

## Chapter 18 Guilty

Alana

“Alana is the dearest friend I have whom I cherish the most, inspector. I know you are only after my welfare. All I am after is Alana’s welfare too. Whoever reported this to you need not be worried because I can assure everyone that she cannot harm me and will not harm me.”

I nodded and forced myself to smile at the inspector. “The alpha prince is right, mister. I am only his friend that he saved from the abusive household that I came from. Please, if my presence here would harm him, then I would willingly go-”

“No one’s going away,” William said and took my hand in his hand again which the inspector did not fail to see. “As I have said, she is my dear friend and her security will be my topmost priority for now. She will stay in my room and you will never tell anyone about it until I make sure that she’s safe. Can I expect you to help me in keeping her safe for me, inspector?”

The man swallowed the lump in his throat having been relegated to a task that he never thought would be passed onto him.

“But alpha prince, I have to report this to the alpha king and luna-”

“Why?” William’s face went darker, reminding me of the first time I witnessed it when he rescued me in my cell. “I already told you that she is my friend whom I am saving. What explanation do you want, inspector? Is my word as an alpha prince not enough and so you would really involve my busy parents who have just left for abroad for a very important meeting?”

“William, he is right. The alpha king and the luna have to know about me. It’s okay if I have to leave. You can sell me as a slave to-”

“Alana, I will never do that,” he said in his firm voice before looking back at the inspector who was shocked to hear me. “No one is going to leave as I have said!”

“Lady, who are you calling the alpha prince by his name! You have no respect! Apologize now!”

“I am the one who told her she can call me by my name!” William gritted his teeth. “Inspector, do you want me to apologize to myself?”

The man bowed and shook his head. “That’s not what I mean, alpha prince.”

William scoffed and then winked at me. “What is this you are doing, inspector? Are you purposely trying to stir a rumor around me so as to create a rift between me and my parents?!” William roared, causing me to jerk and hide behind him in fear.

He squeezed my hand that is still inside his grip as if telling me that it’s alright.

“Alpha prince! I would never do that or dare to think about that! I am sorry if I overstep my prince. You can trust me that I will never tell anyone about your friend. She can also stay here as what you wanted, alpha prince. I am sorry our lady for frightening you earlier.”

I was not able to say anything because I was in awe of how William was able to flip the situation completely.

William winked at me again and motioned me to say something.

“I-It’s okay, inspector.”

“Thank you for keeping a healthy judgment, our lady.”

He stood up in a hurry and bowed at us. “I will be going now, alpha prince, our lady. Please expect that no one will know about this case as if it has already been closed now, alpha prince.”

The inspector walked away and then ran at the end of the other hallway.

William smiled at me and I can’t help but to smile back sadly.

“Alana, do you want to come with me outside? I will show you the place where I-”

“Alpha prince, it would be dangerous for you to see me hanging out with me so I need to refuse.”

I exhaled and turned back into my unfinished business in the room. I have to clean it spotless for him because he lets me stay here for free.

William

“There’s already a rumor going around that you are keeping a woman in your room.”

I sighed and looked up at the sky above us. I just received an order to travel to a nearby city to deliver a prized package. The whole day I am distracted from my duties as the alpha prince because Alana has been cold and distant to me suddenly.

“I know, Francine.”

“And what are you going to do about it? Soon, many will be suspicious about Alana. She does not deserve it, you know.”

“I know. I know. This morning, the inspector came to my room because he received a complaint about a woman living in my quarters.

She stopped and looked at me with wide eyes. “And? What happened?”

“Good thing I was around. I told the inspector that she is just my friend.”

Her eyes seemed bigger when she stared at me as if she’s looking at a total stupid person.

“What?! What did you say?”

My forehead creased. Why is she acting so shocked? What did I do? Is it wrong to want to protect my own mate?

“I introduced Alana to be my dear friend,” I repeated my answer which earned a side eye from one of my most trusted friends.

“And what did she do after?”

“She did not say anything.”

Francine shook her head and let out a long sigh to the sky.

“I’m sorry to say this alpha prince but you are an idiot. This is the reason why I do not meet with young guys because most of you are so stupid.”

I did not care about what she said because she could really be sharp-tongued sometimes but I am more concerned about what it meant for Alana.

“What do you mean?”

“You said that in front of her so of course, she will be hurt! You denied her in front of the inspector!”

“But I didn't mean to do it! I was only trying to protect her!”

“But she did not know that. She must have felt so awful.”

I stopped in my tracks as guilt ate me up. She’s right. I hurt Alana. What a fucking idiot I am!

“Francine, I have to go back now.”

I rushed back into my room and opened the room without knocking but all that greeted me was an empty place.

“Alana! Alana!” I began to panic as my heart began racing up.

“Alana! Where are you? Goodness, I cannot take it if someone happens to you!”