

The First Dance

By

Catherine Rand

EXT. LAWN - DAY

A wedding tent, band playing, crowd of drunken people dancing.

The GROOM, jacket on the chair next to him, sits alone behind a long table, smiles, claps along to the MUSIC.

The BRIDE dances with her FATHER to the Electric Slide.

The groom's SISTER, in a sleeveless bridesmaid dress, sulks in the corner with a glass of champagne, watching the Bride.

The Groom catches her eye, smiles. She ignores him.

He pats the seat next to him. She takes a sip of champagne, shakes her head no.

He shrugs, lifts his glass to her and drinks. She walks off to the bar.

The song changes, the Bride pulls up the groom to dance, both LAUGHING.

The sister SCOFFS, turns back to the bar. A handsome BACHELOR offers her a drink, she refuses.

The Groom sees the Bachelor grab another girl, start to dance. The Groom turns back to his Bride, spins her, dips her.

EXT. LAW - THAT NIGHT

The wedding tent is lit by torches, most of the drunken crowd passed out in their seats.

The groom has his arm around a sleeping Bride, watches his Sister still down champagne at the bar.

He shifts the Bride back into her seat, heads to the bar. He COUGHS, she doesn't look up.

She runs her hands along her arms. He sees goosebumps, takes off his jacket, puts it over her shoulders.

She jumps, relaxes when she sees him. She has earbuds in, headphones plugged into her phone.

He sits next to her, bumps her shoulder.

She offers him a drink, he takes one of her earbuds, puts it in his ear. A SAD BALLAD plays.

He takes the phone, she tries to pull it back, he wins.

1960's FUNK MUSIC plays. She laughs, he shushes her, looks to the sleeping guests.

She grabs the phone back, plays TEEN POP MUSIC.

The groom shakes his head, grabs the phone. An OLD JAZZ LOVE SONG plays.

She takes another sip of her drink, he bumps her shoulder. She looks at him, he takes her hand, walks her to the empty dance floor.

She shakes her head, tries to pull away, he pulls her to him. They dance slowly, him leading, her stiff.

He readjusts the earbuds in each of their ears, hugs her close.

She looks at the sleeping Bride, hugs her brother back, rests her head on his shoulders, closes her eyes.

The song ends. They don't stop dancing.