

Poppy POV

James Vincent growled at me, his fur rippling in anger. "You cunt! I will—" He lifted his hand to slap me.

Before I could react, Damon came forward and grabbed his hand. He shoved it down and let out a snarl that exposed his sharp canines. My grandfather stumbled back with shock in his eyes. "Keep your hands off my Luna," Damon snarled dangerously.

Though my grandfather grumbled, he lowered his hand. Pointing his finger behind me, he retorted, "Then get the hell out of my territory instantly!"

"I will not go anywhere!" I growled, my wolf pushing me to the edge. "You killed my mother?" Rage blasted in my chest. All these years he kept that a secret only because of his hatred. Didn't he think even once about his own son? My father, who was so miserable all the time without his mate? "You didn't tell my father that you killed her and let him suffer, let him hope that he will find her one day!"

Auren wanted to come out and rip his throat like now. She was trying to take charge from me. I was finding it difficult to tamp her down. "You are the most fucked up man I have ever come across. Not only you fucked up your own life, you destroyed your family. And what for? For that festering sense of pride in your veins?" I looked at Sinclair, who was almost trembling at the scene that was unfolding. I pointed at him. "You want to make that omega the

Alpha of the pack? On what basis? Can he shift into his wolf?"

Sinclair went pale at my words.

"Oh my god!" Hilda cried out louder. "Alpha James, your granddaughter is so rude. Now she is accusing my son? What have I done to you, Poppy? I have always been so nice to you. You wanted to escape this pack, remember? And now you are trying to claim it? You hate all of us, that's why before escaping you stole my money and ran to the academy. I didn't say a word to you about it. And now—" she sobbed harder.

I glared at her for a moment and chuckled humorlessly. I started clapping and said, "I have to say, Hilda, you are a fine actor. You were the one who instigated me to escape this pack by handing me that money. You were the one who gave me poisonous tea to kill my wolf."

"This is a lie!" Hilda cried. "Alpha James, she is speaking a lie!"

"Poppy!" My grandfather yelled at me.

I raised my hand at him and said, "Shut the fuck up!" He snapped his mouth shut seeing my arrogance.

I turned to look at Anna and she handed me a bag of tea. I dangled it in front of her and said, "This is the tea you gave me. It is specially cultivated in the north in the plantations you own."

Hilda's eyes widened. She glanced at Axl, whose muscles were

taut with so much tension that the tension was palpable in the air. "Wh—what are you even saying?" she snapped. "I am just an omega. How can I own tree plantations? And what proof do you have that this tea bag belongs to me?"

Anna came forward with a little bag that she was carrying. She placed it on the floor and before opening it she warned them, "I am a witch. Don't you think of moving out of this place, because you can't. There's a layer of magic around the temple that no one can pierce!" Saying that, she opened the bag as I watched others gulp. She took a thick folder that contained her research papers. And another thin envelope that she gave to me.

As she took out more stuff, I opened the thin envelope and took out the photos. "These are of the tea plantation that belongs to you," I said, showing them to her. "And here are a few photos that show both you and Axl talking to the laborers at work." I shoved the picture right in front of her nose.

"These are just pictures," Hilda said. "You can't prove a thing. We had—" she glanced at Axl. "I had gone for a holiday with Beta Axl. That's all!"

"How can you be so stupid, Hilda?" I snarled. I took the thick folder and showed her the documents which said that the tea plantation was in their name.

Hilda grasped Axl's hand tightly as sweat beads appeared on her forehead. "This is all fake!" she shouted. "You are trying to tarnish my reputation. This is just fake!"

Ignoring her words, I turned my attention to Alpha James Vincent who seemed like he had no clue as to what was happening. "Do you know where Hilda's husband is?"

He clenched his teeth and then replied, "He is dead. He died when Sinclair was born."

I chuckled. "He died mysteriously in his home and she said that it was because of a heart attack. But—" My eyes drifted to Axl and then back to my grandfather. "—it was Axl who killed him because he had knocked up Hilda and their child Sinclair was born. Hilda's husband came to know about it. He couldn't believe that his wife cheated on him and he confronted her. Before the truth came out, along with Axl, she killed her husband!"

"You are insane to accuse me like this!" Hilda said, her voice low. "Axl had been my friend since our schooldays and he is genuinely concerned about me. I never cheated my husband!"

I shook my head. Removing another page from the folder, I gave it to my grandfather, and in a boring voice said, "These are his DNA reports!" My eyes went to Sinclair. He looked like he had eaten bitter gourd. He didn't have the guts to come and challenge the report.

Hilda's hands went to her mouth as my grandfather read the report. "This too is fake!" she rasped, seconds later.

I rolled my eyes. "Now about the tea you gave me every day." I looked at Killian and he gave me his phone. Killian had sent his men to record anything they could about the tea plantation. I

scoffed and started playing the video.

Poppy POV

I sensed Damon's hand behind my back in a gesture of encouragement. He must have seen that I was shaking on the inside because of all the rage, misery and anguish that was washing over me.

The video had conversation between Axl and Hilda which went like this:

Axl: You must increase the dose of wolfsbane in the plants.

Hilda: I have already. If I increase it more, it will be suspicious.

Axl: We have to find a way to give it to Poppy. She has got her wolf and this can be detrimental to our plans.

Hilda: I don't know how the fuck did she find her wolf. The poison was pretty potent.

Axl: You mustn't have tried harder.

Hilda: What? I showed you everything before mixing. You can't accuse me.

Axl: Okay, enough! What about the potion for Sinclair?

Hilda: I have already given it to him, but I don't know why he is still so unhealthy. His complexion is pale.

I lifted my head up to see that Axl had charged towards me to snatch my phone, but Killian was already there. There was snapping of bones. Hair flew. Sharp breeze. And then I heard a pained howl. Axl was on his knees nursing his broken wrist as he hurled curses at Killian. "Don't even think of touching my Luna!"

I gave the phone back to Killian, nodding at him as a thank you. Pointing to the papers, I said, "This was the research work done by Anna and her coven sisters. It shows all the ingredients that this tea bag contains. She even presented her research in the witches global Meet where this was applauded." I crossed my arms and turned to Hilda. "Now I am intrigued as to how did you know so much about potions? Are you a witch?"

"No, her step sister is a witch," Anna scorned. "She has been paying her step sister a lot of money that belongs to the Shadow pack for her advice." Anna picked out an invisible thread from her sweater. "Her sister is already on the radar of my coven sisters."

"No!" Hilda cried. "You have to leave Nicole out of it!" Then she snapped her mouth with her hands, realizing that she just spilled the truth out.

I scoffed at her and turned my attention to my grandfather. "Hilda was giving me this tea to kill my wolf and with the help of her lover, your Beta Axl, she would get me beaten to pulp. And in all this—" I waved a circle in front of him. "Your consent was always there."

My grandfather narrowed his eyes. He tipped his chin up and said, "Yes, my consent was there. So what?"

Realization crawled down my back like a tarantula. He really hated me from the core of his heart.

His face twisted and his eyes poured loath. "You are a fucking reminder to me that you are the daughter of a woman I despised so much. That woman was responsible for my son's downfall. If you think that any of this has led to a change of heart, then you are highly mistaken." He glanced at Hilda and Axl. "They have proven that through careful planning, they achieved success in their plans, and that is what is required of an Alpha!" He waved at Anna. "Not like you, who would take help from others for the fruition of their plans. You are nothing but a sore loser. Besides, your wolf is killed. Why would I need you? So Poppy, get lost. I will never make you the Alpha of the pack. You are nothing but a hateful memory that I am going to get rid of soon."

I stared at him, sucking in too-shallow breaths. Tears burned my throat when I comprehended that I was nothing but a burden for my grandfather from the day I was born. He really wanted to get rid of me. At first, he said that I didn't have a wolf and now knowing that his Beta and his mistress made a cruel plan to kill my wolf, he still hated me?

"What are you waiting for?" he snarled. "Go away! I don't need a wolf-less, weak mutt in my territory!" When I didn't budge, he shifted to intimidate me. At the same time, with a roar my wolf broke out of me too. Auren looked at the full moon and let out a howl. Then she charged at James Vincent's wolf. He watched her with astonishment, fixed in his place. She pounced on him and

pinned him to the ground, her jaws over his neck, her fangs just a millimeter away from his skin.

Axl came into action and he nodded at his warriors. They all shifted and attacked us. Gusty winds surrounded us as the color of Anna's eyes changed to dark purple and she weaved her magic. Any wolf who was try to enter the magical ring surrounding us was tossed away like a flea. Axl shifted, ready to pounce, but then Damon also shifted. He lunged at Axl who was charging in my direction. Damon's wolf overpowered Axl's in just a few minutes. He crushed his neck, rendering him dead.

Hilda cried, "Noooooo!" She rushed to Sinclair who was fixed in his place, watching it all unfold like a fucking rodent he was. "Do something!" she shook his hand. "Your father is dead!"

Anna smirked. "He can't do anything."

"Wh—why? What do you mean?" Hilda stared at Anna disbelievingly.

Anna's lips curled up. She raised her eyebrow and said, "Do you remember those cookies, Sinclair?"

His Adam's apple bobbed and his eyes became wide like saucers.

"Those cookies were laced with poison that me and coven sisters had created in the lab. It was so lethal that it killed your wolf," Anna informed him.

Hilda's mouth fell to the floor as she sank to her knees. "No this is not possible."

Anna flicked her hair back. "You wanted to kill Poppy's wolf. Poppy asked me to make a potion so strong that it would kill your son's wolf in the time he was at the academy." "Tit for tat." She shrugged.