

The Council Meeting

Poppy POV

"How long have I been sleeping?" I asked in a sleepy voice.

"You slept at 5 PM yesterday and it is 9 AM right now," he replied. Damon watched me intensely as he traced the skin of my hips and up to the side of my breast. There were a thousand words to be spoken, but they remained unspoken because he crashed his lips on mine. I moaned in his mouth as I clung to him. I needed him badly. We were separated for a week and it had taken a toll on both of us.

"Fuck," he rasped when pulled out. "I don't think I can stay another second out of you." Saying that he positioned himself right on my and rubbed his hard penis on my wet core. I groaned and arched my body up. His eyes went to my nipples and they pebbled under his gaze. He positioned himself on my entrance and got inside me in one swift move.

Damon took his time in making love with me. He worshiped every part of my body and I reveled under his touch. I was like a flower seeking sun. I opened up to him in every way he wanted.

At the end of it, even though we were both sweating and

panting, there was a tingly feeling in my body and it had everything to do with my beautiful mate. "Get dressed, love," he said as he slapped my ass.

"Ouch!" I squealed.

He laughed. "We have to meet my dad and then be in the meeting room in an hour. Mom has arranged a number of meetings. And then—" he paused with that wicked smile again.

"Then what?" I turned to ask him, tying my hair in a bun at the top of my head.

"Then I will take you to a place that will change things for us!"

I frowned. "And what about the merger of our packs?"

"That is also going to happen, but first things first." He got up, ambled to me and then slapped my ass again.

"Damon!" I squealed as I rushed to the bathroom, my hips swaying excessively.

"Ah, I love to see them red and jiggle!" he growled and came right after me.

An hour later, we were at the hospital where Mary was already there with Kevin. Kevin was still in a coma but I loved the way Mary bustled around him. "See who is here," she said with a grin, looking at me.

Slowly, I walked to Kevin, lifted his hand and kissed it. Then I turned to Mary and hugged her tightly. "Can I call you mom as well?"

Mary's arms enveloped me. "Of course!" she said in a hoarse voice full of emotions. "I would love that."

I giggled as I squeezed her a little more. I had forgotten what mom's love was, but I was sure that it was something akin to Mary's. It would take time for me to adjust to her and all the love she showered as a mother, but I will adjust. I didn't want to miss it again.

When Mary pulled away, I glanced at Damon who was smiling at both of us with pride in his eyes.

Mary said, "You both must go for the meetings. The council members are waiting for their Alpha and Luna."

Damon pressed a kiss on his mother's cheek before leaving. He held my hand all the way to the meeting room. When we entered, all the councilmen got up and bowed to us. I could sense that they were all glancing my way and those glances carried respect. Damon was only too proud as he grabbed my hand tightly.

He sat at the head of the table and made me sit on his right. Killian was on his left. He winked at me and gave a mischievous smile. I pursed my lips to stop myself from laughing.

I noticed that many members were still bruised. There were red bruises on their cheeks or chins or foreheads. But despite the injuries, there was a general excitement amongst them.

Killian rose from his chair and said, "Alpha Damon, the council members would like to thank Luna Poppy for her timely support in our fight against the Howler pack. Along with her warriors, she showed valor that is so scanty these days. Had she not intervened timely, we don't know how things would have been, but whatever has happened is just the opposite of what we could ever imagine." Killian gave me an appreciative glance. "It was because of Luna Poppy and the Shadow warriors that we survived the attack of silver claws that were hidden in the claws of the Howlers. She gave us the potion to combat it."

I forgot to mention it to Damon. I saw that too in my vision. The silver claws.

The council members started thumping the table in front of them, acknowledging Killian's words. Damon's hand slipped to my thigh and he squeezed it lightly. I blushed. I was never used to so much appreciation. But it moved me so much that tears stung at the back of my eyes.

When the thumping died down, Killian sat down and Damon said, "Yes, I couldn't agree more. Poppy and her pack members helped us in taking down the Howler pack. Where is Nash Dawson now?"

"He is in the dungeons, Alpha," said Terry, one of the council members who was about to retire the next year. "But he is still unconscious."

Damon nodded as a shock went through me. He had hit Nash to the point that he was unconscious until now? And Nash was the son of an Alpha. He had Alpha blood running in him. Just how powerful was Damon?

My reverie was broken when Damon spoke again. "There is a very important matter that I wanted to discuss with you all." He studied every member's face before he continued. "My mate, Poppy Vincent, wants to merge her pack, the Shadow pack, with the Umbra pack."

There was a collective gasp and murmurs broke. Once again, a blush rose on my cheeks and I wondered if they thought I was weak and so I wanted to merge the pack. Goddess, I was mortified. Why didn't I think of this angle before?

Damon grasped my hand beneath the table and squeezed it tight as if to say that it was all under control. He addressed his pack members, "It would be an honor to head her pack and I wanted to welcome the prominent members of the Shadow pack to join us."

An awkward silence followed.

