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Phera POV:

I left the conference room, letting my mates and the other alphas mull over the plan. My heart was still pounding from the intense conversation and the thought of luring Josh out, but I knew it was necessary. As I walked down the hallway, lost in thought, I almost bumped into Newmara, Betty, and Reese.

"Hey, there she is!" Reese exclaimed, her eyes lighting up as she saw me.

Betty's face broke into a wide grin.

"Phera, you're glowing! Did you...?"

Newmara stepped forward, her eyes twinkling with mischief.

"Oh, she did, didn't she? Look at her!"

They all screamed in excitement, surrounding me with hugs and laughter. The tension from the meeting began to melt away in the warmth of their presence.

Betty waggled her eyebrows.

"So, how was it? Tell us everything!"

Reese elbowed her playfully.

"Yeah, did the triplets finally show you what all the fuss is about?"

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Newmara chuckled.

"Leave her alone, you two. But seriously, Phera, spill the details."

I felt my cheeks heat up, but their playful banter was a welcome distraction.

"Well, it was... amazing," I admitted, trying to keep my voice steady despite the memories flooding back.

Betty pretended to fan herself.

"Oh, girl, we need more than that! Were they... you know, good?"

Reese leaned in closer.

"Did they take turns or...?"

I couldn't help but laugh at their antics.

"Guys, it's not like that. Well, it is, but... it was special. They made me feel so loved."

Newmara nodded, her expression softening.

"I'm so happy for you, Phera. You deserve all the love they can give."

Betty gave a mock sigh.

"Ah, young love. But seriously, we're just glad you're happy. And glowing."

Reese winked.

"Yeah, glowing and maybe a little sore?"

I swatted her playfully.

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"Reese!"

"Wait a minute," Betty said, narrowing her eyes at me. "Are those...?"

Before I could stop her, she pulled down the collar of my shirt, revealing the new claim marks on my neck.

"Oh my God!" Reese squealed. "Look at those! They really went all out, didn't they?"

Newmara's eyes widened, but she smiled knowingly.

"They wanted to make sure everyone knows you're theirs."

Betty's grin widened.

"Damn, Phera, they marked you up good. Those triplets sure know how to claim their mate."

I blushed, but couldn't help the smile that spread across my face.

"Yeah, they did. And it feels... right. Like everything's finally where it should be."

Reese gave me a playful nudge.

"So, did they take turns marking you, or was it all at once?"

I laughed, shaking my head.

"You guys are incorrigible. It was... well, let's just say it was everything I ever wanted and more."

Betty waggled her eyebrows again.

"I bet it was. Those boys have been crazy about you for as long as I can remember."

Newmara nodded.

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"You might not have noticed it growing up, but we did. They were always so possessive of you, even back when you thought they saw you as a little sister."

Reese laughed.

"Oh, remember that time at the pack's summer festival? Phera was dancing with some guy, and Damon practically growled him away."

I rolled my eyes, but couldn't suppress my smile.

"Yeah, I remember. I thought he was just being overprotective."

Betty smirked.

"Overprotective, my ass. They've been head over heels for you forever. You just couldn't see it."

Newmara chuckled.

"And now you're finally theirs, and they're yours. It's about time."

Their humour and light-hearted teasing helped ease the knot of anxiety in my chest. It felt good to have a moment of normalcy, to laugh and joke with my friends. It reminded me that despite everything, there were still moments of joy to be found.

Betty gave me one last hug.

"But seriously, Phera, we're here for you. Whatever you need, we've got your back."

Reese nodded.

"Absolutely. And if those triplets give you any trouble, you

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let us know. We'll set them straight. Alphas or not, girls before dicks, anyday"

I smiled, feeling a surge of gratitude for my friends' support.

"Thanks, guys. I really appreciate it."

As we continued to chat and joke, the weight of the world on my shoulders felt a little lighter. I knew the challenges ahead were immense, but with my friends and family by my side, I felt a little more ready to face them.

Newmara gave me a final hug before excusing herself, leaving me alone with Betty and Reese. The playful atmosphere we had just shared began to fade, replaced by a more serious tone.

"Okay, Phera," Betty said, crossing her arms. "We know you. Something's wrong. Spill."

Reese nodded, her expression mirroring Betty's concern.

"Yeah, you're not just glowing from the bond. There's something else. What's going on?"

I sighed, feeling the weight of my worries pressing down on me again.

"Alright, come with me."

I led them to the room I now shared with the triplets. As we walked through the packhouse, I couldn't help but admire the grand decor that surrounded us. The room we shared was one of the largest in the packhouse, reflecting the status of the Alpha and his mates. The walls were adorned with intricate tapestries, and the large bed was draped with luxurious linens. There was a seating area

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near the window, offering a stunning view of the forest beyond.

"This is it," I said, opening the door to reveal the spacious room. "This is where we'll be living together."

Betty and Reese exchanged impressed looks before turning back to me.

"Wow," Betty said. "This place is amazing."

Reese nodded.

"Yeah, but I can tell that's not what you brought us here to talk about. What's really going on, Phera?"

I took a deep breath, feeling the knot in my chest tighten.

"It's about what happened when I was kidnapped. Even though the triplets, you two, and everyone else knows what Rex did to me, it still haunts me. I can't shake the memories of the torture, the pain. It's always there, lurking in the back of my mind."

Betty's eyes softened, and Reese's hand found mine, giving it a reassuring squeeze.

"We know, Phera. We can't imagine what it was like, but we're here for you. Always."

I nodded, tears welling up in my eyes.

"There's more. The triplets and the other alphas have come up with a plan to lure Josh out. They want me to help. But I'm scared, Betty, Reese. What if facing him triggers something? What if I can't handle it?"

Reese's grip on my hand tightened.

"You're strong, Phera. You've already been through so

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much. Facing Josh might be hard, but it's also a way to take back your power."

"I know," I whispered, my voice trembling. "But I can't tell the triplets about my fears. If I do, they'll never let me go through with it. They're so protective, and I understand why. But I need to do this. For myself, for our pack."

Betty leaned forward, her eyes intense.

"Then we'll make sure you're ready. We'll help you prepare, mentally and physically. You won't be alone when you face him. Besides, remember who you are! You're Phera fucking Evans, the fiercest warrior, Luna and goddamn fighter

I looked at them, my heart swelling with gratitude and love.

"Thank you. I don't know what I'd do without you."

Reese smiled.

"You'd probably be fine, but we're not taking any chances. We're in this together."

We sat there for a while longer, discussing the plan and what needed to be done. As the conversation continued, I felt a renewed sense of determination. I would face whatever came my way, not just for myself, but for my mates, my pack, and the future we were fighting to protect.

"I know you're scared," Betty said gently. "But remember, you're not alone in this. We're here, and so are your mates. They might be overprotective, but that's because they love you."

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Reese nodded. "And they'll understand why you need to do this.. Just talk to them if they try stopping you again, Phera. They'll support you, even if it's hard for them."

I took a deep breath, feeling a bit more at ease.

"You're right. I'll talk to them if need be again. But first, we need to make sure I'm ready for this confrontation. Josh won't know what hit him."


Betty grinned.


"That's the spirit. Now, let's get to work."

With my friends by my side, I knew I could face whatever came next. We would confront the shadows together, and we would emerge stronger for it.

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