

The Night...

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CHAPTER 1

" Wait, let me get this straight... *he told you that he needs to detach himself from you????* " Miranda shouts with unintentional aggressiveness. " *That doesn't even make sense?? I mean, correct me if I'm wrong, but the last time I checked, you aren't conjoined twins!?!?! "*

Serena, bemused by her friend's reaction, throws her hands up in surrender. " Believe me honey, your guess is as good as mine. "

" See ladies, " Karina says, folding her arms in front of herself. " this is precisely why I'm thankful I'm a lesbian! I *never* have to deal with this bullshit! "

" *Really!?! "* Miranda interjects, nearly spilling her drink upon hearing her sweeping statement. " Are you honestly going to sit there and act like Jenny never even happened, or have you already forgotten what a ruthless bitch she was?! "

" She wasn't that bad.. " she answers passively.

Miranda snorts. " Girl, that slut played you like a piano! "

" Come on now people, " Leona says firmly, addressing the group before turning her attention back on to Serena. " tonight isn't about us... It's about our girl. "

As Serena watches the shift of focus fall back onto her, she pauses then takes a thoughtful sip before continuing. " Apparently, he needs a break.. "

" *Please! The only break he needs is in his neck!! "* Miranda adds angrily.

" Exactly! " Leona exclaims tipsily, attempting to lift her glass to her lips. " Television shows need a break, not him! "

Miranda raises her glass in agreement.

" Day and dawn need a break! " Miranda adds enthusiastically.

Without words, Serena and Leona re-raise their glasses in solidarity.

" Hell, even cars need them! " Karina shouts triumphantly, proud of her addition.

Miranda, failing to stifle her laughter, taps Karina lightly on the back of her hand. " Wrong spelling and context honey, but nice try nonetheless. "

Leona and Miranda smirk momentarily before Karina scowls at them both.

Sensing the tension growing between the ladies, Serena redirects the conversation back onto herself in an attempt to diffuse the situation. " What I haven't told you though, is that that was just the start.. "

Miranda, hearing this, cups her face with dread.

" I'm actually scared to ask, " says Leona, already foreseeing the inevitable revelation. " please tell me he didn't? "

Serena nods, rolling her eyes at his soon to be revealed cliché.

" If he said what I think you are implying he said, then I think I'm actually going to have to track him down and kick him in the balls myself on behalf of every self respecting woman in this world! " Miranda blurts out before finishing her drink in disgust.

Serena nods, close to laughter at the absurdity of his predictability. " Yep, you guessed it.. *I need space..* "

Karina shakes her finger in protest. " *How much more space does he need??* You weren't even living together?? "

Serena raises her alcohol filled glass to the air before bringing it back to her lips.

" Oh, believe me, I haven't finished yet.. he also ' needs more time ' . "

" *Then buy a mother fucking clock!! You stupid, pathetic bastard!!* " Karina shouts, annoyed at his words.

Miranda, taking Serena's hands into her own and looks into her eyes with kindness. " I'm not going to patronise you sweetness because you know we go way back, but you do know this isn't about you, don't you? It's all about him and his greed. "

Serena squeezes her hand as if to acknowledge her oldest and dearest friend's concern. " Believe me honey, I know.. "

" Fucking men... " Karina slurs. She takes the half filled wine glass to her mouth and finishes it before continuing to rant. " they are so goddamned predictable!! I swear they only have two states of being.. horny and *not* horny! "

Actually they have three. " Miranda interrupts, deliberately lifting a Prawn and Chorizo Pinche skywards to signify the third.

" Okay, okay, *hungry*, horny and not horny. " Karina concedes whilst reaching for the bottle of Prosecco to refill Serena's glass.

" I guess I just thought he was going to be different.. " she says with honesty, taking a moment to watch the blissfully unaware singletons approach one another at the bar.

Seeing her submit herself to her feelings, Miranda taps her shoulder repeatedly as if to break her trancelike stare. " *Anyway!* Fuck him, he's an idiot! Believe me, the next guy - "

" No.. No.." She says, pursing her lips with playful objection. " There will be *no* next guy. I'm done. *Period.* "

" Honey, what you need is - " Leona starts before being cut short.

" A stiff drink! " Serena adds, completing her sentence.

" Amen! I *need* a stiff drink! Now, who else is going to join me? "

" I will. " An unexpected male voice responds from behind them.

Serena, the first of the women to turn and face the stranger, stares at him with one eyebrow intentionally raised in annoyance at his brash entrance.

" Hey there beautiful! " he says with confident, borderline arrogance. " What can I get you? "

" Umm... Let me think about that for a second..." she says, tapping her temple with her index finger with theatric intention. " Oh, I know.. *Nothing!* "

The man scratches his forehead. " I have to say, I'm a little confused? "

" That's okay honey. " Karina says patronisingly. " you're a man.. It's expected. "

Ignoring her retort, he turns back to face Serena. " You just asked a few seconds ago who wants to join you for a drink. I replied, and now you don't want one??? Do you want a drink, or don't you?? "

" I do! " She yelps, clapping her hands together sarcastically. " Just not with you... "

The women snigger at her bluntness.

As the words brutally fall from her lips, Serena allows herself to enjoy his rejection for a second before rejoining her friends.

" Come on, just a - "

" SERIOUSLY?!?! " she shrieks, louder than anticipated. " Can't you tell I'm really not interested in you!?!? Oh, and just so you know, that's not an invitation for you to endlessly harass me all night long either, okay!?" "

" Damn.. " he whispers, his tongue firmly caught between his teeth whilst he smiles to himself. " I love this part.. "

What part, there are no parts?? There is no jigsaw with a missing piece that needs to be found to complete me. So, just move along. " She states coldly and firmly.

As she focuses her attention back onto the group, he answers her with an intentionally loud voice. " And so the game begins.. "

" Get lost!!! " She shouts.

" I already am.. " he answers whimsically, pausing before finishing his sentence . .. " in your eyes. "

She rolls her eyes in annoyance at his futile persistence. " Would you like some pepperoni to go on top of that cheesy remark?? "

" You're funny. " He grins, stroking his chin, all the while staring into her eyes.

She glares at him, stonily. " I'm married. "

" He leans in close to her. " That's okay, I like a challenge. "

" *Unbelievable!* " Miranda shouts, unable to contain her disapproval of the man.

Squeezing Miranda's hand, half in solidarity, half to calm her, Serena answers him quietly, yet confidently.

"I have Syphilis... "

Without a word, the man reaches into his pocket and produces a string of condoms that he lets cascade southwards towards the floor.

Breathing deeply, she looks into his eyes and lies with immeasurable ease. " *I'm..a.. lesbian!* "

" Didn't I tell you earlier that I like a challenge? " He says, his face brimming with humour.

" Just fuck off. " She says with exasperation.

He lifts his hands to the air in defeat. " No need to be like th- "

" *FUCK OFF!! FUCK OFF! FUCK OFF!!* " She finally shouts as the healthy hum of conversation from the surrounding pub goes, drops a level.

" *Geez! I'm out!! You're a crazy bitch!* " He drawls under his breath before storming off in the direction of the bar.

Serena covers her face with frustration, then after a full thirty seconds drops her hand to her chest and pats against herself rhythmically. " Can we get out of here please?? I'm seriously done now. "

Leona, sensing the energy of the four friends diminishing by the second, grabs her hand and squeezes it tightly. " Now, you know me honey, I wouldn't normally let a man dictate where we hang out, but I have to admit as a happily married woman, this man is making me understand the desire to be single. "

" Hear hear! " Miranda adds, lifting her glass to the ceiling.

" So, let's get out of here. " Leona says directly. " Anyone got any ideas? "

" I think the only safe option for a heterosexual male-free environment, is for us to go to a gay bar? " Miranda suggests.

" Great idea hun! " Karina exclaims. " It's been ages since I've been. Plus, it feels like it's been forever since I've had a girl approach me. "

Leona snorts at the absurdity of the statement. " *Oh please! That's not true!* "

" *What the hell does that mean??* " Karina shouts as the music rouses almost in unison with her outburst.

" Have you forgotten about the bus stop beauty from last Tuesday already? " Serena answers, suppressing the desire to laugh at her.

Karina shakes her head furiously. " Don't be ridiculous, she wasn't interested in me! "

" I don't know what world you live in honey, but if a person takes me by the hand, " Serena stops, takes Karina by the hand provocatively as if to recreate the events of the aforementioned day before continuing. " to ' find out what time it is ' when all they had to do was ask me, then that's a clear sign they are into me.. " Karina, completely aware of her learned friend's accurate dissection, responds unconvincingly. " Maybe she just had spatial awareness issues? "

" Please! She caressed your finger like Nigella touches food! "

" Well, whatever it was, it's irrelevant now. " She says, her flushed cheeks exposing her own truth. " I haven't been to a gay bar for years, so I'm all in. So, which one? "

Leona smiles before her eyes light up with unprecedented excitement. " Well, since it's only down the road, let's go to Bottoms Up? The drinks are cheap, the men are hot- "

" You do understand that it's a gay bar, right? " Miranda jokes.

Flushed, she replies hotly. " Of course I do, but there's nothing wrong with looking! Besides, I need some new inspiration for when I'm having some personal time. "

" What do you mean? " Serena enquires.

Karina and Miranda giggle to each other knowingly. Quickly realising what Leona is referring to, Serena shakes her head with a smile but before she has time to change the conversation, her sexually frustrated friend continues.

" It's got ten speeds- "

" *Too much information!* " Serena shouts.

Ignoring her friend's objection, she continues. " Plus it has a little bit on the end that's especially good for- "

" When you are ready to 'go'.. we know. " Serena says, hastily finishing her sentence for her. " Talking of which. Let's go.. "

As the four friends leave, they swiftly head in the direction of the pumping music oozing from the street. When they reach the entrance, their parting cocktails suddenly seem to take full effect.

" Evening ladies, " One of two heavily tattooed men says, temporarily obscuring the doorway. " you do know this is a gay bar, don't you? "

Miranda strokes her chin in a patronising manner. " Well, the man who just walked in wearing day glow pink and a feather boa was my first clue. "

The bouncer laughs, steps aside, then ushers them in. " Have a great night ladies. "

" Oh, believe me, we will. " Serena says, sashaying into the club whilst the other girls follow.

As the beautiful women enter the huge room, Miranda slaps Karina's bottom with her Fendi purse." Okay girl, since you're so desperate to get felt up, there's a hot woman over there by the bar. So, since we are all in serious need of a drink, take this money and get that hot ass of yours over there. We'll see if we can secure a table. "

" Sure, " Karina says seductively, already preoccupied by the aforementioned woman staring at her. " but just so you know, it's hardly going to be difficult to get a seat when the majority of the guys are already on the dance floor gyrating to Gaga.. "

" *Or taking part in live sex shows!* " Serena says, pointing at the two men in the corner, ravaging each other, blissfully unaware of the attention directed at them.

" Ooh where?! " Leona yelps excitedly, reaching for her glasses.

Serena scoffs. " Has it really been that long that watching two men grinding on each other harder than peppercorns is turning you on? "

" I think he could do better though, don't you think? " Leona says, biting her bottom lip. " I mean, this ones all muscles and model looks, whereas the other one looks like a train just hit him harder than a jumper on the London Underground. "

" Wow! " Serena gasps in disbelief.

" What? " Leona asks, all the while never breaking her gaze from the men.

" You actually bitched like a scene queen! "

Miranda slaps her leg lightly. " You can't say the word queen! "

Yes I can, " she says, slapping her back in return. " my brother is gay so I'm allowed. "

" Actually, I'm pretty sure you can only say that if you're gay yourself. " Miranda says, matter of fact.

Smiling to herself when she notices her brother, unexpectedly walking towards her, she stands to greet him. " If you don't believe me, you can ask him now. He's just coming over. "

" Talk about timing!" Miranda remarks, waving in his direction.

When he approaches, he wraps his arms around his sister and lifts her off the floor. " *What the hell are you doing here!?* Another bad night at the straight bar you insist on going to, by any chance? "

" How did you guess? " She says sarcastically, gesturing for him to return her to the ground. " So what are you doing out on a school night? "

" You should know me by now sis, I don't let a silly thing like work get in the way of my real life. " He says, looking towards her friends. " Seriously though, I'm just waiting for my boyfriend to turn up. He's late, as per usual, but at least this time he has an excuse. He's meeting up with his friend, then we are all meeting here. "

" The three gay-migos. " Leona says, with humour.

" Two actually. His friend is straight. " He responds, holding his hand out to shake hers. " You know, it is possible for gay men to have straight male friends? "

The loud clinking of glasses signifies the return of Karina. " Hi Charlie, how you been sweetness? "

" I'm doing good baby! How about the rest of you?? "

Serena takes a glass and finishes it in one go.

" Wow! That bad, sis? "

" Pretty much. First there was the lecherous man at the previous bar, "Leona over here is minutes away from spontaneously cumming, and finally, Tom and I are over! "

" Which explains all this. " Charlie says, his hand openly gesturing to the multitude of multicoloured shots on the tray that Karina is holding.

Serena takes one in each hand then devours them. "

Bingo! "

Well, you can talk it over with Mark in a minute, " Charlie says, pointing over in the direction of his boyfriend's friend. " it sounds like you two have a lot in common after tonight, apparently some woma- "

" *YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME???* " Serena says, jolting her head back in despair.

" *No way... is that??* " Miranda adds, recognising the familiar faced man from earlier.

Leona takes a sip of her cocktail before affixing her hand to her hip. " I can say no, but then I'd be lying. "

" Miranda, can you do me a favour and go to the bar? "

Serena asks, turning her back to the approaching man. Perplexed, Miranda looks down at the copious amount of alcohol on the tray. " But you haven't even drunk these yet? "

" I know, " she says, finally facing the equally annoyed looking man. " but it's going to be a long night.... "