

Poppy POV

I was anxious for the whole day. The anxiety was not only because of the fact that I was getting married, but also because Axl had said that my grandfather would be announcing Sinclair as the next Alpha of the Shadow pack.

I closed my eyes to focus on my wolf, to remember something that would trigger my memories, the remaining puzzle pieces that I was hoping to grab in the blind. And for that I needed my wolf. I knew I needed her because I was sure she would answer some of my questions. But hard as I tried, nothing apart from a turmoil in my chest would form.

Mary and Eliza were extremely busy for the whole day. According to Eliza I was becoming the Luna of the most powerful pack in North America and that was something in itself. I was informed that Alphas of all the ally packs were invited. Damon had sent the invitation to my grandfather also, but there was no confirmation that he would be here. What was it that I had done to him? How could he be so stoic? Why did he hate me so much? All those questions were creating havoc in my mind. I wanted to cry and then some more.

"Poppy!" Anna said, snapping me out of my reverie. "Stop wallowing in your misery. Look at the beautiful side of it all. You don't have to see the grumpiest old man in the world at your wedding."

I shook my head as I let out a humorless laugh. "Why does he hate me so much? Just because I didn't have a wolf?"

"He's a douche!" she snarled. "Let him go to hell. Focus on your wedding because you have more things to do after that."

I gave Anna a knowing look and sucked in a sharp breath. That was right. After the wedding there was something very important that I had to do.

My wedding stylist Mina, had come at 5 PM and she was fussing over me to the extent that I was getting irritated. Anna and Eliza were the bridesmaids. Mina had made them wear a crimson gown that had golden sequins on the bodice on the neckline. Anna and Eliza were in some animated discussion while sipping on their wine. As for me, I was sitting in front of the mirror staring at my reflection.

Mina had curled my hair and let them drop in waves on my shoulder. She was fixing the veil on my head while one of the omegas who was her assistant was helping me wear my silk sandals that she strapped to my ankle.

Damon wasn't allowed anywhere near me for the entire day and that was also a part of my increased anxiety. It was only with him that I felt safe and relaxed. Anna noticed the look on my face. She came to me and gave me wine. "Have this, Poppy," she said.

I looked at her, lifting my face. "I am nervous," I rasped.

"I understand, Poppy," she said and bent down in front of me. "But trust me, this is the best that is happening with you. Have confidence in Damon and Mary. They are a lovely family."

"I know..." I said as I fidgeted in my lap. "I just—" I blinked my tears away. "I am just too confused..."

Anna enveloped me in her arms. "I can understand that. Just have some faith in the Moon Goddess. She has brought you here on purpose." She removed herself from me and wiped my tears. "Otherwise why was it that you met Pike, Alpha Kevin's Beta, in the forest to save you? There is a higher power that is in play." She kissed my cheek. "You have to look confident because you are going to be the Luna of the Umbra pack."

Eliza came over and sat on her knees beside Anna. "Anna is right, Poppy," she said as she squeezed my hands. "We are there for you. Don't get anxious. Everything will fall in its place. Give yourself time."

My heart filled with warmth seeing the two of them in front of me. "Thank you..." I murmured and the three of us had a group hug.

When I was ready, the door opened and I saw Killian standing over there waiting for me. My lips curved up into what could have been a face splitting grin. He was supposed to take me down the aisle. He winked at me and offered me his arm. I took and together we walked down the corridor that led to the temple where the wedding was supposed to take place.

The entire corridor was lit with fairy lights. There were people

standing on both sides, showering us with roses as I walked with my bouquet along with Killian. Eliza and Anna were walking behind us. I grasped Killian's arm a little too hard because panic started bubbling up. How would I live up to the expectations of these people when my own life was such a mess?

"It will be fine," Killian murmured, patting my hand.

We walked till the entrance of the temple and at the far end, I saw Damon standing with Shaman, watching me intensely. His dark eyes were full of hope, love and a future that he was imagining for us. Mary was standing beside him with a small velvet box. The statue of the Moon Goddess was towering above them. All my anxiety faded when my gaze locked with his. Like a moth to a flame, I closed the distance between us in confident strides.

He held my hand and immediately squeezed them and I knew that he was waiting to meet me just as I was waiting to meet him. He affected me at a visceral level. "I was waiting for you," he said in a low voice. "You look... gorgeous."

In his black tuxedo, Damon was perhaps the epitome of our species. So handsome, so smooth, yet had that rugged edge. "And you are stunning," I said honestly.

The Shaman bowed to me and started chanting the incantations. After roughly about fifteen minutes later, he asked Damon, "Give your right hand."