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JESSICA'S POV

Alpha Nathaniel came back with a very different dress than the one I actually wore. It was a silver sparkling dress, the material over my breasts look like it folds over to the back, exposing a bit of myself and it's short in front and long at the side and backs, exposing my tanned legs and he gave me a pair of designer silver shoes too.

I feel like a real princess and I seem to look like one too as we stride into the ballroom, hand in hand and Nick's head never turned so fast nor did I ever have a room fall silent when I entered, but I don't think I have anything to do with it...I think it's about who's entering with me, who's arm mine is hooked into.

Nick doesn't waste time to march over to us, "You're a f****g slut." he grits out loud, making sure everyone can hear. "Where's the little beta? Downgraded to an omega?" He gives Alpha Nathaniel a disgusted look before snatching my wrist, pulling me away from my own mate.

"Nick, that's..." my sentence is cut off when Alpha Nathaniel grabs him by the throat, making Nick's grip on me loosen and I step away, "Nathaniel, wait." I try to reach for him and his head turns into my direction, his eyes dark with anger and I press my lips into thin lines. "Who do you think you are to hurt her?" Nathaniel asks in a dark tone, "It wasn't on purpose." Nick tries so shove his hand away, but Nathaniel's hold is firm, unbreakable unless it's his will. "Let go of me." Nick seethes, his face turning red with the lack of oxygen. "Nathaniel, please." I touch his arm, making his body relax. I stare up at him and when his gaze meets mine, his eyes turn back to their normal olive green colour, the whites pure and he sighs before letting go of Nick. "Peaches, who is this?" Nick asks, but I don't miss the worry in his tone. I glance at him, my hand still on Nathaniel's muscular bicep that pulses beneath my fingers. "Nick, this is my mate, Alpha Nathaniel." his worried fades, his eyebrows sink, defeat flashing through his eyes as he looks at Nathaniel, "Impossible, you're joking." he scoffs, making me roll my eyes and Nathaniel pulls me to his side, "You think this is funny?" Nathaniel seethes, his aura breaking through. "Yes, she's

a liar and so are you if you agree." Nick snorts, thinking that the entire world revolves around him. "This isn't a joke Nick." I breathe out.

I'm hurt that he thinks I wouldn't be able to get a mate.

"Sure." he scoffs, "Enjoy your toy for the night Jessica." he sneers my name like I'm poison. "I'll see you at home, in our bed." he turns on his heel and before Nathaniel could reach for him, I grab his wrists, absentmindedly wrapping his arms around me, but he doesn't fight it as I stare at my chosen mate, walking back to his fated.

Nick gives me one last look over his shoulder and I turn around, my hands trembling with sadness mixed with hurt, "Kiss me." I stare up at Nathaniel. His arched brows raise, his eyes wide as he stares at me in shock, "But I thought...", "Just kiss me." I beg and he grins before dipping his head, and pressing his lips against mine.

It feels like time freezes, like the world around us just disappeared and we're stuck in this moment, tasting each other's lips. My first taste of him...and I didn't expect it to be so sweet...

I hear gasps and whispers but I shut them out, only listening to the grunt of pain coming from Nick, "Jessica!" he bellows, growling loudly across the room and I stop, turning to him, "He's mine Nick and you can shove your d**k into your own a*s." I snort before turning to Nathaniel, "I want to stay with you." I stare up at him. His eyes flick over my head, surely looking at Nick before his eyes land on mine again, "Shouldn't you speak with your pack first?" he asks concerned.

He's one of those alpha's...pack first, life later.

I wish Nick was like that, because then he wouldn't have had a second thought about rejecting Tiffany to save the pack, to be with me...but look at us now, years of promising we'd forever be together and he ruined it...but now I did too.

"I guess..." I sigh, glancing around to look for a clock, but there is none, "What time is it?" I glance at him and he pulls his phone from his pocket, "Ten," I sigh at the time, most pack members would be asleep and it would be rude of me to wake them just because I'm leaving.

"Listen to me." Nathaniel cups my cheek and I wish that I could just kiss him again. I want to melt away into his arms and stick with him forever. "I'm listening.", "I'll take you home and then pick you up when you call me and tell me to pick you up." his thumb brushes over my cheek. I don't want to go home without him, "Can't you stay?" he pulls his face like it's a bad idea, which it is because imagine Nick coming home and he finds Nathaniel in his bed or the door locked with Nathaniel in his bed...but then again...Nathaniel doesn't seem like someone who would get into another man's bed.

"Fine, it sounds like a deal." I sigh, wanting to step aside to leave but he pulls be to his chest, his large hand resting on the small of my back, "After we dance." he winks as I rest my hand on his chest and he takes my other hand in his before waltzing me back onto the dance floor, making me giggle as he swings me around, something similar to what Louis have done. They seem brought up in the formal side of our world, but I mean...they are Lycans...I didn't expect anything else.

"What are you thinking?" he suddenly asks, making me snap out of my day dream, "Nothing much." I smile up at him, I haven't felt so alive in weeks...not since she arrived in our life, ruining everything I worked for.

"But something." he doesn't smile with his mouth, but the way his eyes shimmer tells me he's happy.

"I just...I feel so alive with you." I smile and then frown, "If that makes sense." I sound silly, speaking like I'm alive for the first time my entire life, like I have been dead...

"It makes sense." He nods, not once breaking eye contact with me, "I feel alive with you too." his words make my pulse raise, "Since we locked eyes, I wanted nothing more than to bite Louis for standing so close to you...and seeing you in his shirt, smelling his pesky scent all over you...It was horrifying because I didn't know if something happened between the two of you." his eyes grow dark as he speaks, but not once do we stop dancing in circles to the music.

"I'm glad there didn't...how awkward would that have been?" I joke, making his head tilt to the side. His dark gaze flicks down to my lips that are wide in a smile and his orbs slowly returns back to it's normal color. "Very." the silly sarcasm in his tone makes me giggle and we continue dancing straight through two songs before we decide to leave. As we head for the door, we're stopped by Tiffany.

"Jessica!" she seethes my name like venom as she marches over, "Excuse me." I sigh before turning and walking up to her, standing with my arms crossed over my chest, "Yes?" I grit out annoyed. I wanted to leave in peace, to remember the night ending with me dancing with my mate throughout two songs with heels that sit perfectly.

"You are a conniving little b***h, you know that?" she grits out, making me roll my eyes, "What did I do now? Steal your mate?" the sarcasm dripping from my tone makes her eyes go wildly crazy, "You think that's funny? I didn't steal your mate! You stole mine before I could claim him." she rambles like a spoiled brat, her screeching voice makes a headache form right between my eyes.

I snort, nodding, "Sure." I grumble, making a screeching shriek come from her throat before she grabs a fist full of my hair, tugging me to the side, holding me in place, "Don't you dare lay a hand on Nick again, it's humiliating seeing him fight for you. Go with your mate and don't ever-" before she could continue with her threat, she freezes, letting go of my hair as she cowardly inches away from me. I rub my head as I glance over the figure throwing a shadow over me, seeing Nathaniel with blood red eyes, glaring at her with anger. "Touch her again and I won't be so kind to let you even say goodbye to your pathetic mate before ending your life." he grits out and I watch as she bumps into the wall, almost knocking herself off her feet.

Her chin wobbles and a small part of me feels sorry for her, but it's overshadowed by the feeling of anger, making it seem like nothing.

Nathaniel grabs my hand and leads me outside into the cold before taking off his jacket and putting it around my shoulders..."Was that Nick's mate?" he asks, "Yes." I sigh, hating that she is...but if she weren't...I wouldn't have found my mate.

"She was afraid of me." he points out the obvious, "I saw." I stare up at him while he's staring at his hands securing the blazer around me. His eyes suddenly flick to mine, "So why aren't you?" his question catches me off guard. "I...I don't know. Should I be scared?" even wanting to seem afraid, I can't. There's just something about him...something that makes me feel safe.

"Of course not." He snorts while taking my hand. "I'm actually glad that you aren't." he leads me to the car we came in and opens the door for me, "I never

met someone not afraid of me." he admits and my heart aches at the sad expression on his face, "What about Louis?", "He doesn't count, he's as brutal as I am." my body tenses as I climb in and he shuts the door.

I don't know if he was being serious or if that was his lame attempt as a joke.

My eyes follow him as he rounds the car and when he gets in, I wait for the awkward silence to kill the vibe, but there is none. It's comfortable and loving and now I just have to figure out how to let my pack down...