

From I Heard You were Dead by Don Zolidis

CONSTANTINE, 16, recovering from leukemia

CHLOE, 16, a theater girl

Chloe and Constantine have been dating for 18 days. The previous day, Constantine passed out and went to the hospital and didn't tell Chloe. Now they're back at school.

CONSTANTINE

I'm sorry I didn't text you last night.

CHLOE

No worries.

CONSTANTINE

Did you wonder why I wasn't in rehearsal?

CHLOE

I figured you were just sick.

Constantine takes a moment.

Is everything cool?

CONSTANTINE

I'm trying to figure out how to say this.

CHLOE

What's going on?

CONSTANTINE

The reason I didn't text you is because I was in the Hospital.

CHLOE

Oh.

CONSTANTINE

I passed out and went to the Hospital.

CHLOE

Are you okay?

CONSTANTINE

Yeah.

CHLOE

I'm sorry I didn't –

CONSTANTINE

You don't have to be sorry I just wanted you to know.

CHLOE

All right.

CONSTANTINE

I guess I just... I don't know maybe this is stupid – I was hoping you would text me. I mean I can't like send out a bat signal or something, but...

CHLOE

I didn't realize we were a texting every day kind of thing.

CONSTANTINE

I'd like to be. I thought that's what we were doing. With the kissing and everything.

CHLOE

Right.

CONSTANTINE

So that's like... that's like a really big deal for me. Maybe it's not for you –

CHLOE

No it's a big deal for me.

CONSTANTINE

Okay. So I guess... that's what I want to be.

CHLOE

Like boyfriend-girlfriend?

CONSTANTINE

Yeah.

CHLOE

I would be cool with that.

CONSTANTINE

Seriously?

CHLOE

Yeah.

CONSTANTINE

Cool. Very cool. I mean, awesome.

Constantine is shaking out his hands.

I get the tingles. When I get nervous.

CHLOE

It's so cute you're nervous.

CONSTANTINE

Amazing. This is amazing. Woo! I have to tell you something. Okay all right this is stupid but... I've been actually thinking about this for a while - ever since that time when you came to the Hospital.

CHLOE

I came to see you in the Hospital?

CONSTANTINE

Yes! You were like – you were doing something with your Dad –

CHLOE

Oh. Ohhhhhh.

CONSTANTINE

And you hugged me?

CHLOE

Right yes.

CONSTANTINE

Right then I was like – she's the one.

Chloe takes a moment.

CHLOE

The "one"?

CONSTANTINE

Okay I mean it's kind of crazy. But like – you saved my life.

CHLOE

How did I save your life?

CONSTANTINE

Just... you did.

CHLOE

Huh.

CONSTANTINE

Is that weird?

CHLOE

A little bit. Like I –

CONSTANTINE

I just – it meant a lot to me and I was... you know I was basically in love with you after that point. Not that I'm like – obsessed with you or anything – I mean, Piper would probably say that, but – it was just... I don't know, I'm just saying things now, I just... I think I fell in love with you then. I want to say that. I feel like I can say that.

CHLOE

Constantine.

CONSTANTINE

I guess I've always thought you were amazing, and now, like, it's like a dream come true, I have to pinch myself sometimes – and maybe that's why I didn't text you yesterday because I was terrified you'd feel like I had too much baggage or you didn't want to get involved in someone who wasn't completely healthy – which I know is messed up, and I know that's my thing, not yours, but I was like, if she thinks I have cancer is she going to break up with me, and then have I like ruined the best thing in my life –

CHLOE

I'm not the best thing in your life.

CONSTANTINE

Right. I know that.

CHLOE

But you just said that.

CONSTANTINE

Yeah but like – you know I get... dramatic.

CHLOE

I don't know what to do with this.

CONSTANTINE

With what?

CHLOE

You're in love with me? You've been in love with me for like a year?

CONSTANTINE

You saved my life.

CHLOE

I didn't save your life. I just – I didn't even know you.

CONSTANTINE

We were in freshman algebra together. You didn't – you didn't know I existed.

CHLOE

Right. But – I mean we've been together two weeks, we're just getting to know each other -

CONSTANTINE

And I am loving what I've discovered so far.

CHLOE

But – this is too much. You can't do this. I'm sorry – this isn't fair.

CONSTANTINE

What are you talking about?

CHLOE

You can't put this on me. You can't say I saved your life, you can't say you're in love with me, we BARELY KNOW EACH OTHER.

CONSTANTINE

But we can get to know each other –

CHLOE

But now there's going to be this whole thing – where I'm worried you're obsessed and you're like – taking everything way too seriously, and – let's take it slow, let's not rush things -

CONSTANTINE

I thought I was going to die last year YES I AM RUSHING THINGS. I didn't think I was ever going to be able to do this! I thought that was it! I thought it was over and I was going to die never having fallen in love, never having... experienced anything so YES YES YES I AM GOING FAST I AM SORRY I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE ANY TIME. I thought I was going to die last night! Again! I have been pretending like I am cool but I am TERRIFIED! I passed out in the bathroom and in the car on the way to the Hospital I was convinced the cancer had come back and I was going back into chemo and this time it was going to kill me! And what scared me more than anything was the thought that you were going to abandon me as soon as you learned that!

CHLOE

I barely know you. We have been doing this for Two. Weeks.

CONSTANTINE

Eighteen days.

CHLOE

What?

CONSTANTINE

Eighteen days, that's more like two and a half weeks.

CHLOE

I can't do this.

CONSTANTINE

What are you talking about?

CHLOE

This. I can't do *this*. Us. I can't. You're just... I really like you, but –

CONSTANTINE

Oh my God I just screwed this up didn't I?

CHLOE

No I just – I can't be in love with you right now. I can't – be this ideal for you –

CONSTANTINE

I'm not saying that –

CHLOE

Yes you are. You've got me up on this pedestal and it's not okay.

CONSTANTINE

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

CHLOE

I'm just trying to get through the day. Like – I am a mess – I'm not perfect, I'm not your savior, I'm not your dream, I'm just like a barely functioning disaster. And I just thought we could be barely functioning disasters together and have some fun and maybe get to know each other –

CONSTANTINE

We could do that.

CHLOE

I am so messed up from my Mom dying. You need to know this. I am not okay. I'm not ready for this.

CONSTANTINE

Are we breaking up?

CHLOE

I'm sorry. I really like you.

It sinks in.

But I can't do this.