

The moment Luke and Sam had their backs to her she began to walk as fast as she could without being noticed to where she'd seen Devon. She approached the entranceway between the two buildings and began to smile as she peered into the darkness beyond it. She looked around to see that no one was looking and then stepped into the entranceway. There was a large crate to her left that stood taller than she was. The moment she took a step past it Devon reached out and grabbed her waist pulling her close to him. She threw her arms around his neck as he gently backed her up against the wall and began kissing her.

"Hi darlen," he whispered.

"Hi," she whispered back and then gave him a soft, short kiss.

"That was the longest three days ever! It was three days too many. I don't know how I thought I could make five?"

Before Geannifer could reply he began kissing her again. Devon took his hands off her face and wrapped his arms around her. She loosened her hold around his neck and let her arms lay on his shoulders and pulled back with a smile on her face.

"Three days was pretty unbearable for me too."

"Well, that was the only time it will ever happen, you're stuck with me now, remember? I'm not going anywhere."

"Good!" she whispered and leaned forward to give him another kiss.

"You know Geann, Luke is right. You do deserve to have fun tonight!"

"Oh, I know!" she replied with the same grin she had when she answered Luke. "And I have every intention on enjoying myself tonight."

Devon grinned widely back at her and leaned forward to kiss her again.

"I don't mean just behind closed doors sweetheart, we can enjoy that later. I mean during the festivities as well! They are, after all taking place mostly because of you!"

"I know. I will, I promise."

"Good. I say it starts right now. That song is still playing."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean, now that you have me here you won't have to delegate the dance to the Sheriff anymore. You deserve to have that dance."

Geannifer smiled and gently placed her right hand on his cheek but he continued speaking before she had the chance to distract him.

"Will you take this dance with me, Geann?"

“Devon, you know I’d love to. But do you have any idea what you will get yourself into if you do that? You will be the social gossip for who knows how long! The townspeople have never seen me with a man before. Several of them have tried and failed to get me to date, dance or even to go out to dinner with them.”

“I know what I’m getting myself into here, Geann.”

“I don’t think you do, Devon! Are you prepared to become a bigger topic than the actual meaning of this festival? Because that’s what will happen. Once we go out there, there is no turning back. You will be stuck with me and under everyone’s eyes for who knows how long!”

“But I’m crazy about you, so that’s fine with me. Besides, your people and my men are going to have to get used to seeing us together. We’re not going to be able to hide what we have for very long.”

“Your men?”

“Well, yeah. They are kind of like your townspeople. They have never seen me with a woman before, or even shown interest in another woman. In fact, I hear that there is a bet going on if I am actually involved with you or not.”

“Oh, really?”

“Yeah! Of course Dillon and Kenneth have teamed up and are having Dillon saying it’s not’s true; totally rigging the whole thing to their advantage.”

“Of course they are,” Geannifer laughed.

“Come on, what do you say, Geann? The song isn’t going to last forever.”

She did not verbally answer but continued to stare into his eyes and smiled. He leaned forward to give her one more peck on the lips then gently took hold of her hand and held it in his own. They stepped out of the darkness of the building. Devon placed his arm around her waist as he escorted her back towards the crowd. As they approached the stage she was ready to dance on the sides but Devon continued to lead her to the middle of the stage. Other couples smiled and looked at them in curiosity as they passed by and Geannifer just smiled and nodded hello as they did. They reached the middle of the stage and Devon turned to face her holding out his hand with a smile.

“May I have your first dance, my lady?”

Geannifer looked around to see everyone nearby watching them. She smiled as she looked back into Devon’s eyes. She placed her hand into his and placed her other arm on his shoulder. Devon smiled back at her and pulled her closer to him as they began to dance to the music.

The music began to slow down a little and Geannifer gently laid her head on his left shoulder. Devon moved her right hand and held it on his right shoulder as he wrapped his

other arm even tighter around her waist. Geannifer could hear the whispers of the townspeople, both out loud and in their thoughts and began to laugh a little. She lifted her head up to look at him and they both smiled. He grabbed hold of her hand and gently spun her out, then held her hand high and she twirled in a circle back into his arms again. She wrapped her arms around his neck and smiled even wider than before.

“Their thoughts are louder than their whispers.”

“Well, they do not matter. It’s just you and me out here. Just block them out.”

“Normally I don’t have a problem blocking them out, but tonight it’s kind of hard, they are all I can hear.”

“Well, we will just have to do something about that, won’t we?” He spun her out again and did an arm-twist as he spun her back into him then picked up the pace along with the music.

“I never would have pegged you for someone who can dance!” she admitted.

“Yeah well, when I was mortal my mom taught me how. She was an incredible dancer. She mainly practiced ballet, but she was talented all the way around. Dance was a big part of her life and she wanted to make sure I knew the art of it too. Actually, you’re the first one I’ve danced with since her.”

“Really?” she whispered.

“Yes and there will be many more occasions to come.”

“Well, don’t I feel special?”

“Because you are! I can’t help but to notice that for someone who has never accepted a dance before, you are doing extremely well!”

“You think so?”

“Yes, I do.”

“So, you mean to tell me that you didn’t notice when I stepped on your foot when we first started?”

“Of course I did!” he softly laughed. “But you played it off rather well. I don’t think anyone else noticed.”

Geannifer smiled widely and couldn’t help but to let out a small chuckle.

“Well, actually, I guess I learned when I was a mortal as well. After my mother passed away I went to live with my aunt and my cousins. My aunt was always having us kids go to those stupid social gatherings with ballroom dancing and such. My cousin Bethany and I were not very good so my aunt made us take classes.”

“She did?”

“Yes. God forbid we embarrass her because we couldn’t perform one of the traditional dances correctly.”

The song began to come to an end so Devon spun her out one more time and slightly dipped her with its last note. He gently pulled her back to him as she wrapped her arms around his neck and smiled. The air stood still for only a matter of seconds before the band started to play another song. All the couples on the floor began to dance again, still glancing over their shoulders to take a peek at Geannifer and Devon. He loosely wrapped his arms around her waist as they began dancing their next dance.

“You know, Devon, we are going to have to come up with some kind of story for them. It’s one thing telling the truth to your men about us, but not the mortals. You know how their minds work; we used to think like them. What are we going to say when they ask us how we met? They will never buy the truth.”

“Hmmm, you’re right, you do have a point. You couldn’t have at least said yes once or twice to a dinner invitation, huh? Then maybe they would buy it.”

“Hey!”

“I’m kidding,” he laughed. “So, they wouldn’t buy it if someone you never met before won you over, but what if it was someone you used to know? That should be more plausible for them to believe, right?”

“Perhaps. What are you thinking?”

“I don’t know. We can combine our mortal pasts or something. Say we grew up together as kids, or dated as teenagers or something.”

“I don’t hate the sound of that. It’ll be like creating the way we should have lived our mortal lives.”

“Exactly what I was thinking.”

Devon smiled and moved his hands to gently hold her face in them. She smiled back and he leaned forward to kiss her. They stopped dancing for a few seconds as they kissed then slowly began to dance again as they gave each other a few short pecks before they actually stopped.

“Well, that’ll give them something to talk about for a while.”

“Sorry, darlen, I couldn’t contain myself. So, how long do these things usually last anyway?”

“Why do you ask?”

“Well, I’m suddenly thinking about what we’ll be doing behind those closed doors tonight.”

“Oh sure, *now* you’re thinking the right way, now that you have gotten us into the public eye. Then you must not realize that we will be stuck out here for at least the next three or four hours?”