

Where is She?

Poppy POV

It had been two days since I last called Anna and she hadn't called me back. Every day I used to see how Killian was isolating himself.

He would come to share his reports with Damon. They would go together for the warrior training at the pack house where top warriors from the entire pack were trained. They would select warriors for patrolling and Killian would accompany him everywhere. But it was really sad to note that Killian was not as cheery as he was earlier. I was sure that it was because of Eliza's absence and I was also sure that Eliza was missing him just as much. But why weren't they talking to each other? When I was away from Damon for a week, I felt like my life was being sucked out.

"Damon," I asked as we lay beside each other one night with Damon resting his face near my tummy and drawing lazy circles. It was his way of talking to his pups.

"Keep your voice low, Poppy," he hushed me. "My pups are sleeping."

I chuckled quietly. "Why don't you send Killian to Eliza?"

He sighed. "I told him to go to her, but he is a pigheaded idiot. He won't go!"

"Is it okay if I go to the academy? I really want to get Eliza here. I know what the feeling is to stay away from your mate."

He whipped his head up. "I can't risk my Luna into sending her to a place that is nothing but a hub of nefarious activities! It is not safe."

"Damon!" I chided him. "Every other place is not safe for me. You are too overprotective."

"I am!" He curled his arm around me in a possessive way and shifted closer. "I love you and you are mine."

I wanted to be angry with him but I started laughing. "Don't be like that."

He slid up to my cheeks, cupped them and kissed me hard. "I am scared when you are not around me. With you in my home, I get a different kind of strength and support. You won't understand." He kissed me again and I closed my eyes. My hands went to his neck and grabbed his hair. The kind of connection we had was surreal.

When he pulled away, I gazed into his eyes. "Baby, Killian is your Beta. While I know that this is very personal to him, there was a time when Killian and Eliza were always there

for us. And boy! Wasn't our relationship tumultuous?"

His gaze darted from my eyes to my nose as he remembered those days. Then he just rolled on his back and cradled his head on his crossed arms. "I remember," he said. "And those were bad days!"

I turned to my side and placed my hand on his chest. As I played with his hair over there, I said, "And Killian and Eliza helped us a lot. It is time that we pay back."

He couldn't refute the argument. We were silent for a long time as we reveled in each other's company and I let Damon think about it. I wanted him to feel that I was safe. After a while he said, "Okay, but you will go only for a day. You will go in the morning and return the next morning."

"Yes," I agreed immediately. "I will do as you say!" I lifted my head and pecked his cheek.

"Ah!" My mate sighed. "Why do I get convinced by you so easily and then regret?"

I laughed as he rolled me to my back and kissed me passionately. Soon all my clothes were tossed on the floor and we were making love.

I didn't leave the next morning because I wanted to know what it was all about so that I could prepare myself properly

to face Eliza. So I called Anna.

"Girl, something is terribly wrong. Eliza keeps crying all the time. She doesn't even come to attend the classes!" Anna reported to me.

That was the red flag. "I am coming tomorrow morning. Don't tell Eliza or she will protest, okay?"

"I won't," Anna replied and sighed. "I tried to go to her apartment but she didn't open the door. I am pretty worried about her. Should I force open the door with my magic?"

"Hell no!" I scolded her. "That would be an invasion of privacy."

Anna grunted. "Okay..."

I tried to talk to Killian about Eliza that day, but it was like breaking your head on a rock. He wouldn't talk about her and carried his stubborn ass everywhere. He avoided me for the rest of the day. Well, he could do all he wanted to.

I packed up for a day, and without telling Killian, I went to the academy. Of course, my overprotective mate sent me in a helicopter and that too with two bodyguards. I was sure that he already had a few in the academy. When I arrived at the academy, I was shocked to see that there were five more guards that were waiting for me at the helipad. I wanted to

ask them to leave but they said that they didn't want to become rogues. "What do you mean?" I asked.

"Alpha has said that he would expel us from the pack if we failed to protect you!" said the one who opened the chopper's door for me.

I gritted my teeth, but what could I do? I let them follow me like my shadow because I didn't want them to lose their pack status. I knew that Damon was going to go ballistic if anything happened to me.

When I reached the apartment, Anna was already waiting for me out there, pacing on the porch. "Poppy!" She hugged me tightly.

"Why are you here?" I asked. "Why aren't you inside?"

Anna pointed at the door. "It is locked and Emma isn't here. I checked her schedule and she is not even in her classes. Emma is not in the academy."

A shudder ran down my body and goosebumps pebbled on my skin. "Where is she?"