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Subject: Re: New Beginnings

Posted by [Lillehafrue](#) on Mon, 30 Jul 2012 03:19:51 GMT

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"So, are you enjoying yourself, Cherry?" John smiled down at his sister as they danced. He could feel the non-committal single shoulder shrug. "I guess that means, 'no'?"

"Well, sorta." The teen let out a deep sigh. "The food's great, as usual, and the music is okay. But it's just not as fun as the New Year's Eve party. Or even the Halloween party. Or Virgil's birthday."

"Don't tell me you're getting to be a jaded society party girl!" John said with a chuckle. "You're far too young for that!"

Cherie rolled her eyes. "Of course, I'm not."

"Then why isn't this one as fun?"

"I dunno." Again, she gave him a half-hearted shrug. "I guess because there's nothing to do but dance and eat. Or, if you're a grown up, dance, eat and drink."

"That's just about all we did at the New Year's Eve party," John countered.

"Yeah, but there were lots of cool people there. Lots of guys to dance with. I listened to Grandma Emily talking with that Duchess. She was a hoot!" Cherie glanced up at her brother, a quizzical look on her face. "Did you know that Kat was there?"

"I know." John's face held a tint of something Cherie couldn't place. "She came to speak to me. Even introduced her fiancé."

"She's engaged?" She shook her head. "That was pretty quick."

John gave her a keen glance. "Quick? What do you mean by that?"

"I dunno." Cherie looked away, and gave another now-annoying half-shrug. "I kinda thought she'd be pining away after you longer than that."

He snorted and shook his head. "I don't know where you got that idea."

"It's just the way she seemed to be."

There was a pause, then John changed the subject. "Well, there are still interesting people to talk to. Have you talked to Ms. Soto-Fernandez?"

Cherie made a face. "Our dentist? I mean, I know she's going to be an agent and all that, but she's a... a dentist. How is that interesting?"

John's eyebrow went up, and he smiled, a mysterious expression. "I don't know, Cherie, but I've heard some pretty interesting things about this dentist of ours. She's known Lady Penelope for a

while now. I understand they both used to be in the same line of work."

The girl looked confused. "You mean modeling? Our dentist used to be a model?"

This time, John laughed aloud. "If you think that Lady Penelope used to be a model, you'd better go talk to her and get the straight story. Modeling is what she does now... but only on occasion."

The music ended, and John asked, "I'm thirsty. How about you?"

"I guess," was her non-committal answer.

"Then I'll get us both some punch, and you can go talk to Lady P. Ask her what she used to do." He motioned off to one of the center tables, where her Ladyship sat with Emily and Izarra.

"I'd like the punch, but..." Cherie eyed the older women warily.

"Double dog dare you."

She rolled her eyes again. "Oh, all right," she said, her tone one of resigned petulance.

"I'll bring the punch to the table," he said, grinning. "I wouldn't miss this for the world."

He stalked off to the punch bowl, glancing back only once to see Cherie approach Penelope's table.