

## Chapter 17

"You look beautiful, my love," Jake twirled Athena as she reached the

University in a red off-shoulder dress.

Today was the day of the fresher's party, and though she had no intentions of becoming the limelight of the party, she wanted to look good enough to be partnered with Jake.

However, even Jake could feel his heart thumping at her natural beauty, which was enhanced even more because of the natural light makeup she used.

"Who are you? Where is Athena? What did you do to her?" Athena heard Andrew from behind her, and she smiled helplessly.

"Stop exaggerating, you two. I look like every other girl here," Athena walked back inside with Jake and Andrew.

"Miss Athena, someone sent this to you," Athena's smile faltered when she looked at the note in the human's hand.

"Hey, did you see who it was? Can you -

"He was wearing a mask," The boy said, and Athena smiled before thanking him.

This was the third time someone sent her a note. The sender was cunning enough to use humans since the werewolves would immediately catch

his/her scent.

"Athena? Is everything okay? You look troubled," Jake asked.

He has become more attentive to Athena after that bullying day, not

wanting to ignore any signs of her distress anymore. He knows she is the type to hide her pain.

"Yeah, I think I need to stuff my stomach, oF I will faint from low blood

pressure," Athena smiled forcefully to hide the turmoil in her heart, and

Jake and Andrew looked at her before they burst out laughing.

"You are kidding us? Girls like you don't faint. They render others

unconscious," Jake joked, and Athena rolled her eyes, walking to the food aisle nonetheless.

Opening the note softly, she looked at it with a sigh. 'Looking beautiful in this red dress. I am sure it will capture many hearts.

But who will take care of your heart? Don't fall for Simon even in your

wildest dreams if you want to stay alive, Athena crumbled the note, and

was about to throw it when someone bumped into her, making her drop it on the floor.

"Athena, come, let's dance," Andrew pulled her away before she could pick up the note, and Athena looked back at it, sighing when she noticed people stomping on it.

So what if she couldn't throw it in the dustbin? She was sure no one would bother reading a crumpled tissue.

However, unknown to her, Simon was keeping a gaze on her, and as soon

as he saw the note falling from her hand, he walked before picking it up.

Reading the contents of the note, he looked at the girl, faking her smile, and couldn't help but crush it even more, throwing it in the dustbin.

There was no doubt someone was targeting her, and that someone doesn't have any idea that they are mates, or they won't be threatening her like this. Maybe people caught up on her bullying?

Seeing her dancing with Andrew and Jake turn by turn, giggling at their

actions to dance with her, Simon leaned on the pillar, a small smile on his face that even he wasn't aware of.

Wearing the mask, he entered the dancing zone when they started the

changing-partner group dance.

Holding her hand, Simon twirled her before pulling her to the center as the main dancer.

"Alpha Simon?" Athena asked, and Simon hummed.

"Has your heart already connected with mine? How come you knew it was me?" Simon twirled her again before placing her hand over his heart, letting his wolf Onyx enjoy the feeling.

"I knew it was you because only you have the guts to pull something like

this. Besides, I don't forget my tormentors easily. Let me go," Athena

sighed, removing her hand, but Simon held her hand again before pulling

her infinitely closer, his fingers digging into her waist.

"Since you know it's me, why run away? I am your mate, darling," Simon

loved the feeling of her being pressed against his chest, looking at him with wide eyes.

Cupping her cheeks, he massaged her neck before smiling.

"Just forget your worries and enjoy this dance. This is a once-in-a-lifetime party," Simon said, and seeing he didn't mean any harm, Athena loosened a bit.

He was right. This was like a once-in-a-lifetime party. There would be many parties, but they wouldn't be a fresher party.

"Listen to your heart, Athena. You have been too tense these days because of those notes. Just enjoy the night. I am sure your parents would have

wanted that for you, her wolf murmured, and Athena hummed.

"Why are we dancing in the middle? It is supposed to be a group dance with changing partners," Athena changed the topic, and Simon smiled.

"Well, that's because you are my woman," Simon's words made Athena's heart thump.

Was he playing some kind of game with her? He doesn't want to accept her, but he has the audacity to call her 'his woman'? Just what the hell is going through his head? Athena thought before feeling dejected.

If it had been before knowing he was her mate, honestly, Athena had felt a little better with how he was flirting with her, but knowing he intended to

reject her in the end on her eighteenth birthday, she felt nothing but deep remorse building in her heart.

All her happiness felt like being clouded with the haze of sadness now.

"Excuse me," Athena said. She turned around and left before Simon could say anything, and he couldn't help but press his lips into a thin line.

What the hell was he doing? He didn't mean to say things like that, but

Onyx's happiness was so contagious that he said those words without

realizing himself.

His only intention was to let Onyx enjoy it a little.

Why are his emotions slipping like that? He is supposed to hate rogues like her. Simon gritted his teeth before raking his hand through his hair,

annoyed.

Meanwhile, Savannah, who noticed all this, smiled bitterly.

A man who couldn't accept her when she devoted her entire life to him. How will he ignore his hatred to accept a rogue for a mate? Savannah

scoffed before closing her eyes and enjoying the dance.

"Hey, Athena, where are you going? The party is this way," Athena heard

someone calling.

"I am sorry, but I didn't catch your name," Athena looked at the familiar man awkwardly.

"Oh, I am Drake. We never talked before. I am Andrew's Gama," the man

said, and Athena smiled.

"I am just heading out for some fresh air. Don't mind me," Athena sighed

before walking out, looking at the sky with mixed emotions.

As she stood on the balcony, she failed to notice the shadows of two men watching her from behind the forest.

"Is she the girl? She seems pretty average. Are you sure this is going to

work? The Alpha isn't some fool who would fall for the trick easily," One of the men asked, and the other hummed.

"She is one of the rogues living on the borders of the Black Scar pack with the permit and studying here. They are our chance to infiltrate the pack.

When it comes to blaming, we all know who Alpha Simon would blame.

Besides, I heard the girl was bullied by the pack members," the man

smirked.

"Did you give her the note?" The other man asked, and he hummed.

"Everything is going as planned by the lady. Do you think miss Scarle-" the man started, but before he could complete the sentence, the other man

pointed a dagger over his neck, cutting him mid-sentence.

"Don't you dare speak of the lady's name like this! Her name is forbidden to be taken by any team members, even if we are not at the base. Have you

forgotten about the basic rules?" He growled, and the other man nodded in fear.

"I am sorry,"

Hearing the rustling of leaves at some distance above the loud blasting

music, Athena scrunched her brows to look who it was when she saw a

shadow-like thing moving. "It looks like you aren't enjoying the party so much," Andrew placed his hand

on her shoulder, catching her attention, and the men watching her left quickly.

"I miss my dad. He always wanted to choose a dress for my first college party. His words were, 'I won't be that stuck-up parent who put their kids under a hundred rules for them to break. I will be a cool parent who trusts his kids'. It feels empty without him," Athena's words made Andrew's smile

falter.

How can he forget that it hasn't even been two months since her father died in the rogue attack? And to say she has been suffering constantly from that moment.

"I don't know what he must've said or done, but I am sure he is proudly looking at you from the heavens. His daughter is now brave and strong." Andrew didn't know what else to say, so he just pulled her and placed her head on his chest, patting her shoulder comfortingly.

"You are going to make these two years of my college lovely. I know this isn't the time to say this, but you have no idea how lucky I feel you came here to study. I didn't know I missed us until I saw you again," Andrew's words made Athena smile and place her hand on his waist as she hugged him.

"I am glad you are here too and in the same building. With you here, I feel like my life would be a little bearable, or the moon goddess hasn't been leaving any chance to test my patience," Athena sighed.

"I am always here," Andrew didn't know what came over him as he bent

and

kissed her temple, making Athena freeze in her place.

She was about to pull away to not get carried in the moment, but before she could do that, a thunderous growl echoed in the corridor, making her look back at the entrance where a seething Simon was standing.

"Don't you dare say it's not what it looks like," Simon gritted his teeth, and thinking this was her chance to make him hate and reject her, Athena

closed her eyes to prepare herself for compromising her morals and lying. "I won't. This is exactly what it looks like, Alpha Simon. Do you have a

problem with that? I don't think we have a relationship where you can

question me for anything," Athena smiled sarcastically, and Simon snarled at her. "Simon, what are you doing here? Last time I checked, you promised to not bully her. Don't tell me you found her alone and wanted to"

"Stay out of it, Andrew. This is between Athena and me," Simon said before he walked to the duo in long strides.

Honestly, Simon was here to apologize for what he said and probably tease her a bit more to let her know he was not into her, but he didn't know

would get to see something so explicit.

"You know what, I have been silent about this matter for too long. If you

dared to touch even a strand of her hair, I don't think I would keep cool

anymore," Andrew stood in front of Athena protectively, making Simon even angry.

Meanwhile, Athena, who looked at the anguish in Simon's eyes, felt even

angrier.

He was such a hypocrite. He was worse than Cole. It was obvious what he was trying to do. He just wants to see her suffering alone, and that's why he doesn't want to accept or reject her. It's painful for Athena both ways,

and he finds happiness in that.

"Andrew, you don't need to fight anyone for me. I was leaving anyway."

Athena said, and was about to walk away when Simon held her hand.

Andrew was about to jerk Simon's hand away from Athena, but to Simon's shock, Athena pulled her hand away with a glare, her eyes shining golden, and Simon took a step back.

This was the first time he saw her so angry. Maybe he outdid his anger this time, but she was in the wrong too. Simon thought as he saw Andrew

rushing behind Athena.

Descending the stairs with mixed emotions, she rushed to the exit of the

building and was about to leave when she bumped into someone, falling on the ground with a groan.

"Athena, you okay?" She heard Andrew and was about to stand when the

person extended his hand for her to take.

"Here," She heard a familiar voice, and her blood ran cold.

It was as if the miseries in her life weren't enough that the moon goddess had to send the one person who snatched everything away from her. Cole Trickster.