

Poppy POV

I covered myself in a blanket and switched off the lights. The black wolf outside was scared the shit out of me. I just hoped that he left. He was surely an Alpha blood, because I haven't seen such a massive wolf in my life. He was taller than my grandfather.

My teeth chattered when I heard his dangerous growl. It kind of shook the windows of my room and I wondered that if he tried to attack me, he could snap my neck in two between his fangs in less than a minute. Did my grandfather send him to kill me?

I could sense his presence outside my window for a long time until sleep made my eyes heavy.

Nightmares followed.

Me getting whipped by my grandfather.

Someone saving me when I was just a toddler from a drunken wolf.

Father leaving me. Little me dragging my brown teddy behind me, trying to stop him. He sat down on his knees. His breath reeked of alcohol. He tousled my hair. He said, "I am going to find your mother, Poppy. Stay with your grandfather, okay?"

"Daddy..." I whined.

"Shhh... don't tell it to your grandfather." I shook my head. I would never tell our secret to him. My father and I made a pinky promise. As soon as he left, I ran after him when a massive wolf leapt in front of me, baring his fangs.

A loud knock on the door jerked me out of my nightmares. The knock sounded throughout the room. "Anna!" I was so happy that I leapt out of my bed. The morning sun rays streamed through the window making different patterns. I hurried to the door and opened it with a big smile, but my excitement receded immediately. Three



girls were standing there, looking at me as if they would kill me now.

One of them pushed herself inside the room, by bumping my shoulder. "Who are you?" I asked, bewildered. "Are you Anna's friends? She isn't here," I said as I watched the other two also entering. One of them grabbed my hand and after removing me from the entrance, closed the door.

Their leader, who was wearing a white shirt, shorts and boots, went to sit on the bed. She crossed her leg while the other stood behind me. She flicked her sandy brown hair behind her shoulder and narrowed her eyes on me. I was puzzled as my gaze darted between them.

"You don't have to know our names," she said. "But we are Monica's friends. We have come here with a warning. If you ever go near Damon again, we will make sure that we rip your limb by limb and kill you and bury you under Monica's bed while she has sex with Damon on it."

My mouth fell to the floor as my stomach lurched at the mere idea. "I am not interested in Damon," I said, anger lacing my voice.

The girl behind me twisted my hand and I winced as my body arched. "Just listen the fuck up," she hissed.

The third girl came to stand in front of me and punched my stomach so hard that I cried. "This is nothing. We are going to make it much more horrible than this!" She punched me again and I doubled up. The girl behind me left me and I was sent groveling to the floor. They both started kicking me. I covered my face and let them kick me. The pain from last night hadn't subsided. I was finding it difficult to protect myself. "Bloody bitch!" she hissed. "You have eyes for Damon Lombard? Know your place whore!"

Suddenly, the door blasted open. "Leave her or I will make sure you girl go out hopping as frogs!" Anna's feral voice filled the room. I could see her hands glowing with red light that crackled around her fingers.

The shifter girls left me as they glared at Anna. I got up and scrambled away from



them.

"Ask this cunt not to come after Monica. This is our last warning to her. After this we will simply kill her!" the leader said.

"And I will simply send you in the fire of hell if I see you near her!" Anna retorted. She sent her magic flying in the air. The girls shrieked as they tried to dodge it. But I saw it hitting the thighs of the leader. She screamed as it made a huge gash in her skin, burning it. I couldn't help laughing through my pain and tears. Anna was a badass.

The other two ran out of the room. "We will report to Madam Lowe that you used magic on the campus. It is banned!"

Anna was so angered that more magic started curling down her hands. "Go and tell her. If I am expelled, I will hunt you three, turn you into frogs and keep in my jar for eternity. Maybe I will cut your hind limbs too. You would be groveling in your shit in that jar!"

The vivid scene she painted in front of them was so grotesque that they simply ran out of the room. Anna closed the door after them and rushed to me. "Poppy!" she said and helped me up.

I chuckled. "Anna, you are a badass."

"They dared to hit you. I should have converted them into frogs for twenty-four hours!" she hissed.

I shook my head as I laughed. She made me sit on the bed and touched me everywhere to see where I was hurt. Half an hour later, I was back in bed with a few band-aids here and there.

"I am so sorry, Poppy," she said. "I should have come earlier."

"No, its fine. You didn't know they would do this."



"Monica is bloody twisted and so are her minions. But I don't think they will come near you for a long time. Us witches hate those shifter girls." She got up and made coffee for me and herself. As I sipped my coffee, she handed me some money. "This is for you to start afresh in the human world."

Surprised, I said, "No Anna, I can't!"

She grabbed my hand and stashed the dollars in my palm. "I am not listening to you on this. Just take it and don't come back!"

I put my coffee mug down and hugged my only friend in the world tightly. "I love you!"

"I like you too, bitch!" she said as she laughed. When she pulled away, she said, "Get ready by 8PM. Don't carry much. There will be a van standing for you just outside the college. I have arranged for a van to drive you. It will take you to the nearest railway station. Hop on to the next available train and get down at the farthest station." She looked at the money. "This is enough to cover for your stay for a month in an inn."

"Thanks again, Anna," I said with my throat choking.

"Shut up, bitch!" she said and hugged me again.

At 8PM I was in front of the college gate with Anna. We had five minutes. As soon as the security changed, I hugged Anna for the last time and rushed out of the gate. I got in the van and the driver sped to my new future.

