

## Poppy POV

Eliza got up as Anna's sharp eyes focused on him. Surprised, I leaned back and then shifted away from him.

"What do you want?" I asked.

He looked at me with amazement. "You've got your wolf, Poppy. That is amazing!"

I narrowed my eyes. "Thank you?"

"I am going to inform your grandfather. He will be thrilled. I will also let my father know." He picked up my hand. "Our union is certain after that."

I yanked my hand away from him, feeling creepy. "You are delusional!" I snarled as I brushed my skin where he had held it.

"Poppy, our parents want this. Now that you've got your wolf, there is no reason for me to not agree to this alliance! Can you imagine what it would be to unify Howlers pack with yours? We would become the most fearsome pack in the world." The way he said it, I felt like—

I slapped him tight without caring in the world that there was an audience around us. Did he care about me when he humiliated me

in front of all the students along with his sister, Monica? Nash's head whipped to the right and when he looked back, his wolf reared its head. He snarled at me. "Poppy!" he brought his hand forward to grab my throat but Anna snapped her fingers in time to freeze his hand.

I snarled back, Auren hating him as hell. "You rejected our sacred bond because I didn't have a wolf. You humiliated me in front of everyone along with Monica. You asked me to stay quiet about our bond because you were too embarrassed about it. You offered me to be your mistress because I didn't have my wolf and now you are asking me to marry you because I got my wolf?" I had had enough of this bastard. "I am yet to see a wolf as debased as you."

"Poppy!" he growled. "I come to you every fucking time to accept you. I came to the academy because I wanted you. Even though you have accepted my rejection, I am right here in front of you to ask you to forget everything so that we can move ahead only because I can't stay away from you and this is how you treat me?"

"You didn't come to the academy because you wanted her," Damon's voice filled with fury came from somewhere. "You came here because Monica called you." Damon came to me and extended his hand. I took and he tugged me up. He placed his hand on my hip possessively and wore his black goggles. "If I ever see you near Poppy, I will make sure that you no longer exist in this world."

"Damon!" Nash got up, his wolf stirring from within. His fangs elongated. Nash was also Alpha blood. His wolf was strong. Suddenly, the whole place felt silent. It was like a lull before a storm. Nash's eyes flickered amber as his voice became beastly.



"Poppy is not yours. I will pluck her away from you before you can even think of it!" His voice was filled with vengeance and I realized that Nash never had the intention of taking me back. He only wanted to take revenge from me and Damon.

Damon kept himself absolutely quiet. This was the second time they were both standing in front of each other with a fight imminent. Damon was quiet because he knew that I didn't like it. He didn't reply to him. He just pulled me away from that place as Anna and Eliza followed me.

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We had slept after a session of wild sex where he came inside me more out of need and urgency than out of pleasure. It was as if he was trying to assure himself that I was there with him. I gave myself to him. Fully. Completely. In every way he wanted. I woke up on my stomach, naked and tangled in the limbs and sheets of Damon Lombard. I kept my eyes closed as I felt his fingers caressing my back.

He exhaled and then in a low voice said, "I love you, Poppy. I am going to make you so happy that—" his throat choked. "I swear it."

The mattress dipped when he shifted towards me. His lips were on my back in slow and small kisses. He brought his lips to my earlobe where he whispered. "Mine."

He got up and left me. I heard him leisurely plodding down the room to the bathroom. Only when I heard the sound of water splashing down, I got up and stretched. I clutched the sheet to my

chest and looked out the window at the yellow and red leaves that spiraled down to the ground. Autumn had come so fast.

Somewhere between the sheets, his cell phone vibrated. The display was lit up with a name, Mary Lombard.

"Hello?" I don't know why I picked up the call.

There was silence there. "Is uh... is Damon there?" she asked.

"He is in the shower. Can I take a message?"

Another long pause. "Tell him that Mary called."

Damon walked out in a towel wrapped around his waist, water sluicing down his body.

"It's for you," I said in a tense voice and gave it to him.

He kissed me before he looked at the phone. "Yeah?" He listened for a while as his muscles tightened with tension. "Well, she is special, mother. She's my mate."

There was a very long pause on both the sides and I felt like running away and hiding somewhere in deep jungles. He rolled his eyes when she spoke about seeing me instantly. "She can't come like this other." His gaze softened when he looked at me. "Yes, I am not with Monica any longer and her name is Poppy. But mother—" he warned. She said something which I couldn't decipher.



"Later." He tossed the phone on the bed and sat beside me. "She was pretty upset. Did she say anything to you?"

"No, she just asked for you." I gulped down my saliva wondering what would happen now.

"Don't worry Poppy," he said.

His phone rang again and this time there was no name on display. When he picked it up, he said, "I don't want to talk to you again, Kylie! I am with my girlfriend and I love her!" He disconnected the call with vengeance. "She's a stupid bitch who thinks that she has a chance after I dumped Monica."

"Was she one of your past girlfriends?" Jealousy surfaced.

"She was," he said and when he looked at my face, he added immediately. "I have erased several numbers but how can I stop them from calling me?"

I took his phone and blocked the number. "That's how you stop them!" I handed the phone to him as he watched me with caution. I couldn't help but smile. "I trust you, Damon."

"Ohhh!" he pressed his lips to mine. "Poppy, I wouldn't blame you if you expected me to earn that trust."