

## Chapter 6

The girls are in a New Kids haze as they enter their suite. They have no memory of getting to their room. They don't notice that their door is only two doors away from security on deck seven. A loud bang on the door whisks each of the girls out of their individual day dreams. Sandy is touching her lips. Karen is kicking herself for only saying hi to Danny. Kristy is drying her eyes. Missiey feels Jonathan arms around her and Tanya is trying to calm the spark she felt with Jordan's kiss. Sandy answers the door.

"Ms. Townsend?" Charlie asks.

"No, I'm Sandy. Tanya. Tanya," Sandy says and Karen shakes Tanya into the present.

"Yeah," Tanya answers.

"Charlie's at the door for you," Sandy says.

Tanya walks to the door as she thinks, "*This is it. They let me on the boat just to put me in cruise jail!*"

"Ms. Townsend, Jordan asked me to give this to you," Charlie says.

"Oh, thanks. That's it?" Tanya asks.

"Yep," Charlie says and turns away.

"What is it?" Kristy asks.

"It's my acceptance letter to Harvard!" Tanya smiles.

"Oh my God!" A collective scream, group hug, and a bottle of champagne follow from the girls.

"Okay, what I don't understand is why Jordan had your letter," Sandy says.

"Well, he was really sweet and I couldn't open it and I gave it to him and I kissed him," Tanya says.

"You what?" Karen says.

"Before I knew it, I kissed him. I'm pretty sure I've been put on the BSC list," Tanya says.

"What the hell is a BSC list?" Kristy asks.

"Bat Shit Crazy list!" Missiey laughs.

“Hell, before the end of the cruise, we’ll probably all be members of that list,” Karen says.

The girls spend the next hour as they settle into their room and put the door decorations up. The girls decide to make it like a clubhouse and named it NKOTB Corner. The Bulletin board shows each girls Remix story. They had a magazine rack with printed versions of hosted fan fiction. Karen and Missiey put together a table that had all sorts of free goodies courtesy of BH Connection and Fan Advocates. The door itself was a timeline of the five hardest working men in show business and read “Hangin’ Tough through the years!”

“If this doesn’t win, I don’t know what will,” Sandy says.

“It’s not about winning, it’s about sharing,” Tanya says.

“Whatever! It’s about winning,” Karen says.

“Okay, what time is it?” Kristy asks as she looks at the itinerary.

“It’s one,” Missiey says.

“Great, if we go eat now, come back, and touch up, we should still have time to get a decent spot for the Sail Away party,” Kristy says.

Tanya and Sandy laugh at her. They, being experienced NKOTB cruisers, know that the true BSC’s were already camping on the Lido deck, but they also knew that they still had the safety drill before the party.

“Well, I can honestly say we can probably skip the mandatory safety drill,” Tanya says, “Literally, last year I couldn’t hear anything over the people that are already drunk. Here let me demonstrate the quickest way. We are muster station C. You should always carry important documents. If we start going down, grab your New Kid and run like hell. Got it!”

The girls return to the room to do final touch up of make-up and hair. Tanya checks her phone for a final time before she turns it off. She answers a few messages when she hears a scream.

“What the hell?” Tanya comes out of her room.

“Donnie just walked in on Sandy in the shower,” Karen says.

“Oh my god, I guess they are doing room raids again,” Tanya says.

“Hmmm...Exactly how I pictured you in my thoughts,” Donnie says as Sandy attempts to grab a towel.

“Don’t you have a girlfriend Wahlberg?” Sandy asks forgoing the towel and instead continues to shower.

“You’ve had me twisted in knots since I got on the boat,” Donnie says.

“Well, you are going to get really twisted by the end of the cruise,” Sandy says as she bends to wash her legs. “*What the hell are you doing?*” she thinks to herself.

“Is that a challenge?” Donnie asks.

“Maybe? Do you like challenges?” Sandy says as she rinses off.

“If I’m your favorite, you know I do,” Donnie says.

“I know you do Wahlberg but I’m not just a girl that is going to your room willingly because of who you are. I’m going to be the woman that you introduce to your mother because you can’t live without me,” Sandy says as she grabs her towel and walks into her room.

“Turn around Wahlberg,” Sandy says. She knows he will watch her in the mirror.

She slips on her summer dress and relishes in the fact that she has him twisted. She usually not this forward but something about him destroys her filter.

“So are you with someone?” Donnie asks.

“No, but you are!” Sandy says with a devilish grin.

“And that is a factor how?” Donnie says.

“Oh you have a lot to learn Wahlberg,” Sandy says as she grabs his face between her thumb and forefinger and shakes it.

Donnie leans against the door as she walks away.

“Are you girls ready? Donnie close the door on your way out,” Sandy give another crooked grin and walks into the hallway.

Tanya shows the girls to the same spot she had found the year before on The Victory. Thankfully, it is as open with about five girls standing there. They stand right at the security tape and see the boys get ready to make their grand entrance by the DJ equipment.

“Why aren’t we down there?” Karen asks.

“Because...” Tanya pauses, “They, meaning the girls, are going to turn into wild boar when the guys come out and the guys will come up here and say hi! Less people! Better access!”

“Gotcha!” Karen replies.

It is the magical moment! The official start of the cruise with the pledge and party. Four days of no worries. Four days of getting totally twisted. The girls begin to dance while all of them secretly wonder if the guys have thought of them at all. Karen wishes Danny would lose his shirt...really clothes. Kristy begins to plan what she will say to Joe if she gets another chance. Missiey thinks about Jonathan's arms around her again. Tanya gets another electric shock when her eyes meet Jordan's. Sandy dances provocatively making Donnie drop his microphone because he remembered all she put on was her dress.