

Chapter Thirty-Two: Nervous AF!

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Phera POV:

The dappled sunlight that filtered through the café's glass windows was warm on my skin, casting playful patterns on the white tablecloth. I couldn't help but feel at ease despite the whirlwind of emotions that had been occupying my mind. Seated across from me were Betty and Reese, my two best friends who had known me through thick and thin. The clatter of cutlery and chatter of patrons enveloped us like a cocoon, separating us momentarily from the realities outside.

"So, spill the tea, Phera. How are things going with the triplets?"

Betty nudged, her eyes twinkling with anticipation. She delicately lifted her cup of herbal tea to her lips, the steam rising in gentle curls.

Reese leaned in, too, spooning a dollop of froth from her cappuccino.

"Yeah, last we talked, things seemed a bit...complicated. Any progress?"

Taking a deep breath, I looked at both of them, grateful for the solace their presence provided.

"Progress would be an understatement. They've been doing everything possible to make me feel comfortable, appreciated...loved, even. And as much as I want to put on a brave face, it's working. My walls are crumbling, and I

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don't know how to feel about that."

"Wait, so what exactly have they been doing?" Reese inquired, her eyes narrowing in curiosity. "Is it just dates and gifts, or something more?"

"It's deeper than that," I responded, fidgeting with the napkin on my lap. "Axel went through my financial plan for the pack, applauding it and actually understanding the intricacies. Damon's been considerate, trying to discuss sensitive topics that I'd usually keep guarded. And Zane... well, he's found this balance between playful and serious that makes me see him in a different light. They even arranged a special date for tonight to celebrate the recent accomplishments."

Betty and Reese exchanged glances, then turned their attention back to me, their expressions softened.

"Phera, it sounds like they're really stepping up their game," Betty said. "But what scares you the most about your walls crumbling? Is it the vulnerability?"

"Yeah, vulnerability and the unknown," I admitted. "We've all got a complicated past, and the more I let them in, the more I fear the reckoning of those complexities. What if this date changes everything, and I'm not prepared for the aftermath? There's no guidebook on how to navigate a relationship with three intense, committed men who also happen to be your mates."

Reese reached across the table, placing her hand over mine.

"Listen, relationships are always a gamble, whether it's with one person or three. But maybe that's the beauty of it. The triplets are not asking for a perfect, all-knowing

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Phera. They want you, with all your complexities and uncertainties."

"And besides," Betty chimed in, "every crumbling wall is a chance to let light flood into spaces that have been dark for too long. Maybe this is your time to let that light in."

I took in their words, feeling a blend of relief and continued apprehension swirl within me. It was a lot to digest, and yet it felt comforting to lay it all bare in front of those who knew me best.

"So, about this date," Betty began, a sly grin forming on her face. "What's the plan? Something incredibly romantic that would make a romance novel feel inadequate?"

I chuckled.

"You'll have to wait for the deets. But for now, let's say I'm cautiously optimistic. It's both thrilling and terrifying to think that one evening could potentially alter the dynamics of my already complicated life."

My phone buzzed on the table, a message notification lighting up the screen. It was from Zane, a simple text saying,

Looking forward to tonight.

As I read the message, my heart fluttered involuntarily. Tonight would be significant, a juncture on this convoluted journey I was navigating with Damon, Axel, and Zane. The walls were crumbling, and whether that was a prelude to a breakdown or a breakthrough remained to be seen.

Reese looked at me knowingly.

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"See that smile? That's the face of a woman who, whether she admits it or not, is at the brink of something incredibly life-changing."

I nodded, my heart pounding in agreement, even if my mind was still clouded with uncertainties. Tonight would indeed be a leap into the unknown, and I could only hope that the net would appear.

Pausing for a moment, I looked at my friends, their faces brimming with a mixture of concern and excitement for me. It was strange—this paradox of feeling both close to and far from a life-altering decision, and yet, as I sat there, I couldn't help but think that perhaps the crumbling of walls wasn't such a bad thing after all.

Our laughter filled the air as we left the cozy café, making our way through the bustling streets of the Red Moon pack's central square. While we were surrounded by the vast wilderness that made up our territory, this area was like any cosmopolitan city—vibrant, diverse, and alive. The blend of modern architecture with rustic elements reminded me how far our pack had come, fusing the natural world with the conveniences of human invention.

"So, what's the look we're aiming for tonight?"

Betty asked as we walked into Luna Chic, a boutique that had earned a reputation for crafting some of the most elegant and trendy clothes in the pack.

"Something that says I'm confident and poised, yet open to the surprises life throws my way," I mused, running my fingers through an array of fabrics that ranged from satin to sequins.

I finally settled on a dress that was a masterful blend of

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both worlds—elegant, yet spirited. It felt like slipping into an entirely different skin—one that was bolder, freer. As I twirled in the fitting room, watching the fabric hug every curve, I felt a rush of excitement for the evening ahead.

"You look stunning, Phera. The triplets won't know what hit them,"

Reese gushed as I stepped out, my reflection beaming back at me from the floor-to-ceiling mirror.

"You really think so?" I replied, a flicker of uncertainty crossing my face.

"Absolutely," Betty chimed in, holding up a necklace that seemed to capture the very essence of the moon's glow. "This is the final touch you need."

As we wrapped up our shopping spree, stepping back into the streets that seamlessly blended the comforts of modern city life with the natural beauty of our pack lands, I found myself lost in thought. My phone buzzed with a message from Damon, adding another layer of reality to the anticipation that had been building up.

"Alright, out with it," Betty nudged. "You've been too quiet."

Taking a deep breath, I let the words tumble out.

"I kissed Zane yesterday."

Betty nearly tripped over her own feet, while Reese's eyes widened to saucer-like proportions.

"You did what? Tell us everything!"

I detailed the encounter, my words painting the electrifying moment that had shaken me to my core.

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"The kiss was... unexpected but intense. I can't shake the feeling, nor can I shake the reality of Damon and Axel's presence in my life."

Both Betty and Reese were hanging on to my every word.

"Wow. Just wow. So, the date tonight is more than just a dinner. It's a... a crossroads," Betty mused.

"Exactly."

I responded, our steps echoing on the cobblestone paths as we approached the residential sector, where lush trees and manicured gardens met skyscraping condos.


"Tonight isn't just about me and them. It's about me rediscovering myself within this complicated equation."

"As long as you're happy, we're happy," Reese said, squeezing my arm reassuringly. "And remember, no matter what happens, your pack—your friends and family—will always stand by you."

Their words settled over me like a comforting shawl, reaffirming my belief that whatever happened tonight, I would have a support system to fall back on.

"I think this evening could be a defining moment, not just for my relationships with Damon, Axel, and Zane, but also for me as a Luna and as a woman. And I can't think of a better way to confront that than decked out in a killer outfit, feeling like the very best version of myself," I concluded, my gaze catching a glimpse of the moon as it started its ascent into the sky, almost as if signaling its approval.


We shared a collective nod, a tacit understanding that


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tonight was about much more than a date—it was about navigating the complexities of love, leadership, and the ever-changing landscape of life itself.

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