

Poppy POV

"Are you sure you can manage?" Damon asked me as I sat in my class, trying to solve a problem about astronomy. He helped me out yesterday night after a long session of sex with the previous ones. Goddess, he was too intelligent. He couldn't help boasting how he was the top student of his school and how he was a top student at the academy until I came. As if.

"I can!" I pushed him. "Now go."

He kissed the crown of my head and then walked out of the class with that cocky grin and stride that said that I belonged to him. Damn I liked it.

The class started filling slowly and I could feel everyone's eyes on me. They were stealing glances to look at me and I sat with my chin up. My hearing had become hyper and I could even hear the soft murmurs that hummed around me. It was all about how an ugly duckling turned into a swan. They could go to hell, for all I cared. From the corner of my vision I saw Chris who was watching me like he had seen a ghost. When I turned my gaze at him, he blushed. Odd. But the next instant, he averted his eyes and went back to his phone, his fingers flying on the type pad. I was sure that he was typing some message to Nash about me. Good. I wanted him to do that.

"Poppyyyy!" Anna came to sit next to me, bustling with limitless energy. "Girl, you got your wolf! We have to celebrate!"

I chuckled. "And how do you want to celebrate?" I asked, my eyes full of appreciation for her. "Thank you, Anna," I said, clasping her hand and squeezing it. "It wouldn't have been possible without you. Your antidote worked like magic!"

She placed her warm hand over mine. "I am glad that it worked on you. And would you believe that all my coven sisters are also so happy with their success. In fact," she pulled me closer to her. "We are planning to present this paper about our research in the international convention of witches!"

I laughed. "I am sure it will be a great success."

"It has to be. Do you know what kind of an effect it can have in our world?" she said, her eyes having a glint. "It would be crazy!"

I didn't have enough words to express my gratitude towards and her incredible work, so I just hugged her. "I am so proud of you, Anna. I don't think I will ever be able to return this favor."

She slapped me on my back. "You can't and that's what the besties are for! So, we were discussing the party!"

I giggled. "We have to have a party at your place or mine!"

"You mean the dorm? That isn't allowed Anna." My eyes went wide at the number of rules she wanted to break all the time.

sisters.”

“No, thank you. I don’t want to be turned into a frog or rodent by the end of it,” I declined her offer.

She laughed. “They won’t do that to you, Poppy. They like you a lot.”

“But do they like Damon and the rest?”

“Umm... I think they do!”

“Pass.” I rolled my eyes. I didn’t want them to do anything with my mate.

The professor arrived and Anna’s voice dropped to a whisper. “I want a party this Sunday, and at your apartment!”

I pursed my lips. “Okay, but you have to help me clear up things once the party is over.”

“Done!” she squeaked and the professor gave her a dark glare. She became quiet.

I had back-to-back classes. I got free during lunch for an hour and Damon was standing right there to receive me. He kissed my lips and gave a long and hard hug before going to the cafeteria. We were so busy talking amongst ourselves that I saw Monica standing on the side. She was looking like she had the bitterest pill

of her life. There was this look of disbelief in her eyes. When our eyes met, I could sense her hostility, her surprise and her... fear. I understood the first two emotions, but fear...?

She couldn't help but come to me. Damon inched towards me and wrapped his strong arm around my waist and pulled me towards him protectively. She watched it all and halted a meter away from us. She sucked in sharp air and said, "That was quite a show yesterday."

Damon narrowed his eyes as a growl threatened to escape his chest. I placed my hand on his forearm to calm him down. I said, "I think you did a fine show in humiliating me in front of all the students. Were you waiting for this opportunity?"

"What are you even talking about?" She let out a nervous laugh. "I was driven to the point of insanity by your behavior and that's why I confronted you!"

Damon growled, "Really? You waited to confront her in front of all the students? You wanted to insult her, Monica, otherwise why would you reveal to everyone that she was wolf-less. It was something we had agreed that you would never reveal!"

"Damon," she purred. Her eyes became moist with tears. Crocodile tears. "Can't you see how desperate I am. You are flaunting this girl in the academy while me—" she lifted her finger to show the ring on her left finger. "—is your fiancée! It is me who is humiliated more than you can imagine."

He snapped. "I told you that you and I are no longer together! So

stop going on harping to everyone that you are still my fiancée! Stop it, Monica. This has started to become overbearing and pathetic." He shot a glare at the ring in her finger. "That ring was chosen by my mother. It's a diamond ring and you can keep it or sell it. It will get enough money for your drugs!"

Monica gulped. "I— I don't do drugs!" she blurted, licking her dry lips.

Damon scoffed. "Ya, sure! Who cares? And this conversation is over."

I should've felt pity for Monica, but I didn't. Damon pulled me away from there. "Let's go, baby. You must be hungry."

We started to walk but we must have walked only a few meters, when she threatened, "I am going to report it to you father, Alpha Kevin Lombard!"