

Chapter 10 An Earnest Favor

Alana

I stirred in my sleep when I felt someone was staring at me. I am even in awe of having such a good night's sleep. It happened for the first time because I felt safe and secure for the first time too. And the soft bed. It just feels so heavenly.

I opened my eyes and the first thing that I noticed was the pair of gray eyes that were widely staring at me, almost in a state of shock as he held my face.

"Is this really you, our grace?" he asked in the softest tone that I heard someone use on me.

I jumped out of my place and hugged the pillow and immediately backtracked away from him not because I am scared but because of the strange feeling he's rousing inside me.

How could the eyes of this stranger speak so many emotions to me all at once?

"I'm sorry," he said when he mistakenly took my actions as a form of fear coming from me. "I just thought you are someone I know, someone I have been looking for."

My eyes widened when I realized that he has been staring at me for so long. My hair! It's not covering my face anymore so he must have been looking at how ugly I am.

I quickly hid my face in the pillow in embarrassment. He must have been shocked to see how ugly I am. Sophia, dad, and my stepmother never fail to tell me every day how hideous I look.

"Alana..." He touched my arm but that only made me more nervous so I buried my face into the pillow even further.

"Please do not look at me. I am very ugly," I said in a low insecure voice.

There are actually many times when I sensed him coming inside the room just to look at me, and in all those times, I stared at him when I got a chance while pretending that I was sleeping.

I am good at pretending. One time, I pretended that I lost consciousness just so dad would stop beating me.

He moved closer to me but did not touch me or anything. In all those times when I am pretending to be asleep, I always catch him caressing my face while sighing.

For the first time since I have grown some awareness inside me, I felt what it is to be cared about.

"Please don't say that. You are not ugly, Alana."

"I am. They told me I am so ugly." I slowly peer at him from the pillow covering my face. He seemed to be sincere. Does he really think that I am not ugly? If yes, then he is probably the first man to think so. "I look so bad. I look like a monster. Someone as handsome as you should not look at me."

"You find me to be handsome?" I saw a tug on the corner of his lips which made him even more handsome.

I nodded without any hesitation. "Yes, you are very good-looking just like my father, just like the boys who like Sophia."

I don't know what I said for his face to turn even redder and a full-blown smile is etched across his face.

"Alana," he whispered and slowly took the pillow covering on my face. "You are not ugly. You are very very beautiful."

His words pierced right into my heart. Right there, I want to believe him only if I am not reminded that the mirror never lies.

Sophia always brings me a mirror so I could look at my ugliness every day, she once said. And when I am paraded on the streets, people throw me stones screaming that I am the ugliest monster they have ever seen in their entire lives.

"No, I am ugly. Do not lie please. I am a monster."

The man gently covered my ears with both of his big hands after meeting my eyes in a gaze that warrants for you not to take off one's eyes at him. "Don't listen to any one of them saying you are ugly. You are very beautiful, Alana. I am someone who will do everything for you. I am not the circus man who is here to buy you. I am your servant Alana and you can tell me whatever you want me to do."

A servant? I have one? But that is impossible! I said in my head while gazing at him mesmerized by his beautiful sharp eyes.

"What do you want me to do for you?" He glanced at my hands as if he wanted to take and touch them warmly. "Tell me anything you want and I will grant them to you."

I have been praying for the moon goddess to give me someone that could save me from here, right? I took a closer look at him. He seemed sincere and genuine. Can he be the savior I have been waiting for all this time?

"Can I ask what your name is?" I asked him instead.

I want to know the name of the man who made me feel for the first time that I exist as a normal werewolf and not a monster.

He knows my name but I don't know him. It is unfair especially when he has offered me comfort for today.

And he let me sleep in his soft bed. That is such a big deal!

His gaze softened and went back into the bed next to me making sure he left a space between us. "Of course sweetie."

He took a long breath and smiled at me, baring out his set of white straight teeth. "I am William, yours truly. I am someone you can lean on. I will always be here for you. Now tell me what you want and I will give you anything you need."

I am hypnotized by the way he looks so charming and his face is blinding causing me to blush and avert my eyes.

"William, can you please take me out of here please?" My voice cracked. "And you make me your slave because that's all I ever know. I will pay you however you want me to."