

Unwelcome



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April 27, 2015
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I had been out of town for a week and on my last night, I was staying at my friend Luke's house. Luke and I had been friends for as long as I can remember. Luke was an attractive guy, he was tall, and fit with short dark hair and brown eyes. We were both in grade twelve but I was a couple months older than him. When I showed up to his house, he came out wearing sweat pants and a t-shirt. I guess his parents never told him I was coming so he was a bit surprised to see me there. As soon as I got there I headed straight for the shower. I had been out in the rain for the past three hours and my body was absolutely numb. I stripped down and hopped under the steaming hot stream of water. The water splashed against my face and I began to gain feeling in my body again. When I got out of the shower Luke came up to me and said, "So I have this party to go to tonight. Do you want to come?" I was a little tired but I thought 'what the heck.'

"Yeah, sure."

"Great! We're meeting some people at about quarter to eight but it's only four so we have lots of time."

I got dressed in some leggings and a sweat shirt. When I went into the kitchen Luke's mom asked us to take the dog out for a walk to the park and throw a ball around for him. As we walked, we talked and caught up since we hadn't seen each other in a couple months. He told me all about this party that we were going to that night and how it was a birthday party for the girl that he had a 'thing' with. "Yeah, I don't think it should be more than a hundred people tops," he said.



I laughed and as he turned to look at me I said, "That's crazy! The parties I usually go to are about twenty people max." The conversation went back and forth for the next half hour as we compared different aspects of our parties. While we were walking home he got a text from his boot saying that we had to meet her at the park now to get our beer for the night. Our parents said we were only supposed to have the two beers each that they were giving us, so we had to think of something to do with it until we left for the party. As we walked back to the park, we looked for different places to hide the alcohol and settled on stashing it between some bushes and a fence on some random persons property that was a decent distance from Luke's house.

After getting changed into some nicer clothes and putting on just enough makeup to make it look like I didn't just wake up, I sat down on the couch with Luke while we waiting for his friend Ethan to get there. Once finishing introductions with Ethan, Luke's dad dropped us off at a school to meet up with two of his other friends and from there we would walk to the Party. One thing I have come to the conclusion of; attractive people are friends with attractive people. It started to rain on us as soon as we got out of the car so we had to run to go pick up our hidden booze and then to the party in order to not get soaked.

We arrived quite early and there were only about ten people there. When Dawson, the host, opened the door to let us in, she looked excited to see Luke. Her smile vanished when she

saw me follow him in but was quickly replaced by a completely fabricated smile. Despite the fact that Luke had told me she was fine with me coming, I could tell that I was definitely not welcome. She was extremely pretty but was honestly not what I was expecting and not who I would've picture Luke with at all. Luke gave me a beer right away and as he paired up with his friend Shayla for a game of beer pong, I sat myself at the counter and watched as people started to flow into the room. I looked around at the party area and it wasn't that big so I wondered how almost a hundred people were supposed to squeeze in. There was a small living room with a wrap-around couch and a small coffee table in the centre, the kitchen had a medium size island in the middle with stools lined up all along the one side and another table was set up for pong in the little room that was left and there was a small dining room with an extra little living room right off the kitchen as well.



Luke had briefly introduced me to Dawson as we walked in so I made my way up to her. "Hey, I heard it was your birthday?"

"It's not until the middle of next week actually but yeah this is for my birthday," she said with such a fake sweetness in her voice I felt a smirk grown on my face.

"Well happy 'before' birthday," I said with a small laugh. She said thank you and walked away immediately so I sat down at an empty seat at the island and watched as Luke and Shayla destroyed the people they were playing beer pong against. As I sipped on my *Budweiser*, more and more people poured into the room. Luke had been rushing over to me every time he saw more people come in so he could introduce me, however, it got to the point where neither of us could keep track of who I had met and who I hadn't so he gave up on that. More and more people filled the room and it's a good thing that I'm not claustrophobic because it was getting very tight in there.

With the amount of repeating myself I did that night, I felt like I was a robot and everything I was saying was programmed into me. People were coming up to me asking what school I was from since they didn't recognize me and every time, the conversation went something like:

"What school are you from?"

"Oh , I'm from out of town. I go to Fairview."

"That's cool. So how do you know Dawson?"

"I actually don't. I came here with Luke."

And every time they would have a bit of a surprised look on their face, I guess because Luke had a thing with Dawson and he brought me to this party? I'm not quite sure but it was amusing.



I was back to sitting at the island, observing, and introducing myself to people. As I was looking around, I continuously noticed Dawson whispering to people, looking and pointing at me. I don't get what her deal was but it seemed like she was being unnecessarily rude. I ignored her and continued talking to different people and having a good time. Luke came up and gave me another beer and headed back to the table for another game of beer pong. Sitting at one end of the island, I looked straight across and caught eyes with one of Luke's friends that we had met up with at the school. I got really nervous all of a sudden and gave an awkward smile and looked away, only to find myself bring my eyes right back to him where I noticed him give me an eyebrow raise and a smile

I ended up walking around aimlessly and I found myself walk right into Dawson and a couple other girls. My drink splashed in my cup and she started to get all worked up, even though nothing spilt on her. "Look, I don't know what you think is going on, but Luke and I have a thing going on so you better stay away. In fact, you can leave."

I was totally taken aback and said the first thing that came to mind. "Oh , well if that's the case, I can go but I'm supposed to stick with Luke tonight so it's either I stay or we both go. It's totally up to you," then I turned around and walked away.

All of a sudden, there was a huge commotion in the front foyer. Dawson had got her mom and was getting her to kick people that didn't have a direct invitation. I saw Dawson give me a look then whisper something to her mom who then made her way over to me. "Alright, I don't know who you are but Dawson didn't invite you so you need to leave."

I tried to explain to her that I came with Luke and was from out of town but Dawson came over and spat, "You need to leave! I didn't invite you." My heart started to race as I scanned the room for Luke but failed to find him. I was about to be kicked out of a party, was drunk, and hadn't a clue where I was. As Dawson's mom was escorting me out the door, Luke ran up to me and explained to her that I was from out of town and came with him and that Dawson had told him it was fine that I came. I was so relieved and laughed when he turned to me and said, "Holy crap, I got so worried. I didn't know where you were and when I heard people say they were kicking people out that weren't directly invited, I starting freaking out!"

After that whole fiasco went down, I tried to avoid Dawson. I clearly wasn't on her good side. I went around and started talking to a some guy about who knows what. We were interrupted when another guy came up and tried to get me talking to his friend Ryan for whatever reason. I went along with it and talked to him but he was really awkward. Luke came up to me then and practically shouted in my ear, "WE NEED TO TAKE PICTURES TOGETHER!" He

pulled his phone out and as he did, Ryan walked away. We took a couple pictures before he left and met up with Dawson again.

I didn't see her at all for the next hour or so, but Luke had come up and we talked for a while and had a good time. Eventually, Dawson came up to Luke and I and asked if she could talk to me for a bit. I looked towards Luke and he gave me a smile and nodded his head indicating for me to follow Dawson to which I obliged. She led me through a couple rooms and up the stairs before she stopped pointed towards a closed door with a sign that read "STAY OUT" and told me to go in and that she'd meet me in there. I opened the door and stepped into a large bathroom. I awkwardly stood in one spot and took in my surroundings. There was a large tub with tile all around it, hard wood floors, a large double sink counter, and a mirror that took over the entire wall. The door slammed open all of a sudden and Dawson walked in followed by three other girls. Each one held a glass bottle of booze. The last girl to walk in, I think her name was Marissa, turned and locked the door behind her. Something was not right. I started to back up as they walked towards me. Dawson spoke with her teeth gritted and in a low tone, "I told you to stay away from Luke but no, you had to keep flirting with him and just couldn't do what you were told could you?"

"Hold on Dawson. I have not been flirting with him. We've been friends forever, we were just talking and having a good time. Nothing was happening". I tried to convince her but it proved very difficult. Next thing I knew, there were two hands on my shoulders pushing me backwards into the wall. Marissa and the other two girls came around and grabbed my arms while Dawson threw a couple punches to my gut followed by a couple slaps across the face. I could feel my cheeks burning red. I tried to yell but one of the girls grabbed a face cloth and shoved it in my mouth. Dawson grabbed one of the empty bottles from Marissa and raised it above her head. I eyes widened and I knew she could see the fear race through my face. The attack was slow



motion it seemed. The bottle made its way towards me and I cringed. I felt the cold hard bottle come in contact with my skin and it knocked me to the ground. I grabbed my cheek and felt warmth, looked at my hand and noticed the blood covering my hand. The four girls started to kick me and smash my head into the tile around the tub. I tried to scream and remembered the cloth in my mouth but when I went to remove it, Dawson grabbed a broken piece of glass and used it to slowly cut my hands.

I could feel the tears running down my face as I saw the four girls go to the sink and wash their hands of the blood that had made its way from my face and hands to theirs. Dawson turned around and said with an underlying threatening tone in her voice, "I told you to stay away from Luke. Well now you know that you don't mess with me". With that she walked out the door and closed it.

I was in a ball on the hardwood floor with blood all over my body and tears flowing down my face. I was in pain. I finally managed to spit the cloth out of my mouth and used what little energy I had left to call for help. After what seemed to be hours later of calling, my eyes started to flutter and I tried to call out again. Just as my weak voice mustered out a cry of help, Luke came running into the bathroom and rushed over to me. "WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO YOU?" he yelled.

I pulled together all the energy I had left and a faint whisper left my mouth, "Dawson." And with that, my eyes fluttered shut and I was out.