

Poppy POV

"No, Damon," I replied, voice hoarse. I hesitated a little and then added, "You didn't do anything wrong. And yes, you came inside me." My cheeks must have flamed till my ears because I felt the temperature of the room going up.

He gasped. "Is that why you are punishing me?" The color of his face drained.

"No, Damon." I said quickly and shook my head. "It's just that I can't take this tension anymore. I— I don't want you to fall into any more jeopardy than you are already in because of me. Every time we are together, there's someone or something out there who—"

Damon cupped my cheeks. "Never say that. I won't let you drop off my life just like that. You can't make the decision on your own. Those are my seeds you are carrying and who knows you will become pregnant? Did you think that I would be some shit head who would dump my female the moment I shot my release into her? No! And from now on I am going to fuck your brains out. I am going to fill you with my seeds so much that you would be dripping wet all the time. That's the kind of a wolf I am. I am going to make sure that my scent is on you and that people can smell me on you from miles away!"

I burst out into a laugh through my tears. "Damon," I said and lowered my head to kiss his lips. That moment I realized that he would never leave me. But that also meant that we had to fight the world to stay together. Could we? There were too many perils. The list was so long that I lost track of it. I shoved the list at the back of my mind and kissed him.

He closed his eyes when I kissed him and I let my lips linger on his, feeling like the world had come back to me. The hollowness that was in my chest dispelled. He curled his arms around my waist and drew me to him. He cradled his head on my breasts and murmured, "My Poppy." I gently raked my fingers through his hair as I rested my head over his. My Poppy sounded lovely, natural, so... right. I felt like I belonged to him.

After a long time, he lifted his head up and said, "Are you coming back to my apartment or should I move in with you over here?"

"What?" I laughed.

He shrugged. "It has to be either that or this. However, I don't know what Anna would do to me every time she is annoyed."

I grabbed his hair and kissed his forehead. "For your safety I am going to move in with you."

"Wonderful!" Damon said with a glint of happiness in his

eyes. "But you have to give me like two days to repair it all!"

"Hmmm..." I tapped my chin. "You can take a week, but I want it done nicely." I was speaking as if it was my permanent home. Even if it wasn't, I wanted to revel in this feeling.

"Done!" Damon grinned. He got up and extended his hand to me. I took it and he immediately encased me in his warm chest. He inhaled my scent and I could feel his heartbeat soothing down. "Begin packing," he said. "I will take you away right now."

"Not before you have my coffee!" Anna said as she pushed the door open with her shoulder, holding a tray with three coffee mugs.

"I will have my tea!" I announced and was about to bounce off to our makeshift kitchen when Anna stopped me.

"Poppy!" Anna said. "I have a bad feeling about your tea."

"What? Why?" I jerked my head as I dismissed her. She just wanted me to have coffee she had made. I opened the door wide open.

"Wait Poppy!" she called me a little loudly, her voice filled with apprehension.

I stopped and sighed. "Anna, I won't be having the coffee you made. I would rather have my tea. It helps in soothing my nerves."

Anna handed the tray to Damon who was looking at her with a crease in his forehead, not liking that she was stopping me.

"You know I am a herbology student, right?" she said as she came to me. "We have to take those classes because witches have to know everything about flora and fauna in order to make potions and other stuff."

"So?" I asked, lifting a shoulder.

"So, in the morning when I was making coffee, I picked up the tea leaves that Hilda had given you and smelled them."

"Why would you do that? Do you think they are mixed with some poison?" I laughed at her, dismissing her totally and walked towards the kitchen. She followed me and so did Damon with a coffee tray in his hand. "Hilda was my nanny and she was one person who loved me the most in my pack. My grandfather—" my chest burned with anger. "He hated me and she was always there for me. She— she is my guardian angel. I will not listen to anything about her. I love her. I love the tea she made for me." Putting on a defiant face, I added a cup of water to the kettle to boil it.

Anna pursed her lips. "Poppy, I know she loved you the most,

but that tea— it contains—”

“Enough Anna!” I snapped. “Did you know it was Hilda who gave me three thousand dollars when I was coming here? She gave me all her savings for me to escape the academy. She knew how badly I was treated in my pack. I was—” I bit my lip as tears threatened to come out. “I was abused and beaten and kept in dungeons at my grandfather’s whim.”

A growl erupted from Damon’s chest. It was enough to shake the windows of the whole dorm. Goddess, he was a very powerful Alpha. He rushed to me and enveloped me in his arms. “I won’t let that happen to you again.” He caressed my back until I soothed down.

I took a deep breath in and turned to see Anna. She was sipping her coffee but had a worried expression. I said, “Who would do that for me, Anna? Hilda had been the nicest person in all my life. Why would she poison tea? I mean what for? It doesn’t make sense and you accusing her makes me very angry.”