

## Chapter 67

Erin sighed, taking a look at herself through the mirror. The day had finally come, and today she would officially become the Luna and Derrick's mate. Amelia and Vanessa had spent the early part of the morning helping her get ready, and by the early part, she meant mid-afternoon since the ceremony was scheduled for the evening.

There was just an hour left for the ceremony. Her omega was nervous and excited at the same time. It felt different this time, a good kind of excitement. The last time she was in this position, about to get mated officially, she had been scared and filled with uncertainty and tears. How would he treat her? Would he like her? Her omega had been very nervous, and we all know how that ended.

Erin shook her head, jolting herself out of those thoughts. Today was a good day, and she would treat it as such. A good day. An amazing day, in fact.

"How are you holding up? Dylan and Alex are making me do all sorts of things," Derrick whined through the mind link. Erin giggled, expecting his voice for a while and surprised it didn't come sooner.

"Things like?" she asked just as the door squeaked behind her, indicating someone had stepped into the room.

"Amelia will skin me alive if she catches me speaking to you. She's forbidden me," Erin quickly replied, just as Amelia's scent filled her nostrils.

"Why the hell would she do that? Does she have any idea how tormenting it is to not speak to you for hours? I don't understand this weird fucking tradition," Derrick groaned out, frustration filling his voice.

"Don't tell me you're speaking to Derrick, Erin? You both can do without each other for four hours," Amelia's voice reached her ear, and she quickly activated the mind block, leaving Derrick frustrated.

Erin looked up at Amelia, smiling sheepishly. "Do you know how difficult this is? Not speaking for hours because of something you came up with?" she pouted.

Amelia rolled her eyes. "This is supposed to help both of you want each other crazily after spending hours apart, but I see it's not working. I give up," she rolled her eyes, smiling fondly at her.

"Oh, you're so pretty. Derrick got himself such a beautiful mate," she said, bending just a bit. "If he didn't snag you, I probably would've." She winked at Erin, who playfully slapped her on the arm.

Erin looked back at the mirror, her lips still pulled into a smile. She was wearing a long royal blue dress, her hair was let down and curled, her lips glossy, and her cheeks rosy. She felt pretty too.

"How many minutes left?" she asked, and Amelia smiled widely.

"Now. I only came to get you," she replied. Erin looked at her, eyes wide.

"Now? I was just speaking to..."

"Derrick, I know. He's being silly, but I promise you he is out there waiting to get hitched



as quickly as possible and have you crowned Luna," Amelia replied again.

Erin swallowed harshly. She would be crowned Luna once again, and this time it would be different from the first time it happened.

She stood up, turning fully to face Amelia. Amelia stepped closer to her, her eyes blurry with unshed tears. "You've done so well, Erin. You deserve every bit of happiness," she said, and Erin nodded, holding onto Amelia's hand tightly.

"Look after Ana for me, will you? I won't be able to take care of her today and..." She doesn't get to complete her words. Amelia smiles, claspng her hand over Erin's.

"You don't have to tell me twice. I'll look after her for you. Don't worry," she says. Erin smiles and nods, taking a deep breath and nodding again. She's ready.

They both step outside the room only to find Agatha standing right outside the door. Her eyes were blazing red, her hair scattered and unkempt. Her eyes were filled with eye bags, and her lips were chapped and rough. She looked every bit exhausted. Her gaze falls on Erin, and her eyes harden.

"You," she mutters lowly, her eyes filled with disdain, hatred, and anger—anger directed at Erin.

"You're happy, aren't you? You're getting mated to Derrick, becoming Luna, and what's not. You stole my daughter's life! All of this belongs to my daughter. It all belongs to Samantha, and here you are, boldly stealing everything that belongs to her. Do you think the moon goddess will forgive you for this? You will never be forgiven!" She yells at the top of her voice, the veins in her neck popping as she screams at Erin. Two maids rush out of Agatha's room on the far end of the hall, trembling out of fear as they bow.

"Forgive us, Your Highness. She left while we were cleaning," one of them speaks up.

Amelia sighs, looking back at the woman who had been under medical care since the banishment. "Aunt Agatha, you're ill. You shouldn't be out here," Amelia replies, holding Erin by the shoulders. Agatha looks at Amelia and scoffs.

"You too. You all betrayed Samantha! You all are responsible for what happened to her," she screams again, clearly unstable.

"What are you waiting for? Take her back to her room!" Amelia yells at the maids. They immediately rush towards her, grabbing her by the arms, trying to drag her away, but the woman doesn't make it easy for them.

"I curse you! You stole my daughter's life. I curse the day you came into this pack. I curse you, Erin! I curse you!" she yells as she's dragged away.

Erin exhales shakily, her throat constricting with air. Amelia holds her shoulders tightly. "Those are just words. She's sick and delusional. You shouldn't think about it," Amelia says in an attempt to pacify Erin.

Erin nods, a shaky sigh leaving her once again. She looks at the woman's door at the far end of the hall. It's funny how Samantha was banished because of what she did to Vanessa, but Erin is the one taking the blame.

"Come on, there can't be a mating ceremony without you," she urges.

The pack had been decorated beautifully for today. Word has been spread around about



the mating ceremony. The entire kingdom was painted and decorated beautifully.

Erin smiles as she reached the garden where the ceremony would be taking place. Derrick was sitting on the throne on the podium. Beside it was a smaller yet significant throne where Erin would be sitting in some hours. Derrick says it's a historical throne and it isn't used except for days like today and other important days which affirms the position of the Alpha king and his Luna, the queen.

He stands up as soon as he laid his eyes on Erin. Everyone else followed suit, all standing up too.

Erin walks towards him, the procession beginning. She stops right beside him, glancing at him only to see his eyes already on her. He had a white mixed with tiny streaks of gold regalia, just like his ancestors would wear, he had told her.

A man Erin hasn't seen before stepped forward, clearing his throat for a bit. He opens a rather large book, he looks back at the both of them, and nods after getting his confirmation from Derrick. He begins.

After five minutes of reading through the book, Erin now understands, it's a book passed down to every Luna of the dark moon kingdom and now it's being read to her because it will be given to her.

"Erin, Daughter of Simon and Paulina, Do you vow to take the dark moon pack as your own? Do you vow to protect it and everything it has? Do you vow to never betray the soil, land, and people of the dark moon pack?" His voice resonated through the place like thunder.

"I do."

A woman steps forward, in her hand was a tray with a gold cup covered elegantly. She walks towards Erin, lifting the veil of the cup. Erin glances at Derrick who nods, she steps forward, takes the cup, and drinks every of its content. She's not sure what to expect but she definitely doesn't expect something sweet and sour. She opens her mouth to speak but the pain is instant. Her leg buckles and she staggers just a bit, eyes widening. It felt like her head was expanding, the veins in her head were being pulled terribly. Different thoughts and voices ran and settled in her head. It takes a minute and it all goes down, like the pain wasn't there, she didn't hear different voices in her head. She opens her eyes and the man's lips curl upward just a bit.

"Kneel." The man says again.

Erin does as he says, closing her eyes briefly, she holds her breath sow a minute just as the crown was placed on her head. It's heavy.

"Erin, Mate of Alpha Derrick of the Dark Moon pack has officially been crowned the Luna of the Dark Moon pack." The man announces.

Erin stands up straight, the crown sitting on her head prettily. Everyone bows, showing their respect.

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The ceremony has officially come to an end and now it's just left for the after-party. Zach stood, arms crossed against his chest as he watched Ana. He had been watching the party from back here when she ran to him, giggly and excited to try new sweets which is what she is doing now.



He smiles affectionately, watching the pup stick her fingers into the melted sweet. "Ana, don't do that." He cautions but she doesn't listen as usual.

He opens his mouth but is cut off. "Leave her, she's a pup and needs it." The voice tells him. He straightened stiffly, already knowing who it is.

Amelia walks closer to him, eyes on the pup who was playing. "I need to speak to you." She says, lifting her gaze to Zach.

"I'm busy watching Ana. We can talk some other time." He replied, focusing on the pup like he had nothing else to do.

"Zach. We really need to talk." Amelia says tiredly, running her hands through her hair. She looks back at the party still going on. Erin and Derrick were dancing while being cheered.

"I just told you I am-"

"Yeah, watching Ana. I know. She's my niece." She shot back at him, rolling her eyes, she looks around and sees Vanessa sitting alone, watching the fun happen.

"Ana," she calls the pup who answers on hearing Amelia's voice. Wide Doe eyes stared back at her, hands filled with sweets.

"Go meet Auntie Vanessa over there, will you, sweetie? I want to speak to Zach for a second." She tells the pup, pointing in Vanessa's direction. Ana looks at the direction she's pointing at and nods.

"Kay.." the pup mutters, licking her fingers for a bit before running off.

Amelia sighs, grabbing Zach by the arm and dragging him away.

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Erin giggled, holding Derrick by the arm, they were all gathered in the living room, waiting on Amelia and Ana then Vanessa and Alex. It's like the couples all disappeared. Now it's just Maxwell, Dylan, and Uncle Mikhail there with them.

"What are you thinking about?" Derrick asks, smiling at her. She shrugs, leaning against his shoulder.

There was a large cake Erin wanted to share with every one of them. It doesn't take time though, exactly two minutes later, Amelia and Zach walk into the living room, they seemed different, a good kind of different. Erin sighed in relief. Well, that's a good change.

"Took you forever to get here." She rolls her eyes affectionately, then pauses slightly "Where is Ana?" She asks, not seeing her pup with them.

Amelia furrows her eyebrows, looking around the room. "She's with Vanessa. Aren't they here? I could've sworn..." she doesn't get to complete her words as Alex and Vanessa both walk into the living room too.

"She's with Vanessa," Amelia mutters.

Vanessa halts, confusion clouding her eyes on hearing her name. "Who is with me?" She asks.

"Ana, She's with you. I saw her running to meet you back at the party," Amelia says.

"Isn't she with you, Vanessa?" Erin asks, already feeling hot.

"Umm, no. She didn't come to meet me. What are you talking about?" Vanessa counters, looking confused as fuck.

Erin swallows hard. "Okay, she's maybe hiding somewhere or something. She can't be far from here," Derrick injects, holding Erin's hand tightly. He could already feel the panic waves emitting from her.

"B-but we are just coming from the garden. No one is there. Everything is cleared," Vanessa says slowly.

Erin's knees grow weak, and her chest suddenly tightens, almost making it impossible for her to breathe. She clutches her chest tightly, eyes squeezed closed. She tries to connect to Ana, being her mother, she can sense and connect to her daughter even though she doesn't have her wolf.

"Erin, are you okay? What's wrong?" Derrick rushes out, concern clouding his voice.

"Get water!" He yells. Erin can hear everyone moving and hurrying. She slowly opens her eyes, her hand dropping from her chest. Derrick's face is right in front of her.

A tear falls to her cheeks. "Ana isn't here. She's not in the pack."

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