

5 princes and I By Kiraran Chapter 36 - 38

Chapter 36 Socializing

"Thanks," I whispered to him. He looked down at me and beamed. "We made it."

The crowd suddenly applauded us as we reached the bottom and the queen's voice suddenly boomed from the top. "Everyone, this is Princess Rosalie Amber Stan. A new member of the royal family. You will all treat her with the same respect as you have of us." Said the queen. Soon, the crowd suddenly acted. The royals did a curtsy while the Dukes and Duchess bowed.

"Enjoy the night." With that, everyone parted. Some gave me smiles before heading off to friends or sitting on tables.

The other princes came down and joined us looking at the crowd. Dan let out a whistle. "Damn, I didn't expect this many visitors."

"I agree." Said Fred. "That is why I'm asking you not to whistle since it's inappropriate and anyone might hear you."

"Sorry." Apologized Dan. He then gave me a short glance before his gaze shifted to a few ladies standing at one corner laughing and looking like they were having fun. Well, I recognize the group of girls.

I noticed Dan returning his gaze at me and he grinned. "What do you say we start making friends?" He gestured his head to where the girls are. The other princes followed his head and spotted what Dan was referring to. Nate smiled widely. "I don't think that's a bad idea at all. Let's go!"

Ren looked at Nate suspiciously. "Why do I have the feeling that you wanted us to go there not for the sake of Rose having friends but for something else?"

"You people are so judgmental. Why can't anyone be like Prince Fred?" Nate pointed at Fred.

"Um....thank you for the compliment but I was thinking the same thing as Ren. Sorry." Said Fred and gave a small apologetic smile to Nate. Nate seemed a bit offended by the accusations that he let out a grunt. "Fine!" He looked at me. "It's your call, Princess. Would you like to go there?" He tilted his head towards the girls. I looked past him to where the girls were. They seemed so happy and they all looked so beautiful. They look more like princesses than me.

But hey, if I wanna live here until I can go back home then I might as well learn how to make some friends here. And the first step in doing so is by approaching them.

I looked up at Nate and nodded. "Sure. Let's go." I couldn't help but notice the huge grin on Nate's face as he took the lead in heading towards the ladies' direction. We followed him.

As we neared them, the girls stopped chattering when they noticed us. They slowly faced our direction and waited for us. When we stopped right in front of them, they lowered their heads and greeted us, and caught me completely off guard.

Oh crap. I hope they won't go all formal talking with me. I'm still crappy in that part.

"Good evening, ladies. We came by to say thank you for coming to this party." Said Fred and nodded at the girls. "If you don't mind, may we get your names?" At first, the group of girls were a bit stunned but then proceeded to introduce themselves.

One of the groups of girls was Lady Solace – an elf. You know, like a certain prince we know. She was very pretty and wearing a pretty piercing blue dress the same color as her eyes. Her long dark brown hair was simply gorgeous even though she only wore it in a side braid. She was tall and had a slim figure and unlike Ace, she was always smiling. Well glad to know that not all elves are grumpy. Another female elf in the group is Lady Rebecca. Unlike Lady Solace, her hair was in a lighter shade of brown that I have always wanted and has blonde highlights. She even looked more stunning with her simple lavender-colored dress that seems to fade to change into different colors when hit with light. With her dark blue eyes, it was almost impossible to miss her.

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In the same group, I spotted 3 girls in the Were kingdom. One of them was Lady Kylie. She's a werecat, specifically a black panther. She was so beautiful with her short-sleeved dress that fades to green at the bottom. Her perfect medium-length brown hair was curled and almost hiding her blue eyes that you can't seem to look away from. The second one was Lady Alysha, a werewolf. She wore a royal blue long dress that seemed to flow at the bottom of her feet. Her blue eyes sparkled as she laughed at something that the others were saying. Her long dark brown curly hair swaying elegantly at her back made me envy her. The third one was Lady Honey, also a werewolf. Her peach-colored gown is simple yet she managed to pull it off so that it competed with the other fancy dresses. But one thing that she will surely capture you aside from her flawless wavy brown hair is her purple eyes.

I also spotted a few witches. And no, not the witches like the ones we see in one movie that has wrinkly faces and long noses. These witches are good. They have the same race as my Prince Fred – power and alchemy users. In their kingdom, they call the males warlocks while the women are called witches. One of the witches in the group is Lady Sabrina. Seeing her in a white dress makes you see how beautiful and different they are from the ugly witches we've seen in movies. Her long dark brown hair was curled at the end and was bouncing elegantly at her back as she walked. Her green eyes focused on the group of girls as they had their conversation. The second witch I

spotted was Lady Jay. Her hair has a mixture of black and brown, a beautiful color that matches her mysterious blue eyes, and mint colored dress that has a pretty sweetheart and long sleeves made of a lighter sheer colored mint cloth. The third one was Lady Holly wearing a lime green sleeveless dress. She's so tall that her brown hair seemed a little short despite how long it was. And her eyes were the most special thing about her, watching her closely, I can tell that her eyes change color depending on her mood.

There were also a few Fae folks – fairies. One of them was Lady Alice. A black-haired fairy with piercing blue eyes and a very beautiful matching blue dress that hugs her slim figure perfectly making her stand out.

“Please, no need for formalities. Treat us like we're acquaintances.” Fred said and they all raised their heads to look at us.

“Yeah.” Added Dan and pointed at me. “She hates it. Not to mention she s***s.”

“Dan!” I practically screamed at him and slapped his arm in embarra**ment when the girls giggled. Great. Now they are going to make fun of me. Dan only looked at me with one of his eyebrows raised. “Um...am I supposed to feel anything?” I love Dan's jokes but right now, I want to kill him. Not only did he embarra** me here but he also gave me a bad impression in front of the Ladies.

“I'll.Kill.You.” I said to him.

“Princess, I'm a werewolf. You can't beat me.”

“Maybe I could help Princess Rose.” One of the girls spoke. It was Lady Honey. She regarded Dan as she spoke. Her eyes darted towards me and she gave me a small smile. “That is...if she wants me to.”

I only blinked at her in surprise while Ren roared in laughter. “You got owned by one of our kind, you stupid fool!” He then looked at Lady Honey and gave her a thumbs up. “Good job, but I don't think that that's how you treat a werewolf prince?”

In that instant, another girl spoke. It was Lady Holly. “Pardon me but I do recall Prince Fred saying that we don't need formalities and that we should treat you like our acquaintance?”

Someone slap me in the face because I really can't believe what's happening right now.

Nate beamed widely and pulled out a rose from his coat and presented it to Lady Holly. “Dear Lady Holly. The way you talked back at the Prince of Muttheads has earned my respect.” Holly hesitantly took the flower from Nate and looked at him worriedly. “Thanks, I don't think that you should have said that here.”

“Why?”

Instead of answering, Holly looked back and Nate followed her movement to see that the other werewolf girls gave him a deadly look. Realizing his mistake, he quickly corrected himself. "It's the Prince! I meant Prince Ren and only him!"

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"With all due respect, the prince that you are referring to is also our prince." Said Lady Kylie with her arms crossed over her chest as she challenged Nate with her gaze. If you think that it's worse, then think again. Lady Alysha also stepped forward to face Nate. "And if you think that calling him a mutt is funny, then how would you feel if we call you bloods***er?" Nate starred at both of them while Ren and Dan let out an amused laugh. Dan then walked beside the two girls and placed an arm on each of their shoulders and smiled brightly at them. "Just so you guys know. I like you! What are your names?" He asked them and they told him their names.

Seriously, Dan? They just introduced themselves!!

Beside me, I saw Fred talking to two elf girls so I decided to come and join him. When Fred noticed me, he smiled and beckoned for me to come. He took my hand and introduced me to the two elf girls. "Rose, I would like you to meet Lady Solace and Lady Rebecca." He said and both the ladies curtsied at me while I nod in acknowledgment. Well, even though I already knew their names, introductions are still important as well as first impressions. "Nice to meet you both," I said.

"It's an honor to meet you, Princess Rose," said Lady Solace and she smiled at me. Her voice was soft and soothing. I flinched, not because of her voice but because she called me 'princess'. Boy, I have to get used to other people calling me that from now on.

"You look beautiful." Commented Lady Rebecca that it almost made me blush because of the sincerity in her tone.

"T-Thanks. You both look lovely as well." I said. Fred released his hold from my hand and placed it around my shoulder.

"Princess Rose, they are both from the Kingdom of Tordis."

I looked at Fred for a moment because peeking at Ace just a few behind us who hasn't said a word since. "Oh. So they're like Ace? That explains why they look kinda like him."

At the mention of his name, I saw Ace looking in our direction and frowning at us. "No, they don't look like me. They're not my siblings and surely not my children."

My jaw dropped at his words. Seriously? Does he want to start a fight right here and right now? Well too bad because he's not going to get it. Dan ruined 20% of my good impression of these girls. No way am I letting Ace ruin the remaining 80%. So instead of

barking and spitting venom at him, I simply let out a small laugh and faced the two Ladies.

“Don’t mind him. He’s such a joker.” I said to the girls. Yeah. And his face is also a joke.

“I wasn’t joking.” He said.

I spun around to face Ace. I could feel one of my eyebrows twitching in annoyance. “Of course you are!” I insisted. “You know for a fact that I was referring to your races. You know elves.”

Ace let out a sigh of frustration that made me want to choke the air out of him. If anyone should be doing that it should be me! Ace only gave me a look as he said, “So that’s what you were saying. Next time, speak clearly so I wouldn’t misinterpret your words.”

“Oh but I did,” I said, still plastering a fake smile on my face. “You’re just stupid enough not to get it.”

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“If I’m stupid, then I wouldn’t be standing there and plastering a fake smile on my face. Wipe it off. It’s disgusting.”

My fist clenched at my sides. “You know? I take it back. You guys don’t look alike.”

“Glad you finally notice.”

“Because you’re immature and scary looking unlike these ladies here.” I gestured towards Lady Solace and Lady Rebecca.

Ace rolled his eyes at me and looked away as if he was tired of me. “TSS. It’s better than having a face like yours.” Words simply can’t describe the things that I’m feeling right now. And I badly needed to keep my temper in check. I can’t lose my temper in front of these girls.

Someone gently tapped my shoulder and I looked around to see that it was Lady Solace. “Is everything alright, Princess Rose?”

Oh yes. Everything will be alright if you could just give me a sack so I can throw the freak in it and toss it in the ocean. Yeah. That would make me feel better. But I didn’t say it. Instead, I smile at her. “Of course. Why wouldn’t I be?”

Lady Rebecca gave me a worried look. “You seem like you wanted to kill someone for a moment while you were looking at Prince Ace.” She said. I stood there and stared at her for a long time. Wow, that was accurate. I was pretty sure that I kept my expression in check.

I felt someone grabbing a hold of my hand. I turned my head to the side only to find Fred looking at me. "I think it's best if we separate you and Ace for a while. What do you say?" He whispered.

Heck yeah! That was what I wanted to say to him at that moment. But taking not that we still have an audience, I simply nodded and excused myself from the two girls and headed towards Nate, who was talking with the group of witches and fairies. As I was approaching, one of the witches, Lady Jay, spotted me and she smiled. Nate followed her gaze and so did the other. When I arrived, Nate was beaming. "Hey there, Princess. Wanna join us?" Asked Nate.

I shrugged. "Depends. What are you guys up to?"

"Telling things about ourselves." Said Nate and gave me a quick introduction to the ladies. In the group, there was Lady Alice, Lady Sabrina, Lady Jay, Lady Holly, and Lady Honey.

"Nice to meet you all." I nodded at each of them as they greeted me.

"Um...Princess Rose?" I searched for the voice that called my name. It was Lady Sabrina. I smiled at her warmly as she was a bit nervous. "Can I ask you something?" She asked and I nodded. "May I – we – know what's your race?"

Chapter 37 Ball of the Queen's BS

I stared at her. Wondering why she was asking this all of a sudden.

"It's a secret because her race is rare." Came the reply of Nate and turned to Lady Alice and smiled. "Very rare." He said calmly. At that moment, I found myself admiring Nate for speaking up for me.

Lady Alice beamed at Nate before turning her attention to me. Her eyes sparkled with interest as she asked, "That's amazing."

I felt a hand sneaking at my waist and suddenly, I was pulled towards Nate. I looked up at him and saw him wink. Not the flirtatious wink but more of a 'let me handle this' wink. He returned his gaze to Lady Alice. "She's a rare one so she really can't answer that question at the moment. But personally? I think she's charming in her way regardless of her race." he said and leaned in to whisper at Lady Alice.

Whatever Nate had said, Lady Alice giggled making me curious.

I grabbed Nate at the back of his coat and pulled him back. "What did you say to her?"

Nate only gave me an innocent smile which made me all the more curious. "Nothing."

“Princess Rose?” I shifted my attention from Nate to Lady Jay who was looking at me hesitantly. And just by looking at her, I could tell that she wanted to ask me something. I smiled at her as I released my hold from Nate. “Yes?”

“Um...if you don't mind me asking, the ladies and I are just a bit curious about...” she hesitated and bit her lips as if what she was about to say was bad. And I feared that it might be some kind of rumor about me or something.

Great, a few minutes in the ball and I'm already the talk of the night.

“What is it?” I asked.

“Well, it's optional whether you answer this or not...but...we're just curious...” She stopped and looked over at Nate before she pulled me towards her and led me to the other ladies and they formed a protective circle around me.

“What's going on? Why are we in a circle? Are we playing a game or something?” I asked as I looked around only to find myself surrounded.

“We just don't want Prince Nate to hear our conversation.” Said Lady Honey and looked back towards Nate who was c**ing his head to the side as he looked at us.

“Why?”

“Because we wanted to ask you something that only us girls should hear.” Added Lady Holly.

“Okay? What is it that you wanted to ask me?”

All the girls smiled at each other and giggled excitedly before looking back at me. Finally, Lady Sabrina spoke. “Who's your favorite prince?” she asked. Her question caught me off guard that I stared at her as if she grew another head.

“Say what?” Came my reply and scolded myself for saying that because it was formal.

“Living in a castle with 5 handsome and popular princes? Surely you find one of them attractive.” Added Lady Jay.

“I...Uh...” I was out of words and I couldn't seem to find my tongue. Fangirls. I just know it.

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“Is it Prince Frederick?” Asked Sabrina. “I saw him putting an arm around you earlier while you guys were talking to Lady Rebecca and Lady Solace.” Behind her, I saw the

rest of the ladies leaving the other princes to join the conversation. Lady Alysha, Lady Kylie, Lady Solace, and Lady Rebecca joined the circle.

“What about that one twin? We saw you two talking comfortably earlier.” Lady Alysha commented as Lady Kylie added.

“Yeah, the way you two talk seems like you two are well acquainted.” The other ladies then nodded in agreement.

“That’s true, but Prince Renevier is her e*****. Surely that could mean something, right?” Inserted Lady Honey making the girls having another argument. “Or was that Prince Dan?”

“So Prince Dan is the one wearing the cape and Prince Renevier is the one without the cape?” Lady Jay asked and looked at me for confirmation.

“P-Prince Ren.” I managed to say despite all the states.

“Did you say, Prince Ren? Are you in familiar terms with him?” One of the girls said and they all squealed excitedly.

“Girls, let’s not forget about Prince Nathaniel. The way he pulled her towards him by the waist when she seemed nervous was pretty cute.” Lady Holly pointed out making a few girls giggle in excitement as they begged Lady Holly for details.

“What about Prince Ace?” Asked Lady Alice making the girls stop and look at her as they processed her words.

“Yeah. They do seem close.” Lady Solace wondered out loud and placed a finger at her chin. Lady Rebecca nodded in agreement with her. “I think so too. They were joking around earlier.” I snapped my attention to the three girls, Solace, Alice, and Rebecca. My jaw-dropping at their words. Are they serious? Do they think we were joking?! We were practically biting each other’s heads off!

I peeked behind them and saw, with dread, that the princes had gathered and were looking at us curiously. At least 4/5 of them are. My gaze quickly went towards Ren, Dan, and Nate. Werewolves and Vampires have sensitive hearing. My heart sank at the sudden realization and I quickly turned towards the girl panicking.

“Ladies, I think we best not discuss this right now not when there is a chance of the princes hearing this conversation,” I told them politely. Hoping against hope that this might also end this discussion. Sadly, it didn’t. Instead, Sabrina, Jay, and Holly smiled at me knowingly.

“We have already thought of that,” Holly said and gave me a comforting smile.

“Yes, Princess. We have put a small amount of magic so they wouldn’t hear our conversation.” Added Jay while Sabrina winked at me and said, “The only thing they will hear is us talking about girly stuff like hairs and makeup.”

I was staring at the three witches with my mouth slightly agape. Amazed at how well they had planned everything. They were beaming at me and waiting for me to say something. “W-What is it?” I asked nervously.

“You haven’t told us your favorite prince! Who is it?”

My eyes darted from one face to another. They were looking at me with full attention as if they wanted to memorize everything I do. I gulp. “I- ” I started to say but stopped when I saw Lady Alice looking behind me and her eyes going wide in horror. She quickly nudged the girl beside her, Lady Rebecca, and pointed behind me. Lady Rebecca followed her gaze. Like, Lady Alice, her eyes widened and she made a shushing sound at all of us. Everyone didn’t speak then.

I was about to open my mouth to ask them when I figured it out myself when I heard the voice behind me. “Excuse me, ladies.” I turned 180 degrees and saw that the princes were now standing there in front of me. Fred nodded at me before looking at all the ladies. “I don’t want to interrupt your conversations but the banquet is about to start and Princess Rose is needed to sit with the Queen.” Behind me, I heard the ladies permitting him to excuse myself and I wonder if life in this world is always about politeness and proper gestures and crap.

Fred stepped aside as he let Ren offer me his hand. I took it and let him lead me towards the table where the Queen and King are. I heard behind me for one last time as I saw that the ladies were grinning at me wickedly, some are even winking while the others are giggling in the background. I faced front again and thought, for a brief moment, how similar the ladies were with my friends back home. Hmm, I guess this world isn’t as different from my world after all.

We found our table. It was round and the King and Queen had already taken their seat and were waiting for us. Ren pulled out a chair for me to sit. The banquet then began and food was served to our table. Wines and other dishes were served. Ren was seated on my left while Nate was seated on my right. As I was eating, I caught his eye and saw him smile approvingly at me as I didn’t make a mess of my plate. Minimal chatters could be heard in the room. Soft music played in the background making dinner more appealing. The food was great. Better than the ones I usually have on my regular days here in the palace.

The music then changed. It started to accurately send waves through my skin because I already knew what was coming. The music was all too familiar for me having played it every single day for the past week.

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Men started to rise from their seats. Prince and Dukes that I am about to meet rose from their seats and made their way to the ladies and offered their hands. Fred, Nate, Dan, Ren, and Ace also got up from their seats. Ren shifted his gaze towards me. Offered me a smile and reached out his hand for me to take and let him pull me up. The others did the same and I watched as Fred, Dan, Nate, and Ace approached some ladies and offered them a dance. I saw Fred offering a hand to Lady Sabrina, who was a bit stunned at first but took his offer nonetheless. Nate used his charms and offered Lady Holly a dance in which she accepted. Dan had a smile plastered on his and said something to Lady Solace making her laugh and offering her a dance in which she gladly took.

As for Ace...well...let me tell you that he neither smiles nor talks. He just stood there and stared at Lady Alice making her uncomfortable. Finally, with a sigh, he offered his hand to her with a frown. And by some miracle, Lady Alice accepted his offer either because he was handsome or because she was scared of Ace. I'm betting on the latter part.

"Ready?" I looked up at Ren. Smiled then nodded. "Ready."

One by one, the floor was then filled with dresses flowing around the floor as they swayed to the music. Ren led me to the dance floor and we joined the other in a synchronizing waltz in which I learn is a traditional form of dance. With one hand on his shoulder and one of his hands on my waist, we continued to sway with the others.

"Having fun?" he asked me as we glided through the dance floor. My soft golden gown flowing with each movement and Ren always has to watch himself in case he might step on it.

Ren seemed to frown inwardly as we danced.

"What's wrong?" I asked.

"My wolf is grumbling for some reason. I think it's broken."

I chuckled and thought for a moment."Hm, so far so good. Nothing bad has happened." I said and immediately frowned. "Well almost. If you exclude my encounters with Ace."

"It's PRINCE." He corrected me and immediately caught himself. Wow, not saying Prince before Ace is getting to us. It's all that guy's fault.

I gave Ren a pointed look. "Don't get me started on the whole PRINCE thing, Ren," I warned him. He laughed in return. "It's not even funny!" I blew the stray strand that was covering my face. "Seriously, have you noticed him today? He seems a bit more cranky than usual."

Ren grinned. "You're still ignorant of the politics in this world. He doesn't have a choice."

My eyebrows drew closer to each other in confusion. "Of course he has!" I argued. "He's a PRINCE!"

Ren almost choked on his laughter when the words left my mouth. "Princess, just because we're princes doesn't mean we have that much freedom." His gaze darted towards his brother who pretended to weep when Lady Solace accidentally stepped on his foot.

What a loser.

His gaze shifted back to me. "Prince Ace doesn't have a choice because by not going to the ball, it will mean disrespect and showing dislike towards you."

"Um, I don't get you. Ace and I already hated each other. Why would he try to hide it by coming here?"

He looked away and sighed. I feel like it is gonna be hard to explain. "In a ball, every family member must appear to show respect to the host of the ball or towards the person whom it is held for. In this case, since the ball is for you, we are showing you a sign of respect by coming here."

"But we're not family members. What does that have to do with anything?"

"But we are living under the same roof. And as the candidates for the next king, we give you our approval the moment we enter the room." He explained. "And because of that, you earned a huge reputation for getting 5/5." He grinned. "Congratulations!"

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"Are you telling me that this is like some sort of test?"

"A test if you are deserving to be recognized by these nobles? Yes."

"I-" Before I could say anything more, it was already time to change partners. Ren gripped my hand and twirled me for the exchange. He twirled me once and handed me to the next guy.

"Don't you think Princess Rose and Prince Ren look cute together?"

I heard Dan saying something to one of the ladies but I couldn't quite hear. They both chuckled one last time before switching partners. Dan unconsciously held his hand out to me and I grabbed him.

"What were you guys talking about?" I ask, once Dan and I was in position. Dan looked surprised and looked down at me.

“Oh, you’re my next partner? Interesting. You danced with the same face twice. It must be fate!”

I gave Dan a long and hard look before I glanced at the musicians. “I wonder when the next pair exchange will happen.”

Dan let out a very long and dramatic gasp. “How dare you?” He accused me. “You even blew our cover. Telling the girls that Ren is not wearing a cape. It made it easier for them to distinguish us.”

“I thought you guys want people to recognize you?”

Dan shook his head. “Tsk tsk tsk. I want them to recognize me because of my looks tonight. I want to hear something like ‘Isn’t that twin with the cape more dashing than the one without?’ THAT kind of recognition.”

“Dan...You guys are a mirror of each other. It’s your personalities that differ.”

“You mean I am the more kind and adorable twin?”

“You’re the annoying and insane twin.” I deadpanned.

Dan suddenly slouched his shoulder and let out an insane laugh. “Because I know something that you don’t.” He said in a very creepy voice.

“What do you know?” I rolled my eyes.

Dan let out a menacing laugh. “Oh, Princess. We, beastmen, can imprint on people to become our potential mates. There would be several signs of it for the beastmen. The recipient only needs to accept the sender’s feelings for them to become our mates.”

“Thanks for the trivia?” I said. Unsure what a fool is talking about. Suddenly, the music was changing.

“Oops. Time to change pairs!” Dan called out. “Good timing. The weather here was getting dense. See ya!”

And with that, he aggressively twirled and pushed me away.

Chapter 38 Ruining a Dance Number

I saw Fred, who was still dancing with his partner. Our gazes met and, with one hand, he grabbed me and twirled me over to the next person. Fred smiled warmly at me and winked. His dance partner looked confused on why he didn’t switch us.

But I, on the other hand, remembered our promise. That we would be my last dance for the night. I smiled at him to let him know that I remembered before I faced my new partner.

Well, suppose to be a partner. It was Nate, but apparently, he was having a conversation with another girl. And he didn't seem happy.

It was a girl with long purple hair that shone in the light. I remember from my lesson with Ace that she's Princess Camille. Her silver dress sparkling with different colors as if it were alive. Expensive non-metallic jewelry decorated her from top to toe. I'll say, she's beautiful. Camille, the princess of the Kingdom of France. The fairies.

Princess Camille Cleveland smirked at Nate making him frown at her even more. "What's with the face, Prince Nathaniel? Don't you miss me?" she said in a soft sweet voice.

"I'm not in the mood for your silly games."

I didn't do anything and stupidly watched the scene in front of me.

She pouted and batted her long lashes at him while running her hand up and down his shoulders. She leaned in and whispered something to him.

"The throne is not for you," Nate told her and pushed her back. Not wanting to be anywhere close to her. "It's for your older brother. Prince Gregory Cleveland."

Camille had a dark look on her face. "Gregory isn't the problem. I can take the throne from him. I'm a summer fairy and he's just a fall fairy." She said. Her voice laced with venom at her older brother. "But the only problem is my little brother Chace – A winter fairy." She rolled her eyes. "A rare one but useless if you're ignorant." She then focused her eyes on me and her face softened. "But with you, I think we can overpower Chace and let him hand over the throne. What do you say?"

I feel like I am not supposed to be hearing this. Isn't this technically a topic close to treason? But I can't say anything since Nate might get involved.

Nate gave her a disgusted look. "Your brother, Chace, is only 14 and Gregory is a fine man and a born leader." He told her. "And I don't want any throne. I just want to be rid of you."

Her green eyes darkened. "You have to. I can't just let you go around and flirt with other girls!"

"Who are you to order me around? I am not your pawn."

"You're mine, Nate."

"You're crazy!" This girl is unbelievable. Nate suddenly pushed her away. "I am not your property and I certainly will not be leaving this castle anytime soon. Not for some silly fantasies of a spoiled girl like you." His voice rose a little in my anger.

Camille only rolled her eyes and let out an exasperated sigh and Nate had to breathe through my nose slowly to ease up my temper. "Fine. You can stay."

"What?" He asked in confusion.

"I said you can stay." she repeated."But only if you'll get rid of that Princess Rosalie and if you'll take me to be your Queen once you win." Her words sent ripples of anger through me and Nate looked at her furiously.

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"Don't bring Rose into this." He hissed at her. His fangs elongated and he tightened his grip on her hands and stopped dancing.

Now they were speaking in hushed voices that I couldn't hear anything."Touch her and I swear I'll kill you. I'll drain every drop from your body even if I become an undead. It'll be worth it if it means getting rid of you."

Camille gave him a pointed look. "Rose? You sound different, Nate. It's as if you're on close terms with her. Don't tell me you care about her?" She let out a laugh. "That can't be, right? After your last one? You can't possibly care for another woman other than leading her on and leaving."

Nate clenched his teeth and shook his head.

"Don't you remember Cascada? You love her, didn't you?" She was saying something to Nate that had him gone pale. He looks like he is struggling and suffocating at the same time.

"You." He growled at her. "You're the one who ruined us. By spreading those rumors that she left me!"

"She wasn't worth your affection!!" She countered back. "And neither will that Rosalie girl that you're trying to protect!"

"Stay. Away. From. Her! The only reason I haven't killed you yet is that I respect your brother, but once you touch Rose or hurt her, I swear, not even your brother can stop me from tearing you."

Oh well. Here goes nothing. Nate better is grateful.

I grabbed my dress and ran straight into Camille. We collided and both of us almost fell on the ground if it weren't for Nate. He grabbed his waist to steady me while having a surprised look on his face. Camille had grabbed Nate's arm to steady herself. When Nate noticed this, he glared at her.

I straightened up and gave a fake apologetic look at Camille. "I-I'm so sorry! It's just that I slipped while switching partners!! Prince Fred was supposed to be my partner but he whisked me off." It was an excuse, but it held a bit of truth in it.

Camille, on the other hand, tightened her grip on Nate's shoulders as she glared daggers at me. "You did that on purpose!" She snarled and flipped her purple hair out of her face.

I looked at the side. Uninterested in dealing with her. Did I make the mistake of helping Nate? Without any emotion, I said, "But it was an accident. It was time to switch partners. Look!" I pointed at a man who was standing alone and looking confused. "See that guy? That's your next partner." I said innocently. "So excuse me!"

If looks could kill, I'd say I would have been long gone by now. Camille made a move as if to attack me, but before I could raise my foot to kick her, Nate quickly pulled me towards him to shield me from her. Camille looked slightly taken aback by his action and looked from Nate before looking back at me. I gave her a teasing look and stuck my tongue out. Serves her right.

Her fist clenched at her sides. She gave me a final deadly look before storming out. Her dress danced like waves as she headed towards her next partner.

"Well, that was intense," I commented. "Are you okay?"

"Sorry." He said and released his hold on me. I fixed herself up and flipped some stray hair back and off of my face. Finally, he took one of my hands and placed another on my waist. I placed one hand on his shoulder as we continued the dance.

"You're crazy." He finally said. He gave me a small smile that didn't fully reach his eyes.

"What do you mean?" I asked innocently and batted my eyes.

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"You did that on purpose, didn't you?" He asked. As a response, I gave him a wicked smile.

"Maybe?" I shrugged. "I don't know. What do you think?"

He managed to crack a smile. He shook his head and let out a small laugh. "You're insane. You know that?"

I smiled back. This time, it was genuine. "I was telling you half the truth you know? Fred was supposed to be my next partner but he held on to his last partner and whisk me off. And after that, I kind of saw you having a heated conversation with that girl." My expression darkened. "I saw your face, Nate. You look as if you were ready to pounce at her." Strands of my hair fell off and he reached out and pushed it back behind my ear as I continued. "So I decided to come and...you know...push her off." I grinned proudly.

He chuckled. "Seems like you were trying to rescue me."

"I did, didn't I?"

He nodded. "Indeed." He said and kissed my hand. "I guess I am in your debt."

I smiled. "That's good. A prince in my debt. Can you imagine the perks of that?" He laughed at me.

Suddenly I became serious. "But what was that all about? I've never seen you look at a girl with so much hatred. You love girls. And to be honest? The only guy who I know having that sort of expression is Ace."

He shrugged. "Let's just say that she's obsessed with me and that drove her to do something that made me dislike her."

"Wait. She likes you?"

He raised an eyebrow at me. Slightly offended at my words. "Hey, I have the looks. Of course, girls fall on their knees when I'm around. Just like you earlier."

I rolled my eyes at him. "I only pretended to slip, Nate. That's it. What did you do to make her that crazy for you?"

"If only you knew, Rose. I wasn't like this before."

"What?"

"That's a story for some other time." He replied and gave me a small tired smile. "I don't want to talk about it."

I saw his pained look so I decided that I wasn't going to ask anymore. I looked back towards Camille and another boy dancing. Camille wearing a frown while her partner tried to talk to her. Probably asking what had gotten her in a bad mood.

Finally, I turned my gaze back at Nate. "Well good news. Looks like the guy over there is trying to make conversations with her." I then leaned in and whispered. "I think he likes her and it's only a matter of time before he makes a move." Nate suddenly laughed.

He slightly bent over and laughter continued to come. Oh boy. I think Nate is on crack.

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“What? Was it something I said?”

He straightened up. He looked at me in amus****t and chuckled. “Rose, do you know that guy over there?”

“Yeah. His name is Prince Gregory Clevelan.”

Then I realized something. “Is that...?”

“Yes.”

“And I said....”

I nodded.

“Oh my gosh!! That was i****!!” I said, completely horrified. “Ew!! And to think that I thought they would look good together! And that they would fall in love and...”

“Have babies?” He added.

We both looked at each other. And by the looks of it, he, like me, was picturing both of the Clevelan siblings in love. We both cringed and made disgusted faces at each other before we both laughed hysterically that people nearby gave us weird looks.

“Let’s keep this conversation between us.”

“Babe, if it’s you then I’ll gladly keep it.” he winked. Then his expression changed. “I would like to ask you a favor.” He said just as the music was starting to change.

“What is it?”

“About what you learned. Please keep that between us as well.” Nate started to twirl me off to my next partner, but just before I was out of earshot I looked back at him and smiled.

“I already forgot about it.” I smiled.

He smiled brightly. And, just as he received his next partner, he took a rose from his coat and offered it to the now blushing lady.

I rolled my eyes. Now there’s the Nate that I know.

I stopped twirling when I saw my next partner. My eyes nearly bulged out in surprise.
“Ace?”