossy and lethal.

ANALISE
Not so secret. Rafe. Darling.

She kisses both his cheeks. Lila clocks the intimacy. Matt clocks Lila clocking it.

ANALISE (CONT'D)
And you are?

LILA
Lila. Team trainer.

Matt puts out his hand.

MATT
I'm Matt. #1 player.

Analise completely ignores him.

MATT (CONT'D)
(under his breath)
This is giving me a complex.

ANALISE
(to Lila)
Of course. You must be why he's
behaving.

LILA
He's not.

Lila sees the equipment-room photograph open on her phone.

LILA (CONT'D)
Delete that.

Analise looks at the photograph. Then at Lila.

She presses SEND.

ON SCREEN: SENT TO LUCA VALENTE.

ANALISE
Too late.

Lila looks at Rafe.

LILA
Who is Luca Valente?

EPISODE 6 - INT. TRAINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

RAFE
The man paying for tonight.

LILA

That explains the gala. Why did she
send him a photograph of us?

RAFE

Ask Analise.

ANALISE

You'll understand tonight.

EXT. PICKLEBALL COURT - DAY

A banner: CHARITY PICKLEBALL EXHIBITION.

Rafe and Lila rally. Soft dink. Softer dink. Annoyingly in
sync.

Matt appears with a paddle, his ankle braced.

LILA

No.

MATT

All I have to do is stand at the
kitchen line. Pickleball isn't even
a sport.

LILA

You're not cleared.

MATT

I'm not moving.

Interrupting, Analise appears.

ANALISE

Perfect. I need a partner.

Analise takes the court beside him.

Matt immediately backs away from the kitchen line to drive
the ball.

LILA

Kitchen!

Analise glares at Rafe and Lila laughing together. On the
next rally, she hurls herself toward the ball.

Her paddle flies from her hand—and SLAMS into Rafe's knee.

He goes down. Lila drops beside him.

LILA (CONT'D)

Don't move.

ANALISE

Rafe! Darling, I'm so sorry--

Lila's hands go still on Rafe's knee. Not the injury -- something else.

She looks up, slow, straight at Analise.

LILA

**You've got a hell of an aim for
someone who missed.**

Analise's smile drops.

EPISODE 7 - PICKLEBALL - CONTINUOUS

Analise steps back. She retrieves her paddle and passes Matt.

ANALISE

You're welcome. You can have your
spot back.

Matt looks at Rafe on the ground. Then at Analise.

Analise smiles. Matt is horrified.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Rafe reclines on the table. Lila works the theragun along his thigh. She moves higher. Rafe's fingers tighten around the edge of the table.

LILA

Pain?

RAFE

Not exactly.

Lila looks up. He is watching her. The theragun drifts another inch. Rafe catches her wrist.

RAFE (CONT'D)

If you're trying to keep this
professional, wrong direction.

LILA

You said it was tight.

RAFE

Not helping.

Rafe moves the ice pack from his knee to his lap.

LILA
That isn't where you're injured.

RAFE
It is now.

The door opens. Matt rushes in holding his scan results.

He takes in the theragun, Lila's hand and the strategically placed ice pack.

MATT
Should I come back after the happy ending?

LILA
You said it was urgent.

MATT
It was. Now it's traumatizing.
Hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Empty except for the muffled sounds of practice.

MATT
The scan shows no ligament tear.
Mild tendon strain.

LILA
You're still not cleared.

MATT
I know. That's not why I came.

He looks toward the training room.

MATT (CONT'D)
Analise threw that paddle to injure Rafe. She told me.

LILA
And?

Rafe stands in the training-room doorway. He heard.

Lila turns to him.

LILA (CONT'D)
Now it's your turn. Who is Luca Valente?

RAFE
Someone I came here to get away from.

LILA
That's not enough.

RAFE
Come with me tonight. See for yourself.

EPISODE 8 - INT. LILA'S HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Lila unzips the garment bag. A gown—stunning, expensive, exactly her size. Tucked inside: a card embossed with the crest.

INSERT - CARD: IN CASE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.— R

Lila lifts the bag's tag: COMPLIMENTS OF VALENTE HOSPITALITY.

Lila goes still.

FLASHES: The crest beneath Rafe's shirt, Analise; YOUR FATHER KNOWS YOU'RE PLAYING. Sent to Luca Valente,

LILA
Marchitelli is who you chose.
Valente is who they own.

INT. LILA'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Lila is in the gown, fighting the zipper. A KNOCK. Matt, in a tux.

MATT
Wow.

LILA
Don't make it weird

MATT
Too late.

He sees her struggling.

MATT (CONT'D)
Turn around

He zips it slowly. His fingers brush her bare back. Their eyes meet in the mirror.

MATT (CONT'D)
You don't have to go with him.

LILA
I'm not going with anyone. I'm going for myself.

MATT
What if I asked first?

Lila turns to face him.

LILA
But you didn't.

That lands. Her phone BUZZES.

INSERT — RAFF: FAMILY PROBLEM. I CAN'T PICK YOU UP. MEET ME INSIDE.

Lila looks at the card again.

LILA (CONT'D)
Analise sent his father that photograph. This isn't a gala. It's an ambush.

She takes Matt's arm.

LILA (CONT'D)
We're going to his family's party.

MATT
In their dress?

LILA
Yes. Let them choke on it.

EPISODE 9 - INT. GRAND BALLROOM - NIGHT

Opulence. Sponsor banners. Cameras.

The elevator opens.

Lila enters on Matt's arm—in Rafe's dress. Heads turn.

Across the room, Rafe sees her. Stops.

Matt sees Rafe stop. Enjoys it.

Rafe crosses toward them, favoring his knee.

Matt straightens, then immediately regrets it.

LILA
Nobody fight. I didn't bring enough
tape.

RAFE
You wore it.

He looks at Matt's arm linked through hers.

RAFE (CONT'D)
And brought an accessory.
(beat)
You're limping.

MATT
Still taller than you.

A PHOTOGRAPHER appears.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Perfect. Injured aces and the
miracle trainer.

Before Lila can object, she is positioned between them.

Matt's hand finds her waist. Rafe's lands low on her back.

Lila inhales. They both notice.

LILA
One more centimeter and someone
loses a hand.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Closer.

MATT
Can't. Medical order.

FLASH.

The photograph is intimate, ridiculous, combustible.

Analise glides over.

ANALISE
The dress photographs beautifully.

LILA
Apparently that's its job.

The foyer quiets.

LUCA VALENTE (60s), old European power with perfect posture, enters with ELIAS BEAUMONT (60s), American luxury money behind a permanent public smile.

Rafe goes still.

LILA (CONT'D)
Luca Valente. Your father.

RAFE
My boss.

Analise approaches Lila and opens the equipment-room photograph on her phone.

ANALISE
This one photographs beautifully too.

Rafe steps toward them.

RAFE
Delete it.

LUCA
Raphael.

Rafe stops. Luca opens the door to a private salon.

LUCA (CONT'D)
Before you enter my ballroom, we need to discuss what happens when you do.

Matt touches Lila's arm.

MATT
You don't have to go in there.

Lila looks at the photograph. Then at Luca.

LILA
Lead the way.

Lila, Rafe and Matt enter the salon.

The door closes behind her.

EPISODE 10 - INT. PRIVATE SALON - CONTINUOUS

Luca closes the ballroom curtains.

Analise places her phone on the table. The equipment-room photograph fills the screen.

LUCA

Marchitelli withdraws with a career ending injury. Raphael Valente makes his debut with Analise Beaumont—cementing the merger of our families.

He turns the photograph toward Lila.

LUCA (CONT'D)

And this disappears.

LILA

If Rafe refuses?

Luca taps SHARE.

LUCA

It goes to your supervisor with a formal complaint.

RAFE

She did nothing wrong.

LUCA

Then make sure this photo and complaint against her don't get out.

MATT

I don't want the spot this way.

From inside the ballroom—

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Please welcome Raphael Valente and Analise Beaumont.

Applause builds.

A STAGE MANAGER opens the ballroom doors.

STAGE MANAGER

Ten seconds.

Analise holds out her hand to Rafe.

Rafe looks at Lila.

RAFE

If I walk out with her, Lila keeps
her career?

LUCA

Completely.

LILA

Rafe, don't give up your dream for
me.

Then he starts toward Analise. He passes Lila. Their fingers
brush. Analise smiles—until she follows Rafe's gaze back to
Lila, then turns dark.

Rafe reaches for Analise's hand. Lila catches his wrist.

Luca's thumb hovers over SEND.

STAGE MANAGER

Five. Four—

Lila's fingers tremble around Rafe's wrist.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)

Three. Two—

CUT TO BLACK.