

## A. Nocturne's 31

### Chapter 31 You're a Pervert

Ann whimpered as he began circling her nub at a torturously slow pace, and she bit her lip as she fought the urge to push against him, desperately seeking the sweet and the sensation of him filling her inside.

Adam lifted a hand to cup her face as he began to attack her lips, swallowing her m\*oa\*ns as her legs quivered with the sensation that he was slowly building inside her.

Without warning, he removed his hand from her p\*uss\*y and ended his a\*s\*sault on her lips, splaying his hand across the surface of her folds and pressing down, as if attempting to seal it.

Ann shuddered at the delicious pressure and simultaneously whimpered at the sudden removal of his attention.

He smirked at her and repeated the question yet again. "The name, Ann... just tell me the name, and I'll give you what you want?"

Ann's cheeks flushed furiously as she fought with the desire he had @roused in her and battled with her conscience.

She was torn. Maeve had already sent him away with his tail between his legs, and with the of the rejection and his wolf refusing to help him, she wasn't sure if he deserved the punishment that Adam would dish out.

Although she had pushed Maeve's chatter away, she could still feel her disapproval and anger ripple through her at Ann's hesitance to punish Brad further for his transgressions.

She bit her lip and looked up at Adam hesitantly.

"You can do it, Ann," He coaxed again as he brought his right hand up under her blouse and found his way under her bra, rolling her n\*pples gently between his fingers.

support as her legs began to feel shaky and unashamedly pushed her hips forward, desperately

to slowly circle her throbbing nub again and

me..." Ann

snarled as she whimpered under his

f\*uc\*k... okay..." Ann panted as he increased the speed of his

catch her breath and without warning, Adam pushed

Ann yelped at

and out of her relentlessly. She felt his hands remove from her momentarily and the sound of his zipper being undone filled her with

from her dripping w\*et p\*uss\*y and flipped her around so that

her entrance, her p\*an\*tie\*s pushed to one side as he gripped her hips on either side. "Good girls always get rewarded Ann... do you

Oh, yes! Adam, I want

into her, the bulging tip of his c\*oc\*k stretching and filling her as he pushed forward slowly inside her, his hands firmly

hissed as he

whimpered as he began moving in and out of her and she grasped the table for support. His chest pressed against her back as he reached forward and slipped his fingers between her legs, rubbing at her sweet spot as the speed of his thrusts

had his hand trapped against the desk, his fingers working frantically as

of her hair and pulled her head upwards, turning her face towards him as her

of his lips and tongue inside her mouth

tipped his

you doing to me?! I just want to be inside of you, forcing these m\*oa\*ns from you in every way

breathless. Adam stiffened and

she had just allowed him to f\*uc\*k her in her own office. She had to work at this desk, and now she would be forever reminded of this moment

Adam pulled out of her and tapped her n\*ake\*d a\*s\*s, smirking as she turned around to glower at him with flushed cheeks.

He slipped a finger around the waistband of her p\*an\*tie\*s and flicked the elastic playfully against her skin.

“I’m going to need to take these.” He said, pulling his trousers back up and fixing her with a charming grin.

Ann’s heart seemed to flutter in her chest as she took in his playful appearance and instantly erased the feeling, scowling at him as she stood upright.

“Not a chance, why on earth would I give you those?!” Ann glowered as she began to pull her skirt back down.

Adam quickly grabbed her wrist and stared into her eyes intently, his irises still black with desire.

“Because if you don’t, then I intend to turn up here every day that you’re at work and repeat today’s encounter as many times as I see fit.”

Ann paled slightly and begrudgingly slipped them down over her legs, bending and picking them up gingerly.

They were soaked through with her wetness and she grimaced as he took them from her hands with a grin, and shoved them into his pocket.

Ann curled her lip in disgust as Maeve purred happily inside of her.

“Your musk is addictive Ann...” he shrugged nonchalantly.

“You’re a pervert...” She muttered angrily.

“Yes. Yes, I am, and you love it, Ann..”

Chapter 32 The Bite Mark

Adam had disappeared shortly after their steamy session with his Beta, Allen, leaving behind two of his men as protection, despite Ann’s protests.

Ann wanted to talk to Adam about Lexi and get an idea of how he felt about any possible solution they might come up with regarding the lack of a mating mark.

Although it wasn’t an issue now, she knew it would be in the future. The elders weren’t stupid, and neither were the pack members. Having a temporary fix would at least shield them from suspicion for that issue.

She had to admit she was incredibly curious about his particular curse though and as they arrived back at the pack house, she resolved to ask him about it once things had settled down a little.

She would have to get through the stupid engagement ceremony relatively unscathed though. Ann couldn't understand why her father would want to rub her mate's betrayal in her face like this. It was such a cruel thing to do in her mind.

If she hadn't ended up entangled with Adam, she wasn't sure what sort of emotional state she would be in right now.

'I don't know why we have to go listen to them gloat anyway' Maeve grumbled testily.

'It won't look good if we don't go. Try to remember that I'm still a member of the royal family by birth whether they like it or not. It's expected that we attend all of the official functions.' Ann sighed, as she made her way through the common areas of the house and took a seat at the kitchen table, flicking her phone out.

'Well, I expected my former mate not to shove his d\*ic\*k where it didn't belong buuuuut...'

many times. It's over and done with now, we have

we like to

internally as

wrong terminology there, I walked straight into

you're more like Brad than I thought seeing as

and see what state he's in. You know as well as I do that the rejection is

picked up and Ann could feel her slowly coming around to

not happy about this either, but at least you'll get to see how much

agreed, suddenly anticipating witnessing the misery that Brad

at Maeve's sad\*stic tendencies and scrolled through her phone, catching a message

free, I have a solution but it depends on how your tasty piece of muscle feels

her bedroom. She had a feeling that this sort of conversation wasn't one that she wanted

room and looked guiltily at the

calls. She didn't really want her work -related calls to be held in public either and she preferred to separate her workspaces from

care where his personal spaces are for intimate

Maeve.'she answered as her cheeks flushed furiously at

room open, running her hands over the beautiful engravings of the door

a seat on the bed as she dialed Lexi's

answered breezily from the other end

said to call so..."

“Ah yeah! Sorry sweets, I’m absolutely rammed with work at the minute. I completely forgot I sent you that.

• • •

‘We were getting rammed not so long ago..’ Maeve commented in a perverted tone in her head.

‘Shut up, Maeve...’ Ann hissed in reply.

‘You’re no fun.’ she wailed miserably.

“Hey! Tell Maeve I said hi, but, also to pipe down, will you? I hate repeating myself and I need to let dad know what your answer is as soon as possible.”

‘Tell her to go blow goats.’ Maeve answered sweetly. “I won’t tell you what she replied Lexi. Honestly, she was so much quieter before we moved here and now all of a sudden it’s like she’s transformed into a perverted she-wolf in heat.” Ann groaned in frustration. “Excellent. It’s about time you got laid!” Lexi snorted. ‘See! I’m not the only one who thought so!’ Maeve sniggered triumphantly.

“Oh my god, will the two of you shut up!” Ann exploded angrily.

The sounds of Maeve and Lexi sniggering in tandem had Ann fuming in silence.

“I thought you were busy” Ann snapped testily at Lexi. “I am, but I’ve missed teasing you.” she sighed happily, “Anyway, dad says he might have a solution, but I don’t think either one of you is going to like it.”

Ann listened intently as Lexi explained the options that she and Adam had available to them.

“So, dad thinks a normal binding won’t do the trick by itself. We talked about the possibility of a tattoo to hold the magic weave and perhaps an item, but you both need an actual physical manifestation of the bite mark, right?” Lexi explained.

### Chapter 33 You Have To Suppress Your Wolves

“Right. I suppose it’s kind of like a scar, but it never disappears as the mark left is an acceptance of the claim and marks each partner as off limits to others.”

‘Doubt it would have stopped Brad... it didn’t stop your father either...’ Maeve muttered angrily.

Ann chose to ignore Maeve’s comment but she knew that Maeve was right. The mark wasn’t infallible, it just signified ownership if you really thought about it.

“Dad already explained what would happen if you tried to mark someone that wasn’t your mate, so I know that it’s not possible to do that alone. But, we were thinking, if we infused the mark on each of you with Dad’s binding magic and magic to prevent healing... he thinks that it might work.”

Ann chewed her lip as she thought Lexi’s words over. It wasn’t a bad idea in theory. They would be bound to each other and wear each other’s marks and it would scar as normal.

By all outward appearances, it was entirely possible that this might work.

“There’s just one catch though, Ann,” Lexi added hesitantly.

Ann frowned at the tone of her friend’s voice. For once, she actually sounded a little hesitant.

catch? Lexi was silent for a few seconds

your wolves after you were marked so Dad can perform the

that Adam was going to go for this. An alpha without his wolf was an easy target and she doubted that he would consent to be made



if he'll go for that, Lexi," Ann said,

Lexi sighed lightly.

but it's the best that dad could come up with. We can be discreet about it.

be ok surrounded by shifters though? Lexi

a big place, and so are the beings that inhabit it. He hasn't been up here since... well... making me I guess, so he's a little excited at the

knowledge of the daemons' worlds, only the histories of her world, and they did not speak kindly of the daemons that had infiltrated society with

ask what he thinks. If we don't have any other options

worries, sweets. By the way, what time are you arriving at the disaster of an

be late, I don't want to upstage anyone and really, I should be there to greet the guests

be you." Lexi

me." Ann snorted before her face suddenly brightened as she realized that Lexi had no idea the state that

a little worse for wear when you're taking pictures." Ann sniggered. "Oh? Do you

say that he turned up at my office

jubilant at the mere thought of Maeve

"Oh my gosh, I would have paid to have seen that." She groaned regretfully as Ann chuckled.

"I'm sure it will make for interesting photos tonight for you anyway," Ann laughed.

"I can't wait!" She shrieked excitedly, before the sound of her hand over her speaker and muffled words could be heard.

"Ugh, sorry, Ann, I have to go. People are incompetent and need me to do their jobs as well as my own. Catch you later!"

Ann grinned to herself as she hung up and threw her phone on the bed.

She supposed that she should really start looking at a killer outfit for tonight. She knew that the gossiping socialites wouldn't make it easy for her. Speculation would be rife as to why she and Brad had parted ways and why he was now engaged to her sister.

She was interested to see how it would all play out. As much as she didn't want to go tonight, she would make damn sure that she would knock them dead with her appearance.

Ann arrived back at the Alpha King's palace to much fanfare. Reporters were lined up outside waiting and the flashes of the cameras began snapping furiously the moment that she stepped out of the car that had been sent to collect her.

The security personnel followed her closely as she made her way up the gold-embroidered red carpet that had been laid at the entrance and ran up the steps.

She waved and smiled demurely, ignoring questions shouted at her as she made her way to where her father and stepfamily stood waiting for her.

Ann had been very careful with selecting the outfit that she had chosen tonight. She wanted to make a subtle statement that she was no longer a woman that was reliant on her father's good graces and that while still loyal to her father and their royal lineage, her priorities were different.

Chapter 34 None Of Your Business

The best way that she could do that was by dressing not in the reds and golds of the royal family, but instead wearing the traditional colors of royal blue and silver that were prominent in Alpha Nocturne's Pack.

After all, she was Alpha Nocturne's Luna now and as far as everyone else was concerned she was his true mate and he, against all odds, her second chance mate.

'Ha! They know! Look how pissed the WH\*ORES' expressions are!?' Maeve shouted gleefully.

She was right. Her stepmother looked as if she wanted to murder her where she stood, Ada's face was set in the familiar fake mask of smiles but her Jaw was clenched tightly and her stare unbroken as Ann approached.

Ann's father just looked confused at her choice of outfit as his eyes swept over her in a cursory glance.

Ann beamed widely as she ascended the stairs and greeted them all courteously but with no warmth in her words.

"Did you forget the dress code for official functions?" Her father asked with a slight frown of displeasure as he embraced her stiffly.

"Not at all, father. As I am no longer living here and representing another pack as their Luna as well as the heir to the throne, I have two roles to fulfill now." Ann answered smoothly.

Ada almost ch\*oked on the air that she was breathing

Luna? Of whose

had the decency and decorum to shush her daughter and remind her that these issues were best discussed inside and away from

mother's back, Ada was ushered inside by

for

could feel the expression in his tone of voice without even looking

shortly as she kept her eyes focused forwards

He tried again, not hiding the disappointment in his

you have me do, father? Bring him home for you to approve of so that Ada can

of several of the servants on them both, looking busy so

he answered, the hurt clear in his

heart hurt too at the expression on his face, but he had made his choice

father that loved his daughters equally would not

"Ann..."

and play happy families. You're a disgrace as a father... to me at least. I'm sure Ada feels differently. If I am not a

slight pause, her father hurried to catch up and took his place

clearly displeased

you meet him in person. For now, I'd rather wait until this whole debacle is

least you could do is tell me which Pack." He replied, the irritation in his voice starting to rise the longer that Ann refused to roll over and

"I said no, father!" She hissed furiously.

Ann was struggling to contain the irritation herself, although she was grateful that Maeve had at least settled down and had been quiet for now. Perhaps it was the aura of her father keeping her in check.

"Then what the f\*uc\*k am I supposed to tell people if they ask?"

"Figure it out for yourself, father... just like I had to when I realized that my father couldn't give two sh\*ts about the daughter he had with his fated mate. After all, why would he? If he was willing to destroy the bond that the goddess was gracious enough to gift him with, why would he possibly give a sh\*t about a child that he fathered with her." Ann said as she whirled furiously.

Her father's face paled in the face of her fury and he swallowed nervously, a flicker of regret in his eyes. Ann's heart lurched as she stared at him angrily. The man before her no longer looked like her father anymore. He looked old...almost weak.

When had he become so old?

Ann sighed heavily and looked away, her heart full of pity for the old man standing before her.

"We're going to end up arriving separately from your wife and daughter. Let's go, father, before the gossipers get even more out of control."

Ann stood at the newly erected dais at the forefront of the ballroom with her parents as Ada fussed anxiously at Brad's late arrival.

The press and socialites had previously been whispering behind their hands regarding Ann's choice of outfit and many had already correctly identified the colors as belonging to Alpha Nocturne's Pack.

Not that she told them whether they were right in their a\*s\*sumptions or not. She would leave that to their detective work. It would give them something to do to fill their time anyway.

Ann smirked to herself as the whispers now turned to Brad's lateness to the engagement. They critiqued his lack of respect for the accepted procedure and Ada's lack of decorum with her stamping and wailing.

Chapter 35 The Pack Colors Of Alpha Nocturne!

A strong she-wolf held her own and relied on no one but herself to solve her issues, a strong Luna would keep her mate on track for scheduled appointments and required functions. Ada was failing to do either and the wolves in attendance were vicious with their tongues.

All of a sudden, Ann spotted Lexi among the crowd of the press being processed for entrance to the function and she grinned widely. She excused herself and with a reluctant nod from her father she left the dais and made her way over to her.

Ada watched the back of Ann hurry over to the doorway and sneered.

"This is all her fault! I can't believe she got over Brad so damn quickly. I hope she gets what she deserves!" She hissed as her mother narrowed her eyes dangerously at her.

"If you hadn't been so damn impatient and just gone along with our original plan, this wouldn't be an issue. I can't believe you were stupid enough to get pregnant to such a weak wolf." Ann's stepmother, Narcissa hissed angrily at her daughter, Ada.

"She f\*uc\*king deserved it! Acting all high and mighty... she's nothing! Why should she get to enjoy her life while I f\*uc\*king struggle." Ada hissed back quietly.

“You need to calm down. You made the choice to sleep with Brad and now you have to face the consequences. I can’t believe you got pregnant with his bastard child,

Ada. You better hope that it’s bom strong for our sake!” Ada pouted angrily and wrapped her hands protectively around her belly.

She hated Ann, and she hated Brad, but the baby? She already loved everything that she had in her. She didn’t care that Brad’s s\*eed had given her the life inside of her, the baby was hers and she would do whatever she could to protect it.

f\*uc\*k would be dense enough to take a weakling

you d\*um\*b, Ada? Did I not tell you to pay attention to the Pack

of hurt flickered

would have just set aside your childish jealousies, she could have been useful. Pay attention, Ada!”

at what she’s wearing. Whose colors

tried to rack her brain for the answer. She hated history and politics, it bored her. She much preferred to learn about the engagements that she would be expected to attend and arrange, as well as the additional lessons

Narcissa snorted contemptuously.

count of how many times her mother had at her tonight. Ever since Ann had turned up. It

the distance as

What was that

to all that is... Ada... if you don't start paying attention soon, everything is going to be ruined. Do you know how many years I've worked for this?" Narcissa hissed

widened in

her future husband?! How f\*uc\*king dare she. Ada's blood felt like it was boiling as she glared daggers into Ann's back as she chatted with that

away with it, mother." Ada

and you'll not respond to any provocation from her. Do I

"But..."

her ferociously, silencing her with a look that promised death if she

taking control of these matters when you have no such authority. You will wait, and you will do it silently. Without causing a scene. There's too much at stake here.

the unfamiliar face of fury. It was as if she didn't know her mother at

She nodded silently and turned away petulantly as her father came over and distracted Narcissa.

If her mother thought that she was going to leave Ann alone and not seek revenge, then she had another thing coming.

Ann looked back towards the scene of her stepmother and Ada clearly having a very public disagreement and sniggered.



It was probably about her and the thought made her happy in a strange way.

“Lexi! Over here!” Ann shouted to her friend as the guards turned to find the source of the interruption and immediately bowed their heads respectfully.

“It’s okay, she’s here as official press, and if it gets her through quicker, in an official capacity as my friend.”

The guard with the checklist looked down at his list and frowned, clearly catching the whispers of discontent among the waiting parties.

“Oh, is this the a\*s\*sistant you were waiting for your highness?” He asked nonchalantly as a meaningful look passed between them.

“Yes, exactly that.” Ann smiled gratefully as Lexi waved through.

Once safely inside Lexi rolled her shoulders and exhaled heavily.

“Geez, it’s tighter than nuns...”

“Lexi!” Ann chuckled, “You have to behave here, especially if you are here in an official capacity don’t forget.”

## Chapter 36 Out Of Control

She grimaced and shrugged, as she focused intently on the digital screen of the camera she had brought along. “They wanted a journalist from the agency to report, so here I am. If they don’t like it, they can eat my a\*s\*s.” She snorted as she frowned in concentration.

Ann watched her struggle with the camera for a little while as they made their way to a quieter area of the ballroom. She grabbed a drink for them both from one of the passing waiters and they took their places unobtrusively on a little chaise lounge at the side.

“Ah, Jesus... finally! God, I hate these things sometimes.” Lexi muttered as she turned her attention fully to Ann. “Okay, sorry about that, these damn cameras can be a nightmare sometimes. Now. Maeve. Brad. Spill.”

Ann chuckled. She wasn’t sure it was a good idea to discuss that with her here. If the wrong person heard even the slightest whisper of what had gone on, she was sure that the resulting PR disaster would not be pretty. “I think, I’ll probably need you to read between the lines a little bit here, Lexi. You know our hearing is better than most so... bear with me.” She grinned.

Lexi nodded along as Ann gave her a very much diluted chain of events up until now. When she had finished Lexi’s face had morphed through so many emotions that Ann was emotionally exhausted just from watching her.

“I don’t know what Brad was even thinking, but f\*uc\*king hell Maeve. Well done. I swear, if I had a wolf, I would want her to be just like Maeve.” She whispered in awe. “How’s she coping with tonight?” Lexi continued, her brows creased in worry.

“Actually, she’s a little quiet. I thought she’d have more to say about all of... this...” Lexi grimaced, gesturing wildly at the ballroom around them.

sure if she’s angry at me or just depressed with the whole situation. She was a little snarky when we arrived

intently. She laughed awkwardly and pushed Lexi on the shoulder

are you staring

of a long pause. She sighed and stood up,

I’m going to have to actually do some work while I’m here... don’t particularly want to

softly and stood, moving closer to her

a little while at

and covered Ann's hand with

hurt you... I'll

Ann laughed loudly,

Ann began to return to stand at the dais, a loud commotion arose from the

changing the direction of her attention

and Ann and Lexi hurried forward, the sea of

Brad emerged from behind the chairs that the happy couple was supposed

raised her camera to her face and began

Brad looked awful. His hair was a mess and he continuously fidgeted with his clothes. His skin was sickly pale and he looked like he hadn't slept for weeks. Ann felt a brief pang of guilt as she took in his appearance. Rejections hurt and they put you through hell physically as well as emotionally and that was exactly what Brad was experiencing right now. If she hadn't had a good reason for rejecting him, then she too would be experiencing the exact same that he was now.

Brad's eyes found hers in the crowd, and he held them sadly. Ada tried desperately to get his attention but he barely looked at her, his attention focused entirely on Ann.

Ada whipped her head around following the direction of his gaze and after a few seconds, she found me. The fury and loathing in her eyes made my stomach turn.

"You!" She screeched as she turned and pointed to me, forcing everyone else to turn and stare too.

“You did this!”

There were audible gasps from the people around Ann as they stepped back and away from where Ann stood, and Ann heard Lexi’s hiss of anger beside her.

Ann’s father, the Alpha King stepped forward hurriedly and pushed her arm aside angrily. The words he whispered furiously were heard by everyone, despite his intentions.

“Control yourself, Ada! Now is not the time!”

Accusatory eyes swiveled between Ann and the group on the dais, already everyone was quickly forming their own opinions and the whispering had begun.

Narcissa joined the Alpha King in attempting to calm Ada as Brad shuffled and staggered his way forward, to take his seat on the chairs. He slumped down on one with his head bowed as Ada pleaded with her parents to fix it and make it better.

### Chapter 37 The Unwilling Alpha

Her face took on a grim look of determination as she realized that there was no fixing it tonight. The pictures of the pregnant wolf and the unwilling Alpha would be plastered across tomorrow’s headlines whether she liked it or not.

The Alpha King gestured for Ann to come forward as Ada took her seat next to Brad and Lexi whistled lowly under her breath.

“What a f\*uc\*king car crash... good luck!”

Ann said nothing and walked slowly towards the dais feeling all attention riveted on her as her father spoke to the a\*s\*sembled guests.

“Please, excuse my daughter, Princess Ada. This is a stressful time for her. We had hoped to keep the news a secret for a little while longer but as I’m sure you’re aware, Ada and Brad are expecting pups.” He beamed proudly as the crowd gasped and questions began to be fired in quick succession at the family on stage.

“Wait... but I thought that Alpha Brad was mated to Princess Ann?!”

“That’s right! They were supposed to have been married this week! What is this lunacy?!”

“Did they have an affair?!”

“Poor Ann, and forced to attend this debacle as well. What sort of family does that do to their own daughter?”

a neutral expression. It felt oddly satisfying to have people recognize

the side revealed Ada and Narcissa glowering furiously at her and Brad’s eyes still riveted

however, faced the direction of

recognized themselves as mates, but they were mistaken. Ada is Brad’s mate, so as you can see, all is as it should

room and Ann seethed

pregnant already? The marriage was only

if they knew but carried on regardless? I heard the sister’s relationship isn’t

the

Ann, Ann was now under suspicion of doing

reached for Brad's hand and squeezed

of our scent on one another confused him." Ada simpered sweetly, although the

hold any grudges. I just hope that my sister is happy

stood

let's proceed with the rest

of the dais as the greeting of guests by the 'happy' couple commenced. Brad was distant and unfocused throughout, offering only grunts of acknowledgment or murmured words that

Ann could feel the palpable aura of fury that emanated from

came to the interviews with the couple, she made sure to ask lots of awkward questions that were phrased

to move through to the banqueting hall as the food was served, Brad

away she didn't miss the words that he hissed at her, nor did a few of the socialites

"You are not my mate and never will be. You'll never replace Ann. All of this is because of you!" He hissed angrily.

Ada looked momentarily taken aback and her cheeks flushed furiously.

“How can you say that?! I’m carrying your pups... our child...”

Brad sneered as he swept his eyes over her.

“Are they mine though? I don’t know what you did to me in order to get me into bed with you, I don’t remember any of it, but when I find out...” He threatened darkly, leaving the sentence hanging in the air.

Brad staggered off into the back room, using the wall for support as he walked and Ada glared furiously at Ann, narrowing her eyes.

She stomped over to Ann with her hands held protectively over her belly and glared defiantly up at her. “Are you happy now?” She hissed

“For what? You’re the one who wanted me here... I would have rather stayed away.”

“I wanted you to see it with your own eyes, and I haven’t finished yet Ann. I meant what I said when I promised to take everything from you.” She spat before stomping away again.

Ann watched her warily. She was fully prepared for the fact that her invite here today would most likely be in order to publicly. Now, with that plan seemingly going so badly, she would most likely have something more up her sleeve.

She wished Maeve was more responsive. Perhaps she had shut herself away to avoid dealing with the drama but that wasn’t at all like the Maeve that she knew. If anything, she had expected her to come out kicking and screaming.

The silence was unsettling.

Chapter 38 The Traditional Gift-giving

“Please, everyone, if you would like to move through to the banqueting hall, we’ll continue there,” Narcissa announced to the remaining people in the ballroom. “We have another announcement to make and the traditional gift-giving between the Alpha King and his daughter.”

Ann rolled her eyes as Lexi linked her arm through hers and forcibly coerced her through the small entryway and into the banquet hall.

The Royal family sat at the head table as the banquet was well underway.

Before long, Narcissa stood and called everyone's attention.

"I'd like to propose a toast before the gift-giving." She said graciously as she raised her glass and the rest of the room hastened to follow.

"Here's to the long and happy marriage of Ada and Brad, and the long and healthy lives of their pups. The marriage signifies the strengthening of our kind and brings us together in an alliance not only of diplomacy but also of blood... please, drink to the happy couple." Narcissa beamed as she gulped the liquid in her glass.

Ada elbowed Brad in his side and whispered furiously as he reluctantly did the same. Ann also gulped her drink, but she refused to raise her glass.

She hoped they both got what they deserve and that an innocent child wasn't pulled into this madness.

"Now I'll hand you over to my husband for the traditional gift-giving." Narcissa trilled and inclined her head towards the Alpha King.

glance toward Ann before swinging his gaze to look apprehensively

by one of the servants and Ann

gift-giving was unimpressive in itself, but when Ann realized what exactly was being given, her mouth gaped open



the jewelry set was unveiled and she flicked a look filled with malice and contempt toward Ann as she held

are beautiful, thank you so much! You do me a

been gifted were from Ann's maternal grandmother and the sight of them around her neck and in her hands ignited a fury in Ann that she

off." Ann snapped angrily as

her face with a mask of

them?" The tone she used was a

sounded as if she were merely asking an innocent question, but

heirlooms... they were meant for her when she ascended the throne. They were never meant

the jewelry that her grandmother and mother had worn... the only real memories

take them off, Ada. Those aren't yours and you know it..." Ann growled

do this here. Not in front of all these people." The

you insane? Those are my mother's! Those are MY heirlooms from MY mother! The woman you rejected for this WH\*ORE and your bastard child!" Ann roared furiously,

speaking, but

wrapped her arms around her stomach protectively and transformed

angry?" Ada pleaded in a pitiful voice, the emotion in her voice at odds with the emotion in her

Ann could barely think straight anymore, it was like her head was full of static and intense pressure that only seemed to build with each passing second.

Ann clenched her jaw and closed her eyes, dropping her head to her chest and struggling to retain control. Her sanity was hanging by a thread and she could feel it, mixed with blind rage and terrifying panic from Maeve.

It was simply too much to bear.

Ann's head exploded backward as a terrifying roar tore from within and Maeve surged forwards, taking control of Ann's body and forcing a twisted half-human, half-wolf form with a humanoid figure.

She was aware of the terrified screams all around her, but it was muffled as if she was underwater.

Lexi's panicked voice shouted desperately for her to grab a hold of herself as she snapped wildly at the air and advanced menacingly towards Ada.

All pretense had been wiped from Ada's face as she scrambled backward wildly and Narcissa rushed to her daughter's side.

"You stupid little girl. What did you do?!" Narcissa hissed into Ada's ear furiously as she pulled her away.

"I... I didn't mean to ..." Ada stuttered as she tripped over her own feet trying to back away.

"Shut up! Just... I'll deal with you after... if we ever manage to get out of here alive." Narcissa snarled as she dragged her backward.

Although everything was muffled, Ann had heard every word. Realizing that they were probably to blame for whatever this was... she let go of the last thread that held Maeve back.

With the last thread of restraint gone Maeve pounced, springing towards them at a frightening speed, her eyes wild and her teeth bared.

#### Chapter 39 The Scandal

He knew she was going to launch herself at Ann before she did it.

He had never moved so fast in his life.

The desperation he felt caused his heart to race uncontrollably as his wolf snapped and howled inside his head, frantic for him to intervene before it was too late.

He launched himself towards her and as he wrapped his arms around her, the impact of the collision knocked her off course.

They skidded across the banquet hall floor and collided with the wall to the side heavily. Ann's body took the brunt of the impact and whatever had happened to force her to transform in that way began to recede.

In a matter of seconds, Ann had returned to normal and as she opened her eyes, she was greeted by the frowning face of Alpha Nocturne.

"Are you okay?" He asked, his arms still held securely around her.

"Yeah, I-I think so. My head hurts like hell though..." She grimaced.

Adam helped her to stand and checked her over as Lexi arrived next to them.

"Ann, that was cool and all but what the f\*uc\*k was that?!" Lexi breathed in awe.

"I'd like to know the same thing..." Adam said, his brows returning to a deep frown.

Ann grimaced as she looked towards the royal table where her father stood, his nostrils flaring angrily.

sank. Did all of that just happen?

shrieked

glare at the source of the voice and his lip curled

as if his new mate's life and safety were of little concern to

she viciously attacked her... we all

strode over to where Ann, Adam, and

attacked her own sister?

she tried to murder those pups in her

be the heir?! We can't condone that sort of

the Alpha King approached, exchanging pointed glares with the people

his head respectfully towards him by way of

eyes coldly over Adam and lingered on where his arm rested around Ann's

my daughter, Alpha Nocturne?" He

stare that he was on the receiving

He answered finally. The Alpha King scowled

King roared furiously as more people had begun to file back in, seeing that the danger was over for

a sneer

you have one rule for one

King blanched and paled suddenly, before quickly

don't know what you're

chuckled darkly. "Did you say the same to Ada when she

around the room as the Alpha King Leopold laughed

explained that... it was

"I heard your explanation. You lied." Adam growled menacingly

"How dare you question my honesty! What proof do you have?!"

"Proof? The fact that I was present when Brad demanded Ann forgive him and not reject him? The fact that he appeared at your daughter's workplace... at YOUR company and attacked her because she refused to accept him back?" Adam snorted loudly and stared at the Alpha King for a while.

An uncomfortable silence filled the hall and Adam sneered and gestured toward Brad.

“Ann rejected Brad yesterday, that’s why he’s in such a sorry state. Brad slept with Ann’s sister and got her pregnant. He knowingly disregarded the mate bond to fulfill his own needs... much like yourself... your majesty.” “I should have you k\*il\*led on the spot...”

“For what? Speaking the truth? As if all of that wasn’t enough for Ann to endure, you f0rced her to attend this ridiculous farce and then proceeded to give the daughter of your mistress, the heirlooms meant for your true mate’s daughter.”

The Alpha King shook with anger as ripples of dissent coursed through the room.

“Despicable. Poor Ann.”

“What kind of a father is he?!”

“If he can’t care for his true daughter, then how can he care for his people?!”

“Is he really fit to be our king?”

The Alpha King growled loudly and the room returned to an uneasy silence, punctuated by the sound of the camera shutters being activated as the braver members of the media took their chance to capture the confrontation.

“You still haven’t answered my question, Alpha Nocturne. Take your hands off my daughter.”

The Alpha King growled angrily.

Adam chuckled and grinned widely.

Chapter 40 Her Second Chance Mate

“I will not. I am her second chance mate, and she is my Luna.”

“No!” The Alpha King roared, “I forbid it! I will not consent to the match!”

Again the room erupted into protests, only this time, far louder. Who was he to deny the fate given by the Moon Goddess? Did he think himself above their goddess? He didn't have the authority to make that decision!

“It's too late for that, father,” Ann spoke finally, suddenly tired of this back and forth between the two. “I have accepted the match and we are marked and mated. Ironic that I have found more love and solace in the arms of my second chance mate than I ever did in the arms of my family-“

“Ann...” The Alpha King's expression was a mixture of , grief, and guilt, all rolled into one.

As much as it tore her heart apart, the fact that he was so willing to give her mother's heirlooms away to a child he had sired with his mistress, well, it was the last straw. “I won't neglect my duties as a member of the Royal family, but I will no longer regard you as my family,” Ann stated emotionlessly.

She supposed she should want to cry at a time like this, but no tears came. She just felt... empty.

As Alpha Nocturne wrapped his arm around her and led her out of the hallway, a myriad of questions were shouted at them both as they passed and he shielded her from all of them.

bundled her safely into the car, Lexi rushed over and prevented the door from

wanted to do was get Ann home and away

Alpha Nocturne. I'll take care of the media on my end, but you ... you look after her.”

Lexi moved away from the door and

“Take us home, Allen.”

“Yes, Alpha.”

arrived home and Ann had fallen

intrigued him. He had never met a wolf like her before. Used to simpering females, desperate to roll over and let him f\*uc\*k them, he found Maeve’s dominant and confident personality refreshing. As much as he longed for his fated mate, he

one day, if they ever found their fated mate, he was sure that they would understand. How can

across his body and got out of the car, cradling her gently

joined him at his side and they ascended the stairs together, nodding at the guards as they opened

to worry about the Alpha King retaliating do you think?” Allen asked, a hint of concern in his

and marked as far as they know. It would be suicide for them to try to move against us.

was silent

it wise to belittle him in front of the

and turned to

“Whether it was wise or not is not my concern. What was said was the truth and if the King is unable to hear a few home truths, however uncomfortable they may be, then he is not fit to be a king at all.” He growled before turning and heading inside, leaving Allen behind on the staircase.

As he entered their room and laid Ann on the bed, her eyes fluttered open gently.



“Adam?” She whispered, clearly disoriented.

“It’s okay, Ann. We’re home. You fell asleep in the car and I didn’t want to wake you.” He paused as he took a seat on the side of the bed. “Are you okay though? What happened?”

Ann grimaced and rubbed her eyes before pushing herself up into a seated position and leaning back against the headboard.

“I don’t even know. It was really strange. It was like I couldn’t control my body at all... I mean obviously, I could, but... god it sounds so complicated.” She sighed heavily, fiddling with her fingers.

“It’s okay, we’ll figure it out,” Adam said gently as he took hold of her hand and squeezed it reassuringly. “What about Maeve? Is there anything she remembers?” Ann grimaced again.

“She was really quiet the whole night, as she’s always been when we lived there. Then all of a sudden, I was angry and she was suddenly there... but unlike I’ve ever known her before. She was... wild and uncontrollable.” Adam frowned.

“But, is she okay now?” he asked tentatively.

The last thing he wanted was for his chosen Luna’s wolf to go feral. There was no way to control her if that happened.