WarZone Entertainment presents

Warzone

#1: Pool Party

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Chapter 1

 When the cats are away, the mice will play. A saying that was never truer than when parents left their teenagers home alone for any length of time. Kimberly Jones was one of the “in crowd”. She was the head cheerleader and dated the quarterback. Every guy in school wanted to be with her and every girl wanted to be her. She got a brand-new mustang for her 16th birthday, something that wasn’t too common in this part of San Diego. Most of the people at Madison High come from little or no means. She was one of the lucky few who had money to her name.

 Every summer her parents went away for a week and she threw a party. It was always one of the biggest, most exciting events of the summer. People looked forward to it all year, this year was no different. The house was packed full of people, most of which were already drunk. Even more people were outside, in or around the beautiful 11-foot pool. Kimberly and some of her cheerleader friends were relaxing in the Jacuzzi next to the pool. Every once in a while a guy would make his way over to them and try his luck. Usually it didn’t go well.

 On the other side of the pool sat two lifelong friends. Jon, a tall lanky white guy who had only been 16 for a few months and had yet to even see the inside of a car let alone drive one. On the chair next to his, sat his best friend, Will. He was about the same height as Jon but had a build that fit it a lot better. He was Filipino and not yet 16. He was one of the few people at the party who could walk over to the Jacuzzi without being shunned. He was one of those guys that just oozed confidence.

 Jon had his head in his hands, his head was pounding worse than anything he had ever felt before. He closed his eyes tight to try and drown out the pain, but it didn’t work. In fact, it made it worse, images started to swirl around in his head, almost like memories but not his. He could almost make them out, but they were so fuzzy. He tried to focus but the pain in his head was hurting far too much.

 “You alright bro?” Will asked him. Suddenly all of the images were gone as was the pain. He felt great, as if it never happened. It was a weird experience that he hoped not to have to repeat. He lifted his head up and looked at Will.

 “I’m good, just got a headache.” He told Will truthfully. No reason to add in the fuzzy memories, after all only crazy people experienced stuff like that, and he was sure he wasn‘t crazy, at least he didn‘t think he was. He looked around, the backyard was packed full of people. Well-built guys with no shirts and beautiful women in bikinis. He looked down at himself, still wearing his shirt. Maybe he should take it off, fit in a bit more. *No that wouldn’t be good*. He thought to himself. He had nothing to show off.

 As he looked around his eyes locked onto Christina Valdez, the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Long black hair, bright brown eyes, full red lips. Dark brown skin and a nice petite body. Jon had had a crush on her ever since 7th grade but never got up the courage to make a move. Will spotted his glaze and let out a laugh as he leaned back in his chair.

 “You never change, do you?” Will said in a mocking tone. Jon turned his attention back to his friend.

 “How do you mean?” he asked unsure.

 “Christina.” Will stated simply. Jon felt his face turn bright red. One of the many things he hated about being white, he could never hide when he was embarrassed.

 “What about her?” he asked.

 “You still like her.” Will said, loving holding it over his friend’s head.

 “What are you talking about?” Jon tried to pull off sounding like he didn’t care. “We’re just friends, nothing more.”

 “And why is that?” Will asked in a tone that gave Jon the impression that he was about to be on the receiving end of a lecture.

 “I don’t know. Why don’t you enlighten me.” Jon said, his voice dripping with sarcasm. Will smirked at him, seemed this was the answer he was looking for.

 “It’s because you’re you.” Will said simply.

 “Gee that’s helpful.” Jon said grumpily.

 “It is, look dawg, I love you like a brother. So, when I tell you this, it isn’t to be mean. It is to help you out.” Will told him. Jon started to get annoyed at the buildup.

 “Just tell me already man.” Jon spit out. Will grinned as a beautiful dark skinned girl in a red bikini walked by. It took Will a few seconds to recover what he was saying. “Will!” Will’s head snapped back to look at Jon.

 “Sorry, I went away for a second.” Will said. Despite himself Jon laughed.

 “I noticed.” Jon said with a chuckle.

 “Ok, so like I was saying. You’re you.” Will started.

 “And I’m saying, what the hell does that mean?” Jon demanded.

 “You, my friend, are the nicest guy I ever met.” Will started. Jon cut him off. What was wrong with being a nice guy?

 “And what is wrong with that?” Jon asked.

 “Nothing. You are a great guy, nice, easy to talk to. Good listener. You are everyone’s best friend. And Christina sees you as that. A best friend. You want in on a little secret?” Will asked. Jon didn’t want to listen anymore. This conversation was getting stale. He moved to stand up, but Will grabbed his arm. “No girl wants to date her best friend.” Will said with his; I know everything voice. Jon sat back down and let out a sigh while watching Christina start up a conversation with some random guy. It looked from here like she was flirting with him. It filled Jon with an anger that he squished quickly. He had no right to get upset over her talking to other guys. She didn’t even know that he liked her, and whose fault was that?

 “You have to be forceful, go over there, don’t give a damn about what she is doing or that dork she is with and just kiss her.” Will said. Jon couldn’t see that working.

 “Just kiss her? We aren’t even dating. That’s just going to make her slap me or not want to be friends with me anymore.” Jon said in a defeated voice. As much as he wanted to be with Christina he couldn’t stand the thought of losing her as a friend. He didn’t think he could handle that.

 “Therein lies the problem. You care too much about what she thinks. I mean that’s cool and all but don’t let her know it.” Will told him as if he was giving him some life changing advice. Jon didn’t get this, he cared about Christina and he wanted her to know that he was here for her, that whenever she needed something she could turn to him and he would be there for her.

 “I do care about what she thinks. I’d do anything for her. And so what if she knows it?” Jon asked, anger rising.

 “It’s not bad, but she isn’t going to see you how you want her to. Not while you are trying to play hero for her. Let her chase you, let her kiss your ass for a while and act like you don’t give a fuck. I promise you she will be eating out of your hands.” Will said. Jon didn’t want to hear this anymore.

 “Homie, I get that you know women and shit. But Christina, she isn’t like any of them other girls. She is different.” Jon told Will.

 “If you say so man. I’m just saying, stop worrying about making everyone else happy and start putting yourself first. The girls will flock to you.” Will told him. Jon got up and looked over at Christina who was now by herself swimming laps.

 “I’m sure. But they won’t be her. I’mma go for a swim.” Jon said as he walked over to the pool.

 “Remember what I said!” Will shouted at Jon as he dived in. Will hated how sensitive Jon got. He was just telling him all this for his own good. To help him out. They had been best friends for as long as he could remember, and he just wanted him to be happy. The girl in the red bikini walked by again and all thoughts of Jon were wiped from his memory as he jumped up to go and talk with her.

-WZ-

 Jax took a deep hit of his joint. Nothing in the world he loved as much as Kush. He had been smoking since he was 10 and had no plans to stop any time soon. He could hear the party raging on outside, they were missing out. Who wanted to splash around in a pool when they could be in here smoking that green with their boys?

 He had to admit that maybe his weight had something to do with his outlook. He wasn’t the most fit guy by any standards. He had been a bit on the cubby side his whole life, he was used to it. But that didn’t mean he was comfortable enough with it to take his shirt off in front of other people. He passed the joint to his homeboy Raul. Short ass Mexican with a fade, darker even than Jax himself. They had been friends for years, met thru Lex.

 The two black guys sitting next to Raul, were Charles and James. Jax spent a lot of the past year skipping class to get high with them. They were cool guys but didn’t really do a whole lot other than smoke. Which truth be told was all Jax wanted to do himself. His friends tended to be way too active.

 “Let me get a hit already!” The last member of their circle called out. His name was Chris, he was a bit younger than the rest of them. Only 14, he was always hanging around trying to be part of the gang. Lex looked after him like a little brother but got real uptight about him doing the stuff the rest of them did. He would have a fit if he knew they were getting him high.

 “Chill out, you’ll get a hit. Just wait your damn turn.” Charles said as he took the joint from Raul. He took a hard hit.

 “Look at the little kid trying to hang with the big boys.” James joked. Chris rolled his eyes. He hated being reminded of the fact that he was younger than the rest of them.

 “I can hang, you guys act like I’m a baby or something. Shit I’ve been around, I’ve done shit.” Chris said defiantly. Everyone started to laugh.

 “Oh shit, he’s done shit.” Raul said with a laugh.

 “We better be careful before the little killa shows us up.” Charles said with mock concern.

 “Man shut up and give me the damn joint.” Chris demanded his voice starting to rise. James took a hit and then looked over at Chris.

 “You want it bro?” James asked like he was unsure of the answer. Chris looked pissed.

 “You damn right I want it!” Chris screamed. James held the joint out for Chris.

 “Here you go bro.” James taunted Chris. Chris reached for it and James pulled it back. “Dude, do you want it or not?” he asked as he kept it out of Chris’s reach.

 “Come on man, just give it here!” Chris yelled. The others started to laugh.

 “What are you talking about? I’m giving it to you. Just take it.” James told him with a straight face as if he didn’t know what Chris was talking about.

 “I knew the little killa didn’t want none of this shit.” Charles said as he took the joint from James. Chris’s face started to turn red with anger. Jax and Raul started to laugh.

 “You going to cry?” Raul asked with mock concern.

 “Man fuck you guys.” Chris said as his hand shot out and snatched at the joint knocking it to the floor where it rolled under the table. Everyone jumped up, looking for a fight. Chris’s anger was gone in a second, replaced with terror.

 “What the fuck did you do that for?” Charles demanded. Turning to face Chris. He was a lot bigger than Chris and was really not the type of person you wanted to mess with.

 “You better pray that you can get that shit back out. Or get us some more little playa, cause I wasn’t done.” James said as he pushed Chris back. Chris tripped backward over his chair and fell to the ground.

 “S. . sorry man, I really didn’t me. . .mea. . . Mean to, I just wanted my turn.” Chris forced himself to spit out. The terror rising in his voice as he spoke. Jax started to get worried, he knew that Charles and James wouldn’t hurt Chris too badly, but they would mess him up enough to teach him not to mess with their shit again, and if that got back to Lex than Jax was going to get a beating himself.

 Charles hit Chris in the face as James followed it up by kicking him in the gut. “Don’t! Fuck! With! Our! Shit!” Charles said as he got on top of him and started hitting him. Chris blocked his face, James and Raul laughed.

 “Stop. Please, I’m sorry!” Chris begged him. Charles didn’t let up; James and Raul pulled him back. Raul still laughing as he did so.

 “You know they were going to pass it to you, you need to learn to take a joke.” Raul told him as Chris slowly sat up. Jax moved to fish out the joint as James and Raul let go of Charles.

 “You good?” James asked Charles. Who just nodded, looking anything but relaxed.

 “Just don’t like little kids fucking with my shit!” Charles said looking as if he was about to hit Chris again.

 “Watch who you calling a little kid, bitch!” Chris’s yell was filled with a confidence that faded the second that Charles took a step towards him.

 “The fuck you just say?” Charles asked, daring him to repeat it. Fear flashed across Chris face but only for a second before he hid it behind a mask of defiance.

 “Don’t make shit worse for yourself.” Raul told him, fear sneaking into his voice a bit as well. He didn’t really know Charles and James and wasn’t sure what they would do to Chris if he kept running his mouth.

 “Nah, let the little punk run his mouth. I’ll shut him up soon enough.” Charles said as he balled up his fist.

 “I’m not scared of you. You think I am?” Chris asked, sounding braver than he felt. James took a step back.

 “You’re asking for it dude.” James told him. Charles moved to hit Chris, Chris braced himself for the beatings to start again. He was going to take it like a man, like Lex always taught him.

 “I got the joint guys!” Jax called out as he lit it, and then handed it to Charles, who looked back and forth between the joint and Chris like he was unsure of what he wanted to do. Jax and Raul tensed up, they couldn’t let him beat on Chris any more, no matter how much he was asking for it. Chris was trying his hardest not to look like he was going to piss his pants. After what felt like an eternity Charles grabbed the joint from Jax.

 “Give me that shit.” He said as he took a hit. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief. He sat back down and then handed it to Chris. “Got balls kid, standing your ground like that.”

 “Thanks man.” Chris said taking it from Charles, a sense of pride swelling up inside him. He proved himself to Charles, didn’t matter that he almost had a heart attack, he didn’t show it and he damn sure didn’t back down. He took a hit and started coughing, everyone started laughing as the door opened and Lex walked in. His cheek was flushed, as if he had been slapped hard recently.

 “The fuck is going on in here?” he demanded as he walked in and looked around, his glaze falling on Chris with the joint in his hand. The room went silent. “Give that here Chris.” Lex told him. Chris took another hit and then quickly passed it to Lex.

 “Here you go man.” Chris said acting like he couldn’t tell Lex was upset. Lex took the joint and grabbed Chris by the back of the neck.

 “What the hell did I tell you about smoking?” Lex asked him.

 “I just wanted to chill, Lex. I didn’t think it was a big deal.” Chris said. Lex looked around the room and then at Chris’s bruised up face.

 “Yeah, well you don’t need to be around this shit. I already told you that. Now get the fuck out of here before I fuck you up worse than they already did.” Lex told him as he tossed him towards the door and took a hit of the joint. Chris hit the door hard and struggled to get up as Lex took his seat.

 “You can’t just make me leave!” Chris yelled at him. Lex didn’t even look back.

 “Leave, don’t make me stand up.” Lex said in a voice so low that it forced you to concentrate on every word just to hear him. Chris wanted to stay and argue but knew better, when Lex used that tone of voice he meant business. He turned and left the shed quickly. *Fuck those guys* Chris thought to himself as he stormed off past the party, which was still raging on. He didn’t even think of staying and partying. He just wanted to get home, he hated how Lex always treated him like he was his little brother.

-WZ-

 Jon slowly waded over to where Christina was swimming. He couldn’t get past how beautiful she was. He always knew she was beautiful but now, as she moved so gracefully thru the water in her tiny bikini he got lost in her beauty. He stood there watching her, playing out fantasies of how the conversation was going to go.

 He swam over to her, she stopped her laps and looked over at Jon and smiled. “Hey handsome, I was wondering when you were going to come over here and talk to me.” she told him with a smile, he tried hard not to blush.

 “I was just waiting for the right time.” Jon told her. She grinned at him as she pushed her hair out of her face.

 “And now is the right time?” she asked playfully. Jon turned red in the face but tried to hide it behind a smirk.

 “Yeah, I think it is. Right?” he asked uncertainty. She just laughed.

 “You picked a good time. So, can I ask you something?” she asked in a suddenly serious voice. Jon felt the panic start to rise inside him. He knew where this was going, and he didn’t know how to respond.

 “Uh yeah, you can . . .uh ask me wh. . .whatever you want.” He told her, hating himself for sounding so nervous as he said it. *Hopefully she didn’t notice it.* *Please god don’t let her have noticed it.*

 “Are you nervous?” she asked with a laugh. His face turned bright red.

 “What? No. please I don’t get nervous. Not ever, so uh what’s your question? He said way to fast. The words came out as a blur and she giggled at his nervousness.

 “If you say so hun, but I just wanted to know why you have your shirt on in the pool? I mean you’re a guy, guys usually take them off.” She pointed out. Jon looked around, almost all the guys at the party had their shirts off, and they were mostly buff. The only guys with shirts still on were those who had some weight on them. “I mean but for those with a bit of, well weight on them. But you’re skinny so I was just carious.” Jon shifted uncomfortably.

“Oh, uh well I just didn’t think of it.” Jon lied. He suddenly felt the weight of his wet shirt on him. “I mean, I was gonna wear my black bikini but then I noticed you wearing it and I don’t think I could pull it off like you.” Jon said with a little laugh trying to lighten the mood.

“If you say so.” She said as she swam back towards the wall. Jon watched her swim; he couldn’t take his eyes off of her. She was so beautiful. She looked back at him and waved him towards her. “Hurry up, Jon” Jon smiled to himself. He swam after her.

-WZ-

Lex was smoking with Jax, Charles, James and Raul. The air was a bit tense, between Lex and Jax. “I can’t believe you let Chris smoke. I told you not to be doing that shit” Lex told him in his fatherly voice.

“Let it go dawg, I mean he’s 14, we started smoking at that age.” James pointed out to Lex.

“Shit, I started smoking at 9. I was an early smoker.” Jax said. He took a deep hit and started coughing. James and Charles started laughing.

“Yeah, you’re a pro, dawg.” Charles said with a chuckle. Jax rolled his eyes.

“Please, coughing is a mark of a real smoker.” Jax pointed. James shrugged as he took a hit. He then passed it to Lex.

“Stop changing the subject Jax.” Lex said. Jax looked over at Lex and shifted uncomfortably in his seat. He tried to think of what to say to get out of this. He honestly didn’t think he did anything wrong, but he didn’t want to get on Lex’s bad side. Lex was his best friend and he hated to admit it, but he looked up to him. The one thing he couldn’t stand about Lex was how he tried to act like he was everyone’s dad. Lex always smokes so who was he to act all high and mighty when it came to Chris smoking.

“Look man, I just was tired of him bitching about not smoking with us, so I decided to let him smoke. It’s not a big deal.” Jax told Lex trying to sound more confident than he really felt. Lex just shook his head.

“I guess, I just don’t want him to be like us.” Lex said. Jax hated when Lex got like this. He always acted like they were wasting their lives just smoking and hanging out.

“And what the fuck is wrong with us? Huh fool?’ Charles asked Lex, all humor fading from his voice. “You saying that the little killa is too good for us?” James started shaking his head.

“Damn bro, that’s harsh. I thought we was cool.” James said, faking hurt. Lex rolled his eyes.

“Shut up! You know what I’m saying.” Lex told them. Jax looked over at Raul and just shook his head. They both knew Lex well enough to know that was code for change the subject before you piss me off.

“You know what, I think we out of beer.” Raul said trying to change the subject. Jax got up to check the fridge. He opened it only to find that Raul was right.

“Yeah, there’s not shit in here.” Jax said. Lex got up and checked the box of coronas.

“Damn! I didn’t even get one.” Lex said as he sat back down. Charles let out a sigh.

“I ain’t nearly drunk enough yet.” He said with a pained look on his face.

“Shit I’m not even buzzed. This just don’t do.” James said as he finished his last beer.

“At least we getting high.” Jax told the group as he sat down. Raul got up and stretched.

“My dad gots some beer in his garage. I could go get it for us.” Raul offered. He looked around the room and waited for a go ahead before starting towards the door.

“Why you still here?” Charles asked Raul.

“Get gone dawg.” James told him.

“It’s whatever.” Jax piped in.

“You don’t have to.” Lex told him. “but I do wanna drink.” Raul yawned and turned toward the door.

“I’ll be back.” Raul said as he left. He walked out into the courtyard where the party was still going strong. Music blearing in the background, part of him wanted to stay and party but he already promised he would go for beer. With a sigh he made for the front of the house, leaving the fun behind him. *Who knows*, he thought to himself, *maybe I can make it back in time to still enjoy some of the fun.*

As he pushed open the gate leading to the front street, he almost ran head first into the biggest guy he had ever seen. “Sorry man” Raul said trying to play it off as he looked up into the face of the giant. He had to be at least 7 feet tall with muscles to match.

“uh huh.” The guy said as he pushed past him. He looked to be in his late 20’s and of Spanish descent. Naturally good looking and he walked with the confidence of knowing it. He had four friends with him, Raul couldn’t remember ever seeing any of these people at school, they must have been friends with Kimberly’s from somewhere else because they really didn’t look like they were in high school. But why else would they be here? Raul shrugged it off, not his problem. His only problem was getting the beer and getting it fast enough to still enjoy the party. He spotted a beautiful red head in a tiny black bikini walking with her home girl. He locked eyes with her and she flashed him a smile, he really needed to get back to this party. He started to speed up his walk home.

Chapter 2

Kimberly was sitting in her hot tub enjoying the atmosphere of her party. She looked around at all the people swimming, drinking and having a good time. Her closest friends, Jamie Jones, Suzanne Cark, Alyson Gonzales and Harmony Henderson the four most popular girls in school after Kimberly herself, were with her in the hot tub and she loved every second of it. Boys kept coming up to them to try and start up conversations and one after another they rejected them. They could have any guy they wanted and everyone there knew it. They ran the school and Kimberly was the crowned queen.

That’s when she saw them, five guys strolled into the party like they owned the place. They were gorgeous, and Kimberly couldn’t take her eyes off of them. The man in the lead was wearing a black leather jacket with a wife beater underneath it. He dropped his jacket off onto the floor like it meant nothing as he kept walking, his friends who were all just as well built and dressed just as nicely, all started to remove their shirts as they made their way to the pool. Kimberly and her friends were all in awe of these men. Kimberly wanted the center man more than anything she had ever wanted before. He took his shirt off and tossed it behind him, Kimberly stood up, not sure of what her next move was going to be. Her friends looked up at her, amazed that the queen bee was going to make a move.

Their looks were enough to give her pause. She had a reputation to maintain, and couldn’t allow herself to look weak, even for someone as sexy as this man was. Her friends wouldn’t take their eyes off of her. They always followed her lead and she had moved herself into a box. If she made a move she looked desperate, if she didn’t she looked scared. She couldn’t believe she boxed herself into this situation, she tried to figure a way out the situation as the five guys made it to the end of the pool ready to dive in. One way or another she needed to do something, and she needed to do it now.

Luckily, she was saved from figuring out what to do, due to the man in front stopping just as the four others dived into the pool. The man who stopped turned his head to look at her. They locked eyes and Kimberly felt her face flush. She had never been so attracted to someone in her life. He was easily the sexist man she had ever seen.

He turned to face her and started walking in their direction. Her friends gasped in shock and then almost immediately put on their game faces. Her friends knew the game and were pros. Kimberly allowed herself a second to compose her thoughts, but just a second before she too put on her game face. He kept getting closer and closer to her hot tub and despite herself she felt herself blushing, she smiled at the man as he came to a stop at the foot of the hot tub. It was then that she noticed that everyone at the party had their eyes on her.

Having all eyes on her was normal. She loved it, lived for it even, but for some reason this time it made her uncomfortable, nervous even. She tried to convince herself that it didn’t, that she was fine. But she knew she was only lying to herself.

“What’s your name?” he asked her as he looked up into her eyes. She giggled excitedly, as she bit her lower lip to stop herself and looked down at the floor. What the hell was wrong with her? She never got like this. She was better than this.

“Kimberly” she answered weakly looking into his eyes for the first time. She took a deep breath and strengthened herself up. She was the queen of this school and it was about time she started acting like it. “and who might I ask, are you?”

“Fabian Hernandez. Happy to be of service to such a beautiful woman as yourself.” He told her with a grin. She smiled despite herself. She wanted him, and she always got what she wanted, normally she just made them work for it more.

“Well, Mr. Hernandez is it?” she asked in a vain attempt to act like she wasn’t impressed. “This here,” she gestured to the backyard of her house where the party was taking place. “Is a private party, at my private residence. So, what do you think you are doing here?” She asked as smugly as she could. He merely smiled at her a moment before answering.

“I heard the music and thought I’d come to investigate. Saw the party and my friends wanted a swim. I did too, till I saw you.” He told her through his grin. She felt her face flush as she tried to keep her cool. He wanted her, she could feel it.

“Pretty bold of you, to just come into my home like you own the place. What makes you think that’s okay?” She asked. He looked around at the party around them, most of the people had gone back to enjoying themselves and his friends had moved on to talking to other girls. He turned back to facing Kimberly.

“I apologize if I have offended you, that wasn’t my intent. I merely heard people having fun and wanted to join in. Allow me to make it up to you.” He said with all the confidence in the world. She could think of a few things he could do to make it up to her.

“Will you now?” she asked playfully. He took her hand in his.

“Anything you ask of me, my lady.” He pretended to bow to her. She looked at her homegirls in the hot tub with her. They smirked at her and she turned back to him.

“Let’s step inside the house and discuss this farther.” She told him. He looked back to the house then at his friends before finally looking back at her.

“Lead the way.” He said simply.

-WZ-

Jon watched Kimberly walk into the house leading some guy he had never seen before. Jon couldn’t help but be impressed with the guy, Kimberly was extremely picky when it came to who she went with and never left in the middle of her party. She loved the spotlight far too much. Jon turned back to look at Christina.

“I wonder who he is.” Christina said not taking her eyes off of the man who entered the house with Kimberly. Jon felt a wave of jealousy. He knew he had no reason to feel like this, but he couldn’t help it. He really didn’t like seeing her look at another man like that. It bothered him.

“Does it matter?” Jon asked trying to play it off like it was no big deal. He took her hand in his and pulled her away from the edge of the pool. “Come on lets go get something to drink.” She let him pull her away and nodded her head.

“Yeah I could use a drink, I’m parched.” She said as she let him lead her towards the other end of the pool where the bar was just out of the water. Jon noticed her looking back at Kimberly and her new man. Who the hell did this guy think he was? Jon couldn’t be happier when the door shut, and they were out of sight. But his new found happiness wasn’t long lasting as he noticed that the strange guy’s friends were all around the pool talking in small groups. It seemed these people were all charm.

Jon started to feel his anger rise as Christina eyed the new guys at the center of the small group of people. Why did these random jocks have to show up and mess up what little game he had? It wasn’t fair, he had been dying to hit it off with Christina for a year now and on the night he finally did these random guys showed up and fucked everything up.

“I hate party crashers, I mean look at these guys. They had to be at least in their 20’s and they just showed up at a high school party. How lame was that?” she told Jon as she shook her head and exited the pool. Jon couldn’t help but smile as he watched Christina exit the pool. She was so beautiful, and she was smart too. Not letting these muscle-bound freaks distract her. He still had a shot and he planned on taking it. No matter what he had to do.

-WZ-

 Lex leaned back in his chair taking a hit. Charles leaned in towards him and took the joint from him. James and Jax started rolling up another one.

 “Yo I got a question Lex.” Charles asked him. Lex nodded his head at him instead of answering. “What happened to your face?” Jax and James stopped what they were doing and looked over.

 “Yeah, I was kind of wondering that myself. Looks like you got slapped.” James said. Lex let out a sigh and rubbed his knuckles, his right fist was bruised and bloody.

 “Gee maybe that could be because I just got slapped?” Lex spit out.

 “What do you mean you got slapped?” Jax asked.

 “Well you see, a slap is when someone pulls their hand back and slams it hard against your face.” Charles told him. James leaned over the table towards Jax.

 “Allow me to illustrate.” James said as he pulled back his hand, ready to slap Jax.

 “Ha-ah really funny James. Who slapped you Lex?” Jax asked while moving back a little so James couldn’t reach him if he tried. Lex shrugged while finishing off the joint that he was sharing with Charles.

 “Cindy.” Lex said, a tone of betterment in his voice. James leaned back in his chair.

 “Damn dawg, your girl slapped you?” James asked. Jax looked away, scooting towards the door a bit.

 “Are we really talking about this?” Lex asked annoyed. Charles let out a laugh as he grinned broadly.

 “She caught you cheating, didn’t she? Man, I’m going have to teach you to be more smooth.” Charles told him matter of factly.

 “Don’t worry bro, she will forgive you.” James told him as he got back to rolling the joint. “So, who was the other chick?” Lex rolled his eyes, clearly not loving the direction of this conversation.

 “When is Raul getting back with the damn drinks?” Lex demanded.

 “He just left. Give us a name.” James replied. Jax lit the new joint.

 “Come on man, we’re all friends. What’s her name?” Jax asked.

 “Josh Rowel. Happy now?” Lex said, bitterly. Jax dropped the joint. Charles and James’s faces fell open in shock.

 “Josh?” Charles asked looking over at James.

 “That’s a guy.” James said.

 “Lex, what are you saying?” Jax asked confused. James let out a gasp, and then grabbed Charles by the arm.

 “Are you coming out?” He asked. Lex shot them a dirty look.

 “I caught Josh and Cindy making out. I kicked his ass and Cindy slapped me, alright. I wasn’t cheating, she was. Can we change the damn subject now? Thank you.” Lex demanded. His friends stopped laughing, none of them really wanted to get on Lex’s bad side.

 “Sorry to hear that man. Is he hurt?” Jax asked. James and Charles shook their heads and looked away, preparing for the blow back.

 “I think they left, and I kicked his ass good. So hopefully.” Lex replied nonchalant.

-WZ-

 Kimberly’s room was dark and neatly organized. The bedroom door swung open as Kimberly and Fabian fell into the room making out. Fabian picked Kimberly up around the waist and dropped her on the bed. She couldn’t believe her luck. She had the man of her dreams in her room, in her bed and no one was here to interrupt it.

 “I can’t believe this is happening.” She let slip out. Her face flushed as the words left her lip. He lifted himself up and smiled at her.

 “Believe it beautiful.” He said before moving back in for another kiss. She hated herself for letting it slip out. She didn’t know what was wrong with her. She never got like this and yet here she was, blushing over everything he said and feeling nervous. She was Kimberly Jones, she ran shit! And no guy was going to make her feel this flustered. She was going to put a stop to this, no matter what, no matter how good it felt.

 “Fabian,” she started to say, determined to put an end to this. He started to kiss her neck, and all was forgotten. “Don’t stop.” She hated herself for enjoying it so much.

 “I won’t.” Fabian said, his face transformed from handsome Spaniard into something unrecognizable. His forehead stretched out as his eyes narrow and glowed yellow. His teeth formed into fangs as he sunk them into her neck. She let out a moan.

 “Don’t bite so hard.” She told him. Ecstasy flowed thru her as her blood left her, this feeling was new to her and she couldn’t get enough of it.

Chapter 3

 Christina was drying off and putting her clothes back on. Jon was sitting next to her, watching her. She glanced over at him and smiled.

 “Nice view?” she asked him playfully. He turned bright red.

 “Sorry, uh I was just day dreaming.” He said quickly, looking away. He spotted Will hitting it off with some girl in a red bikini. Jon wished he had Will’s charm. He would give anything to be able to just walk up to a girl and smooth talk her like Will did.

 “And what were you daydreaming about?” she asked sarcastically. She sat down next to him and rubbed his arm. “You wouldn’t be day dreaming about me, would you?” She asked playfully.

 “Wh. . .na. . .I was ju . . .just thinking about uh . . .school?” Jon managed to get out*. Great, real smooth, Jon, couldn’t be more of a lady killer if I tried.* He thought to himself. She laughed at him and started to lean in towards him.

 “I make you nervous, don’t I?” she asked him, he kept glancing at her big full lips, all he could think about was kissing her. Her bright brown eyes locked onto his, his mind went blank, well more blank than it already was. Her soft smooth skin glistening in the moon light. He started to lean forward.

 “I don’t get fervous.” He said as smoothly as he could with a stupid grin on his face. She pulled back a bit with a confused look on her face. *What happened? She was into him a second ago, what did he say? Fervous? That’s not a word! Quick fix this!* “Nervous, I’ve never been nervous in my life. I am cool as ice. Ice ice baby. Can I stop talking now?” *What the hell was that?* His face turned bright red and he pulled back. Christina started to laugh.

 “Stop talking.” She smiled at him, despite how humiliated he felt her smile made him feel good.

 “Ok, I’ll stop.” He told her. She nodded at him smiling as she slowly started to smile again. He started to go in for a kiss. He couldn’t believe he was getting to kiss her, the girl of his dreams. *Don’t over think it, just go for it.* The anticipation was killing him as he got closer and closer to kissing her. His luck wasn’t like this, nothing ever went his way. Something had to mess this up. And just on cue screaming started.

 “What the hell?!” Christina yelled out, jumping to her feet. Jon let out a sigh, refusing to open his eyes. Seemed his luck was running true to form. He felt Christina’s hand wrap around his arm. “Jon, do you see that?” she yelled. He opened his eyes, it was chaos, people were running as the party crashers attacked the guest. A few people laid dead in puddles of blood, their murderers faces were stretched out and unrecognizable.

 “What is wrong with their faces?” Jon asked as he jumped to his feet. Christina’s face was pale white.

 “They are killing people.” Christina said, fear seeping into her every word.

 “We need to go!” Jon yelled. He grabbed her hand and pulled her away as one of the party crashers jumped up and landed on a guy just getting out of the pool, biting his neck. Christina stopped in her tracks.

 “He bit him! Who does that?” She asked, the horror she felt coming through with every word. Speechless Jon shook his head and pulled her harder forcing her to move with him. They made it a few feet before they heard a crashing sound from above them. Jon stopped, and Christina ran into his back, almost falling down before Kimberly’s body fell in front of them, covered in glass and blood. The man she left with jumped out of the window and landed in front of them. Kimberley’s friends let out screams as they turned and ran. The man who just landed feet in front of Jon and Christina turned to face the girls and smiled.

 “Ladies, have we met?” he jumped over to them and landed on top of Harmony biting down on her neck. Jon stood transfixed watching him kill the most popular girls in school. Christina started crying, she held on tight to Jon’s arm and didn’t move.

 “Jon, move your ass!” Will ordered as he slapped Jon in the face. Jon snapped out of it.

 “Wha. . . what is going on?” Jon asked. Will was standing in front of him with a few other people looking terrified.

 “We need to go!” Will demanded. One of the guys behind Will, Alvin Smith, looked back as one of the party crashers snapped a girl’s neck who was trying to get away.

 “They’re vampires!” Alvin yelled. One of the party crashers turned to look at them and let out a growl. Christina responded with a scream.

 “Whatever they are, who cares!” she yelled as she started running. Jon took off after her and everyone followed. A few of the party crashers ran after them. Jon couldn’t remember ever feeling so scared in his life. Could they really be vampires? Those were just stories, not real. Whatever these things chasing them were, they were real.

-WZ-

 Lex was leaning against the door to the shed while Jax, James and Charles were standing behind them. Jax didn’t know what was going on out there and he really didn’t want to know. The yelling started a few minutes ago and then the smashing of glass and from the sounds they have been hearing, all hell had broken lose.

 “What’s going on out there?” Charles asked, not even trying to keep his voice down. Lex spun around and put his finger in front of his mouth telling him to shut up. He motioned for them all to get low. This was just great, Lex was back to using his military signs, the ones he used to use when they would have bb gun wars as kids. Jax was never good at understanding them, much less following them or being stealthy.

 “What does that mean?” James asked looking at Charles who just shrugged, equally confused. Lex took a deep breath.

 “It means talk real loud so that whatever is going on out there can follow us into here. You’re doing great.” Lex snapped while never bringing his voice above a whisper.

 “Sorry, so what’s the plan?” James asked, lowering his voice to match Lex’s.

 “We are going to quietly leave the shed and if we need to split, then we split. Got it?” Lex asked.

 “Lead the way.” Charles told Lex as he pocketed his lighter. They exited the shed only to find bodies lying everywhere. Blood dripping out of holes in people’s necks.

 “What the hell is going on?” Jax let out. Terror etched in his voice. Charles let out a scream and ran.

 “Shut up Jax! Charles stop!” Lex snapped quickly. James was too in shock to move, part of him wanted to go with Charles, part of him wanted to stay with Lex. Charles kept running and a man dropped out of a tree and landed on him. Biting his neck. Jax let out a scream and ran away from the house, James didn’t miss a beat before following him. Lex looked over at them and back to his dying friend. “Fuck!” Lex ran after Jax and James.

-WZ-

 Will led his friends down the street as they ran. Jon and Christina right behind him. Alvin, Jackie, Jay and Regina following close behind. For the life of him he couldn’t believe the day he had been having. First, he found out that the girl of his dreams, Cordelia, left town for some internship with her brother, then he came to this damn party to try and get his mind off of things only to be interrupted by Jon’s moaning over some girl.

 Will glanced back to see Jon and Christina holding hands and running. It was nice to see someone happy, he loved Jon like a brother and wanted the best for him, even if he did let his emotions get the best of him most of the time.

 “Where are we going?” Christina demanded as they turned the street corner. Jon was holding his side. Alvin looked like he had been running for hours, he was covered in sweat and gasping for any air he could get.

 “We need to go to the police, they can help.” Regina threw out. Jon and Will stopped and turned on her like she just started speaking pig Latin.

 “Police? Those were vampires! What could the police do to help us?” Jay demanded.

 “Besides, you never, never go to the police.” Will said, glaring at her.

 “Police equals bad. Basic math my friend.” Jon added. Christina was shaking with fear.

 “We don’t know that they were vampires. I mean vampires?” Christina was trying to convince herself as much as anyone else.

 “Well what would you call them? They were biting people’s necks and sucking blood.” Jackie screamed. Jon snapped out of the shock he had been in since things went to hell.

 “Stop yelling! We don’t want them to know where we are!” Jon pointed out. Will got an uneasy feeling in his gut. Something wasn’t right. He looked around and noticed shadows started to come forth as laughter started.

 “It’s a bit too late to worry about us finding you.” Will recognized the vampire talking as the same vampire that went into the house with Kimberly. “The name is Fabian. And this here,” he nodded towards the vampire on his right, a big white man with dark black hair slicked back. “Is Fury.” Fury bowed to them.

 “Please to make your acquaintance.” Fury said with a fake grin. He laughed and motioned the rest of his followers after them. “Take them out.” The other vampire jumped at the seven kids.

 “Oh god!” Alvin cried out as he ran and tripped. Jackie, Jay and Regina all spilt up and ran in different directions. Christina held on tighter to Jon. Will moved closer to the two of them.

 “What now?” Will asked. Fury and Fabian moved closer to the three of them. Alvin was descended upon by two bloodsuckers, he let out an ear pitching scream.

 “We need to get out of here!” Christina shouted. Regina and Jackie were both captured by vampires as Jay forced his way free. Jon pulled his arm free of Christina.

 “Run!” He yelled as he ran forward and tackled Fabian and Fury knocking them both to the ground. The other vampires were busy feeding and didn’t notice right away.

 “Jon!” Christina yelled out, but Will put his hand over her mouth. He loved Jon like a brother and would do anything for him, even if it meant get the girl he liked out of this death trap alive.

 “Listen to the man.” Will snapped as he pulled Christina forward and they ran past Jon who was struggling to escape the two vampires who he knocked to the ground. Christina tried to drag Jon with her as she ran by with Will, but Will took her arm and forced her forward. “Don’t waste this!” He snapped as the two of them continued running down the street. He spared a glance back, Jon got hit hard in the gut and let out a moan. Will wanted to go back and helped Jon with every fiber of his being but kept running and dragging Christina with him. He couldn’t believe he just left his best friend to die.

-WZ-

 The air was knocked from Jon as the hits kept coming. He fell backwards as Fabian and Fury got up. Will and Christina despaired into the night as they kept running. Jon looked around for a way out. He knew that he should be frozen with fear, but the adrenaline was pumping far too hard for him to sit still. He wanted to fight and survive. He spotted Regina getting her neck snapped as the vampire that was holding her tossed her aside and made its way after Jay. Two other vampires slowly drank Jackie to death.

 Blood slowly starts to drip down one of the vampire’s mouth. The sight of it turned Jon’s stomach. This party wasn’t supposed to go like this. He just wanted a chance to talk to Christina and maybe ask her out. Now that was never going to happen. Fury and Fabian walked towards him. Fabian in full vamp face. He swung and hit Jon in the face. The pain was intense as Jon flew back, hitting his head on the cement. Jon coughed up blood as he slowly started to get up. Fabian ran up and kicked him hard in the gut. Sending Jon flying up and landing hard on his back.

 “Ready to die little man?” Fabian asked, his accent making it hard to understand what he was saying. Jon’s eyes started to water due to the pain. He looked over as Fabian started to walk towards him. The other vampires also started walking towards him. This was how it all ended. Jon could hardly breath, he had never been in so much pain and he was surrounded by all kinds of these freaks. At least he knew that his sacrifice saved Will and Christina.

 “Stop.” Jon recognized the voice as belonging to the one called Fury. He slowly sat up and looked over at Fury. All the other vampires had stopped at his command. “This one has spunk. I say we let him go. Give him a head start.” The other vampires looked unsure but started to move aside. This had to be some kind of trick. Why would they let him go, when they went out of their way to kill everyone else?

 “You heard the man. Get.” One of the vampires behind him ordered him. Jon didn’t even look back, he slowly got to his feet and ran past Fabian and Fury to where he last saw Will and Christina. Every step hurting him more and more to the point where he didn’t think he could stay on his feet, but he didn’t let that stop him. He didn’t know why they let him go and he really didn’t care. He just thanked god that he got to live another day.

-WZ-

 Lex wasn’t used to running, he had spent most of his life fighting like hell so that he didn’t have to run. He hasn’t had an easy life; his home life was a joke. His mom was a bit on the crazy, over protective side until his sister got pregnant and then she just shut off. Lex was a fighter and had seen more than his share of messed up stuff, but what he saw at that party was more than he could take.

 He ducked down behind an old pickup truck, Jax and James right at his side. “What do we do now?” Jax asked panic rising in his voice. James was looking around, his eyes bloodshot. Whatever those things were they were fast and quick, being stuck with two guys who were high and drunk didn’t fill Lex with confidence.

 “Stay low and move quickly. Those. . . those whatever the hell they were are fast and strong,” Lex started before James cut him off.

 “and evil. Those bloodsuckers were vampires.” James’s voice cracked as he spoke. Jax threw up next to the car. “Dude!” James yelled out.

 “Shut up!” Lex snapped. He stood and looked around the car for any signs of their pursuers. “You keep yelling like that they will find us. And do you two really want to deal with those . . .I’m not calling them vampires!” Lex continued as he lowered himself back down behind the car.

 “Vampires? Vampires aren’t real. Everyone knows that’s just some myth that Hollywood over uses to excite young teen girls.” Jax said wiping away at his mouth. Lex’s mind started racing on a way to get out of there. As far as he could see the street was empty and he didn’t hear anyone coming. Now would be the time to run for it, but what if they were just waiting for them to show themselves?

 “Something you’ve never been able to do.” James said half heartily. Lex let out a laugh but quickly stopped himself. Jax rolled his eyes and got up.

 “I can get girls. The coast is clear.” Jax replied, cold sweat rolling down his forehead. Lex could hear the fear cracking his voice. Just like always it was up to him to protect his friends.

 “Let’s go.” Lex told them as he slowly started making his way down the street, not letting himself be seen above the top of the cars. Jax and James waited a beat before following him. “Stay low to the ground and stay quiet.” Lex told them over his shoulder as he picked up the pace.

-WZ-

 Will stopped to catch his breath as Christina leaned back against a car, exhaustion on her face. She was only leaning on it for a second before the alarm started blearing. She jumped up scared. Will’s eyes went wide and alert as he jumped straight up, his breathing hard.

 “What the hell was that?” Will demanded. He knew it wasn’t her fault, but the adrenaline was pumping thru his veins so hard that he couldn’t concentrate. He just wanted to be home safe and sound in his own house. He should never have come to this damn party. He just wanted to go out and have some fun, celebrate finishing his freshman year of high school with some hot girls in the pool. Instead he got stuck babysitting his best friend and listening to his sob stories. And if that wasn’t bad enough he followed it up by watching Jon die and being charged with getting the girl Jon liked back home, alive.

 “Oh god, I’m so sorry. I didn’t think the alarm would go off.” She looked back at the car, alarm still going off. “Do you think they heard that?” She asked terrified. There was no doubt in Will’s mind that they heard the alarm but that would just freak her out more, so he couldn’t admit it to her.

 “No, I’m sure they didn’t. Let’s just get out of here before they do.” Will said in what he hoped was a convincing tone. Christina seemed to buy it, the grim look on her face seemed to lighten up a bit as she moved away from the car. Will took a deep breath ready to start running again.

 “Are you kidding me?” Jon’s voice came from the darkness. “That was loud enough to wake the dead.” Christina grabbed ahold of Will, tears started welling up inside her eyes. She was holding on so tight that Will was having trouble breathing. How was Jon alive? He took on two of those freaks on his own, by all rights he should be dead.

 “Looks like it did.” Will said, taking a step back as Jon came into the light. Christina let out a scream loud enough to overpower the car alarm. Will couldn’t blame her, he wanted to scream too but was far too scared to let any sound out. Jon was trashed up. His face was bloody and bruised. His clothes were torn and covered in blood. He looked as if he had been thru a meat grinder and came out the other side. Jon stood a few feet away from them, he had his trademark sideways grin on his face as he waited for a response.

 “What can I say? It’s hard to keep a good man down.” He said trying to ignore the pain. Christina let go of Will and moved slowly towards Jon.

 “How did you escape?” She asked softly. Jon took a beat to catch his breath as he moved closer to them. The alarm still blearing behind them.

 “They said they liked my spunk and gave me a head start.” Jon said as he took a step towards them, he fell to his knees. Christina let out a cry.

 “Jon!” she said as she ran towards Jon and helped him to his feet. Will couldn’t handle seeing him like that, but he was just glad he was alive. The sound of a door slamming carried over from a nearby house. The three friends turned to look as a man in his late forties stood there with a phone in his hands.

 “What the hell are you kids doing to my car? I’m calling the cops!” the man yelled as he started dialing. Will’s heart sank, just what he needed to end the night, jail. Christina hugged Jon.

 “We aren’t doing anything!” Jon yelled out. Will couldn’t help but smile at Jon. Like that was going to help at all. It happened in a blink of an eye, the man was on the phone talking to the police as Fury dropped off of the roof and landed behind the guy, snapping his neck and grinning at them.

 “That’s right, didn’t do a damn thing. Is that anyway to take advantage of a head start?” Fury sneered at them. Christina held onto Jon harder as Will took action. He grabbed Jon by the arm and pulled him as he started running. Christina sobbed as they ran, and Fury could be heard laughing from behind them. They were about a block away before they heard Fury speak again. “Get them!” the shout came and was almost instantly followed up by the sounds of running feet. A deep sense of dread weighed heavily on Will as the three of them made their way down the street.

Chapter 4

 The Stratton apartments came into view and Lex let out a sigh of relief. He lived a few blocks away from the apartments in a nearby house, but for some reason these apartments always felt more like home to him. Maybe it was because most of his friends lived there, or maybe it was because his mom didn’t live here, and it was the one place he could be himself.

 “Home sweet home!” Jax yelled out as he and James started to sprint towards its boarders. Unlike Lex, the two of them did call it home. James had lived there since he was about 5, he hardly remembered anything from before he moved there. Jax on the other hand had lived there 3 different times since he was 3. His mom was the manager there for a while before new owners let her go. But it all worked out for them because the new manger was trained by Jax’s mom and put their apartment as vacant on the books. They lived there for free. Lex hated to admit it, but he was a bit jealous. He tried to have his own apartment there as well, he broke into an empty one and set up shop until the manager found out and called the cops. Not a fun night for him, not that this one was any better.

 “Thank god! I thought we would never make it.” James said as he picked up speed. Lex looked around the surrounding area, the coast was clear. He jumped up and followed their led. Out of the corner of his eye he spotted someone moving quickly past him, it took him a second to register what he saw. It couldn’t be what he thought it was. No sooner did the thought cross his mind then it was proven right. A vampire tackled James just as he made it to the apartments, the two of them rolled down the grass hill, as Jax screamed and stumbled backwards. The vampire drained James who cried out in pain.

 Lex’s heart stopped as he watched yet another friend die. It was too much for him to handle. Everything slowed down for him as his world came to an end. The vampire looked up from James’s unmoving body, his bloody grin was outshined only by the hunger in his eyes as he spotted Jax on the floor crawling backwards. It happened in a second, the vampire dropped James’s body and lunged for Jax, who froze as the shadow of the vampire eclipsed him. Lex saw Jax die in his mind’s eye, he knew he needed to act and act now but the fear in him was too much.

 He didn’t know how it happened but before he knew it, he was jumping forward, snatching up a tree branch that was laying on the top of the grass hill, he went into a roll before springing forward. The vampire landed on top of Jax, He grinned wide, opening his mouth and bearing his fangs. Jax tried to yell out but he was so afraid that nothing came out. Lex came out of his roll and sprung forward, tackling the vampire off of Jax just as he lowered to go for the bite. Lex and the vampire rolled down the hill, struggling with each other, when they came to a stop Lex was on top. The vampire snarled at him and tried to push him off but Lex, filled with fury, pushed his arms away and slammed the branch into the vampire’s chest. The vampire blew up into dust, Lex fell to the floor, breathing hard.

 Lex just sat there looking at the pile of the dust under him in amazement. He never for a second thought that would happen. He didn’t really think they were vampires. Vampires weren’t supposed to be real, they were just stories and they were supposed to stay that way.

 “Lex, Lex! Are you alright?” Lex heard Jax yelling at him as if he was a hundred miles away. He shook his head and looked back, Jax was only a few feet away. Lex slowly stood up and wiped the dust from his clothes. He turned around to face Jax.

 “Yeah, I’m good. I guess they really were vampires.” Lex said, trying to act like he wasn’t as scared as he was. It took everything he had to keep himself from shaking.

-WZ-

 Every step he took filled him with unparalleled pain. Jon grew up one of the few white people in the Stratton apartments, he knew what pain felt like. He spent most of his pre-teen years getting beat up daily for no other reason than being white, but none of those beatings were as intense as the one he took at the hands of the vampires.

 It took him a while to come to grips with it, but that was what they are, vampires. He knew that now, everything was different. He glanced over at Christina, the terror on her face filled him with dread. He would give anything to make her feel better, but he had no idea how to do that. He spotted Will looking over at him. He knew that Will was just worrying about him, but he didn’t have time for that now. He was going to be fine, they all were, as long as they could get off of the streets before running into Fury or any of his goons again.

 “So, uh, were they really vampires?” Will finally managed to spit out. Christina looked over at Will, then to Jon. It was clear from her expression that she didn’t want to ask anything to upset Jon but she still wanted to know. Jon took a deep breath.

 “Yeah, I think they were. They drained Jackie. There’s no doubt about it.” Jon said, trying as hard as he could to keep the pain out of his voice. Christina grabbed his hand and smiled at him, it was a fake forced smile that Jon knew was more for his benefit than anything else. Will just looked forward and took a deep breath. Jon knew how impossible all this was. Will seemed to be taking it real hard.

 “You know, I think we might have been the only ones who made it out of the party alive.” Will responded, his voice flat. Jon had never heard Will like this before. Will had always been the self-assured one. Maybe not as confident as Lex but close to it.

 “There were so many people there, maybe half our class. They can’t all just be dead.” Christina said, tears in her eyes, her voice cracking as she spoke. Jon squeezed her hand tighter. This night was not how he expected it to go.

 “We need to get off the streets.” Jon said in his best take charge voice. Will started laughing. Christina grinned despite herself. Jon lowered his head a bit, his ego deflating faster than he thought possible. Great! He tried to take charge and help his friends out and they didn’t take him seriously in the least. “Thanks guys.”

 “Sorry man, I’ve just never heard you so serious before.” Will said hitting Jon on the arm trying to cheer him up. Christina smiled at Jon, it made him feel a lot better. She had such a beautiful smile.

 “I thought it was cute, you acting all take charge like that.” Christina said, trying not to laugh as she said it. He knew she didn’t mean it, but he still liked that she said it. He should ask her out. He needed to just man up and ask her out already. It was all he could think about, that was till Will yelled out.

 “They found us!” Jon’s head jerked up at his scream, Christina’s head shot up as well. Jon couldn’t believe his eyes as he spotted Fury and Fabian leading 3 other vampires towards them. Jon guessed his head start was up.

 “What now?” Christina asked, Jon would give anything to have an answer to that. The vampires started to get closer, Fury’s evil grin could be seen in the light from the street lamps.

 “Well just standing there like deer in the headlights is a good start.” Jon couldn’t believe what he was hearing. He turned his head around to see Lex and Jax walking towards them. Jon had never been so glad to hear Lex’s voice.

 “Lex!” Will yelled out. Christina was the only one who didn’t seem excited by it. In her defense she didn’t really know Lex and Jax.

 “Good to see you guys are still alive.” Lex said spinning a stick in-between his fingers.

 “Well, looks like more people have come to join in all the fun.” Fury said with a laugh. Christina held on to Jon even tighter. Jon put his arm around her and held her just as tightly. The five of them turned to face the five vampires. It was a showdown and it was one that Jon knew they were going to lose.

 “I don’t want to die.” Christina whispered into his ear. He wanted to save her, but he didn’t know how. It hurt when he breathed, there was no way he could take vampires head on. Will was too scared to move and Jax looked to be in much the same predicament. Lex was standing there with his normal devil may care attitude and spinning that damn stick in his hand like that was going to do something against these things.

 “I won’t let anything bad happen to you. I promise.” Jon said back to her as silently as he could. He hoped that he sounded firm when he said it and not like the scared little kid he felt like. Fabian laughed loudly, it made the hair on the back of Jon’s neck stand on end.

 “Aw, the big hero won’t let anything happen to her, did you hear that Fury? Isn’t that cute.” Fabian asked with a laugh. Jon’s face turned bright red. Christina pulled away a bit, Jon felt the confidence drain from him even more. Damn vampires and their super hearing.

 “That’s sweet. Kill him last and make him watch her die.” Fury said. The other vampires charged at them. Christina screamed and let go of Jon, she tried to run backward and tripped.

 “Christina!” Jon said, rushing over to her. Will and Jax took a few steps back, too scared to run and not sure how to fight these undead freaks. Lex took a step towards them. Fury laughed loudly. The first of the vampires faced off against Lex who tried to hold his own but was soon over powered as the second and third vampire joined in. Jon wanted to rush to his aid, but Christina was shaking so bad and Jon couldn’t leave her.

 Lex was on the ground, Jon knew it was now or never, Jax and Will ran to his aid, but it wasn’t enough. The three of them weren’t strong enough for the vampires.

 “Why do they keep coming?” Christina asked through her sobbing. Jon held her close. He felt her tears running down her face. Jax was thrown off of one of the vampires, he went flying across the street and hit a car. Cracking the window. He fell to the floor. Lex staked one of the vampires and it crumbled to dust, Jon couldn’t believe his eyes.

 “Christina, look, Lex killed one” Jon told her urgently, forcing her head over to look at the dust flying into the wind. Fabian rushed forward to help out his fellow vampires. One of the vampires elbowed Lex’s arm making him drop the branch, then headbutted him. Lex fell back to the ground, blood pouring from his head. Will caught the branch before it fell and staked the vampire. It turned to dust just as the third bloodsucker blindsided Will knocking him out cold. Fabian was almost upon them.

 Jon looked to Christina and locked eyes with her. “I have to go, you need to run.” She shook her head no, but Jon didn’t stop, he jumped up and rushed towards his friends.

 “Don’t leave me.” Christina called out, but Jon couldn’t stop. He couldn’t let his friends die. He caught Fabian off guard and knocked him down. The third vampire grabbed him from behind and Fabian jumped back onto his feet. He started hitting him hard in the gut. “Jon!” Christina cried out.

 The pain was intense, made all the worst from the beating he took earlier in the day. Christina’s cries in the background weren’t helping things, he wanted to call out and tell her everything was going to be okay, but the pain was too much, he couldn’t handle it. Fabian was enjoying himself as he continued the onslaught. Jon just wanted it to end, he didn’t care how anymore.

 Fabian pulled back his fist for yet another punch to the gut when a hand grabbed his arm and spun him around, kicking him in the gut. Fabian let out a howl as Jon’s savor, a man in a brown over coat kneed Fabian in the nose. Fabian fell backward, the vampire holding Jon tossed him down and rushed at the man in the coat. Jon felt Christina grab him and pulled him back from the fighting men.

 The man in the coat pulled out a stake and stabbed it thru the vampire’s heart, turning him to dust. Jon didn’t know who this man was, but he had never been happier to see anyone in his whole life. The man looked around to survey the battleground. Jon looked around as well and noticed that Fabian and Fury were gone.

 “Those were some nice moves.” Jon looked over as Lex started walking towards them. He looked the worse for wear. Jax was sitting next to the car he was slammed into, the pain could be seen on his face thru the blood. Will was slowly coming thru but was still laying where he fell.

 “I was worried I was too late.” The man in the coat had a thick Irish accent as he spoke. Jon came from Irish decent and always wanted to visit Ireland, he had to admit he found it really cool that the man who saved his life was Irish.

 “You knew they were after us?” Christina piped in, slowly getting up and letting go of Jon. Jon didn’t want her to leave his side. He liked her holding him. The man in the coat took her hand and helped her, she smiled as he did so. It was the biggest smile he had ever seen from her. Suddenly Jon didn’t like this guy anymore. Who did he think he was? Just showing up and sticking his nose in other people’s business.

 “No, but I knew they were in the area. I’ve been hunting them.” He said like it was nothing, he had a calm charming way of talking. Jon couldn’t stand him. He forced himself to stand up as he spotted the man in the coat grinned at Christina and her face blushed at the sight of it. Jon felt a dagger pierce his heart at the sight. Everything was going so well before he came.

 “We can’t thank you enough for coming to the rescue. I’m Lex.” Lex said as he held his hand out to the man in the coat. The man didn’t take his eyes off of Christina, Lex stood there holding his hand out for a beat too long, he started to lower it when the man in the coat smiled and turned to face Lex.

 “Sorry, I was elsewhere for a second.” He smiled at Christina before looking back to Lex and shaking his hand. “My name is Gambit, please to meet you.” Will let out a moan as he slowly sat up.

 “Are we dead?” Will asked from the ground. Gambit and Lex helped him up.

 “Afraid not. You ok?” Lex asked. Will nodded.

 “I’m good too. Thanks for asking.” Jax called out as he slowly got to his feet. Lex walked over to him. Gambit turned towards Jon, this was the moment he was dreading, having to talk to this Irish freak.

 “How are you? I’m sorry I couldn’t get here sooner.” Gambit asked putting his hand on Jon’s shoulder. Jon shook him off.

 “I’m fine.” He said more hostel than he meant to. He noticed Will looking over at him confused and Christina shooting him a dirty look. Gambit seemed taken aback by his tone. Jon shallowed his pride. “Thanks for the save. I mean it.” Gambit smiled and turned back to Christina.

 “No problem. How are you, beautiful?” he asked Christina while he wiped away her dried tears. Jon took a step forward, every thought in his head telling him to tear this guy apart. Will stepped in-between them with a look that told Jon he knew what he was thinking.

 “Did he kill them all? What happened?” Will asked trying to change the topic and keep Jon’s mind off of Gambit and Christina.

 “Fabian and Fury escaped but he killed the one that knocked you out.” Jon replied simply. He tried to sit down but fell flat on his ass. Will leaned forward to help him back up.

 “Are you ok?” he asked as Jon pushed him off. Gambit, Christina, Lex and Jax all looked over.

 “I’m fine.” Jon snapped. Lex and Jax started walking back. Gambit and Christina went back to their private conversation. Jon felt the rage fill up inside him. He knew the red must be showing in his face by now, but he didn’t care. Will patted him on the back.

 “Relax, don’t show how much you care. Girls want what they can’t have.” Will whispered to him. Jon knew that he had no right to get this upset, he wasn’t dating Christina and she had every right to like this other guy, but it still killed him inside.

 “I don’t care.” He bluffed. Will smiled at him.

 “And it shows.” Will said in his most condescending tone. Jon hated it when he acted like he knew everything. Lex broke away from Jax and interrupted Gambit and Christina’s conversation.

 “Do you think the other two will come back?” Gambit looked over at Lex as he thought about his question. Christina gave a shudder and Gambit gave her a reassuring smile.

 “Not tonight, the sun will be up soon and vampires can’t survive sunlight. I’ve been hunting this nest for a while and I promise you have nothing to worry about. I’ll take care of them.” He said softly to Christina, more or less ignoring Lex who asked the question. This just deepened his hatred of Gambit, no one disrespected Lex.

 “I feel safe knowing you are out here looking after us.” Christina told him. Jon let out an angry laugh and everyone looked over at him. He shrugged and started walking off.

 “Tonight sucked. I just want to go home.” He said as if that explained his rude behavior. He heard them talking behind him, but he didn’t care what they said. He just wanted to go home and sleep. Push Christina out of his mind.0 He heard someone running up to him, but he didn’t even look back.

 “That was smooth man, I don’t think Christina noticed the jealousy in your voice when you ran away like a jilted child.” Will said a bit out of breath. Jon didn’t bother answering, he just kept walking home. “You going to pout the whole way home?”

 “Everything was going so good until he showed up.” Jon snapped back.

 “Yeah, Me, Lex and Jax were knocked out and you were about to die. Things were going great.” Jon knew he’s right but that didn’t mean he had to like it.

 “Ok maybe things weren’t going great but,” He didn’t have anything to say to defend himself and Will knew it.

 “But he stole Christina’s attention. I know it sucks. But that’s life, you can’t always get what you want.” Will said simply. Jon nodded his head.

 “Yeah, and I’m being overly emotional. Just like you always tell me.” Jon said, the weight of his actions starting to sink in. He just threw a fit and was an ass to the man who just saved his life. “Well, I feel pretty shitty now.”

 “You should. But don’t worry, I don’t think Gambit noticed.” Will told him as he patted him on the back.

 “You think?” Jon really hoped he didn’t. The thought of having to go up against vampires again filled him with terror. Now that he thought about it, he didn’t want to piss off the guy who was out there protecting him.

 “Yeah, he was far too busy hitting on Christina.” Will said and jumped back as Jon took a playful swing at him.

 “Asshole.” Jon yelled out, a mixture of anger and playfulness in his tone. Will laughed.

 “I’m just playing.” Will said. Jon knew he had these jokes coming for a while after his actions and he was just going to have to get used to it. The two of them made their way back to the Stratton apartments talking and joking around. Both of them trying to pretend the night never happened but both of them knowing deep down that nothing would ever be the same.

THE END