

Poppy POV

Monica and Nash stayed away from me for the entire month. They watched me but from afar and I cared a damn for whether they were watching or not. There were too many things on my platter to handle.

Damon wanted to speak with his parents about me, but I was so scared that they would reject me with vengeance that I asked him to wait. At the same time my classes were grilling. The professors were ruthless about giving tests.

It was important for me to do well because I had to prove to my pack that I was a true Alpha who excelled in every field. I was pushing myself too hard. Damon would warn me and often scold me to relax but that wasn't an option. I wasn't bothered about my grandfather. It was my pack people that I was bothered about.

I was sure that Sinclair hadn't mentioned to my grandfather about the fact that I had shifted. He was on the sides watching me like a hawk to see whether I could shift again or not. Auren wanted to come out sometimes. I would ask Damon to run with me in the woods during those times.

It was in one of those moments when Onyx, Damon's wolf, made clear to Auren that he wanted to mark me. Auren was only too happy to hear it. The shameless girl even presented herself to him with her buttocks high in the air to claim her and mark her. Onyx was only too happy to get inside her when I had to do everything in

my willpower to make Auren give way to me.

Onyx growled angrily at me as I sat naked in front of him. He demanded Auren. I brushed his fur on his chest and had to soothe him for an hour. "This is not the right time. I want Damon to mark me in the human form," I explained to him. Onyx tilted his head and the next instant he gave way to Damon. I barked a laugh as Damon pulled me up and hauled me over his shoulder. That night as he ran with me to his apartment, I was sure that many had seen two very naked people running over the grass under the moon and stars.

Damon was relentless that night, so when, in the morning I was in the class, I tried myself not to fall asleep. Anna hadn't come and I thought of calling her but I forgot about it completely until I returned to the apartment. Over there I was surprised when I found Damon all packed up to leave. A shudder ran down my body. Was he leaving me?

"Where are you going?" I asked, glancing at his luggage. Killian had also packed. He hadn't even discussed this with me. Icy chills of fear skittered down my spine.

Damon came over to me. Cupping my cheeks he said, "Relax. Father has called me for urgent work. I have to deal with it. I will be back in two days."

I swallowed my saliva thickly as my eyes stung with tears. I covered his large palms with my tiny ones. "You didn't tell me about it."

"He called me an hour back. Killian is also going with me, but Eliza is here and my pack members are just a phone away. In case of any emergency, call them, okay?"

I nodded as a shaky breath left me. Damon leaned down to kiss my lips. "Miss me," he murmured softly.

I chuckled. "You miss me too."

"I miss you every damn second of the day, Poppy," he said, resting his forehead on mine. "I am going to come as fast as possible."

Damon left that night and I felt as if he had taken a piece of my soul with him. Eliza offered to sleep with her, but I refused. I wanted to be wrapped up in his sheets, in his scent, if I had to sleep.

A loud pounding on the door woke me up. I woke up with a start and realized that it was still very dark. I heard Eliza's footsteps across the hall and got up to open my room's door. I padded down the stairs to the living room where Eliza had just opened the door. It was Sinclair. He looked pale as if he had seen a ghost.

"Poppy!" he called me.

I tensed. Every molecule of my body went rigid. "What are you doing here?" I growled.

He gulped and I couldn't fail to notice that there were dark circles under his eyes. His skin wasn't healthy and he had somewhat...

shrunken? Maybe I was dreaming. I cleared the fog in my mind.

He said, "Anna—" His eyes darted at his back as if he was sensing someone to be out there.

"What about Anna?" I clenched my fists as anxiety ran down me in waves.

"I saw people dragging her away from her dorm! She was not even moving. It was as if she was unconscious!" he said in a low voice. "I thought of informing you first and now I am going to her coven sisters!"

Dread pumped through me in solid heavy waves. It was so alive that I felt dizzy. "Why should I trust you?"

He jerked his head back. "Why not?" he said. Then in an urgent voice he snapped, "Anyway, I don't have time for this. I am going to her coven sisters! But I thought I should tell you first!"

He started to leave and my fear only increased. I darted a look at Eliza who was pretty shocked. "Wait, let us go together," she said. "Where did you last see her?" she asked Sinclair.

"In front of her dorm," he said. "You can follow her scent from there!"

"Okay!" Eliza came into action. "You can go and inform her coven sisters. We are heading towards her dorm. I am also telling my pack members."

Sinclair nodded once and vanished into the darkness as I ran towards the dorm with Eliza with my fingers crossed. "Please, Moon Goddess. Keep her safe!" But what happened next was something I had never imagined in my wildest dreams.