

5 princes and I Chapter 39-40

Chapter 39 How to Tango with a PRINCE

“It’s PRINCE.” He corrected her in annoyance.

I was only looking at him expectantly and waited for him to offer me his hand. Suddenly, he grabbed my hand and looked at the man next to him, and called his attention. When he looked at us, he offered my hand to him. “Wanna switch partners? I’ll pay you,” he said, even though he knew that he’s a duke and he’ll have tons of gold in his pocket.

I jerked my hand back and frowned at him. “Oh no, you won’t! Fred already ditched our dance. I will not be exchanged for another dance partner twice in one night!” I took his hand and forced us both to dance.

Well, Fred didn’t ditch me, to be honest.

He raised an eyebrow at me. “Does it look like I care?” He told me.

I countered him with a frown. “And does it look like I’m giving you any other choice?”

“You’re ugly. That’s why Prince Fred switched you.” He said bluntly.

“And you’re annoying. Shut up.”

“I’m not the one who’s talking.”

“You just talked.”

“That’s because you were talking. Now shut up.”

“No, you shut up.”

“I’m a Prince. You can’t order me around.”

“Just because you’re a prince doesn’t mean you can order people around.”

“Yes, I can.”

“Prove it.”

Ace suddenly turned his head towards the nearby boy serving some champagne and called his attention. He looked at Ace with a confused face. “Jump off a cliff and die.” The poor boy looked at him in horror and his hands started to tremble at his command.

“Ace!!” I screamed at him, horrified. I turned towards the servant boy and smiled at him sweetly. “Don’t mind him. He’s just playing around. You can go now.” I said and the servant boy looked happy to leave.

“It’s PRINCE Ace. How many times do I have to repeat that to you, you retarded fool!” He said. Not hiding the annoyance in his tone.

I gave him an incredulous look. “Are you freaking serious? You’ll seriously order him to jump off a cliff?” I said angrily.

At that moment, he looked like he wanted to hit me at the back of my head for being stupid. “Weren’t you the one who asked me to prove to you that I can order people around?”

“That wasn’t what I meant!!”

He frowned at me. “If you don’t want people to misunderstand your words then say it clearly. You’re not a kid anymore. Tch!”

“Did you just ‘tch’ me?”

He ignored me and continued to dance. “I don’t want to waste my breath talking to ugly people, which is everybody in the room.” He said.

My foot ‘accidentally’ stepped on trash. Ace turned and gave me a deadly glare. I, on the other hand, quickly looked away and feigned innocence.

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“You did that on purpose!”

“Nope.” I lied.

With a frown, he stepped on the hem of my dress and made me trip a bit. My head quickly snapped into attention as I looked at him. My eyebrows furrowed and I stepped on my foot again. And like earlier, he returned the favor.

“What’s your problem?”

“What’s your problem?” He told me.

“Stop stepping on my dress you immature big-eared elf!!” I said. My voice squeaked a little as I tried to dodge his foot but failed. He snorted. “And you call me the immature one.” I narrowed my gaze at him and made a move as if to step on his foot again. Then he stepped back to avoid my foot.

I frowned and stepped my other foot forward and attempted to catch it again and missed when he took another step back. My foot slightly grazed him making him look at me in annoyance. "Watch it!"

As a reply, I only stuck my tongue out at him and continued to go after his foot. This time, he took side steps to avoid my steps and we ended up doing a weird dance of our own.

We were so caught up in our little dance that we didn't notice the couple, who was dancing right beside us, ended up splitting apart when we ran in between them with our hands outstretched.

"Stop moving!"

"You stop moving!!"

I don't know for how long we were making that dance but we stopped as soon as I finally gave up. I was pretty much panting while he didn't even break a sweat and was now looking at me bored-ly when I noticed something. I lifted my gaze to scan the crowd only to see them looking at us. We just conquered the dance floor.

"Tell me they're not looking at us," I whispered.

"They are." He answered shortly. I cursed under my breath and gave a hesitant laugh and the crowd started to applaud us. Ace raised his eyebrows at them, while my cheeks continued to turn red.

"Mind your own business!" Ace yelled at the crowd, making them stop, and continued to dance.

Ace started to exit but paused when he noticed that I wasn't moving. One of the things that I learned from the twins is that you're not supposed to leave a girl in the middle of the dance floor alone without a partner. It's rude and disrespectful.

Ace was probably thinking about it too.

Another wave of music arrived and the dance started to resume. This time, it's a dance where there is no need for you to change your dance partner, but you may do so when someone wants to cut in. It's their version of free dance.

I watched as everybody in the room grabbed their own chosen partners and headed for the dance floor. Soon we were surrounded by dancing pairs. He cursed as the space started to become cramped. He grabbed my hand and started to lead me away.

A girl suddenly approached us. She's tall and lean with silver locks of hair and a fake makeup-ridden face. Her dress, a metallic silver that gleamed in the light. She stopped

right in front of us and I finally recognized her as the princess of the Trylle, trolls. They may look like normal human beings, like warlocks and witches, but they possess a hard physical body.

“Prince Ace Feradin, is it?” She asked and gave him a friendly smile. Ace nodded grumpily. He was probably annoyed at the fact that she suddenly blocked our path.

“Nice to meet you. I’m Princess Laurette from the Kingdom of Hale.” She said as politely as she could.

“Do I look stupid to you that I wouldn’t know who you are?! I may not care who you are but I certainly know your name.” Ace clicked his t*****nnoyance. “You must be confusing me with this idiot.” He said and pointed at me. I frowned and slapped his hand away.

“I’m not an idiot!”

“And I’m not the silly ignorant princess who grouped Prince Leonardo, Duke Rafael, Prince Donatello, and Duke Michelangelo and call them ninja tur-”

I slapped a hand to his mouth to stop him from finishing his sentence.

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“Such a joker you are.” I laughed and gave Ace a very tight smile.

Princess Laurette giggled. “Princess Rose, I’m so honored to have the pleasure to meet the both of you.” She said.

“The pleasure-” I started.

“-is all yours.” Ace moved my hand away to snap at her.

She laughed. “You’re funny. You can call me Laurette.”

“PRINCE Ace.”

Princess Laurette only smiled at me. “You don’t talk much do you?”

“...” I gave her a hesitant laugh.

“I guess not.” She sighed. “Well, I apologize for intruding on your walk. I just didn’t want the party to end without speaking to the both of you.” She bowed and went away.

“Finally!” Ace said when she was out of earshot.

“You are a rude b*****, aren’t you?”

He clicked his tongue and grabbed my hand again as we dodged all the dancing royals.

I was glaring at Ace’s hand on mine as he pulled me away from the crowd. “Let me go!” I growled at him and tried to pry his hands from mine. Ace turned to glare at me and released my hand. “Shut up. You’re drawing unwanted attention.” He said. I narrowed my gaze at him and was about to say something when someone tapped Ace’s shoulder making him look back at the person standing behind him. I took a good look at the boy.

He was slender and young. Around 14 years old judging from his face. His hair is a very dark shade of midnight blue that you could easily mistake as black if lights don’t hit it. He’s beautiful. His soft blue eyes like ice glinting as he smirks at Ace. His expensive light blue coat giving off an image of royalty. He then regarded Ace and me with a mischievous look.

And I was surprised that Ace didn’t slaughter him at that moment for that look of his.

“Prince Ace Feradin from the elven clan.” He nodded at Ace. His voice speaks of arrogance.

Wow. Ace sure is popular.

I could feel Ace narrowing his gaze at the person in front of us without even looking. “Prince Chace Clevelan from the fae clan.” Ace nodded. And I was a bit surprised that he sounded normal for once. No harsh or disrespectful words to the opposite party.

“What the hell are you doing here?”

I spoke too soon.

I stood beside Ace and gave him a horrified look and elbowed him. “The hell!? Be nice!” I snarled at him. Why do I even bother?

The boy chuckled, making us return our gazes to him. His eyes looked at us with pure amus****t before they focused on me. “Don’t bother. He doesn’t show respect to anyone unless you’re a king or a queen.” He smiled. I turned to look at Ace with a ‘go figure’ look.

He was looking bored and looked at someplace else. “I don’t waste my time and energy showing the same respect as I have for our leaders to fools like you two.” His gaze then shifted back to Prince Chace. “You want my respect? You find it in the trash.”

Prince Chace closed his eyes and shook his head. His white-blond hair swishing back and forth. I may be imagining things but crystal-like ice seemed to fall from his hair as he moved. Finally, he opened his eyes and looked at me. “Prince Chace Clevelan. Son

of King Simon and Queen t**ania. The younger brother of Prince Gregory and Princess Camille.” He dipped a little before coming up and meeting my gaze.

I nodded and did a little curtsy. “Yes. A pleasure to meet you. I’m Princess Rosalie.” I said politely and heard Ace snort. At that moment, I wanted so badly to kick his legs to make him stumble.

Chace smiled at me before looking at Ace. “Prince Ace, your powers seem to have returned. Last time I saw they were close to dying.”

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Ace nodded. Acknowledging his words. “Indeed they have.” he said before adding, “But last time I checked, it was none of your business.” He straightened up and looked at both of us. “If you two wouldn’t mind, I would like to take my leave.” And without looking back, he started to turn his back to us and headed for the door out of the room leaving me alone with Prince Chace.

Unbelievable. So what? He just left me here with a stranger?!

I was still staring at the spot where Ace had gone so I didn’t notice Prince Chace approaching me. When I felt his presence, I quickly snapped my attention to him and saw him offering a dance towards me. “Would you mind if I ask you for a dance?”

I looked at his hand for a second before turning to his face and nodded as I accepted his hand. His hand was cold to the touch as if I was grasping ice. Soon, he was leading me towards the dance floor where the other pairs were dancing. He picked a spot for us and we started to take our positions and danced. As we followed the rhythm of the music, I couldn’t help but notice that the temperature around us seemed to drop and I started to shiver.

Prince Chace noticed my discomfort and gave me an apologizing smile. “Sorry. I still have minimal control over my powers. Winter is powerful after all.” He raised the hand that was on my waist and I watched as he made a twirling motion with his finger making a small whirl of snow. I gasped and followed the snow’s path until it flew into the air and vanished.

I return my gaze at him. My eyes filled with amazement. “Are you a-”

“Winter Fairy? That I am.” He beamed proudly.

I shook my head as I tried to remember what Ace had said about winter fairies and tilted my head. “Aren’t winter fairies said to be rare since not that many offspring survive during the winter season?”

He gave me a look of admiration and respect as he grinned at me approvingly. "Seems like you did your research." He said. "And yes. Winter fairies are rare. Most offspring die before they come out of their mother's womb. Only the strongest offspring can live during that season. That is why winter fairies hold tremendous power."

"Amazing."

"Indeed." He said and looked away. "But being a winter fairy sometimes s***s."

"Why?" I asked. Feeling his hand going cold again. "Aren't you satisfied with your powers?"

He shook his head. "No. That's not the reason. It's because being a prince and a winter fairy at the same time makes the royals keep an eye out for you to keep you safe. They treat you rather special. Sure, it sounds fine at first but after a few years? You'll realize that your freedom is limited." I looked at his eyes and saw loneliness and bitterness in them so I didn't say anything and just waited for him to speak. Finally, he smiled and said. "That's why I admired Prince Ace. He understands."

"What? But A – I mean – PRINCE Ace is not a fairy." I said.

Prince Chace laughed. "Goodness no. He's an elf. What I'm trying to say was that we're both in the same shoe. He knows what it feels like to hold such power."

"What power?"

He paused and looked at me. His eyebrow raised. "You mean you don't know his powers?" I shook my head as an answer and he sighed. "Well, I'm not surprised. He did try to kill his powers and no one seems to see him use them. Only a few of us know what it is."

"What is it then?"

"If he wants to keep it a secret then I don't think I have the right to speak of it." He said. "Let's just talk about something else, okay?"

"Okay," I said and started to open my mouth to ask him the question that was bubbling inside my head. "You're a younger sibling, right?"

"Correct."

"Why aren't you a candidate as King here?"

He snorted. It was as if the thought had come to his mind. "I'm 14. Too young to be a candidate. You have to be 16 and above to enter." He said bitterly and looked away.

I was about to say something more when someone tapped Prince Chace lightly on his shoulder. We both looked at the man and my heart skipped a beat as I looked at the fine creature standing and waiting beside Prince Chace. Prince Fred nodded at me in acknowledgment before looking at Prince Chace.

“May I cut in?” He asked.

Chapter 40 Dance of My Dreams

Prince Chace studied Fred for a moment before turning his gaze at me and smirked. His eyes twinkling in amusement as he looked back at Fred who was waiting patiently and bowed. “Of course.” He then gave my hand to Fred’s outstretched hand. After excusing himself, he left.

I looked at Fred. He was also looking at me with a sly grin on his face. I was about to smile back when I remembered what he did to me earlier. I grinned. “You’re not gonna ditch me again, are you?”

Instead of feeling guilty like I expected him to, he laughed. “Are you still mad about that?”

I gave him a plastic smile then. “Why no, Prince Fred. I’m not angry. What makes you say that?” I said sarcastically, making him laugh even more.

“I only wanted you to keep your promise. I wanted it to be special. Our first dance together at a ball as each other’s last dance for the night.” He winked. His words send warmth to my heart making my anger towards him slowly fade.

I looked up at him and gave him a small smile. “Alright. You’re forgiven.”

He beamed. “How’s your night so far?”

I thought about it. “It’s pretty good. I met a few royals and a few other Prince and Princesses.” I said. “But I haven’t met any of the Kings and Queens yet. I guess you could call me lucky.”

Fred chuckled. “Of course. There are only a few Kings and Queens here at the moment. The only kings and queens here are from the Faes, Trylles, and King Luke and Queen Elizabeth.”

“What about your parents? What of Nate, Ren, Dan, and Ace?”

“We’re the candidates.” He said and raised a hand and twirled me around before pulling me back to him. “We were sent here with the consent of our parents. Since the kingdom of Thalia is the most powerful and influential kingdom to all, Kings and Queens tend to pressure their chosen offspring to win. That is why Queen Elizabeth made sure that our

contracts with our parents are limited and only we can contact them. If we wish for a visit it should be our choice. We can go and visit them back home but they can't visit us here."

"That's sad," I said and gave him a sympathetic look. "Aren't you guys lonely?"

"Sometimes," He shrugged. "But it doesn't get that lonely anymore. With the other princes and all." Then his eyes looked into mine and his expression became serious. "Especially now that you're here."

Fred and I danced for a few more minutes. And within that time, I got nothing but continued teasing from him and words that made my heart flutter in my chest. That was why when the music ended, I couldn't help but feel relieved and disappointed at the same time. Fred and I made a curtsy at each other as we finished. He smiled at me approvingly and complimented me on my dancing. At that moment, Ren appeared out of nowhere.

"Rose, there you are. I've been looking for you." He said.

"I was just dancing with Fred." Came my reply. Ren, shifted his gaze towards Fred as if noticing him for the first time. He nodded in acknowledgment to him before looking back at me.

"Both the King and Queen of the Trylle and the Fairies are looking for you."

My eyes widened at his news. "King and Queen?! Why?"

He shrugged. "They wanted to talk to you personally."

I hope this has nothing to do with Ace's rudeness earlier.

I was frozen on the spot. I couldn't move. I don't know what to do. I mean, what are you supposed to do when the king and queen of two kingdoms wish for your presence? In my training, I learned that you have to give them the utmost respect.

I'm not sure if I could handle that.

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In my state, I looked at Fred for help without even thinking. His smile warmed me up a bit. "It's okay." He nodded. "You should go. They only wanted to talk." He then turned to face Ren. "And you, as her e*****, should accompany her."

Ren looked away at Fred and mumbled. "I know that already."

Finally, Fred's gaze returned to me and patted me on the shoulder. "Go. Everything is going to be alright." He said before he left.

Turning my gaze back at Ren, I saw him looking at the spot where Fred had gone. His expression was unreadable and he suddenly frowned. I reached out and touched his arm to get his attention. Finally, he turned towards me and quickly shook his head as if he were in a trance. He smiled and offered me his arm. "Are you ready?"

"I think so," I said honestly as Ren started to take the lead in guiding us. Although I still don't know how to act and what to do while I'm in front of the Kings and Queens.

I felt Ren nudge me playfully. "Want me to go all wolf on them and scare them away?" He joked in an attempt to lighten the mood.

I smiled at him weakly. "If you could then I would be grateful and play fetch with you all day," I responded and saw him frown at me. I laughed.

"Another one of your werewolf jokes? This is getting old." He complained about a shake of his head as we passed a few couples dancing. Ren suddenly looked in front of us and pulled us to a stop. Out of curiosity, I looked towards the direction that he was looking as saw Dan marching up to us. He stopped right in front of Ren and waved at me before facing Ren again.

"Hey, brother!" He beamed in between pants.

Ren gave him a curious look and raised an eyebrow at him. "What's wrong with you?"

"Rude much. I think the right question to ask is 'Is something wrong?' or 'Are you alright?', but did I get any of that? No!" Dan then turned towards me and pointed at Ren with his thumb. "Ditch this guy and come with me instead."

I raised both arms in surrender. "Hey, I'm just a girl playing a princess part here. Don't drag me into your sibling drama."

"Dan, we're busy." Said Ren. Catching Dan's attention.

"Oh right." Dan nodded. "I just needed something from you."

"What?"

"I'll just take this." Dan swiftly took Ren's cape off of his brother's shoulders and clasped them to his. He grinned at Ren.

"Thank you." He gave us a mock salute before he walk away. Ren and I looked at each other in confusion.

“What was that all about?” I asked as I watched Dan casually walking around.

“I don’t know.” Said Ren. A second later and we heard a bunch of footsteps headed in our direction. We followed the noise of the footsteps only to see a group of girls running at us. In a matter of seconds, Ren and I were surrounded by girls.

“What the-?” Ren reacted as one of the girls cling to him.

“Prince Daniel!”

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“Can we dance next?”

“No me!”

“Me!!”

I was being pushed around as the group of girls tried to approach Ren thinking that he was Dan. Ren tightened his grip on me so we wouldn’t be separated, but the crowd kept pushing so Ren pulled me towards him in a protective embrace. “L-ladies stop!” Ren ordered over the noise. When they still didn’t comply, he frowned and tried again. This time his voice was firm and full of authority. “I said stop!”

Immediately the pushing stopped and one of the girls fell on the floor. Ren sighed when he noticed that all the girls around us were looking up at him expectantly. Not to mention some of them giving me a death glare seeing as Ren was still holding me.

“As much as I want to accompany you all to dance, I can’t. I’m with princess Rosalie,” he said calmly and tightened his grip on me. The girls then let out a disappointed sound before walking off, some gave me deadly looks before they left.

As soon as they left, Ren and I both sighed in relief. I felt Ren’s hand loosening his hold on me and I moved back a little to give us some space.

“That nasty idiot,” Ren grumbled. “That’s why he took my cape so the girls would think that I’m him.”

I nodded my head in agreement. “What a jerk.”

Ren looked up ahead towards his brother before looking back at me with a smirk. “But he did a little miscalculation though.”

I raised an eyebrow at him in confusion. “What?” I asked. Ren gestured his head towards Dan’s direction so I looked over to his brother. Dan was still casually walking with his hands in his pocket as if he had no problem in the world. His back was facing

us. I was about to ask why we were staring at his brother when suddenly, a new group of girls, this time twice the amount of the previous ones, ran after Dan and surrounded him. Dan let out a surprised yelp before he was quickly engulfed in the mob.

Ren roared in laughter beside me. "I have twice the amount of fans that Dan has." His laugh was so contagious that I found myself laughing along with him.

Serves him right!

Once Ren and I were able to compose ourselves, we proceeded to meet the leaders of two kingdoms. My hands were sweating and my knees were shaking as we approached. Ahead of us, I saw six figures. Two of them were Queen Elizabeth and King Luke. I'm guessing the remaining four are the ones I'm supposed to meet.

As he neared, I noticed another figure joining the group. It was Nate. I saw him bowing in respect at the two Kings and Queens. Ren brought us to a stop when Queen Elizabeth noticed us. Her face brightened at our sight. "There she is." She said. Her voice laced with pride as she ushered us to the group. She grabbed my hand and brought me in front of the strangers. Ren stood beside me as the Queen started the introduction. From the Kingdom of Fae is King Simon Cleveland. He's a middle-aged man with silver hair and green eyes. Although his eyes and face looked young, the slight wrinkles on his forehead don't lie. I was then introduced to his wife Queen t**ania Cleveland. She was very beautiful with her long straight black hair and flowers decorating them. Her blue eyes looked so comforting. She smiled at me.

From the Kingdom of Hale is King Marcus Jayden. He looked a little older than King Michael but his posture was well preserved. He radiated power and arrogance. His silver eyes regarded me curiously as if wondering what a creature like me was doing here. Then came his wife Silvia Jayden. Unlike the King, the queen looked a bit calm. Her golden eyes t***led in delight as we were introduced. Her red hair tied at the back of her head showing off her sharp features.

After the introduction, I bowed my head. "It's nice to meet you all," I said politely. Both sides nodded at me in acknowledgment.

I looked to my right when I felt Nate coming to my side at the introduction. He grinned down at me and winked. I smiled. Happy that he has come. I was thankful at that moment for the two princes who stood by my side. Knowing that they were by my side gave me strength.

"Princess Rosalie, huh?" King Marcus raised a scrutinizing eye at me. "Tell me. Are you really from a foreign land?"

I nodded. "Yes, your highness."

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He frowned. At that moment, his wife came to his side and touched his arm. "Now dear, don't be rude." She chastised him before looking at me. Her expression was apologetic. "I'm so sorry about that." I didn't speak.

"It's nice meeting you, Princess Rosalie." I snapped my head and saw Queen t**ania smiling at me. "And, I know it's late, but welcome to Thalia." Looking at Queen t**ania, I felt my nervousness slowly fading. She's kind.

"Many people will criticize you, my dear." Said, King Simon. His gaze shifted to King Marcus before coming back at me. "But always remember that people like them aren't worth your time. Instead, give them to the people who you deem worthy." He nodded at King Luke and Queen Elizabeth before his eyes looked at Nate and Ren.

With his kind words, I felt a smile forming on my lips. All the worries are fading from my heart. It was like a weight was lifted off my shoulder. "Thank you," I said. My voice is full of sincerity and grat**ude. The King and Queen from the Kingdom of Fae smiled warmly at me.

I felt Nate tensing up beside me. Suddenly, he grabbed ahold of my hand and was breathing heavily. "Oh my. I think I'm getting a little bit out of breath. I think I should go outside." Nate quickly looked at me. "Princess Rosalie, can you accompany me? Really? Thank you." Then he looked back at the Kings and queens in front of us. "Please excuse us." He said and dragged me away quickly. Leaving the kings, queens, and Ren behind us.

"Um.., Nate? Care to explain why we're running?"

"Shhh!! I saw Princess Camille." He said and glanced over his shoulder to look at me.

"So?"

"Princess, you might be forgetting that Camille doesn't like you. And the fact that we were together with her parents, she could make up some stories and ruin your reputation."

My mouth formed an 'o' in understatement. "So we keep running?"

"As far away from her as possible." Nate nodded. "Right now, my top priority is to keep you away from her."

Just then a voice suddenly called out. "Prince Nathaniel! Can we have a dance?" A girl called out when we pa**ed by her. Suddenly, Nate jerked to a stop and quickly ran towards the direction of the girl with me behind him. He quickly fished a rose from his coat and gracefully handed it to the girl. "My lady, your beauty is so pure and divine that

I just have to present you this rose.” At his words, the girl blushed and took the rose from Nate.

I rolled my eyes and blew off a few stray hairs that came to my face. What a p*****. And didn't he just say that his top priority was me?

“Ehem!” I cleared my throat and finally caught Nate's attention. Nate gave me a sheepish smile before turning back to the girl and smiling apologetically.

“My lady, I would love to dance with you, but for now I must take care of my Princess.” He said and bid her farewell before pulling me away.

Meanwhile

Amidst all the party and noises from the castle, the little brown wolf was still eyeing his master with admiration. His master is beautiful. Probably the most beautiful princess in the room.

And if he were by her side, then probably the most powerful.

The little wolf suddenly stopped to look at his master when a shadowed figure emerged from the party. By his scent, he recognized him as one of the princes that were accompanying his master. But why was he outside? The wolf crouched down to not get spotted.

He saw that man looking at the moon with sad eyes. “I guess this is it. My last day in the palace.” He whispered in the night. He put an arm over his eyes. The wolf smelled his tears and suddenly felt sorry for the prince.

A few moments later the prince composed himself and went back into the party. The wolf could only watch his retreating back and wondered what was going to happen next.