

## Chapter 37 Knox

We sat talking about the boxing match we'd planned to go watch the following weekend in the local city that Manuel's cousin was fighting in, Dan's eyes flicking back and forth to the dance floor watching his new found crush dancing away with her friends.

They were laughing as they mimicked dance moves which made me smile to myself, making sure I didn't get caught out again, knowing I was unlikely to get away with it again. Blondie joined in but seemed more awkward than her three friends, like she lacked confidence though I couldn't figure out why, she was stunning, tall, with legs that seemed to go on forever, curves in all the right places and beautiful soft features on her face, framed by her waves of honey blond hair which in the glare of the dance floor lights made her look almost angelic. Seriously what in goddesses name is wrong with me?! Why can I not stop looking at her!

I focus on the guys again, as I see Dan's jaw is almost on the floor as his girl is now doing a sexy dance alongside her red headed friend as they giggle. What a sap! I knock my whisky back before noticing the girls are walking toward our table, well maybe not toward it, more past as they look to be leaving.

"Oh no way!" Gabe mutters "Lex?!" he then shouts, though I'm unsure to who, it appears to be aimed at the girls, does he know one of them? I guess he could as his seat in the booth was facing the bar rather than the dance floor so he hadn't really seen the girls tonight, until they came to walk by us, but still, why or how would he know them?

We all look at Gabe in shock then look to the girls, a look of recognition crosses the face of the petite red head as she squints her eyes adjusting from the bright lights of the dance floor to the slightly dimmer lights of the booths we were sat in.

"Gabriel!!" She squeals flinging herself across Manuel to give Gabe a hug.

We all look at one another puzzled, though I have to say Manuel's face is a fucking picture, me, Jake and Dan having a clear view of the whole situation from the opposite side of the table. And all three of us absolutely loving it! Manuel clearly in shock having a petite red head, chucking herself across his knee to get to his friend, near elbowing him in the head in the process, her ass now near his face as she knelt on the leather chair of the booth as her legs weren't quite long enough to help her reach Gabe. She had her arms flung tightly round Gabe's neck in a tight embrace, clearly happy to see him. Did we miss something?

I looked to Gabe with my eyebrow raised in a million questions, he clearly saw the look on all our faces and realised the questions or thoughts processing in our brains, and he quickly pulled away looking a bit embarrassed.

"Oh sorry guys, this is my cousin Lexi!" he made a quick introduction "Lex this is Knox, Jake, Dan and the guy who has your ass all up in his face is Manuel" he chuckled as the look of realisation clearly hit the girl, and she quickly slid herself off the chair back to standing next to the booth with her friends who in fairness looked as puzzled as we had moments before.

"Erm sorry" Lexi said to Manuel her cheeks clearly tinted red from embarrassment, "I didn't think" she awkwardly chewed the inside of her cheek before continuing "I've not seen Gabe in ages and..." she looked really uncomfortable and sighed.

I looked at Manuel who was clearly feeling bad for seeing Lexi feeling awkward and embarrassed the way she was. He was not good with women, goddess knows why, he went out with the guys often enough, but it came to talking to women and he just was no good, I kicked his foot under the table, he looked toward me and I nodded in the girls direction, silently conveying he should acknowledge her apology at least.

It seemed to work "Oh no worries" he muttered with a small smile.

Lexi smiled back, "Like Gabe said I'm Lexi, his cousin, this is Rae" she seemed to be talking to us all now and pointed to the tall brunette who gave us a small nod and smile "this is Indie" she said introducing the girl Dan had been making eyes at all night, and right now they were both smiling at each other like lovestruck fucking teenagers "and last but not least we have Delilah, Lilah for short" she said poking the blond girl in the ribs in a teasing way with a smile.

"Hey" Lilah smiled up at us all. Up close her eyes were even more beautiful, almost otherworldly, the blue was opalescent almost so they shimmered in the light like a gem, my eyes were drawn to them but I had to fight myself not to keep looking at her as I didn't know the girl and didn't want to make her uncomfortable.

"Were you guys leaving?" Gabe asked "Or you want to join us?" I looked at him and raised my eyebrow wondering where he suddenly felt confident enough to invite some random group of women to our table, but he gave an awkward smile to me, motioning with his head to Dan who still was looking all googly eyed at the girl I now know was called Indie, and then to his cousin and shrugged.

"Oohhh thanks Gabe! Are you buying cuz?" Lexi grinned at him, blowing him a kiss.

Oh great, already had a shitty day and now looks like we had company for the evening.....