

Le Tigre Carnival

Written by

Madison Ballard

ACT I

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The bar is upscale and trendy. BAILEY (30) walks in wearing a small, slinky dress and carrying a large purse. She looks around, enjoying the music, before spotting a table of her MOMMY AND ME GROUP FRIENDS.

Bailey and the table exchange waves and SCREAMS as she rushes over. She and the judgmental Queen Bee INGA (30) share cordial hugs.

INGA
Bailey, how are you?

BAILEY
Oh, I'm ready for a drink!

Inga offers her a sip of her cocktail.

BAILEY (CONT'D)
Mmm! I'm getting that.

INGA
Finish it! I've been here since Happy Hour and I've got to wind down.

BAILEY
Oh, Inga, no! Come on! We haven't been out together in forever!

INGA
I'll see you tomorrow!

BAILEY
(whining)
It's not the same!

They LAUGH.

INGA
Oh! I know, I know. But it's his fifth birthday! Is he SO excited?

BAILEY
Oh, my God! SO excited! I facetimed Colin after work, while he was trying on his outfit! It's this little suit with a funky space pattern --

INGA

-- STOP --

BAILEY

-- Because he's so into space and rockets right now! I love it!

INGA

Oh my God, Bailey, that's so cute!
I can't wait to see him!

BAILEY

Me too! Connor brought him over Wednesday so we could do a pre-birthday dinner.

(beat)

He gets so much bigger each time I see him.

INGA

I know sometimes I barely recognize Lindy, and I see her everyday.

Bailey lingers in the sadness for a moment before finishing Inga's drink.

BAILEY

Okay enough of that. Come on, do a shot with me --

INGA

-- Bailey, honestly --

BAILEY

-- You can wind down after we take one little shot!

Bailey guides Inga to the bar. Inga shoots a judgmental look at the catty group of mothers.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

THE BARTENDER drops off two shots.

INGA

What kind of liquor is this?!

BAILEY

Fruity vodka, don't worry!
(raises glass)
To Colin's fifth birthday!

INGA
To Colin!

They take a shot. Bailey scans the room and notices an AVERAGE LOOKING MAN IN A NICE SUIT looking at her. She smiles but doesn't engage further.

Bailey instead pressures the Mommies into doing shots and dancing.

Before Inga leaves, she stops and tells fellow mother PATTY:

INGA (CONT'D)
Make sure she peels herself off the dancefloor at some point. Connor's expecting her to make it tomorrow.

She watches Bailey accept a drink sent over to her by the Average Man.

INGA (CONT'D)
God, it's sad.
(then)
Get home safe, Patty. It was good to see you.

Inga leaves.

INTO THE NIGHT, BAILEY DRINKS AND DANCES.

Eventually, Patty tries to take her home.

PATTY
Come on, Bailey. Don't you want to be put together for Colin's party?

BAILEY
What's that supposed to mean?

PATTY
It means there's nothing worse than a hangover during a party with twenty screaming children! Trust me!

BAILEY
I'm not going to be hungover, Patty. Calm down.

PATTY
I'm just trying to help you --

BAILEY
Help me what? I'm not blacking out
or anything, Patty.

PATTY
Bailey, I --

BAILEY
-- Look, I don't have my kid the
way you and the other girls have
yours, but I know what I'm doing
and I'm not worried about not being
put together because that's my
son's birthday! And I'm going to
make it special.

PATTY
Fine. Do it your way.

Patty leaves a nonplussed Bailey by the bar.

Trying to forget the encounter, Bailey shakes her head and
scans the room. The same Average Guy is still at the bar, but
he's not looking at her.

She approaches him.

BAILEY
Hello.

He turns around and smiles.

BAILEY (CONT'D)
My name's Bailey.

EVAN
Evan. Evan Todd.

He extends a hand, revealing a Rolex watch. Bailey sits
beside him.

BAILEY
I realized I never said thank you
for my drink earlier.

EVAN
Well, when you send a drink to a
beautiful woman, all you can expect
is that for her to enjoy it.

BAILEY
That's all you expected?

EVAN
Yeah... But, uh, it's not all I
wanted.

BAILEY
What else did you want?

EVAN
The chance to buy you a second one.

She laughs. He motions for two more drinks.

BAILEY
You're smooth, Evan Todd. What do
you do for a living?

EVAN
Investment banker.

BAILEY
Oh, really? We're in similar
fields.

EVAN
You're a banker?

BAILEY
I'm a baker.

EVAN
(scoffs, chuckles)
A baker? How's that similar?

BAILEY
It's only one letter off.

He laughs, thinking she's an idiot. He loves idiots.

BAILEY (CONT'D)
I own my own bakery at Wavefront
Plaza.

EVAN
Get out of here.

BAILEY
Yup.

EVAN
Look, it's getting kind of played
out in here. Maybe you want to come
back to my place and see what else
we have in common?

Bailey takes a sip of her new drink.

BAILEY
Not until I finish my drink.

Evan is both irritated and enchanted.

EVAN
Fair enough.

Bailey smiles and guzzles her drink.

BAILEY
Okay, let's go.

Evan CHUCKLES CREEPILY as he and she stand up and gather their things.

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

If Evan Todd isn't much to look at, the view from his luxurious loft more than makes up for it. Bailey marvels while Evan lights a cigar and pours dark liquor.

BAILEY
I love the smell of cigars.

EVAN
Really?

He offers her one; she accepts. He lights it for her.

EVAN (CONT'D)
I guess I should have known to offer you one.

BAILEY
Why's that?

EVAN
Most women don't like them. And, even if they like the smell, they usually don't want to smoke them.

BAILEY
So, I'm not like the other girls?

EVAN
You're a man's woman. I could see it, with your girlfriends tonight.

BAILEY
You bought some of them drinks,
though.

EVAN
Well, who am I with?

He grabs his drink and walks over to the couch. Bailey
doesn't follow.

EVAN (CONT'D)
I feel like you're hard to shock.

He pulls out a box, from which he retrieves a large bag of
cocaine.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Because you just want to have a
good time.

Evan cuts a line, snorts it, and leans back on the couch.
Bailey takes a drink and joins him on the couch.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Here, let me.

He cuts her a line.

BAILEY
What a generous host.

She snorts it, beginning a nightlong binge of drinking and
drugs. She dances in front of Evan, they make out, get naked,
and get into the hot tub.

As they have sex in the living room, Bailey stares out the
window and takes in the view of the city.

EXT. PATIO - NIGHT

Just before daybreak, with Evan passed out in the living
room, Bailey sits in the jacuzzi smoking her cigar and
staring out at the city.

MEMORIES OF HER, COLIN, AND HIS FATHER FLOOD HER.

And she takes a drink to dampen the pain.

INT. PATIO - DAY

At some point, Bailey fell asleep. Evan hurriedly wakes her up.

EVAN
Hey, hey! Hey, you awake?

BAILEY
I meant to get an Uber.

EVAN
Well, you can now. Look, I've got a spin class --

BAILEY
What time is it?

EVAN
Eight.

BAILEY
SHIT!

She grabs her phone and clothes and dresses in a panic.

INT. CONNOR'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - DAY

The clock on the bedside table reads 8:01 AM as Bailey's ex-husband CONNOR (30) makes his bed in his briefs.

INT. CONNOR'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - DAY

Connor opens the door to his son's room.

COLIN (5) sleeps contentedly, so Connor closes the door and continues to the room at the end of the hall.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Bailey waits outside, her insides as soiled and crumpled as her dress. Her Uber arrives.

INT. UBER CAR - DAY

THE UBER DRIVER (20's) watches Bailey clamber inside through the mirror.

DRIVER
Do you have a preference on music?

BAILEY
No, man, I don't care.

Her PHONE RINGS. It's Connor.

BAILEY (CONT'D)
Aw, shit!
(answers)
Hey, Connor.

INTERCUT:

INT. CONNOR'S HOUSE, GYM - DAY

Connor stretches before his work-out.

CONNOR
How was The Pink Flamingo?

BAILEY
(sighs)
Inga texted you?

CONNOR
She wasn't supposed to?

BAILEY
I didn't say that. Look, what do
you want? I'm in a rush.

CONNOR
I just wanted to touch base. Can
have Colin's cake here by 11?

BAILEY
Noon?

CONNOR
The party starts at noon.

BAILEY
I thought it was one!

CONNOR
Why does it matter?

BAILEY
It doesn't! I'll have the cake
there at 11, but shit I gotta go!

She hangs up.

END INTERCUT.

INT. UBER CAR - DAY

Bailey EXHALES her frustration.

DRIVER
Everything okay?

BAILEY
I just have to make a fucking cake
in two hours or my ex is going to
lose it.

DRIVER
Over a cake?

BAILEY
It's for our son's birthday.

DRIVER
Oh.

BAILEY
I was going to make it last night,
but this bitch screwed me over...

She shakes her head.

BAILEY (CONT'D)
My ex-husband is such a good dad to
Colin. He's orderly, he's smart. I
mean, he's a robot but...

UGH.

DRIVER
That why you split up?

BAILEY
No, that was because of his
burgeoning homosexuality.

DRIVER
That'll do it.

BAILEY
The marriage never worked, but he
tried to force it. He wanted to try
some open-bisexual menage, but I
wasn't for it at the time.

DRIVER
What about now?

BAILEY
(chuckles)
I guess in retrospect I wouldn't
mind as much. He pulls some hot
tail these days.

The Driver laughs and Bailey stares out the window to see...

AN ELABORATE CARNIVAL BEING CONSTRUCTED BY CLOWNS.

The Uber comes to a halt.

DRIVER
Alright. Good luck with your cake,
Bailey.

BAILEY
Thanks, man.

She gets out of the car.

EXT. BAKERY - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Bailey stares at the rainbow of clown wigs bustling to
construct the carnival.

She CHUCKLES and goes inside.

INT. BAKERY - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

There are two work stations in the kitchen. Hers is a mess,
with dirty pans and dishes. She forgot to clean up.

BAILEY
Fuck...

She WHINES and shuffles the pans around.

BAILEY (CONT'D)
FUCK! FUCK! FUCK!

The pans CLATTER to the floor. Bailey shakes her head,
refusing to deal with the chaos.

BAILEY (CONT'D)
Fuck it...

She walks over to the pristine work station.

A motion camera lights up as she begins to work.

INT. CONNOR'S HOUSE, COLIN'S ROOM - DAY

After his workout, Connor wakes up his son.

CONNOR
(chanting)
Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!
Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!

Colin wakes up LAUGHING and joins his father.

COLIN
(chanting)
Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!
Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!

Connor picks up Colin and spins him around.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Dad, you're sweaty!

Connor laughs, puts Colin down, and smooths his hair.

CONNOR
Happy birthday, Sweets.

COLIN
I get a party!

CONNOR
Yes, you do! With all your friends!
And you're going to get to jump in
a bounce castle, and play space
rangers, and open presents!

COLIN
And Mommy's going to meet Teddy?

CONNOR
Yes. But, before all of that, we
need to get cleaned up.

COLIN
Are you making Elvis sandwiches for
breakfast?

CONNOR
Yes, sir, but I gotta get cleaned
up first. Go brush your teeth.

He kisses Colin's head and watches him rush out of the room.