

Remix

Chapter One

I remember the first time I saw the guys. Little did I know that they would change my life. New Kids On The Block was first. It was the summer I turned fifteen. I had thick-rimmed glasses that hid my bright green eyes and my red hair had a bad perm. I wouldn't be noticed in any crowd. During the concert, I managed to sneak up to the front row pit area with my best friend, Natalie. I don't know how I got so lucky but it seemed to me that my favorite New Kid, Joey, sang part of a song right to me. It was crazy because I was a wallflower, and about as pretty as the bottom of my shoe. But that night, I had never felt so beautiful. But my friend, Natalie, had yet to come out of her shell at all. She was so quiet that if you weren't paying attention, you might not notice her in a room. The entire show she was so worried we'd get caught being where we didn't belong and kicked out. But that night, I'd had the time of my life.

Eight years later, I once again dragged Natalie to another concert. But this time, it was 98 Degrees. The closest show we could drive to was six hours away, in Wichita. We had both grown a lot, both physically and mentally. Natalie was not nearly as shy and she had learned to accept my philosophy of "better to beg for forgiveness than ask for permission".

The show was amazing, yet uneventful to us personally. Natalie and I had stayed after the show long enough to watch the buses leave. Since we were both old enough to drink, we decided to head over to a little dive bar we heard was a must see in the town we were in. There were a few cars and trucks in the parking lot, as well as a white van, the kind hotels used. We didn't think much about it other than to comment that we should have asked if our hotel offered a shuttle so we could both drink a lot. It would have been nice if neither one of us had to be the DD.

As we entered the bar, the music was pumping loud. Our eyes quickly adjusted to the dark and we could see there was a small dance floor that was mostly empty. Natalie and I quickly moved to the bar and ordered drinks. We had barely taken a sip of our Chambord and Sunny D when a song we loved began playing. We both giggled as The Macarena filled the bar. Four girls were already on the floor, including two super pretty blondes, so we gulped down our drinks and ran for the dance floor to join them.

We laughed as we acted like fools doing the choreographed dance with the others on the dance floor. Once it was over, we headed back to the bar for another drink. The DJ must have had a thing for one of the girls on the dance floor because he continued to play rump-shaking songs. It seemed that each time we got a drink; we were downing it to run to the floor.

We had consumed at least four drinks each and were feeling the effects of the alcohol when our all time favorite song came on. The first two notes played to the song "Pour Some Sugar on Me" and we were squealing in delight. Natalie and I had a thing

when it came to this song. We had a sexy dance we created just for this song and we would find a guy in the crowd to flirt with while we danced.

As we began our choreographed dance, my eyes scanned the room. My heart almost stopped when I saw two of the four guys from 98 Degrees sitting at a table right up against the railing leading to the dance floor. I looked right at Natalie and with a gentle nod of my head, showed her where to look. We knew then, those were the guys we would flirt with. Natalie had enough alcohol that I wasn't sure if she didn't recognize them or just didn't care; otherwise she never would have chosen him.

As we danced, we moved seductively. My eyes locked with Nick Lachey just as Natalie's eyes were on Jeff Timmons. They smiled at us as we ran our hands down our bodies. I was so glad then I had chosen my dark fitted jeans and red t-shirt. This outfit always made me feel extra sexy. I noticed Nick lick his full lips expectantly. I felt so sexy, and drunk, as I danced for him, only him. I dared to glance at Jeff to see how he watched Natalie, intrigue on his face. The song ended and we turned our backs to two of the hottest guys we'd seen since we were teens. We moved back to the bar and ordered a drink of water. Then I turned to Natalie.

"So..." I started.

"Wow, Adrianna! That guy is really hot! Did you see how he was watching me? We should go talk to them!" Her excitement was overwhelming.

"Um, sweetie, you do know who that was, don't you?"

"Should I?" She replied. I just smiled.

"Let's go say hi," I teased. Natalie's eyes got big. But before I could say anything else, she was already heading that way.

It wasn't until we were right in front of them, did Natalie realize who they were. They smiled at us, causing both our hearts to begin racing. Jeff and Nick stood up and Nick came right up to me. He offered me his hand as if he wanted to shake hello. I reached out my own and was surprised when he took my hand upwards and gently kissed my knuckles.

"That was epic," he whispered against my skin. "I have never had anyone dance like that for me. Thank you." He smiled at me as he leaned back up. I felt my heart melt.

"I'm Nick. This," he said pointing to his friend, "is Jeff."

"Would you ladies like to join us for a drink?" Jeff asked. I noticed he was looking only at Natalie. She just nodded her head, unable to speak. Nick pointed to the two empty chairs at their table.

We sat down quickly and a waitress was at the table, as if she had been watching, before we had a chance to tell them our names. Natalie and I ordered a drink called a Mud Pie; it was what the bar was famous for. Jeff and Nick both ordered beers.

After the waitress left I finally felt comfortable enough to talk. Natalie just sat there in total awe. She even looked a little embarrassed. I had to remember later to ask her if she was, and why. We still hadn't told them our names.

"Just wanted to say, I really enjoyed your performance tonight." I was looking at Nick, but Jeff was the one that replied. I looked over at him as he spoke and tried not to giggle as he stared deeply into Natalie's eyes.

"As did we. I mean, we enjoyed your performance." Natalie's face flushed bright red. She was lost in his eyes. I giggled.

"Um, thanks," she whispered. The waitress came back then, saving Natalie. She passed out our drinks and Natalie took a big gulp.

"Whoa, there tiger. Slow down." Jeff leaned close to her, his breath on her ear. I could see her face flush brighter. "It looks like you have had a few. Did it really take that much courage to come talk to us?"

I knew he was teasing, but Natalie didn't.

"I'll have you know, I was drinking before I knew you were here. Adee and I were just having a girls night out. It had nothing to do with you."

"Nothing to do with us," Jeff said quietly to Nick, causing both guys to smile.

Nick bumped my shoulder with his, bringing my attention back to him.

"So, a girl's night out, huh?"

"Technically, its a girls weekend out. Tomorrow we gotta go back to the real world," I said.

"And has it been a good weekend so far?"

"I think it has. Only one more thing could make it better."

Nick smiled at me. "And what would that be?"

"Not having to dance alone."

Jeff must have been listening to us talk because he stood up and offered his hand to Natalie. When he spoke, he was asking Natalie, but answering for Nick.

"I think we can take care of that. Shall we dance?"

Natalie giggled. "To this song?" It was Turning Japanese.

"Ok, you are right. Maybe the next one."

Nick tapped the table with his finger.

"I'll be right back."

I watched as he walked away and over to the DJ booth. I glanced over to the dance floor and couldn't help but notice the two blondes were watching Nick, one had a huge smile on her face. I felt a little knot start to form in my stomach.

Nick came back and smiled wickedly.

"Dare I ask what you just did," I asked him.

"I just asked the DJ to play something for me. I want to see you on the floor again. That reminds me. Tell me about that sexy dance," he asked. "Do you do it often? Because you should know you had every man in here about to lose his mind."

I felt my cheeks flush red. Yeah, that was the point, to make the guys crazy. But I wasn't about to admit that. We had requested that song the moment we walked in the door. It was the song that always made us feel sexy. It was our confidence song.

"Um, yeah, about that..."

Just then, Natalie almost jumped out of her seat. I looked at her, wondering what was happening. Then I realized it was the newest song playing that got her up.

"We gotta go dance," she hollered at me. I smiled and excused myself. We moved to the middle of the dance floor as "Shoop" from Salt-N-Pepper blared. We hadn't been out there long, shaking our backsides, when I felt a warm hand slid across my right hip, followed by another on the left. I could feel the heat of his body against my back before he even touched me.

"Mind if I join you?" His breath was hot against my already overheated skin. I couldn't reply. I just reached my right hand up behind me and my fingers found their target. I was amazed at how soft and full his dark brown hair was.

Our bodies moved together in a sexual dance, bumping and grinding. It was almost comical that we could be dancing so dirty, yet it felt so right. The chemistry between us was setting me on fire. I was grateful he couldn't see my face because I knew I had to be blushing profusely. All because I could feel the beginnings of his arousal brush against my backside as we moved.

"Turn around," he said as his hands guided my hips to turn my body to face him. He moved so that his knee went between mine. My arms went around his neck and his around my waist. Our eyes were locked as we moved closer together. In that moment he made me feel like I was the only woman in the world. It felt like our dancing was making love set to music. The song had come to an end and we hadn't broken apart. The music changed to a slower pace. That never happened at a bar I glanced over at the DJ. He just nodded. So when I looked back at Nick, I knew why. The song "Lady In Red" had begun. Nick reached for my hand and changed to way he held me.

I had never waltzed before, but I had a feeling that was what he was doing. I didn't care what it was called. He held me close, like we had known each other our entire lives and I have in heaven. As we turned around the floor, I saw Natalie and Jeff. They too were wrapped in each other's arms.

I let out a sigh of content and Nick chuckled lightly. I swear it seemed like he was moving in closer then. My heart was thundering in my chest. He leaned in to whisper in my ear, definitely pulling me closer.

"I could stay like this all night. I can't tell you how good it feels to be able to just feel like a normal guy, even for one night."

He moved his head back so we could look into each other's eyes. I wasn't sure what I saw reflected there, in the depths of his blue eyes, but I was sure mine held the same. I couldn't break eye contact. The butterflies in my stomach were overwhelming. Was he going to kiss me? I was so sure that he was. I closed my eyes in anticipation.

But before anything could happen, Jeff was tapping on Nick's shoulder. "Dude. I need you for a second," was all he said.

Nick let out a sigh. "It is important?"

"Would I take you away if it wasn't."

"I'll be right back," he said as he let me go. He turned to walk away and Natalie came to stand right beside me. I let out the breath I had been holding. We watched as they stepped outside.

"Wow, I still can't believe that just happened," Natalie said.

"What happened?"

"Well," Natalie started. "I thought I was about to go up in flames. We were moving slowly and oh so perfectly. Then he leaned in and kissed me! And then his stupid phone started going off. I was really hoping he would ignore it. It's proper etiquette after all. But he stopped dancing and pulled it out of his back pocket. I mean, the song was pretty much over, but still. It's kinda rude. Next thing I know he is excusing himself and going to get Nick."

"I guess it's good timing though. I've had so much to drink, I really gotta pee!"

We headed to the ladies room to deal with nature. Natalie freshened up her lipstick while I was washing my hands. We both giggled over the situation.

"So, should we go see if they are back yet?" Natalie asked. I just nodded my head.

We had just stepped out of the ladies room, which was fairly close to the front doors. But what we saw made our hearts stop. Two super skinny blonde girls we had seen on the dance floor were walking towards the table we had been at, with the guys wrapped in their arms. They looked like they were a little too close. So much for feeling sexy. How could we compete with the beauty of those two? My heart fell to the floor as girls we would never be pretty enough to compare to, replaced us. Nick leaned down and it looked like he was whispering in her ear. I couldn't see for sure. Her back was to me and her hair blocked my view. Then he kissed her! It was on the cheek but the action still looked too intimate. I looked over at Jeff who had the other girl wrapped in his arms; her face lost in the crook of his shoulder, looking far too comfortable. It all seemed so wrong. I felt used at that moment. I grabbed Natalie's hand and pulled her along, heading straight for the exit.

We sat in the car, feeling low, waiting for the liquor to wear off enough for me to drive the three miles to the hotel we were staying at. We sat there for over an hour, trying not to cry; when we watched as Jeff and Nick walked out of the bar with the blondes linked in their arms. I lost all respect for them at that moment and swore I would never see them in concert again.