

Poppy POV

Surprised at the way the girl reacted after seeing the black wolf, my hands fell to my side. How did she know the black werewolf and why was she afraid of him?

While nothing made sense, I found my eyes glued to the black wolf. He was so gigantic, taller than me and had a beautiful silky black fur that I wanted to run my hands into. My cheeks heated because I felt like going and hugging him and then stroking his fur all over. "Damon..." The way his name sounded on my tongue it was like I was rolling my tongue around a dollop of honey. I sucked in a sharp breath. Something was really strange and I just couldn't point my finger at it.

The five wolves who were attacking Silver started to run, but they were chased by the werewolves who were with Damon. They all vanished behind dense trees from where I heard hair raising screams, bones crunching and flesh tearing mixed with howls and yelps.

I froze at my spot as I couldn't help looking away from there. Silver came to stand by my side and I pressed my body in his torso. I realized that I was trembling. He whimpered and licked my hand as if to assure me that everything was okay. I grabbed his fur and tried to stop myself from feeling so nervous. I whispered to him, "Who are they?" He licked me again as if telling me that he knows them. Silver was bleeding again and I felt bad for him. His wounds had finally begun to heal.

The girl who had attacked me was naked and was trying to run away, but the black wolf lunged at her. She was down on her back, fear apparent in her eyes. She tried to claw the wolf but he placed his heavy paw on her chest and she stilled. "D—Damon!"

The wolf growled at her, peeling his lips back. He dipped his head down with his massive jaw opened. I couldn't see this happening. Damon was going to kill her. I closed my eyes and screamed, bracing myself to hear the bones crushing in that powerful jaw of his. But it never came. Slowly I peeled my eyes open and was surprised to see that Damon had stepped away from the girl. She got up and scrambled back, whimpering and crying. She wanted to get up, but she stumbled and fell down. Immediately she was surrounded by a few warriors.

The massive black wolf turned to look at me. My breath lodged in my throat. I should be feeling scared, but I strangely felt... attracted. Goddess. Suddenly, the wolf leapt in the air. I shrieked and crouched over Silver, but the moment he landed, he had shifted into his human form.

"Poppy!" he rasped and pulled me in his warm embrace.

Damon was... naked. I flushed as he had gathered me in his arms as if he knew me so well. I should have felt embarrassed, but I was loving the strong arms I was wrapped in and I must be crazy for liking his nakedness.

"Oh Poppy!" He showered kisses on my face, my head, my neck and my ears. "Where did you go?" His chest rumbled with a growl and instinctively I knew that this was his panic warring with relief.

He was confused whether he should be relieved or he should be nervous. He buried his face in my neck. "I am so sorry. I failed to protect you. Please forgive me."

Damon was massive with muscles that bulged. He was over a foot taller than me. The way he squashed me in his arms was oddly allaying my nerves. But, "Who are you?" I asked, craning my neck up.

His eyes went wide as he stared at me without blinking. I tilted my head a little, waiting for his answer. His Adam's apple bobbed when he slowly brought his fingers to check the lump that was on the back side of my head and on my left temple. "Ouch!" I winced when he touched me there. Suddenly, there was a loud yell and when I turned to see, I saw a fist swinging at me. After that I listened to growls and grunts and then nothing.

"Poppyyy!" I could make out Damon calling me from somewhere very far.

I was resting in the dark, in a very dark and damp dungeon. Axl was preparing his whip. He was oiling it. With an evil smile, he said, "This will pelt your skin smoothly. Your grandfather wants your wolf out. I will make sure that it never comes out!" He whipped it on the ground, licked his lips and then came over to me with his whip dragging behind him.

"Please Axl, don't do this," I begged him as I lay on the ground, listless.

And the whip came down.

I woke to a scream that was lodged in my throat against a very hard chest. Someone was rocking me. "Shh... Poppy, you are safe."

I wanted to get out of the confines but he grabbed me tightly. "You are safe. I won't let them harm you." His voice was reassuring. I stopped fighting against him and went back to sleep.

I got up again and this time my head was too dizzy. I heard people talking about "giving her anesthesia", "she has lumps", "there is temporary memory loss," amongst other words that I couldn't catch. Every sensation was too much, so I went back to sleep.

When I peeled open my eyes again, a woman's soft voice fell on my ears, "She is awake!"

A second later Damon's face was looming over me. "Poppy!"

Though my head was still dizzy, I let out a smile and said, "You are a cute looking boy."

His perfect eyebrow rose. "I am?"

"She is still under the effect of anesthesia," said a man from somewhere.

I nodded slowly. "You are very handsome." I took my fingers to his stubble.

He chuckled and kissed my forehead. My jaw dropped. I murmured, "The cute boy kissed me!"

"I am going to kiss you more," he said as he laughed. And then he kissed my lips.

"Oh goddess!" I was bamboozled and excited. "I love you cute boy!"