

AN ENEMY CALLED MATE

Chapter 41



TANIA

I observed how Nikolas pulled his Inferior Beta into a warm embrace, with their body pressed against each other.

I clenched my fists instantly, as my nails dug into my palm. How dare he!

“I can never resist your scent,” he muttered under his breath, and the Inferior Beta giggled. She pushed him away slightly, giving some space between them.

“What if Tania finds out? You know how this mating bond is very important, right?” She spoke with a sweet voice. Then, when Nikolas was not looking, she had a smirk on her face.

Nikolas smiled, leaning towards his Beta. He whispered, “Forget Tania, I will ensure that she stays in Granelma Pack for a while, and then we can execute our plan.”

“What plan?!” I barged out of the closet. As soon as I barged out, Nikolas paused, stunned by my appearance. Meanwhile, that Beta of his smirked.

“I thought you wanted me to leave this pack because you cared, but here you are, having an affair with your Beta!”

Par!

A slap fell across my face that caused me to fall. Standing before me, Nikolas’s nose flared.

“Why are you here? Didn’t I tell you to leave this pack?!” He roared, causing my eyes to flutter in surprise.

I gasped, “Nikolas, you hit me.”

“Yes, I did and I will do it again if you don’t keep your mouth shut!” Nikolas roared back.

Hastily, I stood and rushed towards the door, “Wait till my father hear of this!”

Before I could leave, a strong hand grabbed me, causing me to pause in my tracks. The hand pulled me. I stumbled backward and lost my stamina.

Falling, pain surged through my body and I heard soft footsteps approaching me.

“Soon, you will learn to keep your mouth shut,” Nikolas warned with an annoyed tone. Meanwhile, I could feel the environment around me fading away.

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A gushing sound echoed. It filled my ear and jolted me from sleep. My eyes fluttered open. Scanning my surroundings, I realized that everywhere was dark.

I yelled, but it came out as a muffled sound because a fabric was around my lips. My wrists burnt silently, then I noticed the shimmering silver cuff around my wrists.

That bastard! How dare he cuff me and keep me in this dark place! I will make him pay for every single burn on my wrists!

I tried to move away. Unfortunately, my hands were cuffed to a wooden furniture and my legs were cuffed, like I was a dog or less.

I hated the upsetting feeling that settled deep in my stomach. I couldn't help but let out a groan, in pain and discomfort.

"I hate you, Nikolas," I said to myself. My wolf curled, sadness enveloping her. She didn't like it when I said such a hateful speech to her mate, but why do I care?

He was right when he mentioned that the Moon Goddess made a mistake by making us mates. She made a very big mistake and I despise her for choosing Nikolas.

If my mother had not persuaded me to let Nikolas mark me, I wouldn't be in this situation.

My wrists continued to burn, so I stopped moving and cursed beneath my breath.

"Shit, I hate this. It will ruin my skin and take hours to heal."

Sadly, my mother is from a low pack, a pack that barely manages to survive every year. We didn't have the ability to mind link, and I could not mind link too.

This means a no-escape to me. I can't mind-link Father or anyone. Even if I see my Omega, it will be much better. I will be able to speak with her and order her to tell my father about my current situation. I can't continue this way. This place is suffocating!

I heard footsteps approaching me nearby. My body itched, I wanted to speak, yell, and call out for help. Sigh... It was no use, it became a muffled sound.

"Alpha Nikolas..." I heard my Omega call out.

Oh, thank you, moon goddess! Finally....!

"I have been waiting for Princess Tania's arrival, but she is nowhere to be found." I heard my Omega speak softly.

Nikolas replied in a sweet, soft tone, "No need to worry."

I clenched my fists, as I was annoyed at his pretense. He sounds so sweet and loving, but inwardly, he is a monster who cuffs his mate and cheats on her!

I wish I had the opportunity! I wish I had the chance to spit on his disgusting face and give him a fitting slap!

"There was a change in her plans," Nikolas lied, "She had an upset stomach and she was rushed to the pack hospital. But do not worry, she will be fine."

I heard a snap and Nikolas continued, "There is no need to work here. I have enough Omegas to work for my sweet Tania. So, you can return to Granelma Pack."

No, no! That's a trick to let her leave!

"Don't be a fool to believe that bastard!" I yelled.

"Alright, Alpha. I will take my leave," My omega responded. I heard her soft footsteps recede and my heart squeezed.

The sound of her footsteps faded away and light began to pour through the dark surrounding.

I glanced up, and Nikolas stood tall before me. A smirk appeared on his lips, then he approached me.

"Look at you, so helpless and sad," He mouthed, and raised my chin.

I gritted my teeth at that moment, and he didn't stop talking nonsense.

"I like it when I see you in this state. It gives me this giddy feeling that I can't just describe," Nikolas continued, causing me to scoff.

"I wasn't aware that I got mated to a psychopath."

He furrowed his brows, his green eyes flashing at me with annoyance and anger, "Psychopath? Did I just hear you say that?"

I nodded, ensuring that he knew what I said because the fabric around my lips might make my voice inaudible.

"Yes, Nikolas. You are a psychopath." I nodded again.

Chapter 42



TANIA

Nikolas's fingers on my chin pressed against my skin tightly. He gritted his teeth, and spoke, "How dare you speak to an Alpha that way!"

I could feel fresh blood oozing out of the spots his fingers pinched. I gulped, and continued without letting my guard down, "How dare you lay your filthy fingers on my skin."

"Will you stop talking back at me?" Nikolas yelled, and I laughed. Even if he could not see my lips, he would definitely see the happy expression on my face.

"You must be a fool to think that I will just submit to you right away. This is what you want, isn't it? A tough, fierce, and rude Luna," I smirked. His grip on my chin loosened and he didn't hesitate to chuckle back.

"Did you really believe what I said?" He laughed mockingly. "I wanted you to leave with guilt, and that's why I said those statements. You know, you wouldn't be in this state if you had listened to me."

Yeah, listen to him, while he has an affair right under my nose.

“I was thinking about what to do with you. You know, it would be a waste to kill such a beauty like you,” Nikolas uttered with a smirk plastered on his face.

I spat, “You are despicable. You knew that I was a beauty, yet you cheated on me. Don’t you have any sense of shame?”

“Call me despicable or whatever you want. To be precise, beauty has no impact on packs. It is nothing compared to your ability and role to the Alpha in a pack.”

“Was I nothing as a role? Didn’t I have the ability to take care of the pack and make everyone submit to you?”

“That is not the only role I demand from you, Tania. I wanted more from you. I wanted excitement in bed.”

“Tsk,” I turned my face away. He is definitely an asshole who searches for excuses to make me feel low and guilty.

“It’s a good thing you can’t mind link. You will stay here, in this inner room, till I and my Beta can conclude about your usefulness.”

“And during our union party? Will that filthy Beta replace me?” I asked, my tone quick and sharp. But inwardly, I was disheartened to realize his inner thoughts towards me.

“You will be there to attend the union party, but with my guards watching you. You know I can’t afford to have you wander around and say more than necessary.”

I narrowed my eyes, and he continued, “I am organizing a big party tomorrow for successfully defeating a big pack. Would you like to join me?”

“Tsk, like you will allow me.”

“Allow you?” He chuckled, “Yes, I will, with my guards watching every step you take.”

I turned to him, stunned by what he said. Was he really going to lock me up here except when the party was going on?

He glanced down at me, "The party is a big one. Other Alphas will be there to celebrate with me, so..." He touched the fabric around my lips and tightened it.

"Keep your mouth shut, be a good girl, and don't misbehave," He spoke authoritatively.

Within a minute, he turned around, almost leaving.

"And I am to be blamed... for letting I and my Beta's affair be exposed to you. If I wasn't so ignorant to your scent, none of those would have happened."

"Yeah, my scent that makes you puke," I replied, and he left without responding.

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The next day, I was greeted by some bright lights. Some Omegas walked in and they ushered me out of the dark room. The cuffs around my wrists were removed by a guard.

I was excited for this new day because I believed that I would be able to escape today.

My room was surrounded by guards, while the Omegas assisted me with my dress.

"A light make-up will do, and my weight loss pills," I ordered, and the Omega raised an eyebrow.

"You can ignore my order and face your Alpha instead," I uttered, and her eyebrows leveled over her eyes.

"Alright, Lady Tania," she spoke and left the room.

While the other Omegas were busy dressing my face, I took my eye pencil and hid it in my heel. The only reason why I instructed the other Omega to get my weight loss pill was to avoid her presence.

While the two Omega focused on my face, I was able to take the pencil easily.

Soon, they completed their task and ushered me out of the room. Then, my gaze was welcomed by different men and women in expensive attires. I moved into their midst, and suddenly a strong grip encircled my wrist.

I glanced up and noticed those unique green eyes... Nikolas's.

"We have to welcome the guests, remember?" He asked in a low tone, as a fake smile was plastered on his face.

Then, I turned to the crowd, giving them a perfect smile because this would be my last day in their midst. To be honest, I wish to even reject Nikolas. He doesn't deserve to be my mate, but what's the use? He had not completed the mating bond, so I'm nothing but a captured she-wolf.

After some minutes of fake giggles and chuckles with other Alphas, I took my chance.

"I need to use the restroom," I whispered to Nikolas.

A slight frown appeared on his face immediately. He gazed at me, then at the powerful Alpha he was discussing with. His gaze softened and he smiled.

"Sure, you can go," Nikolas whispered and pecked me on my cheek. My lips curled in disgust that very moment, but I quickly turned it into a smile before I walked away.

I moved away from the crowd and walked toward the restroom. Heavy footsteps approached me. I turned around and spotted five guards behind me.

"What are you doing?" I questioned, and they glanced sideways.

“Alpha Nikolas ordered us to watch you,” A guard spoke and I scoffed inwardly.

I faked a smile, “I know, but I need to use the restroom. I need some privacy.”

The guards didn’t move one bit. Instead of leaving, they lined up before the restroom while a guard among them opened the door to the restroom.

Ugh, my plan will be ruined if this continues!

I walked into the restroom silently and a guard followed. I groaned inwardly.

“As your future Luna, you should respect my privacy! Do you want me to reveal my body to you?!” I yelled.

“I didn’t mean that. But Alpha Nikolas ordered me to not let you leave my sight for a second.” The guard responded.

Ah! I have to switch to plan B then.

So, I bent to pick up the pencil I kept in my heel. The pencil has a sharp silver blade at the other end and it was designed specially because of my former small, weak pack.

“Ouch!” I faked a groan to attract the guard’s attention.

Chapter 43



TANIA

Just like I wanted, the guard approached me. He glanced at me and I unleashed the silver blade in the eye pencil.

When he tried to act concerned about me, I stabbed him with the silver blade right in his chest. Luckily, the blade was a poisonous one, so he slumped quickly.

I had to grip his body, in order to put him on the floor silently and not attract the other guard's attention.

With that, I straightened my dress and walked silently toward the restroom door. As soon as I reached there, I took a peek.

The guards were around the restroom door, and they seemed to be acting normal. While walking back into the restroom, I noticed the red stain on my dress. It must have been from the guard's body.

I turned on the tap, attempting to clean the blood. Just then, the gushing sound from the tap was interrupted by a clicking sound.

I turned back, with my hair flowing across the nape of my neck. A masked tall man stood before me with a silver dagger clasped in his hand.

I stole a glance at my pencil that was in the dead guard's chest and returned my gaze to the masked man.

Hastily, I rushed toward the dead body to grip the pencil.

Thud!

The masked man gave a kick to the dead body, causing the body to roll aside.

"Don't move!" The masked man spoke with a hoarse voice. I froze and he pulled a silver cuff out of his pocket.

He threw the cuff at me, which burnt my skin lightly. He ordered, "Cuff your wrists."

I was unsure of what to do. First, Nikolas confines me in the darkroom when I'm not needed, and this man here seems like a dangerous person too. If I follow his orders, I might end up in a worse situation.

I bit my lips and took the cuff obediently. As soon as I placed the cuff around my wrist, the masked man shifted his gaze to the door. His gaze momentarily went to the door and then at me.

I seized the opportunity, throwing the cuffs off and delivering a swift kick to his face. He stumbled backward and I rushed towards the door, knowing too well that it was better to be with Nikolas than with a man I'd never met.

As I tried to reach the door knob, it felt like my hair was going to be yanked away from my head. A strong grip yanked it hard and I felt a knee move down my spine, knocking the wind out of me. I gasped in pain and fell to the ground, my body feeling limp.

The masked man cuffed my hands behind my back and yanked me to my feet, while my face was streaked with blood.

I spat, "You filthy pig! Do you know how long it took to get this pretty face?!"

He didn't respond. Instead, he pushed me into a restroom, while I struggled against his grip because he was too strong.

The pain from the impact of the fall made my struggles useless. He pushed me to the wall, clasped his hand above my lips, and gave me a warning glare.

His gaze snapped to the door, as his breathing hastened. So, I opened my mouth widely, intending to bite his fingers and yell for help.

Just as my canines were above his skin, I heard a loud growl!

"No one is here! Search the other rooms!" A voice growled from outside the stall. It sounded so authoritative, and it didn't seem like that of Nikolas or his Betas.

What's going on?

Another voice intervened, "We can't find the Alpha's mate. She is nowhere to be found."

"What do you mean by that?! She didn't leave this pack! Find her now!" The voice roared and I heard heavy footsteps hurrying out.

A soft footstep followed, and I exhaled, letting out the breath I held in fear.

"Hold on!" The authoritative voice ordered and I snapped, holding my breath again.

"Check the stalls!" The voice ordered and I panicked inwardly. Even the masked man had fear portrayed in his dark visible eyes.

My stomach churned, as I thought that would be the end. Recalling the authoritative voice statement, I picked two and two and knew that some people were searching for me. They were definitely not Nikolas's men or this pack's members.

Oh goodness!

I shut my eyes as tears threatened to fall from them. A tear slid down unwillingly and strong arms pulled me closer. I snapped my eyes open and was stunned when I realized that the masked man was embracing me.

I huffed. 'Trying to seduce me when we are both in trouble, huh?'

Bang!

The stall's door barged open. My eyes widened in fear at the sight of a muscular man whom I'd never met in this pack.

He glanced around the wall, then at me. He took his gaze away and yelled, "No one is here!"

“Search the other rooms then!” The authoritative voice spoke and the muscular man moved away from the stall.

Footsteps echoed down the restroom, then I heard a loud slam from the door.

I heaved a sigh of relief. They are gone... I think.

I turned to the man before me. His arms were still around me and I snapped, “They are gone!”

He withdrew his gloved hands and moved away. Ignoring him, I strode out of the stall. Suddenly, a grip pulled me, causing me to face the masked man.

“Where do you think you are going?” His tone sounded rash and cold, as only his eyes were visible.

“It will be polite if you keep your hands to yourself and apologize for burning my wrists with these cuffs,” I spoke, with anger evident in my voice.

He ruined my face and my plan. So, yeah, he deserves to know his place.

I expected him to politely move his hands away. Instead, he gripped my waist, and pulled me close, with our bodies pressed against each other.

“You’re not in a position to make demands.” He retorted sharply, as his voice was like ice. “And I won’t apologize to you. Ever.”

Chapter 44



TANIA

I gulped. Fear surged in me as he gave me a dark glare. Trying to ease the scary atmosphere, I faked a chuckle and straightened his shirt with my cuffed hands.

“Hehe, I didn’t mean to annoy you…” I glanced up at him with a soft gaze.

“But I really need these cuffs to be removed from my hands. It’s silvery, and it’s burning my skin.”

I held up my hands, showing him the cuffs and my wrists, which were red and raw from the burns.

His gaze softened, then he released his grip from my waist. Dipping his hands into his pockets, he brought a cuff key, causing me to smile.

Finally, my wrists will be free. Afterward, I may send a punch to his face and flee from this place.

The masked man walked towards me, then he entered the stall and flung the key into the toilet bowl.

“What the hell!” I snarled. With a tap from his fingers, I heard the bowl gurgle like it swallowed the key.

Then, he moved out of the stall, while I rushed inside. I glanced down at the toilet bowl, and the key had been flushed. Damn!

“Are you crazy?! Why did you flush the bowl?!” I yelled, but he didn’t even bother. He walked towards the window, and jumped!

This mansion is a tall building and jumping down from a window can cost either the person’s life or legs!

I hurried toward the window and gazed down. Surprisingly, he wasn’t at the base of the mansion. I gazed around the window and spotted him.

He was standing on another window ledge as he stared at the next ledge.

“Hey! You can’t just leave me here with my hands cuffed and I do not know what’s going on!” I yelled, and he glanced up at me.

Once his gaze caught my gaze, I showed him the silvery cuffs around my wrists and I heard him say some words silently.

He shifted his gaze to the window ledge and I couldn't help but be confused. First, he entered the restroom and hid in the stall. Then, some men were searching for me.

Whatever it was, I didn't have an explanation and my heart thumped in fear. Something bad is happening and that masked man over there won't tell me anything, but he is obviously trying to escape.

"Hey, you need to speak to me!" I yelled, but this time, he didn't even glance up to see me.

So, I looked back. Sigh... Whatever evil is lurking around this mansion, it's best to escape. Perhaps, I can meet the masked man and question him.

I gazed at the window. I was scared of heights and the thought of breaking my legs dawned upon me.

An idea popped up in my head. I tore my dress and decided that I would use it to get down from the window. I tied the top part of the dress to a sink. Also, I threw the ending part of the dress out of the window.

With that, I nodded. I moved out of the window with my cut-off dress clasped in my hand. Then, I slid down thanks to the dress. I had almost reached the masked man's side.

Suddenly, the dress snapped, and the sliding movement became fast. My soul left my body instantly!

If the sliding movement continues, I will fall, and be broken apart at the base of the mansion.

My heart raced, and I shut my eyes in fear. Suddenly, I stopped moving. Am I dead?

My eyes fluttered open instantly. To my utmost surprise, my gaze fell on the masked man. My feet were dangling in the air, but he held my hands.

He dragged me up easily and assisted me to step on the window ledge. Meanwhile, my heart continued to race with fear.

“Thank you,” I spoke amidst heavy breaths. He didn’t respond and he moved past me.

Meanwhile, I glanced down at the base of the mansion and gulped.

“Please, can you tell me what happened earlier? There was an ongoing party earlier and…” He turned to me with a deadly gaze.

“Do you want us to be caught?”

“Umm… No.”

“Then keep your mouth shut,” he spoke in a low tone, causing me to frown.

No one has ever spoken to me that way. Even my mother who had me in her womb for nine months wouldn’t dare to say such.

“You know, I wouldn’t be thanking you or apologizing to you if I was not trapped in this situation. So, treat me with some respect, mister,” I uttered, with my arms crossed.

“Mister?” I heard him scoff silently. He turned to me, and spoke, “I will happily push you and let you fall since that is what you want.”

Push me? I blinked. His guts piss me off!

“Who do you think you are, huh? Just because you saved me earlier doesn’t mean that you are my hero,” I retorted.

He looked away. Then, I heard hoarse voices from the base of the mansion. My ears perked up instantly. I glanced down and noticed some men moving into their vans.

The van sped off, while my heart thumped. What's going on? The pack is very silent.

"The pack's Alpha was so gullible. He didn't have many guards around the pack, because of a silly party. The Bloodbath pack seized that opportunity. They entered the pack and attacked with their scents covered up," I heard the masked man say.

My lips trembled instantly, as my heart squeezed with pain.

"Nikolas... What about Nikolas?" My wolf yearned for her mate, but what word could describe what state he may be in? A pack attack will certainly be after the pack's head first, Nikolas. They must have injured or killed him.

I gasped at that thought, with tears at the edges of my eyes.

The sound of footsteps jolted me out of my thoughts. I wiped the tears at the edges and glanced at the masked man. He was moving to more window ledges and had almost reached the base of the mansion.

Oh, Goddess! Even though Nikolas had been cheating, and misbehaved, please save him at all costs. I love him... I and my wolf cannot bear the pain of losing him.

Chapter 45



TANIA

I prayed silently to the moon goddess, then, I followed the masked man. My wolf urged me to check the mansion, but I was frightened. Even if nothing bad happened to Nikolas, I do not wish to return to being his confined mate.

It's best I follow the masked man and find the way to Granelma Pack.

I carefully stepped on the ground and followed the masked man. He seemed to be strong, and what can I do with my cuffed hands anyway?

Soon, we reached the gate and I suddenly lost track of the masked man's retreating figure. I can't even identify his scent, talk less of trailing his scent.

Bang!

A loud sound echoed behind me. I turned back. I spotted the same man who opened the stall door with a gun in his hand. He pulled the trigger once, but I was quick to dodge it before running.

I ran to wherever my legs took me. But with every step I took, it seemed like that man took three times the step. I tried my best to run faster, but my legs felt wobbly and exhausted.

I gasped for breath, and glanced around, only to realize that I was in a dense forest.

"Well, well, who do we have here if not the supposed Luna to this pack?" I heard a voice say. I turned around and my gaze fell on the same man who had a gun in his hand.

I didn't even bother to reply. All that played in my mind was to run, even my wolf urged me to, and I couldn't resist.

I obeyed and ran. Then, a slight pain struck my shoulder, causing me to fall on my face.

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I was woken up by the burning sensation on my wrist and the pain in my shoulder. I blinked and realized that I was lying on a wooden chair with my hands cuffed to the armrests.

Glancing around the room, I noticed that I was in an empty room. I jiggled my wrists, attempting to release myself from the cuffs, but it was useless.

Then, a muscular man came into view. He had short brown hair which fell on his face, and he was in a simple shirt and black pants.

“What do you want from me?!” I snarled.

“Shush, I don’t want to listen to your rants,” the man replied and walked away.

“Rant?! You shot me and-”

Hold on, he doesn’t sound like the man who shot me. He sounded more like the masked man.

“You pig!” I snarled. “You left me in that pack to die.”

“Yes, I did. Now, have this,” He instructed as he stretched a cup to me.

“Do you really expect me to drink that after what you did? Tsk, who knows what your plans are?”

“I have a lot, and speaking with you is not among them. Save yourself the stress and drink obediently.”

I glared at him and took a peek at the liquid in the cup. It was dark-colored and it smelt like animal waste.

“Goddess, is this poop?” I yelled, curling my lips in disgust.

He let out a sigh, “Herbal medicine for your wound.”

“Wound?” I followed his gaze and realized that my shoulders were bare. Also, I was in a pair of pants and a thin, strapless top.

“Holy Goddess!” I exclaimed, glancing back at him. “How dare you!”

My blood boiled in anger. But no matter how I tried to throw a blow at him, my hands could not reach him.

“Damn the cuffs! Damn you!” I spat, and he clicked his tongue.

“You are lucky I took you away from there. The men would have done worse.”

“Worse?! Does that make you less guilty?!”

“I guess so.” He glanced up thoughtfully, and continued with a smile, “But it’s fine. I tried my best to shut my eyes and not look at anything.”

“I should have known that that was your plan, you pervert! Let my father hear of this, you will rot in a cell!” I yelled, and he grabbed a key.

He walked towards the armrest and unlocked the cuff. “Go on, you are a free bird now.”

Hastily, I moved away from the chair, and a groan left my lips. I could still feel pain in my shoulder and the pain made me weak instantly.

Gently, I walked out of that place, with pains surging from my shoulder. It felt awful, as I felt like my life was slipping away slowly.

It was dark outside, and only the fire before the small house lit up the surroundings. I sat on a log that surrounded the fire, hoping that the pain in my shoulder could heal a little.

“It seemed useless for them to waste such an expensive bullet on you. I mean, what benefits will they get?” I heard the masked man say as he approached me.

I’m certain that he would be satisfied to know that I didn’t leave too.

I narrowed my eyes, “Why should I tell you about that? It’s not like you plan to kidnap me and seek for ransom.”

“That will be a waste of time because I’m certain that no one would come to save a blabbermouth like you.”

“Tsk, you never know when to stop talking. You are not the same masked man from the other night, right?”

“I’ve never met you before.”

“Then, why did you cuff me in the restroom?! Goodness... I’m so pissed right now. If you were not present, I would have a little idea about what was happening.”

“I told you, they attacked the pack,” he responded and sat on the opposite log of wood.

“And the Alpha? Is he dead?” I asked, gulping at the end of my statement.

“He is good as dead. Perhaps he ran like the coward he is.”

I gulped, clenching my fist, “How long will it take to reach Granelma Pack?”

“Why do you ask?”

“It’s just a question.”

“Two to five days.”

## Chapter 46



TANIA

“If you are thinking about traveling to Granelma Pack now, it is not a good idea. The Bloodbath’s men are everywhere, searching for you,” The masked man spoke, causing my heart to squeeze.

“Then is it possible to do what you did in the restroom? The man didn’t see us, you did something, didn’t you?” I asked.

“Yes, I did. But it can’t be used since it needs to be repaired.”

I leaned forward, “Alright, can it be repaired right now?”

He shook his head in response, “No, not now, and not in some months.”

I sighed, feeling frustrated.

ZIVA

I screamed, staring at the silver-furred wolf that was my reflection. Even Anji heard my scream. She rushed into my room, with her eyes glancing at every spot in my room, then at me.

“What’s wrong? I heard you scream!” She exclaimed, rushing towards me.

I chuckled in relief, and touched her hands, “You won’t believe this, Anji. I saw my wolf!”

She moved her head back and chuckled, “Is this a joke?”

“No! I’m serious!” I replied, but she looked dazed like she didn’t believe me.

I held out my phone and spoke, “Look, my reflection is a wolf.”

She gazed at the phone screen, but her face didn’t light up with surprise or excitement. I turned to the screen and realized...

Sadly, there was no wolf.

“There was a wolf. I saw it, it was seeking help-” I stammered, with my voice croaking. Inwardly, I was struck by disbelief at the disappearance of the wolf. I mean, it was here some seconds ago.

“That’s alright, Lady Ziva. Get some sleep, you will be fine,” Anji let out a sigh.

“What do you mean by that? It wasn’t a hallucination. I saw it, I heard her voice. She needed help too!” I exclaimed, not wanting to sound like a crazy person.

“I didn’t mention anything about that. Possibly, you’ve been thinking about your wolf and this imagination emerged.”

I dropped her hands, disappointed by her reply. I expected more from her, but here she was, making everything seem like it was an imagination.

I turned my gaze away from her, “I can’t believe that you will say that.”

“I didn’t mean to,” I heard her say and mutter, “And you shouldn’t behave like this in Alexei or Alpha Xander’s presence. No one should be aware that you do not have a wolf.”

“Why?” I croaked, my voice breaking as a thought raced through my mind. Was this part of Alpha Darwin’s plan? To keep my ill luck a secret?

“It won’t be a good idea if Alpha Xander finds out. It might raise suspicion about your true identity and it might ruin everything!” Anji responded with a firm tone.

I gulped, fighting back the tears that threatened to spill from my eyes.

“Do I have a choice? I will do whatever he wants me to,” I responded, my voice barely a whisper. Meanwhile, Anji smiled reassuringly.

She patted my head, and continued, “Have some rest.” With that, she left the room.

After she left, I fell on my bed and continued to gaze at my phone screen with hope. I had hoped that I would see that silver-furred wolf, but nothing happened. I continued to glance at it, but sooner than I thought, I felt sleepy.

The cool atmosphere added more pressure and I dozed off.

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The next morning, I changed and went downstairs to have breakfast. Although, my mind pestered on the thoughts of the silver-furred wolf.

I tried my best to stop thinking about it and focus on the present day.

“Hi, Ziva!” Alexei exclaimed. I turned to him with a smile and sat.

“Morning,” I uttered, while he smiled sweetly.

“I hope your night went well.”

“Oh sure, it did!” I replied, and the Omegas served the food, not minding I and Alexei’s discussion.

Alpha Xander was also present in the dining hall, but he didn’t seem bothered about the discussion or what happened last night.

I picked up the spoon and started to chew.

“I and Brother planned to have a wolf race. Would you like to join us?” Alexei asked, almost making me choke. I coughed, turning my face away so as to not ruin their breakfast.

“Have this,” I heard, and I turned, gripping a glass of water from Alpha Xander. I gulped the water and slowly turned to Alexei.

“Are you alright?” Alexei asked, and I nodded.

“Yeah. But I don’t think I should join you two. It should be some sort of family race for you both.” I faked a chuckle and pushed a strand of my hair behind my ear. “I don’t want to disrupt.”

“Disrupt? You are also a member of this family,” Alexei replied, causing me to smile.

The smile on my face faded upon recalling Anji’s statements.

“It won’t be a good idea if Alpha Xander finds out. It might raise suspicion about your true identity and it might ruin everything!”

I can’t have a wolf race with them, since I won’t be able to shift to my wolf self and they may detect that I’m wolfless.

I replied quickly, "I'm sorry, I can't."

"Uh?" Alexei seemed dumbfounded.

"Why?" Alpha Xander interrupted. He looked away from his plate and stared at me.

Hastily, I cooked up a lie, "I don't think my wolf will be comfortable around this environment. She seems to be a bit rough when she is exposed to a change of surroundings."

"Then when does she intend to adapt to this pack?" Alpha Xander uttered with a harsh tone. "Do you even understand what your position means in this pack?"

"I do, and... She will adapt quickly, no worries!" I exclaimed, hoping that my voice didn't betray me. My reply made the hall a bit awkward, not until Alexei broke the silence.

"That's fine. You can just watch us instead. It's an exciting view, and I'm certain you will love it," Alexei whispered, with a wink and I whispered back, "I will be rooting for you brother-in-law, fighting."

Chapter 47



XANDER

"Fighting," Alexei replied, and Ziva chuckled.

My stomach churned at that moment. They behaved like they were family members... No, they behave more like a couple.

Just as the rogue said, Ziva is the key to the Crystal Moon Guardian. She knew about it, but she continued to keep it to herself. That sneaky Darwin's daughter!

I will find out about everything... Soon! I just need to play along.

While having breakfast, Ziva and Alexei continued to chat with wide smiles on their faces like I didn't exist.

I almost snapped out in anger, intending to shove the table away and teach them some manners. Instead, I calmed myself and recalled my plans.

"We just need to play along, Maz, and we will have the information to ourselves," I muttered to Maz.

"There is no need for a reminder. I'm focused and determined," Maz growled.

~~~

Alexei and I reached the vast, racing field with tall grasses swaying in the wind. The sun is shining, and the sky is a bright, clear blue. I and Alexei stood at one end of the field, prepared to unleash our wolf.

Then came the sweet lavender scent, that of Ziva's. I turned back and spotted her.

She was in black leggings that hugged her curves with a thin, silver band around the bottom. Also, she wore a lightweight, breathable t-shirt and flashed a smile... at Alexei.

"I will be at the stone tower at the other end of the field. Good luck," Ziva uttered with another smile that made my heartbeat stop for a second.

"Alright," Alexei replied. He waved at her and she stepped into a car that drove off.

“She is so sweet, isn’t she?” Alexei began. I turned to him with a deadly glare and he raised his hands as a sign of surrender.

“I wouldn’t dare,” He muttered. I scoffed and turned away.

“Sweet and poisonous. I know her more than you do.”

“Oh, there she is!” Alexei exclaimed. He turned to the tower far away from us, then I spotted Ziva there. She stood on the small balcony with binoculars in her hand.

Just then, a flag was raised, indicating the beginning of the race. Maz took over easily, and he jumped, taking off at a sprint.

At a point, Alexei’s wolf, Brann ran forward. Maz moved faster, and at the end of the race, I won.

I changed into some clothes and at the doorway, Ziva stood with a towel clasped in her hand.

“Can I-”

I cut in, “Hand it over and leave.”

She stepped into the room and handed the towel over to me.

“Just trying to act natural and play my role,” She chuckled.

“You can leave now or perhaps do you want to help me change?”

“I wish I could,” she replied, her tone dripping with sarcasm, as she folded her arms. “Sadly, Alexei got hurt and it seemed like you played dirty in the race.”

I turned to her, as worry enveloped my mind. Yes, I cheated. I mean, what am I supposed to do? Watch him win and get the praise?

In every race he competed with, he was always the winner. I could not just let him win and embarrass myself.

Anyway, it was just a thistle.

“It was just a thistle, nothing else,” I spoke with a firm tone.

“Yeah, just a thistle or let me say... A patch of thistles. It got stuck in his paws too.” She exclaimed, almost making me jerk in shock.

“Why are you yelling? I’m the one who should be yelling at you. You lied twice with the Agony Collar around your neck, remember?!” I yelled back and shoved the towel away in anger.

“I told you, I wasn’t lying, and I don’t want to bring up that topic since you won’t believe me anyway.”

“Believe you? In your dreams.” I muttered to myself and stomped out of the room.

“Alexei is with the pack doctor because of that it was just a thistle. I hope you can deal with that,” I heard her say. She rushed out of the room, not without bumping her shoulder against my body.

What’s her deal with that? It’s just a thistle-

“Alpha, Alexei is in the pack hospital with some thistle in his paws.” Lance mind-linked.

I waved him off, “Yeah, I know.”

“His condition is critical, Alpha!” His mind-link echoed, causing me to pause in my tracks.

Critical? Why will a thistle cause something critical?

This is not a prank, right? I stepped into my car hurriedly, as I was worried about Alexei.

As I drove to the pack hospital, I couldn’t shake the feeling of dread that had settled in the pit of my stomach. Alexei was tough and strong, but this was the

first time I had seen him injured. The thought of him being hurt sent a chill down my spine.

When I arrived at the hospital, I rushed through the doors, my heart pounding in my chest. I asked for Alexei's room, and when I reached it, my breath caught in my throat.

Alexei was lying on the bed, his face pale, his eyes closed. My heart ached at the sight of him, and I noticed that his feet were swollen as they looked awful. The doctor walked in afterward. He had a flicker of sadness on his face, which made me more worried.

"What's wrong with Alexei's feet? He was fine a few minutes ago!" I exclaimed.

The doctor bowed his head and responded, "He landed on a patch of thistles... Poisonous thistles."

Oh goodness! What was I thinking about?!

"He is from this pack, he should be able to heal quickly, right?" I asked, with my voice trembling a bit. I am to be blamed for the thistles. I assumed they were normal, not knowing that they were poisonous!

The doctor shook his head, causing my heart to sink. He continued, "Surprisingly, he is not healing quickly and his system seems to be weak all of a sudden."

"Then make him better! Get some medicines, do something!" I snapped out with frustration.

"I will try my best, Alpha," The doctor stuttered, as he lowered his head. Meanwhile, that made me snap out in anger.

I stormed towards the doctor, grabbing him by the collar. "You'd better make him better!" I growled, my voice low and threatening. "And If he doesn't get better by daybreak, I will bury you and your entire family alive!"

The doctor stumbled backward, his back hitting the wall. "I'll get the best medicine available," he stammered, his eyes wide with fear. I shoved him away, not caring where he landed.

## Chapter 48



ZIVA

I was at the hospital, as concern and worry filled my heart at the sight of Alexei's feet. He must be in so much pain, and the doctor had to put him to sleep.

Then, Xander barged in, causing chaos and threatening the doctor. He boiled in rage and stormed out of the hospital.

Gosh, he must be very worried, especially when he is the one who arranged the thistles on the field.

As soon as he left, Lance turned to me. He scratched his head and whispered, "I think you should follow him."

"What?! Why me?" I asked quickly. Alpha Xander's temper would only increase if I followed him since he despised me already. To be honest, he can murder me out of rage.

"You are his wife," Lance uttered, causing me to scoff.

“Do you remember what happened the other time? He tried to kill me with that Agony Collar,” I replied, intending to remind him of the past occurrence.

“Yes, that happened. But he admitted you to the hospital right away. Also, this is your duty as his wife.”

“Beta Lance, you are very close to him, you should be the one to calm him.”

He coughed, and cleared his throat, “I’m not a female.”

“And how does that relate to the situation at hand?”

“As a female and his wife, there are certain ways that you can engage in to make him calm. Just do it for everyone’s sake, if not that, for my sake or Alexei’s sake,” Lance spoke, and he folded his arms in a begging position.

I turned my face away that instant, “He will become calm in a few hours, so there is no need for this pleading.”

“Lady Ziva, those few hours you mentioned can be very disastrous,” My ears perked up and I turned to Lance.

“What are you talking about?”

He exhaled loudly, “Alpha Xander bore everything for some years and it had some impact. Whenever he got angry, he had to destroy something to calm himself. If that doesn’t work, then we are in bigger trouble. He can cause more havoc than you think.”

I gulped, “I feel more like a bait, Lance. You should go instead. Just say one or two things to advise him, and he will be fine.”

“He will never listen to me, and it will only make matters worse. Please, just do this for Alexei. He wouldn’t want to see his brother in this state, and it is only when Xander is calm, that a solution will be found to the poison,” Lance explained.

I thought deeply about it, and from my perspective, there was nothing to lose. I hope Xander listens.

I stepped into the car and the driver sped off to the mansion. Silently, I walked toward Alpha Xander's room. Upon reaching there, I knocked on the door. But there was no response.

I peeped into the room and realized that it was empty. Though, I heard whispers from the room. I walked inside, scanning the room with my gaze.

Suddenly, my gaze fell on a wall that revealed a small room. Walking inside, I spotted Alpha Xander. He was on the ground, his back facing me as he was beside a large brown box.

I got worried by his silence and change in emotions. He seemed to be less annoyed now.

So, I approached him and placed my hand on his shoulder, my fingers making contact with his shirt.

He flinched and turned his head. Upon seeing me, he moved towards the brown box hastily, while my hand hung in the air.

"Why are you here?" He asked in a raspy tone.

"I-" Before I could finish my statement, he turned around, with anger evident on his face.

"To mock me like Darwin did, right?" He asked, clenching his fists by his side.

"Darwin? Why would I and Alpha Darwin do that?" I questioned, with curiosity tinged in my voice.

Suddenly, a strong force pushed me to the wall, and in a blink, I was trapped between the wall and Alpha Xander.



I glanced up, my gaze meeting Alpha Xander's dark gaze as my heart raced. I could hear my heartbeat in my ears, even though I tried to calm myself down.

"This was what you wanted, isn't it? To watch me suffer in grief over and over again." He asked while towering over me.

"I don't want that," I stammered, with a shaky voice.

I felt warm breath on my cheek, then I realized that Alpha Xander was leaning in closer. My heartbeat quickened, and I closed my eyes, waiting for what was about to happen.

But instead of the expected blow, his hand gently cupped my cheek, his touch sending a shiver down my spine.

His lips brushed against mine, soft and gentle. I felt frozen in place as his lips lingered on mine.

My heart raced. I didn't know what to do, but I couldn't help but lean into his kiss.

I felt like I was falling, and I wondered if this was all just a dream. But then Alpha Xander pulled away, and my eyes fluttered open.

His dark gaze was still locked on mine, and I couldn't look away. The air between us felt charged, and I felt like I could barely breathe. I was stunned, not knowing what to say or do.

I wasn't sure if I should push him away or keep kissing him. I had never felt anything like this before, and it was all so new and confusing. Alpha Xander didn't move, just kept staring at me, his eyes unreadable.

I searched his face for any sign of what he was thinking, but it was impossible to tell. Then, without a word, he turned and left the room, leaving me alone and full of questions. I stood there, confused and unsure of what had just happened.

But I'm certain that Alpha Xander kissed me, and it felt so... I can't describe it.

## Chapter 49



ZIVA

Should I call it magical or breathless? Words can't describe how I felt. Was it the giddy feeling? Or the butterflies that danced in my stomach? Yeah, both.

^^

I smiled and recalled how he touched my cheeks. I touched them, feeling their warmth and I couldn't help but recall the whole kissing scene again.

"Lady Ziva," A masculine voice called out, jolting me out of the sweet memory. I glanced at the wall, and Lance came into view.

"Alexei is conscious," Lance spoke with a smile.

"That's great news," I replied, and walked out of the small room, reaching Alpha Xander's room.

"But what about the poison? Did they find a solution?" I questioned, concerned about Alexei's health.

"There is no solution yet, but with Alpha Xander's suggestions, the swelling reduced," Lance narrated, while I nodded with excitement brimming in me.

"Shouldn't you be with Alexei then?"

"Alpha Xander is with him. Though, Alpha seems calm."

I blushed. Was he calm because of the kiss?

"I should take my leave now," Lance voiced out.

“Alright,” I replied. As Lance walked out of the room, I stepped out and went to the car. It would be great if I visit Alexei at the hospital.

The driver drove, while I turned on my phone and browsed through the internet. I learned more about the phone’s usefulness from Anji, and it turned out to be a great relief. Suddenly, a message popped up from the sender – Anji.

“Do not bother Alpha Darwin with any of your messages. He has a lot on his plate.”

“A lot? Did something bad happen?” I texted and pressed the send button.

“Bloodbath pack attacked Nikolas’s pack.” I read her message, and my heart squeezed.

Nikolas?

“Is he alright?” I typed quickly. “He should seek refuge in another pack!”

“I know. But he is nowhere to be found at this moment.”

Oh, goodness!

My heart raced quickly, and all that ran through my mind was Nikolas. Why could he not be found? What happened to him?

I continued to stare at my phone, hoping that Anji could give more details about Nikolas’s disappearance.

“Ma’am, I’ve parked the car for over thirty minutes, but you keep looking at your phone,” The driver voiced out, causing me to flinch.

I hurriedly got out of the car, only to realize that I had reached the pack hospital. I walked into Alexei’s ward, and upon seeing a smile on his pale face, I was relieved. But my heart felt heavy with thoughts about Nikolas.

“Hey, Ziva came earlier than I expected,” Alexei spoke. I knew he was being sarcastic, so I walked towards him to apologize.

“I apologize for being early, brother-in-law,” I muttered, and we laughed it off.

The ward was empty, so I took my time discussing with him, even though I was worried sick about Nikolas. No matter how I tried to wave off the message I received from Anji, it glued to my mind.

“Oh, look. There he is!” Alexei voiced out as he stared at the door. I followed his gaze and spotted Alpha Xander.

He had a flask in his hand and a cold expression on his face. Oh, so we are back to him being cold?

“Ziva seemed to be so worried about you. Her face turned pale as soon as she walked into this ward. But now you are here, she must be in such a relief,” Alexei narrated.

I couldn't help but fake a chuckle. I mean, it wouldn't be nice if Alexei found out that I was worried about another man, who is not my family member.

“What makes you certain that I was worried about him? He is not a baby, he can take care of himself,” I chuckled.

“Yeah... Now, that chuckle means that I was right,” Alexei continued.

“I should excuse you,” I uttered, as I noticed that Alpha Xander was still standing by the door with a flask.

“Sure,” Alexei replied with a smile. Swiftly, I walked out of the ward. Two seconds after that, I brought out my phone as my gaze was buried on the screen.

XANDER

Upon reaching the ward, I was surprised to see Ziva there. Earlier, I had been there and Alexei seemed to be getting better. Also, he craved his favorite foods, so I had to get them for him personally.

As soon as I saw Ziva, I noticed the wide smile on her face, and Alexei's speech made it seem like she was waiting for my arrival.

To top it all, she didn't argue for long with the speech and she left like she was a bit shy with my presence.

"I brought your favorite food, prepared by the Head Omega herself and your sweet older brother," I spoke with a smile and approached his bedside.

"Great! I assumed that you would have burnt down the entire hospital with its staff while I was unconscious," Alexei replied.

I sat on a nearby chair with my brows furrowed, "Why would you assume that?"

"You are always like that. Anger is a hundred percent possibility and right now, I'm wondering why you are calm and smiling. Tell me, did you bump into a rainbow?"

"I didn't," I replied with a firm voice. He threw his head back like he was taken aback.

"Oh-oh, I see it now," Alexei responded as he pointed at my face.

"What?" I asked, touching my face for any dirt or stain.

"There is a stain on your lips."

"Stain?" I creased my brows, touching my lips slightly, "Food stain? Blood stain?"

"Kiss stain," Alexei spoke teasingly.

Then, I recalled how I leaned in and kissed Ziva. We were just having a normal, tense discussion until I became close to her.

Her lips and body were so inviting, and I could not resist. Perhaps that is because the only woman I've kissed and touched was Rose, my ex-mate. Maybe I acted that way because it have been very long since I had close physical contact with a woman.

Thank goodness that Lance interrupted with a mind-link about Alexei's health. I might have done worse than kissing.

I could have fallen deep into lust and marked her as my mate. Or we could have shared the night which I would terribly regret the next day.

"Oh, that..." I said to Alexei who had his eyebrow raised, like he waited eagerly for an answer.

Alexei smirked with his raised eyebrows, "Don't tell me that you've been having an affair behind Ziva's back."

## Chapter 50



XANDER

An affair?

Hold on, that's a better option than telling Alexei that I kissed Ziva. If I told him that I kissed Ziva, he might think of Ziva more as a family than our enemy and trust her blindly.

But if I told him that I kissed a random she-wolf, he would roll it off his mind since it's fine to have a mistress.

“Yes, I have. Just today,” I replied. I placed the flask gently on the table and I unwrapped it.

“Hm, I know Ziva will be annoyed if she finds out, so keep it a secret. She wouldn’t like sharing you with another woman. But who is this person anyway?” Alexei began.

He winked, “The person seems to be good at taming you.” Then, he snapped his fingers, “I guess it was the same kiss that made you calm.”

“I guess so,” I replied, but he didn’t stop talking.

“What was it like? Rough?”

I let out a sigh, “Alexei, don’t cross the boundary with your nonsensical questions.”

“Come on, it’s just a harmless question!” Alexei spoke, as he glared at me, “Anyway, you are the one who made me stuck in this ward, so I have the right to ask every single question in my mind.”

“Yeah... Go on.” I ignored him, and opened the flask, revealing his meal.

“I asked, what was it like? Rough?”

“Soft... And gentle.”

“So, did anything else happen excluding the kiss?” Alexei leaned toward me.

“No.”

“I knew I had a dumb brother,” I heard him say under his breath.

He turned to me, “Next time, end the scene properly.”

“Says the dumbass who doesn’t have a girlfriend.”

Narrowing his eyes, Alexei huffed, “I know you plan to rub it in my face that I don’t have a girlfriend. But I told you, I will. Once I find my mate, she will be my first and only girlfriend.”

“Alright, alright, just have your meal and skip talking,” I said.

He smirked with a response. “She is pretty, right?”

“Yeah, yeah. Very pretty, slim, and inviting with a delicious scent. She seemed to be naive to others, but she wasn’t. She leaned into the kiss, like she wanted more, and she piss me off at times.”

“Hm,” Alexei nodded, and I served the food. He picked up a spoon and spoke, “Sounds like an interesting woman... You should ask her for a night.”

I scoffed, “Why should I do that?”

“You need her!” He glanced sideways and lowered his voice, “Hire her instead. I’m certain that you will never forget every night you spend with her.”

“If she could hear what you are saying, she would bury you alive.”

“Why? Do we know each other?” Alexei gasped. He clasped his hand over his mouth, then he whispered, “Is she Sorcha?”

“No!” I yelled and pointed at the flask. “Eat up, I’m leaving.”

“Alright,” Alexei nodded. He waved his hand dismissively at me, and I left the ward instantly.

Goodness, I didn’t know I had a talkative as a brother.

I reached the car that would drive me back home and to my utmost surprise, I saw Ziva. She sat in the back seat with her full focus on her phone.

“Alpha, I’ve been questioning her about where she would like me to take her. But she didn’t reply,” The driver complained.

“It’s fine. We are heading to the mansion,” I replied, sitting next to Ziva who didn’t move one bit. Perhaps she is very busy with her phone.

The car sped off and halted, but Ziva didn’t step out. She kept staring at her phone.



“Hey,” I called out, and she didn’t flinch.

So, I touched her shoulder and just then she jolted away like she had been woken up from a nightmare.

“Oh, I am here,” she replied and stepped out of the car. I did the same and observed how she rushed into her room.

Curiously, I followed her. The door to her room was partially opened as she forgot to shut the door. Upon entering the room, I saw her on the bed with her gaze focused on her phone.

Earlier, I assumed that she left Alexei’s ward hurriedly because of my presence, but I guess I was wrong. It was because of her phone.

The phone screen was close to her pale face. Perhaps, she didn’t look pale or worried because of me too.

She bit her nails and scrolled down on the screen.

I should leave. I mean, I am not and will never be related to her. So, what’s my problem with her life?

“You are here?” Her voice echoed. I looked up and realized that she caught me. She turned on the night lamp and I walked inside.

“I was not following or watching you. Your door was opened, so I decided to check on you.”

“Okay, but you’ve seen me now,” Ziva forced a smile.

Is she trying to let me leave?

“And uhm...” I coughed, clearing my throat.

“Yeah, about that. You have a stain on your lips and you should consider wiping it off. Or else, everyone will see it, and start thinking,” Ziva uttered.

I nodded, and in an instant, she rushed into the bathroom. She returned to the room with a wet towel in her hand.

Stammering, she gestured to her bed, "You should have a seat. I can't reach your face because you are a bit tall."

"Sure," I accepted her offer. I sat on her bed and she stood in front of me. She gently used the wet towel to wipe away the stain.

"All good now," She voiced out, and I couldn't help but let out a groan. She was the one who offered to wipe the stain away, but I'm the one who feel like I can't resist.

Has she been adding potions to her gorgeous face? Or am I the one who seems to be attracted to her because it's been long since I've had a woman on my bed?