

## Stir up trouble

Isabella's POV

That night, I was not able to sleep even a wink. Countless thoughts ran inside my mind, and the feeling of dread, anxiety, and pain mixed up in me.

Sophia was Xavier's rst love. All I knew was that they were childhood sweethearts but Sophia suddenly disappeared out of thin air when they were eighteen. It all happened before I discovered that Xavier was my mate. Initially, I didn't know about her at rst until I saw once of her pictures on the attic of this house.

I'm guessing it was kept by Xavier, and I'm guessing too, that he still hasn't moved on from her. That's why he won't mark me. That's why I'm unwanted.

I never really paid attention to Sophia. When I got married to Xavier, she was already nowhere to be found, but I could feel that Xavier was also longing for her as much as I was longing for him.

It didn't go unnoticed by me that he was still sending people to nd traces of Sophia these past few years.

But this is the very rst time I got completely threatened.

Because she's been found now. And seeing how much Xavier cared for her, I knew that I was no match for her.

"Why did you even bring that woman here?!" Luna Grace, Xavier's mom was in our house and expressing her displeasure

"She's heavily injured and got nowhere to go." Xavier calmly replied.

We were currently in our living room. His parents, the former Luna and Alpha of this pack came early this morning after they found out that Xavier brought Sophia in our house.

"You don't even know what that woman has been up to." Luna Grace said in hysterics.

"After disappearing for such a long time, who knows if she has some ulterior motive in suddenly coming back here --"

"Don't talk about her that way, mom!" Xavier slightly raised his voice. I was taken back, not just because he just talked back to his mom, but because of how he insists on defending Sophia.

It really seems he cared for her. And that sent a pang of pain through my chest.

"Stop disrespecting your mom for that woman!" Alpha Martin, his father, was also fuming. He pointed at Xavier while narrowing his eyes and coldly ordered.

"Come with me to my oce."

I stared at their departing backs and then immediately assisted Luna Grace, who still looks shock at how Xavier has just raised her voice at her earlier, to sit.

"That witch has done nothing good to my son!" She says in anger while I slowly pat her back to try calming her down.

However, I couldn't nd words to console her, since I can't also even comfort myself with how Xavier's been acting so protective over Sophia.

"How come you're not against this?" She frowned, realizing that I've been staying silent.

"It's not that I'm against it, Luna Grace." I sighed and continued. "It's because I can't do anything about it. I have no choice but to allow this to happen because it's what he wants."

Luna Grace also sighed, her eyes staring at me in sympathy. "I'm so sorry, dear."

"It's alright, it's not your fault Luna." I said softly.

She grabbed my hand and held them rmly. "Don't worry, Martin is going to talk to him to knock some things on his head off."

I could only nod in response.

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THREE DAYS has passed but everything seems to suddenly change. Our house, which was initially almost empty on normal days was lled with countless servants going in and out.

Even the pack healer goes from time to time to check on Sophia.

I heard that she has gained consciousness yesterday. But I was too busy with pack matters that I haven't been able to meet her in person, even though she was currently under the same roof as me.

"Now that the alpha's rst love came back, what will happen to the Luna?"

"I heard that Alpha Xavier is taking special care on that woman. Even if she was really still his lover, why did he brought her to their house out of all other places? Does he not even want to give face to our Luna?"

I was walking back to our house when I heard the gossips around the pack members. Jane was with me, clearing her throat to catch everyone's attention.

"It's alright, Jane." Seeing that I was passing by, the pack members immediately went silent and bowed respectfully towards me, but I didn't have the energy to look at them.

I was feeling... down.

AFTER arriving at our house, I immediately went to nd the leftover cake Jane has brought me yesterday. I was suddenly feeling hungry, and I felt like craving for a chocolate cake.

The house was quiet, I was guessing Xavier was still at the pack house. While Sophia, I didn't know about what she's been up to, she has been staying in her room these past few days.

However, moments later, I didn't expect to meet her at the kitchen. What more, seeing her wearing one of my dresses irked something out of me.

"You're... Isabella?"

I didn't expect her to start a conversation between us. Looking at her closely, I realized that she was indeed very beautiful, but I couldn't help feeling off seeing the dress she was wearing.

That was clearly in my closet, there was no other way she could get it unless she rummaged though our room or Xavier has given it to her.

The latter thought made me more uncomfortable. I only nodded at her and proceeded to open the fridge to take the box of chocolate cake.

But I didn't expect her to speak again. "I just want to let you know that I'm staying here."

I raised my brows. She did not make a request. It's more like she's announcing something, but I couldn't get her point of saying that. She was not even knowing showing respect, though it's quite obvious that she knew very well of my identity.

"I'm talking to you."

At rst, I thought that at least she looked kind. But now, I changed my mind. Her voice immediately went from soft to sassy and demanding.

"I'm hungry."

I looked straight at her, a feeling of displeasure swirling in my chest. I was still the Luna of this pack, and her tone made me frown at the disrespect she was showing me.

"I'm not the cook."

I turned to close the fridge upon nally getting a cake, only to hear a cry behind me and a series of footsteps approaching.

"What's happening here?"

Hearing Xavier's voice made my back stiff. I turned around only to see him approaching Sophia with a frown on his face. Moreover, Sophia, who looks recovered and well earlier now looks as if she was in pain.

"My stomach hurts." She whimpered, her body leaning to Xavier who was now supporting her.

A lump seemed to form on my throat seeing how close they were together.

"I told you to stay in your room." Xavier said in a quite impatient tone. He has not even spared me a glance ever since he came here and only focused his attention to Sophia.

I remained standing at my spot as if I was just a bystander seeing two main characters of a book. My heart ached.

"I'm feeling hungry. But there's no food in here." Sophia spoke in a weak tone, still leaning her body to him. "And Luna Isabella doesn't want to give me that cake."

My brows shot up. This time, Xavier also snapped his gaze towards me, narrowing his eyes.

"Don't be too petty, Isabella."

"What?" I was still feeling perplexed. Sophia's words are just starting to sink in.

Xavier rarely addresses me by my rst name, but this time sure wasn't a good time. My heart feels as if it was being held in a tight grip.

"It's okay, Xavier." Sophia touched his arm, and my eyes followed her movements. "But I'm really hungry now."

"I'll order the cook to make something. Go back to your room rst."

I blinked my eyes at the two of them, still in quite disbelief at how Sophia started making things up. I was too taken aback to speak for myself just now.

"I feel weak. Could you send me to my room?"

Anger and pain swirled inside me. The surging emotions made me unable to speak, seeing my very own mate care for another woman.

"Alright," Before leaving, Xavier's eyes found mine before he spoke in a cold voice.

"As the Luna of this pack, you know that all I want is for you to do your duties well."

I was confused by his words. But seeing how Sophia secretly smirked and stared at me in provocation while Xavier was not looking at me made me come back to my senses.

My husband's words echoed in my mind. Is he pertaining to what Sophia has just complained to him? Does he really think that I'm that petty?

Tears welled up in my eyes as I watched them leave. My hands were shaking, and my knees felt weak. One thing is for sure, Sophia was trying to stir up trouble.

But I don't know if I'll be able to ght back.

Xavier didn't even let me explain myself. He immediately took Sophia's side, instead of me, his wife.