

"Hi!" I said, totally puzzled as to who she was and what she was doing here.

Eliza's gaze flitted inside and in a nervous voice she said, "Damon sent me."

I stiffened. "Why...?"

"The boilers have stopped working in the whole campus," she said. she waved her hand inside. "And as you can see there is no electricity either, he has asked you to move in his apartment until the power is restored."

Anna came behind me wrapped in a towel, her hair dripping wet. She stared at Eliza who waved at her. Eliza was looking very uncomfortable and I was feeling extremely awkward.

"Hi, I am Eliza!" she introduced herself to Anna with a nervous smile.

Anna must have listened to our conversation. Very blatantly she said, "And why would Poppy go to stay in Damon's apartment? That sounds ridiculous!"

"Oh! Please don't think that you would be alone there," Eliza said, shifting on her feet.

Then where was she last night? Probably sleeping?

"Killian and I also stay in the same apartment. Damon said that—" Suddenly, my phone started ringing. I excused myself and rushed to pick up the call leaving Anna and Eliza to themselves.

"Poppy." His voice boomed through the phone.

My heart thudded against my ribcage listening to his dominant voice. "Yes?"

"Eliza is there to pick you up," he said in a low and lethal tone. "Pick up your belongings and come here." It wasn't a request. It wasn't pity. It was pure command. And I wanted to stay away from this wolf for my entire life. But why was it that his words made butterflies burst into flight inside me, flapping insanely. Heat crept up my chest and neck and I was sure that my cheeks too puddled with heat. My hands became sweaty and when I glanced at them, they were a bright pink.

I felt like taking out my pants and shirt and sweater. I realized that my breath was labored and nothing made sense. With a lot of effort, I slowed my breath but I was still burning up. "I won't come to your place," I managed to say hoarsely and disconnected. Feeling a thousand kinds of angry and violated, I was about to leave, when the phone buzzed again. "What?" I hissed.

"If you won't come here, I will let the security know that you ran away and that too with Anna's help," he said in a very

serious tone.

Fuck. I couldn't believe that he was now blackmailing me like this. I kept quiet at his audacity. On the inside, I was shaking with fear. This man was as dangerous as Hades.

When I didn't say anything, he continued, "I am asking you to come and stay here so that you don't run away again. I will keep a personal watch on you. And if you want to keep Anna in the academy, you might as well comply with my order." He sounded extremely intimidating. The fear in me amped up. "Poppy?" his silent yet lethal voice sounded again, jarring my insides. "If you aren't coming with Eliza, then I am coming over to get you." The line went dead immediately after that.

Shit. Shit. Shit.

I hurried outside where Anna was still holding the bastion. "No, Poppy won't go," she was saying. "Tell that Alpha ass that she isn't—"

"Anna!" I stopped her and glanced at Eliza who was growing more uncomfortable. "I— I will go."

"What? Don't be mad!" Her eyes darted to Eliza and then to me.

How could I tell her what Damon would do in front of Eliza?



"It's fine," I said, forcing a smile. "Don't worry." Though I was extremely worried on the inside. I was sure Damon was going to make me go through a harrowing experience. "It is only for a day at the most."

Anna looked like I had betrayed her. I pulled her in my embrace and hugged her tightly. "Girl, you are burning!" she cried.

I think my heat had hit me with full force. It was going to last for a few more days and all I had to do was control myself. "I will be fine..." I mumbled.

"Great!" Eliza chirped. "I will wait for you out here!"

I nodded and hurried inside to collect my stuff. It was only for a day, I convinced myself and then came out with a satchel.

When I reached Damon's place, someone else opened the door. I had seen this man hanging around Damon most of the time. "Killian!" Eliza chirped. "This is Poppy. Poppy, Killian. My mate and Damon's future Beta."

Oh.

"We both stay in this apartment as well." Eliza walked inside, feeling relaxed. I rubbed my neck and followed her, entering the apartment of my tormentor. I knew Anna would be so

pissed with me, but I had to save her. She was in this mess because of me and the only person who knew all the secrets was Damon. He was too dangerous to be messed with, especially because I didn't have my wolf.

I heard footsteps and my eyes went to the staircase on the left. Damon came down with his hands in his pockets, looking like he owned the world with an intimidating aura. His presence sucked up the air of the room. His eyes were boring in mine. From the corner of my eye I saw that Killian and Eliza had inclined their necks slightly as if in submission, but I didn't have the same urge. So I stared back. His eyes swirled an amber as if his wolf was coming out.

Damon was looking ridiculously handsome. Even though there were dark circles under his eyes, his hair was tousled and he had a day's old beard, he looked like Adonis. So tall and muscular that I should have been intimidated, but I was attracted.

Staying in the same place as him and Monica was disturbing and disgusting. My belly cramped as another wave of heat crashed inside me. I clenched my thighs as my core ached. "I'll be here," I said pointing at the couch. And when I glanced at the couch, hundreds of pictures floated in my mind. Of him having sex with every girl on this couch. Yuck! I think my cheeks flamed. "Or not!"

"You can share my room," Damon offered instantly.

"No!" I blurted. What the hell! This was thoroughly disgusting.

"Monica isn't here."

I jerked my head back. "I am sorry but I won't do that. I can sleep on that recliner," I grumbled.

"Why?"

I shot a glare at him, angered that he couldn't even understand it. "I am not sleeping on that couch! God knows what all lies in there!"

Damon poked his tongue in his cheek. He came to me and pulled my satchel. "You are not sleeping on that couch or the recliner. You will be sleeping in my bed. It's not like you haven't seen it."

Oh. My. God. He had to say it aloud. I couldn't even look at Eliza and Killian because I was sure I was looking like tomato puree.

"I won't!"

"Why? Unless you plan on having sex with me, I don't understand your reluctance." His eyes narrowed and his chest rumbled.

"What? No!"

He rounded me and started climbing the steps. "Then you are sleeping in my room."

