

Twenty-One - Changed

I know I am a terrible person but it isn't going to affect my decision. I'm losing Zander... and fast. I have to go to Viv's party tonight, I just have to! It may be my last chance to persuade him that I am the one he wants, and our love will be worth all of the trials. I have pulled out half my wardrobe trying to find a suitably hot dress to outshine Viv, but nothing is sexy enough. If I'm serious about this, I really need to pull out all the stops and make myself irresistible.

"Woah, it looks like a bomb has gone off in here! What are you looking for an outfit for?" Waverly asks with a puzzled expression. "Just jeans and a nice top will do for the city."

"Oh I'm sorry Waverly... but I have actually decided to go to Viv's party - this may be my last chance to win Zander! I'm looking for an outfit that will make me look really hot." I reveal as I dig through the intrusion of clothes on my fluffy carpet.

I seriously have nothing to wear!

"What about going to the museums and spending a little time together?" Waverly asks, sounding a little hurt.

"I'm so sorry Waverly we will do it, it's just that this is really important to me. You are welcome to come though." I stress with a sheepish smile.

"And going to the museums and spending time together is important to me! You know ever since we started college it's like you're a different person. We hardly spend any time together and you don't care about me and what I want to do. You are constantly blowing me off, and for what? To make Zander jealous? Newsflash, he has a girlfriend Chanel!" Waverly snaps.

"I'm sorry Waverly but I think you're totally overreacting! You know how important Zander is to me, I love him and I can't just roll over and let him be with someone who is obviously a horrible match for him!" I exclaim as I stand up, matching Waverly's glare.

"Whatever Nell, you're just being blind to the truth! If he wanted you, you would be together right now! But go do whatever you want; I'm going out with my friends Nina and River instead!" She exclaims heatedly, her emerald eyes darkening as they always do when she is upset.

"Go ahead I don't care!" I shout as she rolls her eyes and storms out.

I jump as the door slams with force, and my head feels dizzy as I try to comprehend what just happened. Waverly and I fought. We're not friends right now. What the hell is wrong with me? Why do I keep making stupid mistakes and decisions? I can't help but feel like my life is falling apart. I hear another slam echo through the lonely apartment showing that Waverly has left. With a sigh, I continue to get ready, knowing that it will all be worth it if I can claim Zander's love tonight. This is my last chance.

...

Later on that evening, I am just arriving with Rylan to the party. I'm instantly hit with the overpoweringly loud music and a loud haze of chatter and sweaty bodies. I'm really not feeling it tonight. It seems like the whole college has turned up for this wild party, as everywhere I turn there are clusters of people drinking, snogging, laughing and being generally disorderly. My head thumps and my feet are dying to turn and rush out back into the cold air, but Rylan is already pulling me forward into the (usually) spacious apartment.

I immediately feel uncomfortable as people's eyes crawl all over my exposed skin, and I tug the ridiculously small skirt a little further down my thighs. I am ashamed to admit I am dressed like a slut in one of Roxanne's mini dresses, which is skin-tight, snake print and dips tauntingly low at the top and climbs shockingly high at the bottom. Why did I think this is a good idea? I don't feel comfortable at all! I never would've worn this two months ago...

"Do you want a drink Nell?" Rylan whispers into my ear as one hand rests just above my bum and the other squeezes my arm.

He can't keep his hands off me in this outfit. I don't miss how his eyes are constantly travelling over my exhibited form.

"Erm yeah... sure." I nod as I receive callous looks from judgey girls and heated ones from interested guys, which makes me wince.

"Ok come on then." He decrees, placing his arm around my shoulders and leading me towards the kitchen.

I nearly trip when I notice Isaac oblivious to the world leaning against the back wall with Ava and two mystery girls trying to grab his attention. He isn't giving them any time of day though, instead glaring straight ahead at Roxie who is dancing with another guy. I immediately duck my head and hope I stay out of his line of sight, as I doubt he will like my outfit very much.

At the drinks station I bump into Holea who is already drunk and pining over some guy who is openly cupping her arse. It looks like she has moved on from Owen then. Waverly will be pleased! Waverly... My heart clenches at the thought of her, but I down my drink to hide my sorrow. I meet Rylan's friends again - Marco, Lucas and Gabe who are all sweet but subtly checking me out. Some girls might love it but it just makes me feel self-conscious as I am baring so much skin.

I notice a man urinating in a leafy plant pot, making me grimace in disgust whilst his mates cheer him on. If it weren't for these wild party animals, the apartment would look like a bloggers haven, as it is very aesthetically pleasing with marble kitchens, rose gold prints and ornaments. Sadly, I have to admit I am semi-impressed with Ava, Viv and Chelsie's apartment, but I won't be tomorrow considering there are already pizza slices smudged into the floor, mysteries puddles and alcohol bottles littered everywhere. It is going to look a right old state!

I lean back into Rylan's arms as he chats with his friends, feeling tired and drowsy. I want to be curled up in bed. My eyes drift across the room and widen as I notice Zander with a beer in his hand and his other arm around Viv, talking happily to his friend Ethan. He looks really chilled and laid back, and Viv looks almost normal in his arms leaning against his chest. Intense sadness washes over me like a wave as I wish I were the girl with Zander, being shown off to his friends. I am starting to realise that that may never be me.

"Do you want another drink?" Rylan shouts into my ear above the raucous of rowdy partygoers and ear-blisteringly loud Jason Derulo tune.

"Yes please." I reply as I give him a tight-lipped smile.

"Ok I'll be two minutes." He replies with a charming grin, although I don't miss the way his eyes keep dipping into my cleavage, which is practically bursting out my dress.

I step out the way of a guy giving his mate a piggyback consequentially stumbling through the crowds, and bump into someone behind me. I quickly turn to apologise, but my blood runs cold when I see who it is.

"Nell... erm hi." Sheub waves awkwardly.

I take in a deep breath and teeter backwards, regretting my five-inch stilettos that I thought were a good idea.

"Wait... Listen I want to apologise. I'm really sorry for... for pressurising you into something you didn't want. I was drunk but it's no excuse really. I have decided to stay sober until I know I can control myself, as I never want anything like that to happen again. I really am sorry though Nell... I wanted to apologise to you before but you always have your bodyguards around you." Sheub reveals genuinely.

"Ok... well I appreciate your apology." I reply feeling incredibly awkward, and try to ignore the chilling feeling racing down my spine.

"Thank you... I hope that one day you will be able to forgive me. Anyway I better go." He rushes out as his eyes dart behind me, and as I turn, I notice Rylan coming back with two drinks in his hands and a scowl directed at Sheub.

I turn back to Sheub and he gives me a small smile before making his way away from us.

"What did he want?" Rylan barks as he places his arm possessively around me, the neon lights momentarily painting his dark skin green.

"It's fine... He just wanted to apologise." I reveal, feeling a sense of peace. What happened still plagues me on dark, sleepless nights.

"Ok, well you should stay away from him. I don't trust him." Rylan sighs as he hands me a Malibu and coke. "In fact I don't trust any of these boys around you!" He grumbles as a couple of guys whistle at me.

"It's ok, I don't trust them either!" I giggle.

"I ran into your best friend Viv at the drinks station. She wants to see you." He reveals making me groan.

"Seriously? I'd rather not." I pout.

"Sorry... she made me promise to bring you over. It won't be that bad... I'm sure Zander won't be able to take his eyes off you in that outfit."

With a sigh I nod and let him lead me to the perfect Miss Viv. I swear someone grabs my bum as we shuffle through the constricting crowds, but as I turn, the perpetrator is swallowed up by the jumping bodies, and nobody notices or cares. When Viv sees me, she squeals, pulling me into a hug as if we are besties. She looks incredible in a black satin mini dress splashed with a red dragon print, and red lipstick defines her plump lips and eyeliner makes her brown eyes appear larger.

"I'm so happy you decided to come Nell! And look at that, we've got matching hairstyles! You are totally rocking that bun and dress!" She giggles excitedly, her eyes glazed over as she stumbles a little, holding onto my shoulders for support.

"Thank you, you look pretty too." I reply with a smile.

"Come and play adult truth or dare with us! It's super exclusive! Only best friends are allowed in my bedroom!" She exclaims hyperactively, and I resist the urge to gag as she breathes heavily into my face casting a cloud of alcohol over my senses.

"Erm... ok." I reply, but she isn't even listening, already intent on pulling my arm out of its socket as she drags me along out of the kitchen.

I catch Zander's eye as I flounder after her, his emerald eyes widening out of his skull as he takes in my provocative outfit. I stare defiantly back at him, mad that he has caused me to become so desperate and drop my standards of myself.

Hi guys as you can tell Nell is regretting changing for a guy... Please learn from her example and never do that! You are perfect just the way you are ♥ everything is coming to a head now, and in the next few chapters Nell is going to realise what is truly important xoxo

Edited

Continue reading next part [↗](#)