

AN ENEMY CALLED MATE

Chapter 1



ZIVA

'Wash this, wash that.'

'Clean this, clean that.'

That is all I hear every single day. I work as an Omega, cleaning the pack house with the other Omegas, even though I am the Alpha's daughter. Very weird, right?

Well, it all started after my mother's death. Everyone in the pack mourned her death, even my father, and unlike other Alphas, my father did not get another Luna.

It seemed like an eternity before I finally turned eighteen. I was expected to shift and transform into my wolf under the full moon, but sadly, I didn't. I did not shift, or even feel my wolf.

Then, the pack members despised me, they didn't respect me like they used to. Even my father stopped acting like a father. I became the forbidden fruit, and my father got another Luna, my stepmother.

Also, my father claimed her daughter whom he treasured and treated like gold, while I worked as a slave, with no pay. Although my father and his Luna regarded the Omega's quarter I live in, and my daily meal as my payment.

But, I can't continue to live like this. No, I deserve a better life than the life the Moon Goddess destined. To be honest, I wish to abscond, to leave this prison

called home, though, there is one person I'm waiting for. The only person where my hopes lay still.

Bang!

I heard a loud bang from another direction, and I turned toward it, only to spot my room door widely opened, with a cunning snake standing next to the door. The cunning snake is Tania, my step-sister.

She is very talented at pretending, like I hurt her or insulted her when I was younger to gain my father's love and attention. Let me say... Alpha Darwin's love and attention.

By stealing a gaze at her body, and the tight clothing she wore, it is obvious that she has the perfect shape.

Also, she looks very gorgeous thanks to the big bucket of foundation decorated on her face. At times, I wonder how she manages to carry so much foundation since it looks heavier than her small head.

"Why are you here? Shouldn't you be working?" Tania taunted, her soft voice deliberately stressing the word 'working' to mock me.

I'm used to those statements already, so I didn't really bother about it.

I stood up and bowed my head, knowing what my step-sister, Tania was capable of. The last time I tried to return her mocking statements, she reported me to Alpha Darwin, and I was whipped mercilessly till I became unconscious.

The wounds still sting and the scars are broadly evident on my skin.

"I have completed all the chores, Tania," I replied respectfully, and I heard her utter a tsk.

Her footsteps approached me quickly, and her hand landed on my face, sending my face to turn to the other side from the tight slap as my ear rang.

My cheeks burnt from the slap, but I didn't dare to glance at her, because that can cost a heavy punishment, and no one will tend to my wounds or care about the pain I received.

"How dare you call me by my name! Do I need to repeat the rules?!" Tania yelled, her voice echoing loudly as it reminded me of the rules specially made for me. Upstodatee from

I kept my head in the bowing position, and I replied politely, "No, Princess Tania. I'm fully aware of the rules."

"Better. To my chamber right now," she replied, her voice receding. Then, I looked up, assuming that she left my presence. My gaze scanned the room, just in case she was still around, and my gaze fell on her retreating back which moved out of the room.

I let out a sigh, following her retreating back quickly. Gazing at the thin, rough-looking reflection in the mirror, I scanned the scars on my body, letting out a sigh that seemed to relieve me from my nightmares, and my past memories.

I shook my head, shaking off my thoughts as I didn't want to remember any negative memories.

"Today is going to be a good day, Ziva. Be happy," I reminded myself.

Swiftly, I picked up the small, ragged hair brush I possessed, and I brushed my hair before braiding it beautifully.

Afterward, I wore the most beautiful garment in my closet. It was a white dress that reached my ankle, the only dress that is not rough, or old amongst my other old garments.

I'm not allowed to wear clothes that are different from the Omega's uniform, but I had to. I will only wear it today anyway.

My gaze averted from the mirror to the letters on the floor. Today marks the date when my man will arrive. He is the only reason why I didn't abscond from this pack after he promised to return to me.

Silently, I walked out of my room and strode to the back side of the Omega's quarter. Then, a small garden came into sight, I and my man agreed location to meet.

He had been my best friend since he came to this pack after a war occurred in his father's pack, then we slowly became lovers before he returned to his father's pack.

I sat in the garden, patiently waiting for him. Maybe an hour later or thirty minutes later, I was not sure, and I didn't even notice when it became dark as the moon became the big candle in the small garden that provided light.

Luckily, I did all my work, and today is Tania's mating ceremony since she will be eighteen today. Everyone is busy preparing for the ceremony, and previously, I begged a younger Omega to cover up for me while I was away.

"Zivvy..." I heard a male voice utter. Just then, my heart skipped a bit.

It's him! My man, he is the only one who calls me by the name, Zivvy. I looked away from my sitting position, averting my gaze to the voice's direction. There, I spotted my man, in well-tailored clothing.

He looked like the complete opposite of me with his expensive clothes and a smile widened his thin lips that I've always wished to kiss.

"Nik!" I exclaimed, rushing towards him as his hands swayed open, welcoming a hug.

"I knew that you would come for me," I squealed with excitement surging through me as I hugged him.

Inhaling his perfect cologne, I rested my head against his chest since I was shorter than him.

'Finally, I can leave this pack forever.'

I pulled away from the hug, sensing his sudden silence. Before, whenever we met after a long time, he would peck my cheeks and hug me tightly, so what changed?

"I apologize for being late, Zivvy. Something came up," Nikolas uttered, his green eyes flashing with embarrassment.

"It's fine. Where is the car?" I questioned quickly, glancing sideways for any sign of a car. When I didn't see a car, my heart squeezed as the happy expression on my face dropped.

"I'm sorry," I heard Nikolas say. His hands touched my shoulders, sending warmth to my body.

"We will leave some other day," Nikolas replied, his voice echoing like a wrong lyrics.

"What do you mean that? We planned this already," I admitted, not wanting to give him any space for excuses.

"Yes, but something came up. We will leave early tomorrow morning instead," He uttered, causing my jaw to drop in shock. I blinked, trying to recollect his statement.

"I promise, I will voluntarily come with the car tomorrow morning," he responded, and I forced a smile on my face, not wanting him to see the disappointment that was obviously written on my face.

"You are fine with that decision, right?" He uttered, lifting my chin to make eye contact with me.

“Yes,” I nodded, staring back at his green eyes with admiration. Even though he didn’t bring the car, I still love and cherish him. He had never broken his promises since we were younger, and he won’t. So, I believed him.

Then, I realized the sudden closeness between us. Our faces were just a few inches away from each other as Nikolas leaned in, his cologne surrounding me.

Thump!

Thump!

My heart raced loudly as he cupped my face. His lips pressed against my lips swiftly, and we shared our last night in Granelma Pack together. After this night, I will leave this prison and stay with my man. My eyes flickered open, but it was still dark in my small room. I glanced at the window, realizing that it was still nighttime.

I can’t wait for the sun to shine. First thing in the morning, I will pack my luggage and tread to the pack house, where Nikolas’s car will be waiting for me, just as he promised earlier.

I looked down at my bare body, recalling what had transpired between us earlier. His kisses, his touch, everything was blissful!

Speaking of Nikolas, I have not seen him since our lovemaking. Did he leave to prepare the car already?

Noises hit my ear, jolting me from my thoughts, including the sounds of celebration. I hastily wore my clothes to join Alpha Darwin and his Luna, so that they wouldn’t suspect that I was missing.

Opening my room door, I walked out of my room quietly, and I strode toward the direction of the noises.

As I approached that direction, the noises became loud. I reached there, with my jaw dropping at Tania who was blushing while the pack members cheered her.

A tall man wrapped his arm around her waist, hugging her. His face was not visible to me, because his back was facing me, and only Tania's face was visible.

Certainly, this event would only occur when the mating ceremony had ended and the Alpha's daughter had been marked by her mate. Lucky Tania, she has her mate already and she is very excited.

Shortly, the tall man turned around, causing my heart to squeeze at the sight of his green eyes.

It can't be... Nikolas?

Chapter 2



ZIVA

I rubbed my eyes, ensuring that I saw the right face, and upon opening my eyes, I saw Nikolas again, this time, I saw it clearly. He had a wide smile on his face, with his green eyes wide open as he gazed at all the pack members. As soon as his gaze fell on me, his green eyes did not even reflect guilt or sadness, rather they reflected victory.

After what happened earlier, he had the guts to mark my step-sister?! Goodness, if Alpha Darwin finds out about this, Nikolas will be beheaded instantly. Then, Alpha Darwin came into view. He hugged Nikolas affectionately, causing my chest to squeeze.

I didn't even know what to do next. Breathing became difficult as my heart squeezed. It felt like time stopped at my side as I watched Alpha Darwin and his Luna celebrate excitedly. What is going on? Alpha Darwin knew that I love Nikolas so much, even his Luna, so why are they not rejecting this event?

To top it all, Nikolas shared the night with me, and he gazed at me like he gazed at a stranger. I tried to calm myself by exhaling and inhaling repeatedly, not wanting to misunderstand the event or misinterpret it. The cold breeze blew past me, and I watched the entire Darwin family tread inside the main dining hall.

They didn't even bother to worry about me. I guess they didn't know that I was not around, and it felt like I was already excluded from the family. It felt like I was nothing.

No, I am Nikolas's woman! Nikolas promised me. He mentioned that I will be his Luna, and he will never betray me. Maybe I need to trust him and just speak with him. Silently, I watched them celebrate in the dining hall, and in no time, Alpha Darwin excused himself, then his Luna followed, leaving Tania and Nikolas in the dining hall.

This is my chance! My chance to show Tania her rightful place. She took everything from me, but she can't take my Nikolas. He is mine, and only mine. Also, Nikolas will always choose me over every woman, and there is still an opportunity for him to reject her and make me his Luna instead.

Steadily, I walked inside the dining hall, already preparing whatever speech I had in my head and the courage left in me. While taking another step, my ear rang at the sound of a chuckle. I gazed at the dining hall, spotting Nikolas and Tania, with their lips opening and closing as they discussed and chuckled.

Shortly, Nikolas leaned forward, occupying the space between them and he kissed her!! He didn't pull away and she didn't resist too, almost making my

knees go weak. Tears dropped from my eyes at that spot, and when I noticed their movement toward my side, I hid behind the curtain.

Unlike other Omegas whose scent can be noticed and detected by werewolves, my scent can not be detected because I have not seen or gotten attached to my wolf yet. Hiding behind the curtain, I heard a loud bang, and I peeped.

I was supposed to confront them, but I could not even control myself. It felt like I was rooted to the floor as whatever I was watching made me feel like my body was pierced all over. I watched them kiss each other as Nikolas closed the door and pinned her against the wall.

Suddenly, they stopped, and Tania mouthed, with her hands on his chest to provide some space between their bodies, "What about Ziva?"

Finally, someone remembers that I exist!

"Who is Ziva?" Nikolas retorted, causing my chest to squeeze tighter. How can he say such a thing?

"Don't lie to me, I saw your letters on her table," Tania scoffed, and a chuckle escaped from Nikolas's lips.

"Niva is just my ex-girlfriend. We broke up a long time ago," Nikolas replied. I balled my fists at that moment, attempting to throw a slap at his dirty face, but he might overpower me or even kill me if I interfered. It's best I figure out what his true intentions are. With that, a smile enveloped Tania's lips, and she pulled him into a soft embrace, "Good. I don't want that pig around my man."

A week after Nikolas marked Tania, I burnt all the letters he sent previously, intending to lose all the memories I shared with him. He was my only hope, but he shattered me, used me by taking my innocence, and he denied me to top it all. I had just finished my lunch, a small bowl of rice when my room door vibrated with a soft knock.

Moving away from my small bed, I walked towards the door, opening it swiftly as my gaze fell on the person standing before me.

“Why are you here?” I asked, my tone dripping with anger. Of all the people to meet this afternoon, it had to be Nikolas, the man I despise now. I didn’t even bother to wait for his rubbish response before I slammed the door at his face.

He deserves more for the pain he caused. I can’t even bring myself to tell Alpha Darwin what happened. He will only support his darling Tania anyway.

I returned to eating my lunch, but after I pushed a spoonful of rice into my mouth, it became sour. All the food I’ve been eating since what happened was sour. Eating became an unimportant thing, but I had to continue eating to muster enough strength to work, clean, and leave this pack. Just then, my room door opened swiftly, and Nikolas closed it as soon as he walked inside.

“Get out,” I uttered quickly, but in a low tone, so I won’t draw other Omega’s attention.

“Alright, Zivvy. I know you are heartbroken about what happened at the mating ceremony, but it is not what I planned,” He retorted, as my throat heated up right at that moment.

I looked up, gazing at his ugly face, before responding, “It is not what you planned. It is what you wanted. I can’t believe that I loved and waited for you, only for you to shamelessly mark my step-sister, but I do not blame you. I blame myself for getting involved with you.”

“Zivvy, please, just listen to me,” Nikolas begged, dropping on his two knees as he moved towards me.

“I love you,” he uttered, holding my hands, with his green eyes flickering slowly, “I will reject Tania if that is what you want.”

“I do not want that,” I spat out, and I heard him utter, “Huh?”

I repeated my statement, "I do not want you too. You can continue to be her mate."

"But we had a lot of plans," he uttered slowly, causing me to snap my hands out of his touch.

"You changed, I changed, and our plans are nothing. Just leave," I voiced out. Suddenly, he snapped, scuttling to his feet.

"What is wrong with you?!" He yelled as he furrowed his brows. "Do you know what it means to have you, a slave on my bed?! I knelt, and yet you spit nonsense!"

"A slave?" My voice croaked, with my throat heating up. Even tears clouded in my eyes, but I forced them to stay hidden. I can't act as a weakling now.

"Yes, you are nothing but a slave. I've been trying to put up with your poor self all these years, but now that I marked Tania, you are annoyed with that. You should be lucky I dated you and touched you, do you know how many women are lined up to gain that?!" He yelled, running his hand through his hair.

"But it's fine, I forgive you for being unreasonable. You can still live in my pack as my mistress, rather than working here as a slave," Nikolas spoke, crashing my heart into pieces.

"It's best I die than to lay on the same bed with you again because you are nothing but an animal. A wild one to be precise," I voiced out, glaring at him. Then, his green eyes flickered, turning into a blazing fire, as his hands balled into fists.

"How dare you insult me!" He yelled, this time it sounded like a growl, an angry growl that made the hair at my back stand. I shivered a bit as he approached me steadily with his blazing green eyes.

"I- I," I stammered, a bit frightened by his actions, as his fingers transformed into claws.

"You will pay severely for what you said!" He growled.

Just then, the door barged open, and Nikolas stopped moving. He faced the door instantly, like he scented a werewolf he respected, and for once, I thanked the person for opening the door, or else, I would have been murdered. Turning to the door, I spotted Tania in a thin gown. Her eyebrows furrowed, and for a minute, she paused, maybe mind linking someone before Nikolas ran towards her.

"Thank goddess you are here! She tried to seduce me..." Nikolas spoke quickly, drawing me into a state of shock. Why would I seduce an Alpha, a person who is far stronger than me?

"That is a lie!" I admitted quickly, receiving a slap as a reward for speaking the truth from Nikolas himself.

"You shameless slut!" Tania hissed, interfering. "I know that you have been lusting over my mate. But are you that shameless to even seduce him?"

"Tania, it's very obvious that-"

"Princess Tania!" Tania corrected, and quickly, loud footsteps approached us. I gazed at the people rushing towards my room, only to sight Alpha Darwin and his Luna. This will be their first time stepping into my room since my sight disgusts them, just like the Luna recites to my ear whenever she sees me.

Hastily, I bowed respectfully, but before I could give my speech, Alpha Darwin's voice roared, "I've tolerated you for all these years, but it seems you and your mother are the same. Shameless sluts!"

Shameless slut? That is the same name Tania termed me. Does this mean that the Darwin's family named my mother and I a shameless slut?

“Alpha Darwin, you can’t disrespect my mother or insult her, especially when she died for this pack’s sake,” I spoke, saying whatever my mind had since I could not tolerate such insult.

I found out about my mother’s death yesterday when some Omegas were gossiping about me. They mentioned that my mother died during a war to save Alpha Darwin and his pack members.

“Who cares if she is dead?!” Alpha Darwin uttered, making my heart sink. “Death was her price for bringing you, this illegitimate wolfless girl into this world! I wish I had never met her!” He spat, and I raised my head at once, scanning his expression.

“W-what are you talking about?” I stammered, glancing over the smirk on his Luna’s face.

Letting out a scoff, Alpha Darwin stormed away from my room without answering my question.

His Luna followed too, but that was only after she shot a deadly glare at me. But my mother was a forever faithful mate. During my childhood days, she always cherished and loved Alpha Darwin, so why did he say such nonsense against my mother?!

A tight, painful grip on my hand caused me to snap out of my thoughts. I turned, gazing at Tania who gripped my hand aggressively, “Poor thing, you didn’t hear anything about your miserable mother?”

“Don’t you dare speak about my mother that way!” I retorted, and a chuckle let out from her lips before she pulled her hand away from me.

“Let me explain then. Alpha Darwin expected you to shift on your eighteenth birthday as his first heiress, or let me say... future female Alpha, but you didn’t,” Tania spoke proudly. She encircled me as she spoke like I was a prey

and she was the predator. Certainly, I was very curious about what she mentioned, so I watched her speak.

“Why?” She questioned, swaying her hands proudly.

“I don’t know-” Before I could finish my statement, she huffed, “Because you are nothing, but a BASTARD.”

Chapter 3



ZIVA

“Guards!” Tania roared as soon as she completed her statement and shattered my heart into pieces. What?! I am not Alpha Darwin’s biological daughter? Is that the reason for making me work and live like an Omega, while I thought I was being punished for not having a wolf?

Tears streamed down my chin with that as I broke down. Then, hurried footsteps echoed around me, and when I looked up, I spotted three male guards behind me.

“Whip her properly!” Tania ordered, turning around without any sign of concern. Even Nikolas spat on me before he rushed toward Tania, like a Pomeranian puppy rushing toward its owner.

Pathetic! I was given a pathetic life and now, I’m going to suffer, because of my mother, the woman I praised every day for being a better parent than Alpha Darwin. I despise her! She should have killed me before I was born!

Two muscular hands gripped my hand and before I knew it, I was dragged into my room, with my legs hitting the floor roughly. It received a few bruises,

and my eyes became clouded with heavy tears, but I didn't let them out until I was tied to my bed with the whip hitting my buttock.

I've grown used to the whip, and I do not cry because I know what it feels like. It was like a monthly merciless cramp, but this time, I cried all my eyes out, as it stung my skin and reminded me of all what Tania and Alpha Darwin said. I am nothing, but a bastard. A useless one too.

Another whip landed on me, this time at my back, and I heard my bone crack as soon as it hit me. I must have broken my spine with more pain surging through it. I couldn't help, but cry more, as I hoped that I would collapse soon and be free from these countless whips. Many weeks passed after getting whipped, but I was locked in my room throughout, with no food or water touching my lips, though, I didn't die.

At a point, I wondered why I survived the beatings and whips I got since I was eighteen years old, and the starvation I received recently. Why can't I just pass away and end this endless suffering? Is that too difficult for the Moon Goddess to do?

Even though I tried to do it myself, cursing the Moon Goddess for being lazy and ignorant, I could not. I will only end up with more scars and wounds which does not heal. Now, I can't even lift a finger or pick up an object to do so since my body is so dry and stiff.

My laying position had been the same as I laid on the bed in a fetal position.

My lips could not even move because it was too dry, and my eyes could not pour out tears that I could manage to lick and survive. Every day felt like a decade, with my intestines smashing against each other because of hunger. My stomach had stopped growling for food because it was too weak. Every part of my body was weak and I could not blink too.

Creak!

A sound echoed. A sound I do not hear throughout those weeks. The sound of my door opening, but I didn't even try to raise or turn my head, assuming that my head might break and fall off because it was very dry, and to be precise, who would even come to save me? Maybe the sound was just a hallucination for freedom. Surprisingly, light flashed by my bedside too, brightening my dark room.

Footsteps echoed, and they echoed nearer before they stopped next to my bed. A male face came in contact with my frozen gaze, and with the male clothes, I knew that it was a guard. He raised a bowl to my face and pushed it towards my lips.

Is he going to give me water to drink?

Just then, cold water splashed on my head, making me hiss silently at the sudden pain it sent to my face. Later, a bucket of water was showered over my body, and I felt like a dry plant showered with water to make it regain its strength. But why are they doing this? I am being punished, aren't I?

After my gown was drowned with water, the gown stuck onto my body, probably revealing my inner garment and my nipples. The male guard glanced at my chest for a while, and he turned me over with a push, making me fall to the floor.

Pain surged through my body once again, but my head did not break apart as I imagined.

"Hey, eat your food and stop acting like a dead meat!" I heard the male guard growl, as a muscular hand gripped my hand, assisting me to sit and let my wounded back rest against the cold wall.

Another male guard handed a bowl to him, and he stretched it towards my face. I glanced at the bowl, sensing that it was a bowl of rice, the same food I ate after I was eighteen years old.

A bowl of rice was my only food at that time. I ate it at lunch and dinner, but there was no breakfast, and that should be the reason why I'm short and skinny, I was deprived of nutrition.

The guard fed me two spoonfuls of rice and milk, with his lustful gaze never leaving my chest. I knew where this was leading, but I took the milk. I hadn't tasted it for three years, and it gave me a little strength. Sure enough, the man reached out to touch my chest just like I expected.

Fortunately, I gained little strength with the milk, so I swallowed his hand and pressed my teeth against it with all my efforts and strength. Soon, I tasted blood, his blood, while he screamed in agony.

The other male guard must have noticed his screaming. Suddenly, he threw a huge blow at my face that knocked the breath out of me.

Sadly, I had to surrender the guard's hand because of the unexpected blow. As soon as I surrendered it, the guard gazed at his hand, hissing loudly. Unfortunately, the spots I bit transformed into flesh as he healed quickly.

The guard snarled in anger, his teeth bared like an animal's. "You stupid fool!" he roared, his breath hot on my face. Then he slapped me, causing me to taste blood as my teeth cut my cheek. I tried to ignore the pain, and I ensured that I spat on his face, indirectly mocking and insulting him.

He did not hesitate to wipe the saliva off his face instantly, but I knew that I had engaged myself in another trouble.

Suddenly, a female voice came from outside the room. "What are you both doing?" she demanded.

"Bring her to the upper room immediately!" She ordered with an authoritative tone. Then, the male guards looked at each other, their faces drawn and their shoulders slumped. One of them sighed heavily as if he had been holding his breath the whole time. They must have been disappointed, haha.

Grabbing me by my arms, the guards yanked me forward, causing me to stumble. I tried to keep my balance, but they were pulling me along too fast. My feet tripped over themselves, and I felt myself being dragged across the floor.

It was like I was a rag doll being pulled along by two angry children. I struggled to keep up with them, my breath coming in gasps. But the guards didn't seem to care about my discomfort, their grip tightened as they pulled me along.

They dragged me up a flight of stairs, taking me to the upper room the female guard had mentioned.

On the way, my legs hit the staircase roughly, and I was pushed into a room.

With a loud thud, I fell on the tiled floor, my bones breaking once again as I scanned the room I was pushed into. The room was big and spacious, unlike mine and it had only chairs.

"This must be Alpha's Darwin private meeting room," I thought to myself, scanning the surroundings, but I was not certain if my thought was right.

Just then, the door barged open noisily.

Chapter 4



ZIVA

Hastily, I averted my gaze to the door, hoping that the two male guards I met in my room earlier were not the people who barged in. To my utmost surprise, it was none other than Alpha Darwin and his Luna.

As soon as they saw me, they crinkled their noses, and instantly, a female guard walked in. She dragged me to a chair amongst other chairs as I settled on it. Now, I can scan the room properly.

A few chairs surrounded a long table, and surprisingly, the female guard assisted me to sit on one of them.

Sitting amongst these chairs meant you were among important or high-ranked werewolves, but why was a poor person like me sitting here?

Click-clack!

Click-clack!

Alpha Darwin and his Luna sat on the tall chairs, and they faced me with a serious gaze.

“What is going on? I thought I was a prisoner,” I blurted out. The Luna gasped instantly, and I gasped too, as I was a bit surprised with my sharp, arrogant tone.

How did I speak? I thought my lips were too dry to move. I knew I had disrespected their invitation by saying that, but to be honest, I loved the frightened, surprised expression I received from the Luna’s reaction.

“Do not grow wings yet. We can kill you at any moment,” Alpha Darwin uttered boldly, and for the first time in three years, I somewhat mustered courage, pushing my chest out as I smirked.

“Please do,” I blurted out, and this time, I was enjoying my new tone and character. I have tolerated enough of their punishments, and death is the only wish I have left.

Then, Alpha Darwin threw a photograph at me, which swiftly landed on the table. I grabbed the photograph and turned it around to see whose photograph it was. As I turned it around, my gaze fell on a man’s face,

causing my jaw to drop. Why did Alpha Darwin give me this man's photograph?

Then I gazed at the man. The man's face was sharp and angular, with a hard jawline and piercing blue eyes. His brows were heavy, giving him a brooding expression, and he set his mouth in a permanent scowl. His dark hair was slicked back, emphasizing the intensity of his dark gaze.

"Alpha Xander, Alpha of Crescent Moon Pack," Alpha Darwin stated, causing my jaw to drop. The same man Alpha Darwin mentioned is the same one everyone in this pack fear. I heard rumors about him. He is scary and ruthless.

"He is our rival pack Alpha, and you are getting married to him tomorrow," Alpha Darwin completed his statement, causing me to almost collapse. Alpha Xander is a ruthless Alpha who killed his mate with his bloody hands.

"Why? I'm an Omega, a slave. Why will he marry a low-rank girl?" I asked quickly, ensuring that I sounded worried and sad instantly. I can not marry an Alpha who can kill me overnight.

"Well, Tania is already mated to Nikolas, and you are my only child available-"

"Child?" I cut in, huffing at his statement. Previously, he called me an illegitimate child, now he calls me his only child.

"Do you really think that I would get married to that beast for your pack and daughter?!" I retorted angrily, shoving the photograph off the table.

Bang!

The Luna slammed her hand on the table, silencing me immediately. She yelled, "Respect the Alpha's decision or watch your mother die!"

"Get a hold of yourself, Luna," Alpha Darwin whispered and my brows creased quickly.

“You mentioned my mother. What do you mean by watching her die?” I asked quickly, with my tone tinged with curiosity as my heart raced.

The Luna sat down quietly, and Alpha Darwin turned his gaze to me.

“Your mother did not die during the war. I locked her up and hid her far away after I discovered the truth about your identity,” Alpha Darwin explained, as my hands trembled. I pushed my hands beneath the table, and squeezed it, to stop it from shaking.

How could he do that to my mother? All these years I thought my mother was dead, but now he is using her as a threat against me. Even though she made a mistake by birthing me, she is still my mother, and I do not want to lose my only family.

“What do you want me to do?” I questioned, staring at Alpha Darwin after mustering the courage to do so.

“It’s good you chose your mother, but I will only release her after you get married to Alpha Xander, and after our packs are united,” Alpha Darwin spoke quickly, his words sinking into my head as I tried to digest it.

Getting married to this man named Xander is a good option anyway. I will leave this pack, and not be termed as a rogue. Also, I will be able to move on from my past and meddle with my future problems by being his wife, even though I might be murdered.

“How can I be assured that you are not lying about my mother’s condition?” I questioned quickly, recalling that Alpha Darwin and his Luna were cunning and deceitful.

Alpha Darwin snapped his fingers at that moment, and the door swung open immediately. A guard marched in with a larger size of a phone clasped in his hand. He placed the phone before me as a sound vibrated from it.

“Help,” I heard from the phone, with my heart racing loudly. That was my mother’s voice. I recognized her voice accurately and without hesitation, I checked the phone, only to realize that it was playing a video, more like a CCTV footage.

Glancing at the phone, I spotted my mother on the floor in a locked cell. She was hugging her knees as she shivered, with her messy bun shaking vigorously. Her legs and wrists were bound with cold silvery chains, and the temperature in the room was extremely cold from the view of how she exhaled frost.

“Now, do you believe me?” Alpha Darwin questioned, and then I nodded quickly. Standing up to my feet to leave the room since our discussion was over, I fell on the floor with a loud thud. I was still weak, so walking or standing was difficult.

I tried my best to get back on my feet, but I couldn’t. The pain was too much to bear and only a hiss escaped from my lips throughout my efforts. A muscular hand touched my hand, and I looked up instantly, only to see the same guard who tried to touch my breast.

“Assist her to her new room,” Alpha Darwin’s voice echoed authoritatively, and I gulped. I was certain I caught a smirk on that guard’s face. He will definitely try to do something horrible to me when I am alone.

Chapter 5



“Please, I want a female guard,” I voiced out, ensuring that my voice was loud enough for Alpha Darwin to hear. I didn’t want to stress myself by struggling to not be touched, especially when I was weak and could not even walk properly. I had to beg Alpha Darwin instead.

“Alright, Anji will assist you,” Alpha Darwin replied swiftly with a sigh, like I was a burden to him. I knew that I was a burden, but I’m thankful that he listened to me for once in three years. I gazed back at the male guard, noticing that the smirk on his face vanished.

Respectfully, he walked out of the room while I heard footsteps approach me. I spotted expensive shoes walking out of the room, which meant that Alpha Darwin and his Luna left.

Afterward, a female guard approached me just as Alpha Darwin mentioned, and she assisted me to a large, spacious room. She must be Anji then. Anji carefully placed me on a comfortable, queen-sized bed.

She took care of my bathing, feeding, and drinking throughout the day. At night, I could move my properly massaged legs after Anji trained me to walk, since Alpha Darwin assumed that my legs might be broken.

He didn’t want Alpha Xander to receive a disabled girl. Also, he allowed me to eat as much as I wanted. At a time, it felt like my mouth would not stop chewing as my stomach protruded a bit.

“Don’t eat too much. You might get an upset stomach,” Anji advised in a soft, calm tone. I’d never seen a lady so calm and gentle until I met her. Her presence alone made me comfortable, so I obeyed and stopped eating.

Then, Alpha Darwin’s repeated statement rang in my head:

“When Alpha Xander questions you about yourself, you should mention that you are my first daughter.”

I chuckled miserably at that statement, wondering why Alpha Darwin was very considerate of my marriage with the so-called Xander. From my perspective, Alpha Darwin is cunning and selfish. He will only do this for his gain. So is Alpha Xander needed for something?

Braiding my hair beautifully, the Omegas treated me like a queen, like they did before my eighteenth birthday. They left when they were done with the braids, meanwhile; I looked into the mirror, gazing at my reflection.

The dark circles under my eyes were painted with foundation, and there was a blush on my cheeks to make my cheeks look full. I looked extremely radiant with the make-up and the stunning pajamas. Also, I practiced walking again to ensure that I walked properly and elegantly.

Tomorrow, I will be the bride of a man I do not know, a person whom rumors refer to as a beast, a werewolf who killed his own mate. Sadly, I have no true family to comfort or console me, and I am only doing this for my last family member, my mother.

After practicing walking for some minutes, I cleaned the tutorial makeup from my face and lay on the queen-sized bed, preparing to sleep and wait for the new day. A peaceful morning with no chores or disturbance. I was in my room throughout, eating and preparing to act like a rich Alpha's daughter.

Meanwhile, the Omegas were preparing for the wedding.

Strangely, the wedding was supposed to occur this morning, but the groom's side complained that they wanted to make it occur at night, so that I and the groom would consummate our marriage afterward, and that is what frightens me!

I've never been engaged with this, except when Nikolas returned. But what if he murders me before that happens? Or...

Ah! I can't think of a plan to escape that. I don't want to be involved with a beast.

Nighttime came like a storm, making my heart race at the thought of getting married. Soon, I was in a dazzling dress, and I signed the marriage papers, but the man, Alpha Xander was nowhere to be found. Instead of arriving, he sent a representative who signed the papers.

Alpha Darwin did not even have any slight expression of concern about that. He hurriedly led me to the car that drove past the pack quickly, and I was all alone in the expensive, beautiful car.

Also, I had a driver who didn't take a glance at me for once. He stared at the road, and he didn't speak throughout the journey like he was a statue.

I was taken to an unknown place with no guards to protect me, yet Alpha Darwin did not seem to think about my safety. He didn't consider what might happen if I got abducted or something bad happened.

Sigh... I guess he despises me a lot.

"Excuse me, where are we heading to?" I asked the driver, breaking the silence in the car.

"La casa dell'alfa," I heard the driver say.

Goodness, is he speaking another language or what?

"What did you just say?" I asked, curious at the sudden change of tone.

"Actually, I don't understand your language," I admitted quickly, in order to get a response.

"I said that we are heading to the Alpha's house," the driver replied, his English sounding like a piece of broken music. He must be new to the English Language then.

“Oh, alright,” I responded, leaning toward the closed car window with the AC wafting around my body. Although I felt relaxed, I tried to check my surroundings. It was very dark outside, and the car was surrounded by trees and bushes, though the moonlight brightened the surroundings.

I glanced at the back, gazing at the Granelma Pack I left. I do not wish to return to this pack, so after I get my mother, I will stay in the pack I’m engaging with, or I and my mother will become rogue and live freely.

Screech!

The car stopped suddenly, and I turned around quickly, preparing to ask the driver many questions.

“Why did you stop?! What happened?” I asked quickly, with my heart racing. I was frightened, with lots of thoughts running through my mind. Are we surrounded? Are we going to be attacked? What is happening?

I expected the driver to respond, but he coughed silently. “It’s just a minor issue. It will be fixed soon,” the driver spoke with a calm voice. He didn’t sound like he was scared at all. He sounded like he was relaxed and comfortable.

Issue? Hastily, I raised my head, sensing that something was wrong. Also, the driver stared blankly at the front, and I followed his gaze instantly.

Staring at what he was glancing at, I spotted a black wolf, with blood spilled over his body. It seemed like it was injured or wounded, and another wolf pounced on him, striking him with blows as the car started moving. The car drove past them, but I continued to gaze at the two wolves curiously.

“What was that about?” I questioned the driver, and a quiet response echoed from him, “It was a minor issue.” This time, the driver’s voice was quick and rash.

With that, I kept my mouth shut, assuming that he didn't like questions after his last response. Instead of focusing on what happened earlier, I tried to ignore it as I watched the car drive past a tall gate.

The tall gate was colored black, and some people locked it as soon as the car drove past it. But inwardly, I knew that what happened earlier was a testament to my arrival at the Crescent Moon Pack.

Chapter 6



ZIVA

The car slowly made its way through the driveway, while my jaw dropped at the lush lawn and the perfectly manicured gardens that I could see from the car window. Without wasting any time, the car pulled up to a magnificent building, and I took a moment to take in its splendor.

It seems luxurious...

I stepped out of the car, my heels clicking against the cobblestone driveway, as it made a satisfying clip-clop sound. I scanned the size of the mansion. It was beautiful, and it was two times larger than the Omega's quarter at Granelma Pack.

Some ladies rushed out of the mansion in an orderly manner. They wore the same uniform, causing me to sense that they were the Crescent Moon Pack's Omegas.

Rushing towards me, the ladies ushered me into the opulent mansion, which had high ceilings, ornate designs, lavish furnishings, and gleaming chandeliers hanging in the middle.

I took enough time I needed to scan the mansion, but an Omega tapped me, and she led me into a bedroom.

Goodness, the bedroom is splendid!

It is a hundred times better than my room in the Omega's quarter. It has two sofas next to the king-sized bed, and there were two-night lamps at the sides of the bed.

"Should I prepare your bath, Lady Ziva?" A female voice echoed, jolting me out of my admiration. I turned my gaze away from the bed and turned to the owner of its voice.

"Anji?" I called out as soon as I spotted her. She was dressed in a simple blouse and trousers, and her hair was packed into a ponytail.

"How did you get here?" I questioned, with furrowed brows as my voice was tinged with curiosity.

Alpha Darwin does not care about me, so giving me an assistant is an impossible task. But why is Anji here?

"Alpha Darwin sent me here because he wanted me to help you," Anji replied swiftly, causing me to gasp in shock. I scanned her expression. She had a serious expression on her face, and I could not detect if she was lying or telling the truth.

"I need to be very careful now. Her arrival is not simply for my sake. Obviously, it is for Alpha Darwin's selfish gain," I muttered to myself.

"Please, prepare the bath," I replied. Pausing, something struck my mind. I didn't bring any of my belongings, which meant that I didn't have any clothes to change into.

“We bought some new clothes, and they are already arranged in your closet,” Anji uttered, like she read my mind, with her lips moving quickly. She moved towards a large, wooden door with a beautiful knob.

Opening it wide, she gestured inside it and spoke, “Here is your closet.”

Staring at what she referred to as my closet, my jaw dropped.

The closet... I mean my closet had a granite floor, with mirrored walls and crystal chandeliers. Also, the clothes inside are designer brands that are made of high-quality fabrics, just like Tania’s clothes.

“I will start preparing the bath now,” Anji muttered, and she bowed her head.

Afterward, she closed the closet door and moved towards another door that was next to the closet. That must be the bathroom.

The way she bowed caused questions to rise in my mind.

Why is she respecting me? Is this another cunning plan by Alpha Darwin?

Gosh, I should ask her.

“Anji,” I called out, glancing around to make sure no one else was nearby. When I was certain that no one was nearby, I leaned in close to Anji and lowered my voice to a whisper. “Do you think Alpha Xander is rich? I mean, filthy rich? Like, balling out of control rich?”

“He is,” Anji replied, rolling her eyes. “I’ve seen plenty of mansions, and all of them are better than this.”

Her voice sounded insincere. I could tell that she was trying to hide her awe, and she was genuinely impressed by the splendor of this place.

Ignoring the conversation, Anji walked into the master bathroom. After she completed the bath preparation, I had my bath. Then I changed into a night dress.

Strangely, all the night dresses in the closet were very short. The hem stopped at my upper hip, exposing my legs, and they were sleeveless with a tiny strip of fabric serving as the sleeve. Everything exposed my cleavage and legs, except one, which stopped at my knee.

I changed into that specific dress as I prepared to sleep. My heart was at peace upon realizing that Alpha Xander was not in the room. I can sleep in peace for today.

Although I waited for a few hours to make sure that the Alpha won't arrive. The time ticked past midnight, yet the Alpha didn't arrive. So, Anji turned off the night lamps, and she left. Meanwhile, I locked my room door for security's sake and comfortably laid on the bed to sleep.

Creak!

My ears pricked up at the sound of a creak on the door. The silence of the mansion was broken by the same sound and I froze, listening for any other sign of movement, but there was none.

After mustering up a little courage, I turned to the door, hoping that it wasn't who I thought had arrived. Then, the door moved slowly as it opened and a tall silhouette stood before it. It had a bit of weight as the light from outside my room shone.

Instantly, I reached for the night lamp, assuming that it could be an assassin since I'd heard rumors of rogues attacking an Alpha's bride on their wedding night.

I heard that the rogues behaved that way as a thirst for revenge or so. But I do not want to be involved in such.

Silently, I crept away from the bed, trying to turn on the night lamp, but I could not.

That should be because I'm addicted to using a lantern or the reflection of the moonlight to see at night in Granelma Pack, and this night lamp of a thing felt like a totally new tool.

I gazed back at the tall silhouette, noting how it walked steadily into the room. How did it even open the locked door?

Then, my mind snapped to the socket that I spotted on the wall. It should be able to turn the lights on!

Hastily, I grabbed the night lamp as a shield, as I touched the wall to reach the socket. As soon as my hand touched the plastic material, I jumped and tapped it. I had to jump because of my height. I was a bit short, so... It's pretty annoying to jump, just to reach a socket.

But the room was brightened in an instant. The tall silhouette, on the other hand, had male clothing on himself. He must be a man then!

Strangely, he covered his face with his hand, like he didn't want me to see his face.

"Spegnere la luce!" I heard him yell, but I didn't even bother to listen to him. I'm only concerned about myself.

With that, I took the opportunity I had. I raced towards the tall man with the night lamp. As soon as he moved his hand, I jumped and slammed the night lamp against his head, slamming it like a slap against the two sides of his face. Meanwhile, my breath quickened as I inhaled and exhaled.

Within a minute, the night lamp froze and my gaze fell on it, glancing at the man's muscular hand which gripped it. My heart thumped at the sight of his quick, hard grip as sweat dripped down my forehead. Suddenly, the night lamp was pushed aside by the man, falling to the floor as it crashed into pieces.

Then, I could analyze the man's face since he dropped his hands.

"Alpha Xand-er," I stammered upon seeing his face, which I immediately recognized from the photograph Alpha Darwin shoved at me.

Instantly, I bowed my head in respect, just as Anji told me before she left. She mentioned that Alpha Xander could actually spare me from his bloody hands if I showed him respect.

"Turn off the light!" He growled, and I didn't hesitate to obey him instantly. I strode towards the same socket to turn off the light, and when I tried to tap it, I had to jump. But this time, I could not reach it.

"It will be done in a sec," I spoke loudly, faking a chuckle to not make him annoyed to the extent of murdering me. I spotted a small stool, and I dragged it to my side. Successfully, I stood on it, then I turned off the light, just like he wanted.

"Done!" I exclaimed, turning to his side to realize that the room was now dark as the room door was shut.

My gaze scanned my surroundings and the room, but I could not see the Alpha anymore. Unfortunately, the window blind covered the window, blocking the moonlight from penetrating the room.

Silently, I got down from the stool, moving towards my bed, then the window. When I reached my bedside, I tried to move quickly, colliding with a thick thing that fell on the floor with a loud thud. Also, a loud clatter followed.

Goodness, did I break something?

A light flickered, and it became stable as it brightened the room.

Finally, I could see the room and Alpha Xander whose tall figure lay on the bed as the night lamp at his side was turned on.

Chapter 7



ZIVA

Silently, I walked toward the bed and slept on the other side of it, which had a lot of distance from the Alpha's spot.

I raised the bed cover over my body, as I wanted to get some sleep. Although a shuffling sound echoed behind me, I did not dare move or turn around to check, because the Alpha was behind me.

So, I froze, clutching the bed covers tightly as I closed my eyes, forcing myself to sleep in order to stop hearing those shuffling sounds.

Within a minute, a warm touch made contact with my hand, and I could feel a warm breath fanning my neck and fear gripped me. Why is he so close?

His hand touched the bed cover, then I could not feel him around me anymore as cold enveloped me. I turned around quickly, wanting to understand what happened and why he was so close.

With my gaze scanning the bed, I noticed that the bed cover covered only Alpha Xander's body as he faced the other side.

What a shameless man! He took the bed cover for himself, and he gave me, his wife, nothing for a cover.

I faced the other side, my back facing opposite his back as I hugged my knees, shivering from the extreme cold. Why is it so cold, anyway? The temperature was normal when Anji was around.

XANDER

Alpha Darwin was my pack's nemesis. He stole our precious item, and he used it against us. Now, I'm stuck in this marriage, because I want my possession back before I transform the Granelma pack into ruins. Their little princess will work as my tool, and I promise to return her after ruining their pack.

That was the reason why I didn't complain about the way she hit me with the night lamp. I didn't even want to speak with her, as she disgusted me. Seeing her as Alpha Darwin's daughter made my chest squeeze.

I turned back, attempting to have the bed cover to myself, since I didn't like the way the werewolf princess stayed with me. I clutched the bed cover, touching her small hand accidentally.

Hastily, I pulled my hand away, not wanting to have any physical contact with her. Tonight, I decided to stay in her assigned bedroom so that the other pack members would assume that I had consummated my marriage. I didn't want any rumors about me spreading in the pack.

Even though I was close to her, I resisted the urge to get involved. I could feel my wolf, Maz stirring inside me, drawn to her by her sweet lavender scent. But I managed to control myself as I took the bed cover and moved away from her. Lance poured the deep ruby wine into our glasses, and the sunlight streaming through the large window seemed to dance around the shimmering liquid. He raised his glass, a warm smile on his face, and uttered, "To you and your gorgeous wife..."

My lips curled into a cynical smile, and I narrowed my eyes, studying Lance's facial expression. "Is this the real reason you asked to meet me?"

"Yes, I wanted to congratulate you on your marriage. It marks the beginning of a new chapter in our Alpha's life." Lance responded, his tone sounding sincere.

I couldn't help but exhale a frustrated breath at his statement.

"New journey indeed," I replied, grabbing my glass.

I took a long sip of the wine, savoring the rich flavor, before reflecting on my past. Lance was my best friend and after his father's tragic death during a war, he was declared to be the next Beta who would stay by my side. He is very good at his role, and supportive as a friend.

Then, a thought struck my mind. When did Lance see the Granelma Pack's princess? I mean... Alpha Darwin's first child.

"How did you know that she is gorgeous?" I asked quickly, squinting my eyes as I was searching for any sign of suspicion in him. As soon as I asked, the smile on his face vanished. He threw his head back instantly.

"What? Do you think I'm having an affair with her?" Lance spoke quickly, causing me to slam my glass on the mahogany table with a sharp clink.

"I didn't mention that." I paused, lowering my voice. "But are you?"

A chuckle escaped from his lips, and he whispered, "How can you say that? The Omegas were whispering about her, and I heard them say that she was gorgeous." He turned his face to the other side, blinking quickly. "I can't believe that you don't trust me."

"Whatever," I muttered under my breath, pouring more wine into my glass. I only have the opportunity to sit and talk this way because I took a break from pack work

I wanted to discover the hiding place of my possession, but currently, I have a pile of documents on my table that I am reading. I could not help myself but continue to work, even though I was having a break. It will be bad to waste time, anyway.

Lance's voice echoed as he muttered. "You know, if it was a different woman, you wouldn't ask such questions. So, why now?"

"What do you mean by that? She is my tool, anyway."

"I mean... Do you like her?" Lance questioned, as his voice rang in my ear. I raised my head, averting my gaze away from the document I was reading. As soon as my gaze fell on Lance, I met Lance's playful gaze and I shot a deadly glare at him, with my eyes cold and my mouth set in a tight line.

I despise that question! It reminds me of... Nevermind! He should have never said that.

I spoke quickly, my voice low and harsh. "Get out of my office."

"I apologize, I won't mention that again," Lance uttered, motioning a closing zip over his lips as he became mute. But I wasn't satisfied with that. He will definitely talk about it again.

"As my Beta, you should be working. But I spared you because I assumed that you had something important to say. You should leave now," I spoke, and he chuckled, his mouth turned up at the corners in a smile that didn't reach his eyes.

"I didn't mean what I said," Lance uttered, causing me to use my Alpha aura since I didn't want to hear more of his statements.

"Vattene subito!" I spoke, my voice firm and commanding. (Leave now!)

My pack members and even Lance understood that whenever I spoke our language, it meant I was annoyed, or I wanted to speak without a foreigner understanding what I said.

Lance hesitated slightly, like he took a moment to process my command.

“Of course, Alpha, I’ll leave right away,” he replied quietly, glancing at the side to avoid my eye contact. He stood up, turned, and left the office quickly, without making any noise.

As soon as I could not perceive his scent around my office anymore, I heaved a sigh. I returned my gaze and focus to the document I was reading.

Suddenly, a loud knock rang in my ear. I didn’t even bother to raise my head or glance at the door. All I did was to thunder with my Alpha aura, “Lance, non farmi arrabbiare! Vattene subito!”

(Lance, don’t make me annoyed! Leave right now!)

Chapter 8



XANDER

I knew what I was capable of, and that was why I warned Lance again. I didn’t want to hurt my Beta and best friend because of his disobedience.

“Alpha, it’s not Beta Lance,” a voice responded politely. This time, I glanced at the door and perceived the person’s scent.

“It is an Omega with traces of tantalizing aroma around his scent,” My wolf hissed, sniffing the Omega’s scent as my stomach grumbled.

“Come in,” I voiced out.

Suddenly, the door swung open, and an Omega in uniform walked in, bowing his head at my presence

“Breakfast has been prepared, Alpha,” the Omega uttered, keeping his head low.

“All right,” I said quickly, gesturing for him to leave. He bowed again and retreated from the room, closing the door behind him.

I pushed my chair back and looked at my wristwatch. It was only seven in the morning, but I felt like I was starving.

Upon reaching the dining hall, I spotted the Granelma Pack’s Princess seated on a chair that surrounded the long dining table. Certainly, my mother was never allowed to sit on a chair in the Granelma Pack, and it annoyed me to see the little princess sitting here.

Suddenly, she stood up and bowed her head in respect, while the Omegas stood nearby. Inwardly, I scoffed at her. Pretending to be respectful? She is skilled.

Before I agreed to this marriage, Lance had given me a full list of her awful characters. She is venomous and disrespectful, but her new character here does not surprise me. She is only being respectful because I and her father’s pack are not united yet. As soon as we are united, her true colors will be revealed.

I walked over to the other side, sitting on my designated chair. Picking up a spoonful of my meal to eat, my gaze darted over the little princess who was sitting already, with her spoon in her mouth.

“What are you doing?” I asked, gazing at her.

“Eating...”

“I know you were eating. Did I command you too?!” I uttered loudly, feeling irritated at the sudden remembrance of my mother.

The Little princess stopped chewing and I heard her voice mutter, “I apologize, I was not aware-”

“You don’t need this meal. Return to your room and get some rest!” I spoke, interrupting her statement quickly. I was not interested in listening to her fake politeness. She should be starved.

“Alright, Alpha,” She replied, surprisingly, without any grumble escaping from her lips. She moved away from the chair and walked out of the dining hall.

As I watched her retreating back leave the room, my anger was fueled. I didn’t even know when I broke the spoon I held.

I pushed my chair back, and I moved away from the table, commanding the Omega, “The food is disgusting, dump it!”

“Alright, Alpha,” They responded with a bow, meanwhile, I walked out of the dining hall and strode into my room.

“She deserves to be punished for her father’s deeds!” My wolf, Maz growled. Of course, she deserves punishment, and she will certainly be punished after my pack and Granelma pack are united.

ZIVA

I’ve been in my room for over what time, after the Alpha commanded me to stay here. All I did was sit and change my sitting position throughout. I hadn’t eaten breakfast, but my hunger pangs were the least of my worries since I didn’t have breakfast when I was in Granelma Pack. All I could think about was getting out of this room and into the fresh air.

Bang!

The door barged open, and I gazed at it quickly, hoping that it would be someone who would bring me out of this boring spot.

“Hey, why are you still here?” Anji spoke, her voice sounding annoyed as she stepped into my room.

“Well, I was ordered to...” I started to speak, but my words trailed off as I saw the look on her face. Her brow was furrowed, and her eyes were narrowed. She looked ready to burst with anger, and that was unlike her.

“You should know that the guests have already arrived!” Anji continued, as the anger in her tone was evident.

I furrowed my brows in confusion. Guests? I didn’t hear anything about guests.

“I wasn’t aware of any party!” I stammered, processing her statements. Since she mentioned guests, there must be an ongoing party.

Anji rolled her eyes and let out a huff. “Everyone is celebrating your union with Alpha Xander downstairs, and here you are, staring at me like a new ape in a zoo.”

“Thank you,” I replied, as I was a bit annoyed by what she referred me to. I might be skinny and short, but within a few days, I’m certain that I will be taller and a bit fat.

Ignoring Anji’s statement, I strode into my closet and changed, though my stomach was in knots. I wasn’t sure if I could handle the attention of the crowd, especially when I could vividly recall how the pack members treated me like an outcast. Swallowing hard, I managed to walk toward the staircase.

The noises of celebration below turned into silence and only the sound of my heels echoed. Suddenly, the crowd faced me, their gaze watching my every step. At that time, I became more nervous, and my palms became sweaty.

Descending from the staircase, I darted my gaze around the crowd, as my heart raced quickly.

Alpha Darwin and his Luna should be present in this ceremony, since this is a union ceremony, and they should pretend to be my parents. I exhaled, noting

that they didn't come to the ceremony, because my gaze did not fall on them, or even Tania who can appear as a guardian.

Then, I noticed that the ballroom was adorned with decorations, and guests filled the place, all of them dressed in their finest clothes. The women wore a variety of elegant dresses, from flowing ball gowns to sleek cocktail dresses.

The men wore suits, some in classic black and white, while others had splashes of color. The crowd buzzed with conversation, their voices mingling as they averted their gaze from me.

Just then, my gaze fell on Alpha Xander. He was chatting happily with some guests, as he clinked his glass with theirs before taking a sip from the deep ruby liquid in his glass.

I couldn't help but scan his dress. He wore a tuxedo which was perfectly tailored, while his hair was slicked back, and a few strands fell across his forehead in a way that made him look devilishly hot.

His piercing blue eyes seemed to take in everything around him, and he turned, his gaze meeting me.

Hastily, I turned away, trying to avoid meeting his gaze. Did he notice that I was staring at him? And what was his reason for forbidding me from eating earlier? Did I eat too much?

However, something was unsettling about the way he looked at me, it made a chill run down my spine.

I raised my gaze, attempting to mingle with the crowd and ignore the blush that heated my cheeks when I saw him.

Surprisingly, a man dressed in the same uniform as the ladies I'd seen earlier approached me. Could he be an Omega too?

As soon as he walked up to me, he lowered his head as he whispered, “Alpha Darwin has requested your presence.”

Fear gripped me at that moment. Am I in trouble?

Chapter 9



ZIVA

Alpha Darwin did not appear at the party, but the Omega mentioned that he requested for my presence which means that he is in this pack.

But, I could not trust the Omega. It could be a lie. I glanced at him, and silently, he showed me a card. It was the card Alphas used as identification. The card exudes authority and power, and Alpha Darwin’s name was boldly carved on it.

Sweat dripped down my forehead, meanwhile, the Omega gestured toward the double doors that led to the entrance of the mansion.

Without hesitating, I walked toward the doors, with my hands trembling a bit. This ceremony is going to unite the two packs, and my mother will be released. But why does Alpha Darwin want a private discussion?

As I reached the door, an Omega opened the doors with a bow, maybe giving me respect because I was their Alpha’s wife. But I didn’t care, since my mother was far more important.

As I stepped outside, I realized that night had fallen, and the moon was high in the sky. I felt a chill in the air as the Omega walked towards the red, waiting car.

I followed the Omega into the red car, and the car pulled up before the tall gate. The Omega stepped out of the car, and Alpha Darwin stepped in, sitting next to me.

“The union ceremony is happening too quickly,” he spoke, “You have more tasks to accomplish before I release your mother.”

“What?! We had an agreement! You can’t just breach it and spit nonsense reasons,” I spoke, not wanting to be deceived.

“Wil you just listen?!” Alpha Darwin growled, making me flinch. I don’t have a choice anyway. He has my mother, and I can’t disobey him now.

I took a deep breath, trying to calm my nerves since I knew that if I angered Alpha Darwin, he might hurt my mother.

“I’m listening,” I replied, keeping my voice calm and leveled. I noted the way he spoke silently like he was whispering. He didn’t want anyone to hear our conversation.

“The tasks are little things. Afterward, I will release your mother and we will part ways. Just keep being Xander’s wife for now, but inwardly, take note that you are his enemy.”

My eyes teared up, Alpha Darwin was using me. Will he even release my mother after I complete his tasks?

“What do you want me to do? Poison him? Murder him?” I questioned quickly, my voice croaking.

I knew full well that Alpha Darwin was evil and that he would make some shameful plans against his enemy. All I wanted was for my mother to get out of that terrible pack, because I am terrified of what might happen if she doesn’t.

“Not that,” Alpha Darwin replied. He brought out a phone from his pocket and handed it over to me.

“This is a phone, you know how to operate it, right?” He asked.

Hastily, I cleaned off the tears on my cheeks, not wanting to appear as a weak soul. Of course, I still know how to operate a phone. He was the same person who bought a phone for me as a gift on my seventeenth birthday. Sigh... He forgot already.

“Yes,” I nodded, and he continued, “Keep me updated on anything important you see or hear from the Alpha. My contact number is available on the phone. So, you can message or call at any time you wish.”

“Alright,” I nodded, then Alpha Darwin opened the door at my side, gesturing to make me leave.

Swiftly, I walked out of the car after straightening my dress and putting on a cheerful expression on my face. Making other pack members notice my sad mood will only make things worse. So, I returned to the mansion quickly, in order to not give people an assumption that I was missing.

As soon as I reached the double doors, an Omega opened the door silently. When the doors were widely opened, I walked inside, scanning the mansion, then my gaze fell on those dark blue eyes I recognized from a distance.

Standing next to a couple, which I could visibly notice with the female’s hand clasped in the male hand, Alpha Xander gestured at me.

“Here is she,” he uttered, like he was introducing me to them. Hastily, I walked towards him, and curtsied to the couple.

“Aw, she looks so pretty,” The woman spoke, and I raised my head, forcing a smile on my face as a response to her compliment.

She wore an expensive, and stunning dress, she must be a Luna and the man next to her should be her Alpha.

Then, Alpha Xander gazed at me with a wide smile on his face, one I'd never seen on him before. Certainly, it made him more handsome. His future mate is very lucky to have him.

"So tell me..." The Alpha spoke, as he held his glass tightly.

"Will she last this time?" The Alpha inquired, causing a shiver to run down my spine.

What did he mean by that? I'm not some kind of commodity to Alpha Xander, right?

I turned to Alpha Xander, noticing the way his hands balled into fists and the fake, tight-lipped smile on his face. He managed to control his anger, and when he opened his mouth to respond to the Alpha, the Luna interrupted with a chuckle.

"Of course," His Luna uttered, but the chuckle sounded insincere. I'm certain that she was trying to discard the conversation. Suddenly, she exclaimed to her Alpha with excitement tinged in her tone, "Alpha Connor is there. You should introduce me to him."

"Sure," the Alpha spoke tartly. Meanwhile, his Luna clasped her hand around his elbow and they walked away. But my mind pondered about what he said earlier.

As soon as the couple were out of our sight, Alpha Xander walked away elegantly.

"Wait..." I muttered, striding towards Alpha Xander in order to reach him. But he didn't even turn around or flinch like I was talking to him.

I needed answers to the arising questions in my mind. Will I die in this pack or what was the Alpha trying to say?

I walked faster... I didn't even walk, I took long strides, calling Alpha Xander quietly, so that I wouldn't draw other people's attention.

Split!

Suddenly, I heard a splitting sound. Goodness, was that from my dress?!

I turned around, trying to check if the sound was from my dress, then I noticed that my dress was ripped from my upper hip to the hem!!!

. I'm dead...

Hastily, I pushed my hands to the back and tried to use them to cover my exposed underwear, but they could not cover it fully. An idea struck my mind. If I return to my room, I can change my dress.

I glanced at my room which was on the upper floor of the mansion. It was far away from my side, and the crowd was before it. I can't reach there without anyone spotting I and my ripped dress.

I gazed at everyone in the mansion, my eyes searching for Anji. As I continued to search and stay at a spot that was far away from the crowd, my gaze fell on Alpha Xander. He was speaking to some men, whose presence exuded power and dominance.

They should be Alphas too since an Alpha cannot speak to someone of a lower rank in a union ceremony.

"Alpha Xander," I whispered, calling his name, but he didn't even move or turn around. He continued to chat, without noticing me one bit.

Gosh, I cannot even mind link Anji because of my wolf that I can't feel. I don't even know if my wolf exists. Should I say Alpha Xander's name loudly then?

Chapter 10



ZIVA

No, no, calling Alpha Xander's name loudly will be termed as being disrespectful, and I can get punished for it.

Sigh... I guess the last option is to meet him, and explain what happened. Maybe he can help me to call or mind link Anji to help me with my dress.

Calculating my steps, I carefully walked towards Alpha Xander. Upon reaching his side, I faked a smile, and voiced out, "Excuse me, can I borrow my husband?"

Then, the two Alphas beside Alpha Xander chuckled loudly, and one of them muttered, "Of course, you can."

He and the other Alpha walked away, chuckling loudly at my statement. As soon as they were out of my sight, I turned to Alpha Xander, attempting to speak with him.

But before I could open my mouth, Alpha Xander whispered with a raspy tone, "What is wrong with you?! Didn't you see that I was speaking with important guests?!"

"I apologize, but I need your help. I-"

He interrupted, "I am not interested in helping you. Sort yourself out, I have some important things to do."

With that, he turned around and he took a step.

No, he is the only one left to help. He will be more annoyed if other guests find out about my ripped dress.

By the time I took a glance at him, he was far away from me. What now?

Hastily, I tried to reach him before I lost him to the crowd.

Pop!

No! No! Not again!

My dress ripped again, this time farther than my upper hip.

I can't cover everything!! ~

Without thinking twice, I ran toward Alpha Xander and covered my back with his back, my shoulder hitting his back.

"I'm sorry, but I need this for now." I pleaded, hoping that he would not move.

"What is the meaning of all this?!" He thundered in response, causing everyone to face us. Everyone's gaze fell on me, as they gazed at me warily.

Suddenly, Alpha Xander moved away from me, and I didn't know what to do. I had to cover myself. As soon as Alpha Xander turned around, I bumped into him deliberately, attempting to cover my ripped dress.

"You-!" He yelled, and he became mute, maybe because of the crowd that was watching us. I used that opportunity to speak with him.

"So sorry. My dress tore," I whispered quickly. Instead of helping me, he pushed me slightly, causing me to move away from him.

Sob, sob... My underwear will be exposed. I closed my eyes, not wanting to see everyone's face while they gossiped about my underwear.

Then, warm, muscular hands touched me, and I opened my eyes, only for my gaze to fall on the crowd who gazed at me with awe and astonishment in their

eyes. Some ladies' jaw dropped upon seeing me, and I felt like I was a picture of great value that everyone was watching.

Wait a minute... Didn't they see my ripped dress? And the muscular arms... Whose arms were those?

I looked up, my gaze meeting those piercing blue eyes that sparkled lovingly. Alpha Xander's arm was around me and we were in the center of the crowd. Alpha Xander let go of me with a twist from his grip. I rolled onto the other side, and in a second, he dragged me to himself.

A clap of applause filled the air at that moment, and I realized that we were actually dancing.

Phew! My back was fully covered by Alpha Xander's body.

Suddenly, he gently removed the jacket he wore from his shoulders. As he draped the jacket over my shoulders, the ballroom was filled with oohs and aahs.

The jacket fell just above my knees, hiding the rip in my dress. I could feel the fabric of Alpha Xander's tuxedo jacket against my skin, and I inhaled the musky scent of his cologne.

Afterward, we greeted and thanked all the Alphas and Lunas who attended our union ceremony. Their luxurious cars drove through the tall, iron gate without wasting any time.

As soon as the driveway was empty without any cars, the ballroom was also empty. But there were few Omegas there who were cleaning the ballroom.

I recalled how Alpha Xander gave me his jacket. I should thank him. I faced him, and muttered sweetly, "Thank you."

Instead of the loving smile he had on his face throughout the union ceremony, Alpha Xander's eyebrows were furrowed like the sharp claws of an eagle.

He replied quickly, "Don't repeat the nonsense you acted earlier. You will be punished severely if such happens again."

"I understand-" Before I could complete my statement, Alpha Xander stormed away from my presence, leaving me in the empty ballroom as cold enveloped me.

"Why is he always coldhearted towards me anyway?" I muttered to myself, as I glanced at Alpha Xander's retreating back.

"Hey!" A feminine voice yelled. I turned around, spotting Anji in her beautiful, simple dress.

"Why is the dress torn?" She yelled with annoyance tinged in her tone as she approached me hurriedly. She must have noticed the split from the end of Alpha Xander's jacket.

"Finally, you appeared. I could have been disgraced before the guests because of this dress you chose," I complained, meanwhile, she let out a huff.

"You should be grateful I chose it. Do you know how expensive and beautiful it is? Did you even see how everyone was stealing glances at it... even Alpha Xander?"

I turned around to leave, but her statement caused me to stop in my tracks. Turning back, my cheeks heated into a blush, and I questioned Anji, "Really? Did Alpha Xander stare at me?"

"Yes," Anji replied, then she paused, "But why do you sound excited about that?"

"Nothing... And I was not excited at all. It was just a question."

"I hope you remember your deal with Alpha Darwin..."

"Deal? How did you know?" I questioned, creasing my brows. Is she Alpha Darwin's spy who is pretending to be my assistant?

“I was aware of it. Also, there is one thing you should always remember...
Never fall in love with your enemy,” Anji spoke, sounding strict and sincere as
she said her last statement slowly and clearly.