

Poppy POV

Gandal dropped me at the dorm, but he was keeping an eye on me. "You look flushed, Poppy. Did you eat anything? It could be food poisoning," he said out of concern.

My breath had become ragged and my body felt like it was an oven on its highest temperature. Hair clung to my forehead because of sweat. I wanted to sit right in front of the air conditioner to cool myself. "No... I will take a cold bath and will be fine," I replied. I just needed to get to my room. I knew that Anna wouldn't be there for a long time because I saw her disappearing with some of her friends into a room.

"Are you sure? I can stay back if you like," he said as I got out of the car and came to me.

"No, thanks..." I smiled. He was offering help but I really didn't want him to be so concerned about me. I hated the way I left the frat party. Once again everyone watched me with contempt. It was getting too much. I needed to get away from here as soon as possible. Why was it that Damon danced with me and why was it that I couldn't resist him? Goddess, help me. The sooner I ran away from here, the better. "You should go back to the party, Gandal. I am sorry to ruin it for you."

"It's nothing," he said with his gaze locked on my face. "Damon is known to be a grown-up toddler with an attention span of one night. If you understand what I mean."

I frowned, looking up at his face and not understanding at all.

He chuckled and brought his palm to my cheek. "Don't worry about him. Before Monica, he had a string of affairs. He had one girl every night and he didn't even bother to hide that fact. There's not one girl in the Umbra Academy that he hasn't fucked."

I clenched my teeth, feeling repulsed as hell.



Gandal continued, "He thinks that Umbra Academy is his playground and that he can have his way with every girl. So be careful around him. I would suggest that you keep your guards up. He is dangerous, his fiancée is dangerous and so are the girls who walk around with Monica. They are all fucked up in here!" he said, tapping his mind.

"Thanks for letting me know, Gandal, but I have no interest in Damon," I said. He was really a good friend and so concerned about me. If I had stayed back in the Umbra Academy, I was sure I would have dated him. It would have been a perfect opportunity to get out of my grandfather's clutches. In fact I would have loved the thousand miles distance from him. But... I was going to the human world and I was going to get lost in it.

I turned to open the dorm door. When I opened it, I turned to say goodbye to him. He leaned forward and kissed me on my cheek. "You can call me anytime you like. I will come, okay. If you want to go to the health center, just let me know."

"I will," I said. He gave me one long look and then walked back to the car.

The moment I was in, I stripped and rushed to the bathroom. It was getting impossible to contain my heat. HEAT! That's it. I was on fucking heats. Shit. Shit. Shit. The she-wolves rarely got on heats and when they were on heats, they smelled their mates, but my mate rejected me. Moreover, I didn't have a wolf, so I couldn't smell my mate.

And only the mates of she-wolves could smell them if they were on heats. Goddess! This was all so fucked up. Why the hell did I come on heats? The heats continued for five days to a week. This was the time when the females could make a baby.

Most of the unmated females who got on heats usually tried to find their mates or other prospects with whom they could have a baby. It was like this primal urge for them to have sex. I caught my head in between my hand. So this was what was going on with me. I was attracted to Damon because I was on heats. Damn! I needed to get away as far as possible from him. I didn't know what stupid thing I would do otherwise.

I rushed to the shower and opened the coldest setting of the water. I stood beneath it, relishing the cool water that seemed to sizzle the moment it touched my skin. "Please



goddess, please. Get me out of this agony!" I mumbled. I took a long shower, wrapped a towel and came out. I crashed on the bed and curled in a fetal position.

Everything hurts.

I was burning up as cramps seized my belly. They twisted tighter and tighter and I muffled my screams in the pillow to contain my pain. Tears strained my cheeks.

I wanted. I needed. And I hurt.

I wanted someone to come and caress me, preferably Damon. My mind went to Nash and the more I thought of him, the more I hated him. He rejected me. He broke a revered bond.

My mouth had become dry and coarse. I was very thirsty, so I got up and drank the whole jug of water that was kept on my bedside table. Still, the hurt, the aches, the longing was cutting deep in my soul, no matter what position I tried to find for comfort.

My stomach revolted and my throat convulsed. I was so sick that I ended up rushing to the bathroom where I heaved again and again until my stomach was empty. But the pain, the need and the ache didn't stop. It crashed into me in relentless waves as agonizing heat spasmed my lower belly. I lowered the temperature of the AC and went to bed. I curled up in the fetal position and waited for this agony to get over. Alone. I wished Hilda was there. I got up and walked to the kitchen somehow to make the tea she had made for me. She said it contained special herbs to heal me.

It must be 3AM when my pain ebbed a little. Anna hadn't returned. I found myself thinking about Damon and something fluttered below my navel. I spread my thighs. I was so wet that I slipped my finger between them, picturing Damon in his sleeveless shirt with his blazing eyes.

Suddenly, there was a dangerous howl right outside the window of my room. My heart lurched into my throat. I jumped up and walked to the window and there I saw a massive black wolf, with a shiny fur that rippled in the cool breeze, watching me with his golden eyes. He was massive much taller than me and so ferocious with sharp,



long fangs. Beautiful and lethal. Who was that? The moment he saw me, he peeled his lips back and snarled. Scared out of my wits, I ran to my bed.

