

The Bet

written by

Alaina Halbleib

412-327-1975
alainahalbleib@gmail.com

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

NATALIE, 17, sits on the steps of a wealthy high school in a simple prom gown. She's pretty. Her mascara is smudged.

She stares at her BOUQUET and twirls it in her hands.

SABRINA, 17, emerges in the doorway behind her. Her gown is extravagant, not enough to distract from her stunning beauty.

Sabrina laughs and waves at DREW, 18, inside. She sits next to Natalie and adjusts her dress.

SABRINA

Needed some fresh air?

Natalie raises her eyebrows and shrugs. Sabrina stares out, rambling.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Drew won't stop smiling, like a complete idiot. Jacob keeps running into me too--

Sabrina looks to Natalie and sighs.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

--boys are just so complicated. So I get it.

NATALIE

(mumbling)

Do you?

SABRINA

Obviously, Nat. This whole bet between Will and Drew has been really hard on me too!

Natalie shoots up.

NATALIE

Will knew that Drew would pick you, I was always going to lose.

Sabrina stands up, heel stuck on her dress. She yanks at it.

SABRINA

What are you talking about? Drew took both of us out!

Sabrina breaks her shoe free as Natalie stomps down a few steps. She stares at her sadly.

NATALIE

Our friends are all in love with you, someone is always talking to you, and Will fixed the whole thing because he knew Drew wanted you.

WILL, 18, hangs on the doorway with Drew standing beside him. He has a subtle charm. He catches Sabrina's gaze. They exchange silent panic as Natalie paces:

NATALIE (CONT'D)

It was all just a stupid game for them to watch and laugh at--

SABRINA

Nat.

Will takes a step out of the doorway.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

--me. He wouldn't pick me because it's never--

SABRINA

Natalie.

NATALIE

--me and how could it be looking at you?

Natalie throws her bouquet down. Sabrina runs down to her.

SABRINA

NATALIE! Stop for a minute!

Sabrina motions to Will. Natalie scoffs and plops down onto the bottom step. Sabrina and Will share a look before Sabrina joins Drew in the doorway.

A beat.

Will sighs and grabs Natalie's bouquet from the stair, then sits down next to her.

WILL

You're right, I did know he'd choose her.

Natalie stares daggers through him. He cracks a slight smile.

Natalie blinks, confused. She looks back at Sabrina and Drew, then back to Will.

He extends the bouquet for her to take, smile widening.