

Alpha's Rejected 26

Chapter 26 - The Alpha's Rejected and Broken Mate

Sophie POV

We make our way into town, to the only bridal shop, there is, Amber, sulking in the back. I know she doesn't want to come with us, but too bad. She's stuck being my maid of honor whether she likes it or not. I feel a large spurt of satisfaction, knowing that she'll be forced to watch Darius and I exchange vows and get married right in front of her. Thanks to me, she has a front-row seat, so to speak. Tony, the added security for Amber, sat next to her, ramrod straight, his eyes sweeping the outside scenery every so often. I roll my eyes. At least he's quiet.

Mother pulls into the parking lot and we file out, Tony right next to Amber who barely even glances at him. We all walk inside, Luna Marian patiently waiting for us in the waiting area. "Sophie" she exclaims "Marissa, I'm so glad you've made it. Are you ready for dress shopping" she laughs.

I notice that she avoids talking about Amber, as though she's not there.

Tony sits on a sofa, keeping his eyes fixed on Amber as she stands there, fidgeting with the chunky gold bracelet on her wrist.

"I think we should find Amber's dress first," I say firmly and she glances at me, then looks away.

When a sales assistant comes over, Luna Marian waves her away. "We can find our own way around, thank you," she tells the woman firmly.

I have the desire to put Amber into the ugliest looking dress I can and she won't have any choice but to wear it. I glide over to a rack of dresses and absent-mindedly begin to flick through them. Luna Marian joins me.

"Do you have an idea of color? That way we can help" she asks me.

I look over at Amber. Her red hair would look horrendous with an orange or yellow dress, I think to myself gleefully.

"I was thinking maybe a burnt orange or pastel yellow color," I say offhand.

Mother looks scandalous but bites her tongue. It is my wedding after all, so what I want or say goes.

Amber swallows looking extremely pale at the idea.

Luna Marian smirks, obviously liking the idea. "I'll go check on the other rack," she said pointing to it and wandering over. Mother joins her and soon the two of them begin to talk in hushed voices, having a grand old chat as they look.

Amber begins to absent-mindedly pace back and forth, her jaw clenched and her eyes shooting daggers at everyone. It was so obvious how she didn't want to be here, but she didn't have a choice. I spy an orange dress at the back and pull it towards me, taking it off the rack with a flourish. It's hideous, like seriously ugly. A burnt orange color with a sweetheart bodice that gathers tightly at the waist and then flows down to about knee length from the looks of it. It has spaghetti straps and a ribbon around the waist. I grin triumphantly. "This one looks perfect" I gush, Luna Marian and mother coming over to look at it.

"Very um different" mother comments weakly.

"I think it will look fabulous on Amber" Luna Marian exclaims delightedly, turning towards her.

Amber says nothing.

I thrust the dress at her and motion towards the dressing room. "Well go on, you have to try it on" I urge "we have to see what it looks like. It might need altering" I add, shooting a glance at her rather large bosom.

She takes the dress with a trembling hand and disappears into the dressing room, while the rest of us wait patiently.

"Well, what's taking so long?" I call out, "do you need help?"

"No" comes back Amber's muffled voice "I'm um, coming out now" she adds quietly. We're the only ones in the store and it's not until later that I realize Luna Marian organized it that way.

Amber comes sauntering out slowly and my mouth drops open in shock. I didn't think it was possible, but even in such a damn ugly dress, she manages to look gorgeous. Instead of the burnt orange making her look washed out, it made her skin look like it was glowing and the bodice made her cleavage look impressive. The dress clung to her curvaceous figure and she looked radiant. I frown. This wasn't what I had planned at all. Luna Marian takes one look and shakes her head.

"It's not the one," she says firmly "go and take it off."

Amber looks disappointed but goes back inside the dressing room. This time I peer through the racks, thinking that a pink color might be the way to go.

Mother looks a little bemused as she just flicks through the racks randomly.

This time I pull out a puffy pink dress with ruffles and no straps. It's a bright hot pink color and I swear this time it will look awful on Amber. I wave it around as Luna Marian gives me a small nod of approval. "Perfect" she murmurs to me "it will look truly hideous on her."

Amber comes back out in time to take hold of the pink dress in my hands. "Try this one on" I demand and she sighs, looking a bit horrified at the fabric, and whirls around, stomping back inside the dressing room.

Something tells me she's cottoned on to what I'm doing.

"Hurry up dear, don't forget we still need to find Sophie's dress" snaps Luna Marian, when it appeared as though Amber was taking a long time to get dressed.

Amber comes out, looking reluctant. A smile spreads on my face. Perfect. The dress was especially horrid looking on her. The hot pink color washed her out and made her look pale. The bodice was tight across her chest and the flounces made her look like she was fat. It cascaded down to her ankles and made her look like a giant pink marshmallow.

"That's the one," I say excitedly, clapping my hands as Amber shoots daggers at me "it's perfect."

"Are you sure?" asks mother, her voice a bit strained.

I turn around and nod. She sighs. "Amber, go and get changed, we'll put that dress to the side for purchase" she adds with a grimace. Amber looks relieved to be getting changed into her own clothes again.

Now I feel excitement stirring in my breast as I begin to look at wedding dresses. There were so many to choose from, but I was after a specific style in particular. I had always wanted a mermaid-style dress. Mother and Luna Marian petered off to have a look at some other racks while I searched hard, for the style I was after. There had to be the perfect dress in this shop somewhere.

"It has to be mermaid style" I yell out, startling mother and Luna Marian "I don't want anything else."

Amber comes out of the dressing room and joins Tony on the couch, looking bored. She doesn't attempt to join in the wedding dress hunting at all, but that doesn't surprise me one bit. She's jealous, after all.

"I have it" breathes Luna Marian, brandishing a dress at me.

I stare at it wide-eyed, inhaling deeply. It's so beautiful that I'm almost afraid to touch it. It's a mermaid-style dress with a lace sweetheart bodice. I take it in shaking hands, feeling the softness of the fabric. It's a pure white dress, which was fantastic because I didn't want a cream one.

"Well, go and try it on" trills Luna Marian, clapping her hands excitedly. Mother nods, looking just as excited.

"Go and sit down, so that I can show you the full effect," I tell them, taking hold of the dress firmly and heading into the rather small and cramped dressing room.

Maybe I should have brought one of them with me to help? Oh well, I'd see how I go.

I shimmy out of my clothes and then grab the dress, grimacing as I shimmy into it. It clings to my hips and then flows down to my ankles. The straps are off the shoulder and show off my smooth and creamy skin. The small train flows behind me. I stare at the mirror, absolutely stupefied. I look beautiful, like a goddess, my long blonde hair in waves down my shoulders. My big blue eyes were wide-eyed as I looked myself over. I couldn't wait for my mother and Luna Marian to see my dress. I take a deep breath, wincing as the dress cuts into me slightly.

"Ready" I call out and then step out of the dressing room, my hands on my hips and beaming at them both.

Mother inhales sharply. "Oh Sophie" she whispers "you look stunning, absolutely stunning my beautiful girl. That dress is just. . ." she trails off.

"Perfect for you" Luna Marian finishes mother's sentence, a wide grin on her face. "You look like a princess from a fairytale my dear. Darius won't be able to keep his eyes off you" she laughs.

"What do you think Amber?" I ask deliberately gloating.

I swear she was blinking back tears from her eyes. "You look really pretty," she says thickly "like a princess."

Huh. Is she crying because of that, or because it should have been her marrying Darius? I suspect the latter. It makes me smile even more happily.

I whirl around and show them the back which is just as intricate as the front, some of my back bare to their gaze.

"Just stunning" mother comments, "it really suits you."

"Do you want to look at some other dresses, or is this the one?" asks Luna Marian knowingly.

"This is the one," I say decisively.

"Fantastic, let's get this one off of you," Luna Marian says delicately "and then we can look at veils and other bits and bobs. How does that sound?"

"Great," I say with a twinkle in my eyes "give me a moment to get changed."

I head back into the dressing room and begin to shimmy slowly back out of the dress, hanging it up reverently. I put my clothes back on and toss my hair back over my shoulder. Then I flounce back out, putting the dress with Amber's.

Speaking of, where was my twin sister hiding? She's no longer sitting on the sofa with Tony, I see with a scowl.

"Where's Amber?" I ask my mother heatedly. "She's supposed to be helping."

Mother looks a bit concerned. "She said she needed to get some air, that it was a bit hot in the store, so Tony offered to escort her outside for a minute. Do you want to go and check on her?" she asks.

Not really but I guess I can take a minute to get in some digs at her. But when I head over to the door, I notice that Amber is standing with her back towards the store, in the corner, outside, Tony facing her. I see her shoulders shaking and realize that she's crying, wiping the tears from her eyes with her hands. Tony is talking to her, but I can't hear what he's saying, an angry look on his face.

I decide to interrupt and open the door, poking my head out. "Amber, are you alright?" I ask sweetly as Tony scowls and heads into the store, pushing past me.

Amber glares. "You're really enjoying this, aren't you" she spits out, facing me.

I give a nonchalant shrug. "I suppose I am. What's the matter? Jealous that it's me getting married to Darius?"

She shakes her head. "You both deserve each other," she says flatly "and I hope you both make each other miserable for the rest of your lives."

"Ouch" I pretend to flinch. "I guess it's the reminder that mother and father want you to get married as well to some stranger that's making you so upset."

Bingo. She flinches. I laugh and motion her back inside before she can say a word. "Well, we can deal with your wedding, sister dear, after mine. Now let's go back inside and look at some veils" I blurt out, waiting for her to shove past me. I see the tears shimmering in her eyes and smile feeling delighted. Today, was a good day, I thought to myself. Not only had I managed to make my sister cry, but I had also gotten the perfect dress for my wedding. Life was good.