

Natalie Wyatt
Darkness Visible

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL *PT 1*

(J's Mix, Track 14, So Happy Together, The Turtles, fade after 35 sec)

Jamie: I'm here to tell my story. Beginning to end, a young female going into the wild blue yonder. I want to start off by saying that I'm not completely sure why I'm here fighting this war. I mean, sure, the air force gave me the opportunity to get out of the life I would have had otherwise, the one I was headed towards in leaps and bounds, the dead end that I would have hit eventually. I guess that's a reason. The education, man, my G.I. bill hasn't even kicked in yet, I'm only 18, and it feels like I'll never get back to actually use it. There's a hundred bucks out of every paycheck I'll never see again. I don't know anymore, it's probably all for good reason. Maybe I'm just tired of trudging through the mud, helping people who want nothing more than to kill me, working tedious 12 hour shifts, and feeling like an enemy in my own camp. Maybe I just miss her.

Rich: Hey, Lenox, looks like you got mail! Another letter from Nadine. Jeez you guys write a lot! How do you find the time?

Jamie: I don't know Jenkins, there's not much to do at night really. Figure the least I could do is keep my best friend up to date on what all's going on with us over here. What do you do when you can't sleep?

Rich: Damn, Lenox! I can always sleep! And the few times when I can't sleep, I play cards with the boys. You should come over to the alpha sector one night; we have the best barracks and the best Texas Hold 'Em table in the whole Middle East!

Jamie: I'm sure that's not hard to do. All the Iraqi's are too busy resisting our "help" to really get a good table going.

Rich: Anyway, Lenox, I only write my girlfriend once a week, and that's if she's lucky! We've got an understanding though—she knows I love her and I talk about her all the time and she knows what I'm going through over here. We'll be together again soon, I'm sure this stupid skirmish will end any day now. You have a boyfriend, Lenox?

Jamie: Nah, I've had a few but they're just too much trouble.

Rich: What? I guess they can't take a tough woman. (Meant as a joke, laughs)

Jamie: (laughs) Nah, I don't think that's it.

Rich: Well, I'm sure if you grew out your hair you'd be a fox! Guys would be falling all over themselves for you. There'd probably be fights, U.S against U.S.! I know Carter wouldn't mind taking you out, why don't you give him a shot?

Jamie: He's not really my type and you know damn right most of these military boys don't want anything except to get into someone's pants.

Rich: Yeah, you're pretty right on the money there Lenox. If I were you, I'd just be gay! (Laughs) I'm sure that'd go over well with Uncle Sam! Well, hey, I've got to report for my shift, have fun writing your letters!

Jamie: He's a good guy, Rich. Jenkins that is. He must know what's going on, he just can't say anything about it and I sure as hell can't say anything about it. It seems like forever since I've gotten a letter from Nadine; it's only been 2 days though. I hope she's gotten mine. The only thing about snail mail from here to there and vice versa—takes too long, too choppy, too much delay. About 2 weeks. Makes me miss the days when we'd pass each other in the halls and swap notes one hand to another; at first notes about basketball games, then about difficult decisions, then about love. I can remember how it all started, one beautiful fall day we were walking home from a long day of classes...

(J's Mix, Track 1, Beautiful Thing, Sister Hazel, 40 seconds)

Nadine: Hey Jamie, James Bond! I love the new haircut! Makes you look so suave and daring! What a babe! (whistles) Mind if I escort you home?

Jamie: Well, I guess I don't think I mind too much. (bashful) Nah, stop it about the hair. (seriously) Nadine, my mom hates it. I think she might disown me, she told me it says too much about what I am.

Nadine: What you are? But who you are is more important, right?

Jamie: I guess not to her. She had a fit Nadine, she's started to tell the whole family about my 'problem' and they're all looking down on me like I'm a mutant or something.

Nadine: I like you just the way you are sweetie. And do you know what?

Jamie: What?

Nadine: It doesn't matter what they think as long as you aren't hurting anyone by it, as long as you're happy with the person you allow yourself to be and the person you allow yourself to love.

Jamie: You were always so good with advice Nadine, so good with words. I'm going to miss you when I have to leave.

Nadine: You're the one who has to head into the military. And you just *have* to graduate early to do it as soon as possible. I wish you would stay here but I guess you have to do what you have to do and of course not I could stop you.

Jamie: Why do you say that?

Nadine: I'm just a friend, but I'm going to support you—especially if you're getting away from your family. (pause) I'm going to miss you more than everyone else Jamie.

Jamie: Oh yeah?

Nadine: Of course. I mean, you must know it already, I like you. As much negativity as our families put on our choices I would love to be with you. I can see it in your green eyes Jamie—you want to be with me too.

Jamie: Nadine, I... I... do want to be with you. But I'm leaving so soon, how do we start something like this when we know it will end?

Nadine: It doesn't have to end. We'll work hard at us. We've been friends for a long time, remember the conversations we've had? I know that we were hinting at us. I can quote you perfectly, "The best relationships are the ones that are formed on a solid base of friendship. As hard as it is to cross that line, it's well worth it because those relationships will outlast many others." Remember? You said that!

Jamie: Yes, I remember. But what does that leave us with as options?

Nadine: We love, Jamie. We allow ourselves to take this chance because of all the greatness that we know is possible between the two of us.

Jamie: I'm really not sure Nadine.

Nadine: It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. That's what they say.

Jamie: "Nadine," I said, looking for words. And we had wandered into the park across the street from my house, walking and talking together. The sky was beginning to dim and the wind rustled through grass and past the swings. Her hair, long and dark, seemed wild, and I realized what beauty was. Nadine was more wrought with passion than I had ever seen anyone before, her heart was beautiful. She was looking at me but in an odd way, looking away whenever I tried to look her in the eyes; she was scared. I was too. When no words came I moved my hand toward her face, gently placing it on the back of her neck and pulled her towards me. We kissed. And she walked me to my doorstep.

Nadine: Goodnight Jamie.

Jamie: Goodnight Nadine.

(Lead out with end of track 1 if possible?)

Jamie: That moment, that at once was so clouded and unforeseen, will always be so clear in my mind. I wonder if she's thinking of me right now, thinking of the exact same moment. Maybe I'll write her and ask! What good that will do, but I guess if I write now and then shine my boots I can fit in and go to the poker game with Jenkins tonight. I know, I'll be romantic, two envelopes. The outside one with her address... 1276 Hales Ave... FL... 327... ok, and the one that'll hold the letter in the main one—"Don't read 'til morning..."

(J's Mix, Track 18, Good Morning Beautiful, Steve Holy, 40 sec)

Nadine My Love,

Good morning beautiful. I can't stop thinking about you. I wish I were there right now so that I could wake up next to you and make our coffee special how we like it. You don't need any sugar in yours right? Because your lips are sweeter than the most saccharine of sugars. Oh man, I think being away makes my game all that much better, right? Hopefully I'll only be 3 more months over here. The longest months of my entire life are the ones without you in my arms! This guy Rich told me to be gay today! HAHA! I mean, c'mon, what was I supposed to say? "Sure buddy, you're a little late on that one! That there letter you're holding is from my lesbian lover!" Oh my God, that would be sooooo funny! I can see his mouth falling open and his words getting all mumbled up. I should just tell them so they'd kick me out! But, like I told you before, I'm in too deep, having taken the anti-homosexuality classes and signed all sorts of papers, they'd dishonorably discharge me and I'd never find work again. Damn baby, I wish I could brag about you as much as you do me. It's a blessing and I think you should be as open as possible, it's not worth it being any other way, take it from me. Well, I need to finish up some chores and such, and then I've got a card game to catch so I'll be looking forward to opening your letter later on tonight and writing you again tomorrow. Love you lots, miss you tons,

XOXOXOXO—Jamie

Jenkins: Hey Lenox, shine those boots later! The game is starting now and you won't be able to get in without me!

Carter: Hey sexy! Why don't you put a little effort into the look for me tonight? You could wear a skirt for once and, hell, it even looks like your hair is starting to grow out! You're on the way to being one hot ticket around here!

Jenkins: Carter, lay off her!

Carter: (under breath) I'd rather lay on her.

Jenkins: Oh let's be mature here buddy. She had a long shift today and I wouldn't want to put a skirt on right now either. You, on the other hand kiddo would * GAY VOICE* look so spectacularly fantabulous in one of those itsy bitsy white skirts *END GAY VOICE*, (LAUGHS) try not to get any mud on it, Carter, when you're servicing your superiors!

Carter: That wasn't funny; you could get in serious trouble for that gay crap man. Besides, everyone 'round here knows I'm a ladies man, man's man, man about base!

Lenox: You know what's not funny Carter? The comments you make under your breath. The funniest thing—the fact that you'll never get with me! Alright, let's get over there before we miss anything. I have to get in the zone so I can start beating you guys early.

Carter: Hey Jenkins, that's what she thinks. I'll get with her, she's my new project and she'll be falling into my arms by the end of the night! Just watch me!

Jenkins: Sure buddy.

Jamie: God, I hate these Air Force boys. Not only are they stupid but they can't seem to get enough from anyone! I'll just get to this poker party and play for a while, head back and try to get some sleep before I have to stand on post tomorrow.

Carter: Hey boys! The party is here! We can get this thing started! Throw me a beer Peterson!

(lead out with so happy together [lead in, first song])

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL *PT 2.*

(Franz Ferdinand, Take Me Out, 35 sec)

Jamie: It was pretty nice of the boys to invite me to this card game, I'm beating the socks off 'em but that's their own fault! I feel awkward, though, just being here feels like Carter expects something more from me. I'll just get this little bit of hob-knobbing out of the way and head to back to my barracks, it's actually kind of fun. But I think I've drank too much and Carter is really laying the charm on thick. I'm getting nauseous but it's not because of the alcohol; Carter's boastful, obnoxious repartee brings about such a tremendous gag reflex that I can't even find the words to explain it.

Carter: Hey guys, look at Lenox! Doesn't she keep the straightest poker face you've ever seen! This little lady is kicking our asses boys, what'll we do with her?

Jenkins: She's winning fair and square, I guess we'll surrender all of our belongings to her eventually. Great skills Lenox!

Peterson: Hell yeah, I never knew you could play so well babe!

Carter: Yeah, I'm sure she has a lot of skills we don't know about yet! (laughs) Hey babe, have another drink!

Guy: If you're old enough to die for your country then you're old enough to have a few drinks!

Jamie: I don't think so guys, I'm pretty sure I'm out of this game. Time to call it quits for the night.

Jenkins: That's probably a good idea, I'm going to head back too boys. Thanks for the company, another game in a couple of nights?

Peterson: You know it! Same time, same place. Lenox, would you want to be our next addition to the table? Maybe we could learn a thing or two from you!

Jamie: Sure thing. Anyways, I need to head back to shine my boots and iron my uniform—reporting to post at 0600 you know.

Jenkins: See you guys later.

Guy: Catch you later Jenkins!

Carter: Bye Rich! So, Lenox—0600 is nothing! Its not even midnight sweet thang, the night is young! Stay a while longer and join in a friendly game of strip poker!

Jamie: Friendly? Maybe a little too friendly for me. No need be naïve and have you guys cheat a young, pretty soldier like me just to get my shirt off.

Peterson: I don't think it's us as much as it's Carter.

Jamie: I know. Don't want to put a damper on things but I really do have to get going and head to bed.

Carter: Mind if I come with?

Jamie: To bed alone.

Carter: I was just offering to walk you across base Lenox. Wow, do you really think I'm that much of a creep?

Peterson: He does have a point; you need to walk with someone to your barracks at night.

Jamie: Ok, ok, I guess I could use a buddy for the walk home. C'mon Carter, but no funny stuff!

Carter: Of course no funny stuff. You can start heading in that direction, just let me grab a beer for the road. I'll be right there.

Jamie: "Sure," I said. And now I'm walking outside, in the pitch black of a quiet camp. In this corner of the base the lights are dimmed enough for me to see the stars. Those always make me think of Nadine because I know that they make her think of me in some offbeat romantic way. I am always with her, the green star that will always walk with her.

Carter: Hey Peterson, thanks for the help talking her into my walking her home. I owe you one, you're a real buddy.

Peterson: No problem man, you better catch up to her though; she'll get away if you let her Carter.

Carter: Oh trust me. I won't let this one get away.

Jamie: Damn, Carter is taking forever and I can't seem to stop thinking about Nadine. I hope I can keep it all quiet. Right now I remember the days before I came here, she was so afraid for me, afraid of the bad things that she'd heard about. We were lying on my bed, her head on my stomach, my fingers running through her hair...

(sister hazel, best I'll ever be, 40 sec)

Nadine: Jamie?

Jamie: Yes honey? Nadine, what are you thinking about?

Nadine: Nothing.

Jamie: Liar! You know it's our rule, if you're thinking about it then you have to tell me about it.

Nadine: Nu-uh! You're going to have to force it out of me!

Jamie: (Laughing) Oh yeah? You know when I get through all my training and I'm finally a security forces member I'll have handcuffs. I won't have this problem with you anymore, all I'll have to do is lock you up 'til you break and spill your info.

Nadine: (Laughing) Well, you don't have that luxury right now, do you sweetie?

Jamie: No, I guess I don't but I know you won't win A TICKLE FIGHT!

Nadine: (Laughing) OK, STOP! NO REALLY! I fear that you've got me in a compromising position here. Pinned down and tickled against my will! Rape! Stop! Rape!

Jamie: (Evil Giggle) Can't rape the willing.

Nadine: Very true.

Jamie: Very true indeed, now really, Nadine, what are you thinking about?

Nadine: That stuff really goes on in the military babe, especially to young pretty girls like you. I just want you to be careful, ok?

Jamie: What do you mean? I'm sure everything will be fine.

Nadine: Promise me that you'll just listen to me on this one. I'm not as scared of you fighting in the war as I am of you being taken advantage of. What if they target you for who you are?

Jamie: Like, assault me because I won't give it up?

Nadine: Yes, exactly, even if they don't ask and you don't tell... I mean, it's a big problem in the military babe. Rape is a big deal. And if you seem different from the other girls those dirty boys might pick you out of the crowd. It would never be the victim's fault, you can't change who you are, I'm just saying you're more outstanding above the rest.

Jamie: Don't worry honey, I promise I'll be careful.

Nadine: And if anything ever does happen?

Jamie: I promise to take action against them.

Nadine: And?

Jamie: I promise to tell you.

Nadine: Ok, now what were you saying about handcuffs?

Jamie and Nadine: (laugh together)

(sister hazel, best I'll ever be, 40 sec)

Jamie: There you are. Well, thanks for finally choosing to join me Carter.

Carter: No problem babe, it's my pleasure, believe me.

Jamie: So when do you work next? You know we officially switch to constant twelve hour shifts in a week or so, right?

Carter: I work again tomorrow at 0600 I think. But right now is all that matters sweetheart.

Jamie: Right now all we're doing is talking about tomorrow. So right now tomorrow is all that really matters.

Carter: Behind that building is a shortcut.

Jamie: **No it's not...**<pause> *What's going on?*<pause> **Don't grab my arm like that!** *My heart is beating so fast, what's happening to me?*

(Random Songs, Track 5, Benny Benassi, Satisfaction, 20 sec, then play behind scene)

CARTER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET OFF ME!

Carter: C'mon Jamie, I know you want this just as much as I do. Don't keep lying to yourself, you've been asking for this all along.

Jamie: **No!** <pause> *Why is he calling me Jamie? Does he think the use of my first name makes it romantic? Does he really think I want this? Oh God, he's got me pinned here against the wall...*<pause> **Get your hands off me!**

Carter: I didn't know you had such nice assets under those baggy jeans Jamie. And those, well, let's see if they're just as nice

Jamie: *One hand unzipping my pants, the other wandering underneath my blouse, why am I letting him take this control over me?*<pause> **No Carter! I don't want you touching me, why can't you seem to understand?**

Carter: Oh Jamie, I always knew you couldn't resist me!

Jamie: **Oh yes I can! I'm a trained soldier too!**

Carter: Ugh, Oh (like he's been kneed in the groin)

Jamie: *(panting) just run, run back to your room and leave him behind! Keep running, you got away, you're safe. Why would he do that? I never thought it would go that far! Never! Why did I let him do that?*

(end music)

Jenkins: Hey, Lenox, where are you headed so fast? Is everything ok?

Jamie: Yeah, fine, everything is fine, goodnight. Don't worry about me.

Jenkins: Are you sure?

(DOOR SLAM)

Jamie: Fine? No, everything isn't fine! The whole scenario keeps playing over and over in my head. How could I have let that happen? Is it really my fault? I wish I had Nadine here. God, I remember the warning she gave me long ago, just a few weeks before I left to go to basic training.

Jamie: I promise to tell you...

Nadine My Safety,

I'm so scared right now. I need you to be right here with me, cleanse me of the grime that I feel all over me. My skin is crawling. I promised to tell you if anything ever went wrong over here. Don't worry sweetie, I got away from him but it could have turned out so badly. I went to that card game and as I was walking home the guy that had offered to escort me across base pushed me against a wall and started to undress me. It was so disgusting. You were right, I think he knows I'm gay and I think I was a conquest. But I kicked him in the nuts and ran, ran as fast as I could back here. I thought about you and what you'd said. I'm going to report him in just a few minutes. I'm sure Jenkins will walk me to main base security. I'm sure I can trust Jenkins. Nadine, I miss you so much! It's not right that I have to be secretive. Is it that bad that I love you? I don't seem to understand. What if I could be open about it? Maybe that would keep it from being such a stigma, keep it from putting a bullseye on my head. I'm glad we had that talk about rape before I left, though, because if we hadn't I'm sure I'd be driving myself crazy right now. You're right, it wasn't my fault, but I feel so violated and weak. You should be here right now damnit! I'll be writing you more later as things progress and process with this situation. I love you no matter what they say. And I probably miss you too much!

Hugs & Kisses,
Jamie

(Can't Help Falling in Love With You, Elvis, 40 sec.)

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL *PT 3*

(nelly furtado, legend, 30 secs?)

Jamie: It was absolutely horrible, the whole night replays over and over in my head every time I close my eyes. As if sleep wasn't hard enough to acquire without Nadine in

my arms. Now I lay down and I can feel Carter's hands trespassing to nearly every part of my body, his warm breath and serpent's tongue creeping across my neck. He called out my name like I belonged to him.

Carter: (REALLY SLEAZY) C'mon Jamie, I know you want it just as much as I do.

Jamie: God, my skin is still burning every place he put his body against mine. I wrote Nadine that night, a couple nights ago, but last night I got to speak to her on the phone. It really helped me through that situation, it seems that seriously talking through that sort of thing is the only real way to fully cope:

(stand by me, start from 12 sec? and go to 45 if you can?)

Nadine: Jamie, it's so nice to hear your voice, you have no idea! How did you swing this call? Never mind, that doesn't even matter. Honey, how are you over there? I miss you so much and love you more and more each day we're apart!

Jamie: Hey, ditto you! You know I can't really say too much but I bet I miss you more and all that other stuff too. I'm not calling under the best circumstances though, it's just good to hear your voice too.

Nadine: Baby, what's wrong? What is it?

Jamie: Well, remember me telling you about that creep Carter that kept hitting on me?

Nadine: Yeah, I remember, I never liked the sound of that guy. Baby, are you alright? Did he do anything to you? I swear to god, I'll...

Jamie: Hey, hey, don't worry. I'm alright, you know me, I'm too strong to get put anyplace I don't like for too long.

Nadine: So, what happened then?

Jamie: Well, I wrote you a letter explaining it all. So I'll just give you the basic story now. Carter was walking me across base after a card game and he got me up against a wall in a dark corner. Nothing happened but some groping, but I knew he wanted more. I got away and reported him right away—that was a few nights ago.

Nadine: Good. So, what's happening with that now?

Jamie: Well, first thing he did was start a rumor that I was gay. But that has no bearing upon anything right now—he's done this before Nadine, and they're really coming down hard and investigating this one. My sergeant told me today that he will be kicked out.

Nadine: What happens if they go with the gay thing? Is there any way they'd follow up on that? Because then you could get in trouble.

Jamie: You know they can't ask me, they can't open my letters, and right now they figure he's just trying to slander my name to get revenge for my turning him in.

Nadine: Sweetie, I'm proud of you for being so brave. You know it's not your fault, don't you?

Jamie: Yeah, I know. I remembered everything we'd talked about before I left home. Thank you so much for being there for me.

Nadine: I wish I were over there for you right now. You sound like you could use a hug, and a kiss or two and some cuddle action.

Jamie: I sure do. But right now I'd kill for more time on the phone with you.

Nadine: Does that mean that you have to go?

Jamie: Yep, sorry to have to cut it short, you know I hate leaving you.

Nadine: I know, well damn, I don't know when I'll get to talk to you again. Keep writing ok? I love you Jamie, be safe.

Jamie: And I you Nadine. I'll be safe, you be studious, ok? Later.

Nadine: Sure will, bye.

(lead out, stand by me)

Jamie: Now it's time to sit out on post. I'm starting to get a little bit scared though, usually it's all quiet on the front but lately there have been random religious extremists with amateur bombs and such right outside of the camp. I'm sure it'll be fine but I'm just jumpy about those things. I always have bad premonitions about that stuff.

Jenkins: Hey, Lenox! You ready for another interesting day at work?

Jamie: Ya, sure, I guess that you could call it that. Or boring, or tedious, or uneventful, or ridiculous, or...

Jenkins: Ok, I think I get the point Lenox. Whatever it is, let's just get it over with.

Jamie: Sounds good to me.

Jenkins: I'm really sorry about what happened with Carter, I would never have guessed Lenox, he seemed to be all talk for the longest time. It just took someone like you to stand up to get him caught tho.

Jamie: Don't worry, I knew you weren't a part of that Rich, sorry, I mean Jenkins.

Jenkins: Nah, call me Rich, you see anyone else around here? We're good buddies Lenox, how bout I can call you Jamie?

Jamie: I don't see anything wrong with that.

Jenkins: So, how about we learn a little more about each other, and not the way Carter would want to do it (laughs)

Jamie: Well, then, shoot—what do ya wanna know?

Jenkins: Lemme see, how are things back in the states? What about your family? Got any brothers or sisters?

Jamie: I have two sisters, one younger and one older. Ashley is the younger one, she's in ROTC, making good grades, and she's got a real nice boyfriend. Stephanie is older and she's doing well, taking care of my favorite niece Kaylee while her husband is off training.

Jenkins: Sounds real nice, you've a whole military family type setup, don't you?

Jamie: Seems to have turned out that way. What about you? Have anyone back in the states?

Jenkins: My parents are back there, just going about their life. The only person that's really outstanding, though, is my girlfriend. She's my prize waiting for my return.

Jamie: That sounds really nice, I wish I had someone waiting for me.

Jenkins: It's actually pretty hard. Ya see, I actually have a girlfriend here in camp too. I'm not really sure what I'm doing, I just get lonely over here sometimes I guess. Do you think that's bad?

Jamie: As a girl, yes. As a soldier, I can sort of understand where you're coming from. I think everyone can slip up sometimes.

Jenkins: But my Amanda back home, she's a real nice girl. She's a looker, a great kisser, and I just wish I could commit. If I could spend one night with her, I'd shake myself and fix the mess I've got going on over here with this other girl.

Jamie: I'm sure you'll figure something out Rich. You're a good guy and you know it, just let your conscience guide you. You seem like you've got a good head on your shoulders, real understanding.

Jenkins: You know Jamie, (like you're trying to get at something in particular) I am a good guy and real trustworthy. I feel like we could talk about anything you wanted.

Jamie: (nervous) Well, hey, I think that maybe it's time to get some of our paperwork done, how about you start on some of that and I'll keep a look out?

Jenkins: Sounds good Jamie, just know I'm here to talk anytime you need me.

Jamie: Thanks Jenkins.

Jenkins: (sighs) No problem (pause) Lenox.

Jamie: I really wish I could open up more to Rich. But it's hard, he'll start talking about Amanda like she's just an aside to the present. And it seems like all I can think of for past, present, or future is Nadine. He thinks his girl is a looker, a great kisser. Wonders what he'd do with just one more night with her. But one night with Nadine... each night with her was the best it's ever been... just like the first night...

(live, when dolphins cry, 40 sec?)

Jamie: What are we going to do? I leave in 3 days. And then after basic training there is technical school, I won't be able to see you until mid January and then maybe again next fall.

Nadine: We don't have to do anything you don't feel comfortable with; I would be content just to have you in my arms the whole night long.

Jamie: I feel completely comfortable with you. I mean, I trust you and I want you. What more do we need?

Nadine: Don't act like this isn't a big step, we've only been dating for a few weeks now and God only knows when we'll see each other again. I don't know that there is a right decision to make here.

Jamie: I don't know that there is a wrong decision either. I've known you for 4 years, we care for each other.

Nadine: I just don't know.

Jamie: I did. I reached over and turned out the light, we had been talking for over an hour but we each wanted the same thing. There was a silence before we found each other in the darkness.

Nadine: Jamie...

Jamie: "I'm right here, I'm right here," I whispered into her ear. She was shaking, or maybe I was, it could have been both of us, I'm not sure. Her heart beat so fast that I could feel it in every inch of her body. It was the scariest moment of my life.

Nadine: Jamie, are you ok?

Jamie: "It's ok baby, I'm alright," and I looked into her eyes, too afraid to tell her that I loved her. But I knew it. I held her hand and ran my fingers across her stomach and around her waist to pull her close to me. I kissed her like I'd never see her again, just like in all the movies. We moved slowly, undressing each other as if it were the most delicate of art forms.

Nadine: It's just you and I, there is nothing between us, are you sure you're ok?

Jamie: "Ya, well I'm sure we'll figure out something to do Sweetie," I told her, and she giggled, the tension was instantly gone. The thing was she kept laughing.(giggling)-It kinda pissed me off at the time but now I look back and remember how cute she looked with that smile of hers lighting up the room. The way she looked up at me as we moved together and how she said:

Nadine: I do love you.

Jamie: Just as simple as that, she moved her lips right next to my ear and whispered to me in the heat of passion, "I do love you." It takes over my dreams, my daydreams, every thought, every memory of her. That little moment, that little sentence, our great love resonates throughout my entire life. Damn, I do love her. She means more to me than I could ever explain. I want that for the rest of my life, I can say that with all of my heart.

Jenkins: Hey, Lenox, you watching out or daydreaming about me?

Jamie: Ha! You wish. Alright, alright, you wanna switch? I'll do some paperwork, I've got a letter to write anyway.

Jenkins: Damn, you and your letters Lenox. Ok then, let's go ahead and switch already.

Jamie: Thanks a ton buddy.

(Postal service, such great heights, 14 sec-42 sec)

Jamie:

Nadine my Life,

I miss you, I miss you every second of everyday. I can remember exactly the way your body felt against mine and how your hand fits mine so perfectly. It gives me more happiness than I could convey to you in the rest of my lifetime. So I want to try. Can I give you the rest of my life? Can you give me yours? I know we can't do anything legal but I'm sure things will change eventually. Nadine,

you are everything to me, you are my world, I do love you. Would you be my wife?

Love you with all of my life,
Hugs and Kisses, Jamie

(lead out with postal service)

Natalie Wyatt
Darkness Visible

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL *PT 4* (LIVE SHOW!)

Natalie : This is the fourth and final installment of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. The story of Jamie Lenox, a very young airman in the air force, and her girlfriend Nadine has thus far explored the reality of rape in the military, the loving relationship between two women, and the very real scenario of the military policy, "don't ask, don't tell." A silent revolution. That's what this is intended to be—the outpouring of a silent revolution into the mainstream. So, decide for yourself whether or not the soldier that could be dying for you right now should have the right to love whomever they want and ask yourself if they should have to hide that.

Jamie: Hey Jenkins, any mail come today?

Jenkins: I can't say that I've seen any come through for you today, waiting for your buddy Nadine to write you back?

Jamie: I wrote her about some important stuff a couple weeks ago and there should be a letter coming back to me soon.

Jenkins: Oh, is it about the incident with Carter? Man, I really thought they'd give you more leeway on communication time with the states. Probably only had enough time to call your parents, didn't ya?

Jamie: "Sure did," I told him, even though I had really spoken to Nadine. Her letter is more important than anything happening over here. At least it is right now, to me.

Jenkins: If you get anything I'll let you know though, those guys at the post office are so used to me asking for your mail that they just stick it with mine automatically.

Jamie: Thanks, you're the best mail boy a girl could have!

Jenkins: Call me mail boy again and your mail ain't gonna come to you again.

Jamie: Nothing but love Jenkins, you know that!

Sergeant: Hey you two! Stop screwing around and get out to the 13th perimeter post, there have been a few small disturbances in the last couple of days.

Jenkins: What kind of disturbances Sarge?

Sergeant: Just some threats about planned bombings and those shady extremists lurking around a bit. I don't think it's anything to really be worried about, but we need you guys out there a couple hours early just to be safe.

Jamie: Sure Sarge, c'mon Jenkins let's head to the armory.

Jenkins: Alright, we're on that.

Sergeant: Just hydrate and press on troops!

Jamie: Yes sir.

Jenkins: Damn it, Lenox, we always end up being the work horses of our flight, why is that?

Jamie: Because we're the best and we know our core values better than the rest of those asses on flight. (CORE VALUES)

Jenkins: I guess you're right, so what are your plans for the future? You think you'll stay in and move up or get out after your time is up?

Jamie: I'm outta here as soon as possible.

Jenkins: But I hear the benefits are great after 20 years, you're whole family will get 'em.

Jamie: Nah, I don't think that's for me. Hey, let's keep a close eye out tonight, ok?

Jenkins: (sigh) sure Lenox.

Jamie: Jenkins doesn't know. My family would never be a family in the eyes of the military. It's not worth all of this sneaking around. Nadine will still have to have her own benefits. I really need to know what Nadine wants to do. Does she want to share her life with me? Sure she does, I know she does. How will she answer me?

Nadine: Jamie, I love you with all of my heart! I can't wait to be with you for the rest of forever!

Jamie: Ya that would be nice. She could say...

Nadine: I've only been waiting for the chance to give the world to you. One lifetime could never be enough to show you how much I care but I'm ready to try.

Jamie: Oh I can't wait to get her reply; I know it's going to be amazing. If past experience proves itself to be true then I know my proposal came to her with the greatest excitement and acceptance. I can remember spending our last Christmas break together, I mean she practically proposed to me, I just didn't see it then...

Nadine: Sweetie, I never want to leave you alone again. I don't want to go back to school, especially with you going God only knows where anytime now.

Jamie: It'll be ok, we'll be fine across distance because we've been doing it for a while now, it'll just be another continent.

Nadine: Ya, with people who want to kill you.

Jamie: Don't you trust me? I've been well trained honey, there's no way I could get hurt, I hate the thought! The thought of never seeing you again will keep me safe. I know it.

Nadine: I have an extra Christmas present for you.

Jamie: But we've already exchanged gifts. What is it? (Giggles) You're sneaky!

Nadine: "Just something small,"

Jamie: she said as she pulled out a square unwrapped jewelry box and put it behind her back. "Lemme see! Lemme see! Tease!"

Nadine: "Hmmm, maybe if you give me a kiss,"

Jamie: "You twisted my arm, but ok," and I pulled her closer to me, standing in the middle of my room, to kiss her just so. She didn't say a word, just handed me the box to open. I sat down on my bed and the small velvety box popped open to reveal a white gold ring, just my size, with a tanzanite stone surrounded by diamond chips.

Nadine: *"And I don't want to fall to pieces I just want to sit and stare at you, I don't want to talk about it, and I don't want a conversation, I just want to cry in front of you. I don't want to talk about it cuz I'm in love with you. I'm in love with you. I'm in love with you."*

Jamie: I hadn't even realized that the radio was playing one of our songs until she sang softly to me. A tear, I suspect mostly of joy, partly of her sweet sorrow, rolled down her cheek and she looked to me with the most unsure eyes I'd ever seen.

Nadine: This is a promise ring. Only a promise ring until a greater promise can be made.

Jamie: Sweetie, I love you so much.

Nadine: I love you too.

Jamie: She said, as we lay down to fall asleep together. The most beautifully quiet and serene moment of my life.

Jenkins: Lenox! LOOK OUT!

Jamie: I'm immediately jolted out of my daydream and into the present by a booming scream. And this is the part where it all moves in slow motion. My body only reacted as much as it could have in those short moments. As much as my training could ever have taught me. I saw the speeding car coming towards our gate. I saw the amount of explosives rigged in the back seat.

Jenkins: "Jamie! What are you doing?!" and that was the last thing I said to her. She didn't hesitate for even a second. She leapt into the driver's window and took control of the car. Realizing that she probably only had a few seconds to do whatever it was that she had to do she spun the wheel around and headed back out. The car had sped into the camp about 100 yards or so towards the middle by the time she had control, obviously headed towards our center of communications. But she had gone back out through the broken gate at top speed, screaming to me:

Jamie: GET DOWN!

Jenkins: I watched the car in disbelief of what had just happened and suddenly I was forced to the ground by an earth shattering explosion. Jamie had known all along that she could not disarm whatever had been rigged; she knew she had to get it away from our camp. I ran to the scene, hoping that she was ok.

"Jamie! Lenox! Hey, where are you? Are you ok?" I screamed overtop the horrendous scene. I had just hoped that the carnage I saw was that of an extremist's body rather than my best friend's.

Jamie: "Rich"

Jenkins: I heard her call my name.

Jamie: "Rich"

Jenkins: I heard it again, and I went to her side. She was breathing heavily and I could not find the wound. Doctors say it was a combination of a severe open wound in her abdominal area and the force the explosion had on her body as it drove her to the ground. She looked up at me.

Jamie: “It’s so quiet. Nadine, Sweetie, I love you.”

Jenkins: She said with her last breath. And her body felt limp within my arms. The rest of them did not come; if their plan had been followed through they would have knocked out our communications and attacked merely for recognition of their political statement and belief that they were fighting for their god. I stand here in front of you today to help be a part of Jamie’s story. Jamie Lenox was the best soldier I’ll ever know. She fell in action, giving her life for the fellow troops that would never treat her as equal. She served her country well. A woman to be proud of, Jamie Lenox will be remembered. Pastor...

Pastor: May Airman Lenox rest in peace here in her hometown, surrounded and remembered by the ones that love her. You may now give your last respects.

Jenkins: “Thank you so much for coming,” I said to those that came up to speak to me.

Pastor: No son, thank you for coming to help out with the funeral. I know Jamie would have really liked your speech.

Jenkins: I felt her story should be retold to those closest to her sir. (Pause) Thank you so much for coming.

Nadine: I appreciate your coming here.

Jenkins: Are you...?

Nadine: I’m Nadine.

Jenkins: So nice to meet you, sorry it has to be under such circumstances.

Nadine: It was nice to hear from you, all I got from the military were my letters returned to sender.

Jenkins: So you were...?

Nadine: I was to be her wife.

Jenkins: It’s just not right, what you two had to go through.

Nadine: No, no one should ever have to hide something so beautiful.

Jenkins: I knew, but she wouldn’t tell me.

Nadine: She couldn’t tell you. Did you ever ask her?

Jenkins: Couldn't.

Nadine: We can only look to the future for someone to stand up and change that.

Jenkins: Let's hope that future comes soon.

Nadine: Of all the others out there, there must be someone who can fight to make things right.

Jenkins: Yes ma'am.

Nadine: It was nice to meet you Rich.

Jenkins: "Goodbye Mrs. Lenox," and she quietly walked to the flag-draped casket to place a lily across the stripes.

(MUSIC—ALISON KRAUS, BABY MINE)