

COSTUME PARTY! (Intro) by Sydney Bell

"It's a costume party. Everywhere I see."

This is about people wearing clothes or faces to either hide or express themselves every day. Sometimes I'll look back on old pictures and say, "Why was I trying so hard?" or "That's definitely a fake smile. Nothing about that memory was happy at all." OR I can put on this really cool goth outfit then a 70s one the next day. They are so different, but they are both me. Just different moods. I love expressing myself like that too. Double-edged sword. It's always a different reason, but it's always happening.

"Bloody and bruised. We trick or treat a ruse."

Trauma and sadness. Very few people are like, "I'M DEPRESSED!" It's definitely something that is usually hidden. So we put on a facade to get what we want which is to not talk about it.

**"Why does it always scare 'em off-
when I tell 'em how much they mean to me?"**

Lately, a lot of people want to feel detached. I.E. Online interaction, drugs, alcohol, sex, etc. So, when you are face to face with someone and just actually tell them how you feel whether it be love or hurt or anything other than general conversation, it scares a lot of people away. It's not desired. It's a necessity a lot of the time. It's definitely something I can't control. A lot are great at it.

**"Why do I have to mask my feelings-
when it's not Halloween?"**

Why do I have to pretend to be someone I'm not to make friends or lovers or family or anyone more comfortable? Why can't my natural instinct of openness be the thing I actually say or do? No one is telling me to shut up. No one is saying you're a buzzkill if you tell them you're not doing great. Yet, it happens cause we're -

"Welcome to the masquerade. We're all afraid."

-scared. Exactly. But we are on an even playing field if we just realize that literally, everyone is doing it. It's okay. Very few people are actually not scared of being judged. No matter how confident they may seem.

"Cause if you see who I am would you give a damn?"

If I show you my actual self, my deepest questions, no mask, no costume, no makeup, no filter, just bare me, would you still want me around? Would you be annoyed by me? Embarrassed by me? Or the scariest of all, would you actually care? Does anyone care about me at all?

(The answer is "yes" btw. ;))