

AN ENEMY CALLED MATE

Chapter 61



XANDER

I exhaled, and Rose raised her gaze.

“And you know what’s worse?” Rose continued, her voice growing more and more agitated. “Since she doesn’t have you, she’s going after your brother!”

At that moment, my temper flared and I snapped, “Enough! Just stop it.”

Rose’s jaw dropped and she blinked in shock. “Wait, what? Why should I stop?”

She let out a gasp, “Don’t tell me you are blindly supporting her... Oh, wait.”

She glanced up, and stared at me with suspicion in her eyes, “Have you both been intimate?!”

My eyebrows shot up in disbelief. I couldn’t believe that she would even think such a thing, let alone say it out loud.

“What? No, of course not! That’s ridiculous! What kind of person do you think I am?” I sputtered.

Rose hesitated, looking slightly abashed. “I’m sorry. I just... I don’t know. I’m just worried about you and me, and I don’t want you to be with another woman. I just... I’m not sure about her.”

With that, she sprang to her feet and walked away. Meanwhile, I took a deep breath, trying to be calm.

I lifted my gaze to where Rose was staring at earlier. To my utmost surprise, I spotted Ziva and Alexei on the landing. Ziva chuckled at his statement and spoke like a close friend or lover would do.

It made me a bit annoyed. What if Rose was right?

Hastily, I strode to the staircase and reached the landing. As soon as I reached there, I noticed that Alexei held Ziva's left hand with his left hand like they were preparing for a ballroom waltz dance..

Hold on, I and Ziva never danced together. So, why is she interested in dancing with Alexei?

A restless feeling settled deep in my stomach. I won't watch this happen.

"Alpha, the other Alphas need to speak with you," A guard said, approaching me.

I didn't even mind him. I disrupted Alexei and Ziva's dance by grabbing Ziva's right hand. When her gaze fell on me, she furrowed her brows, clearly taken aback by my sudden interruption.

I turned to Alexei and ordered with my Alpha aura, "Let her go."

"But-" Before Alexei could complete his statement, I dragged Ziva away as her hand loosened from his grip.

I could feel Alexei's eyes burning into my back, but I ignored him and continued to drag Ziva away.

"What are you doing? Let go of me," Ziva shouted.

I released her grip, just like she wanted, and faced her, "Stop speaking to Alexei."

She furrowed her brows and before she could utter a word, I continued, "Don't speak to him, and don't even look at him."

ZIVA

Alpha Xander walked away before I could respond to his statements. He sounded so annoyed, and I could not understand why he wanted me to stay away from Alexei.

I returned to my room to check if the Crystal Moon was intact in my purse. Yes, it was and I could not wait till the next day.

???

With the prepared divorce papers clasped in my hand, I walked towards Alpha Xander's office. As soon as I reached there, I knocked and heard his calm response, "Come in."

Then, I opened the door quietly and stepped into his office.

"What are you doing here?" Alpha Xander questioned, glancing up from the document he held.

"Last night, I thought about a lot of things and decided. Let's get divorced," I uttered with a firm tone.

He stared at me, his blue eyes flashing with surprise, and then he chuckled.

"Is this a joke?" He asked.

I shook my head politely and continued, "I'm serious. Dead serious. To be precise, here are the papers."

I dropped the divorce papers on the table and boldly said, "I signed the papers already. As soon as you sign it, it is done."

"Do you know what you are doing?" He sounded serious this time, "Once I sign this, our packs will be divided. There will be a bloody war!"

Without saying another word, Alpha Xander snatched the papers from me and tore them angrily.

“We won’t get divorced. Not until I say we should,” He voiced out, and just then, the door flew open.

“Alpha, the thief confessed-” Lance spoke, but upon seeing me, he paused. He glanced at Alpha Xander, then at me, perhaps he noticed how tense the atmosphere was.

“I should leave you two,” I spoke, breaking the silence in the room.

As soon as I reached the door, I shut it behind me and I didn’t leave. I intended to eavesdrop on Alpha Xander and Lance’s conversation.

From what I recall, Lance mentioned a thief’s confession, which leads me to remember the man who was chased by some guards. He should be the thief Lance was talking about.

The silence in the room was broken by footsteps. Then, Lance’s voice echoed, “Is everything alright?”

“Yes, yes,” Alpha Xander replied quickly.

“You look annoyed-”

“Can you just talk about why you are here?” Alpha Xander interrupted.

“The thief with the fake Crystal Moon confessed. He stole it because he needed some funds for himself and his family.”

“Oh great... An excuse for a crime.” Alpha Xander’s voice trailed off, “You know I don’t care about that, just behead him.”

My heart skipped upon what he said. I held my breath and panicked inwardly.

“We will, but the fake Crystal Moon is missing. The thief mentioned that he dropped it while running.”

“Obviously, another thief picked it up. Behead the both of them.”

“But-”

“No buts, no questions. Just do as I say, behead the two thieves.”

With that, I rushed into my room, not wanting to be caught while eavesdropping.

My heart thumped at the thought of being beheaded. Oh my goodness! Sweat dripped down my forehead.

I bent and brought out my purse. I opened the purse and the fake Crystal Moon was there. I touched it with my bare hands, and I didn't feel any warmth or hot feeling.

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ZIVA

Obviously, it's fake! I was a fool. Now, how do I return this without being caught or termed as a thief?

I paced around the room, thinking of what to do. Perhaps I should confess to Alpha Xander?

No, no, the humiliation is too much to bear. Or... I should cook up a lie... No, he won't believe me.

Goodness, I will be regarded as a thief forever!

I heard a creak from the door. I turned and saw Anji at the doorway. Hastily, I approached her and let her in before trembling like a jellyfish.

“Anji,” I sobbed, “I'm doomed.”

I cried in her arms and caught her rolling her eyes. She huffed, “Is this still about Alpha Xander's mate?”

“No, it’s something awful,” I cried and moved away from the embrace. I glanced at my arms with teary eyes, as I continued, “I committed a crime. Now, I will be beheaded.”

“Beheaded by who? Will you stop beating around the bush?” Anji scolded, like a mother would do to her child.

I had no other option than to confess because I innocently needed a solution.

“I stole the Crystal Moon because of the deal I had with Alpha Darwin,” My voice croaked, as I gulped the forming lump in my throat. “But the Crystal Moon is fake. Alpha Xander found out already, and he ordered his Beta to behead the thief, me!”

Anji’s jaw dropped. She proceeded by smacking her forehead and shaking her head.

“I knew you would cause a mess,” She sighed.

“I knew you had a plan!” A feminine voice spoke.

Huh? Who said that?

I and Anji turned to the door. To my utmost surprise, it was Rose! My heart pounded repeatedly, and I almost fainted because of her presence.

Anji sprang to her feet instantly, while Rose approached me. She faced me with a smirk and uttered, “I knew you were here for your selfish gains. But I was patiently waiting for you to confess.”

“How long have you been eavesdropping?” I stammered.

An evil chuckle let out from Rose’s lips. “I was not eavesdropping. I was recording your confession to Anji which will serve as evidence that you are nothing but a sly witch.”

She emphasized the sly witch and my heart sank. Now, she has a piece of evidence against me. An evidence to behead me and ruin the plans of saving my mother. A shiver ran down my spine at the thoughts.

Suddenly, Anji interfered with a bold tone, “Lady Ziva does not believe you. Pfft, I’m certain that this is a plan to frighten her.”

Rose hissed, turning to Anji with a venomous glare, “You poor rat, don’t you dare interfere.”

Rose curled her lips into a smirk, and faced Anji, “Perhaps you and your so-called Ziva should be beheaded.”

“No. Please don’t include her in this mess,” I pleaded, pressing my palms together.

“Oh, so now you can beg?” Rose spoke with a taunting tone. She turned to me, and then she pressed her first finger to my shoulder, spitting out,

“Earlier, you were acting like a bold freak, what happened to that confidence, huh?”

“Please just spare Anji. She was not aware of this,” I begged.

Rose narrowed her eyes in response. She sat on my bed, and comfortably crossed her legs.

“Just in case, you two doubt my statements. Here is the recording,” Rose voiced out.

She raised her phone and played a video, a recorded video of me and Anji. It was the exact moment of my confession. Certainly, everyone will believe that the video is real.

Anji extended her hands, attempting to snatch Rose’s phone. But Rose was quick to withdraw her hand before Anji could reach the phone.

Clicking her tongue, Rose shook her head and smiled, "You two should not even think of destroying this clip. I've sent it to a couple of friends, and just one mess-up from any of you, I'm sending it to Xander instantly."

Hold on, does that mean that she won't send the video to Alpha Xander now?

I cleared my throat, "What do you want then? You don't seem interested in sending the video to Alpha Xander right away."

"Exactly!" Rose exclaimed, snapping her fingers at once. She turned to Anji and stared at her with disgust written on her face.

"First, I want this thing out of this room," Rose said in an authoritative tone.

"Please do what she says," I begged Anji. Just then, Anji turned around and she stormed out of the room.

After the door was shut behind her, I glanced back at Rose who had her eyes on Anji's retreating figure all along.

She turned to me, and chuckled, "You know, as soon as I saw you, I knew you were trouble. But, I didn't know that you would be this useful."

"What do you want from me?" I replied.

"Just a few, petty things. Once you do it, I will keep my mouth shut and have the video deleted," Rose responded.

She turned her head and gazed at me, meanwhile, I could not trust her. She seemed sneaky and cunning, more like someone who could backstab me.

"You have to trust me. You are the one who created this mess, and you are the one who is willing to fix it."

"Alright, alright," I uttered. "I trust you, Rose. Just delete the video once it's over."

“Sure, I will,” Rose nodded. She glanced at something behind me. I turned back and followed her gaze. Then, I realized that she was staring at my purse which had the fake Crystal Moon in it.

“What do you intend to do with that? It’s fake, remember?” She asked, with raised eyebrows.

I shrugged my shoulder and confessed, “I don’t know-”

She cut in, “Bonus, I will help you. I will take care of it, while you stick to doing what I want.”

Wow, she’s being helpful for a mere, petty thing? Hmph, I doubt that.

Rose took the purse and waved goodbye. Then, she left my room with a wide smile plastered on her face.

To be honest, I wonder what she intends to do with the fake Crystal Moon and what she wants me to do.

Chapter 63



ZIVA

My phone beeped loudly. I gazed at it and I saw a message, a message with the title;

~FROM ROSE~

The message had a video attached to it. I played it and realized that it was a video recording of Rose and Alpha Xander.

She showed him the fake Crystal Moon and lied, “I saw a bag filled with these last night. So, I took it, and decided to hand it over.”

Alpha Xander kissed her cheeks and spoke calmly, "You are such a darling. I assumed that it was stolen."

He exhaled, blindly believing his mate, Rose. "I guess the thief was right about dropping it."

Then, the video paused and it got deleted. I could not view the video anymore and Rose sent a smiley sticker.

'Your first mission starts tonight.' I read aloud from Rose's new messages.

'An Omega will be before your door within a minute. Grab the box she gives and text me.'

'Is this some kind of game?' I messaged her.

'No questions, just do as I say!'

Just then, a knock echoed on the door. I reached for it and opened the door. Surprisingly, an Omega stood at the doorway. She extended a big box to me with a smile plastered on her face.

"Is this from Rose?" I asked. The Omega didn't give a response. All she did was nod quickly and leave.

I raised an eyebrow, surprised by her actions. I guess that was what Rose ordered her to do.

Taking the box into the room, I shut the door. I dropped the box and returned to my phone.

'It's here.' I texted Rose.

Just then, the door flew open. I turned to the door, and Rose approached me.

My brows got furrowed, and I didn't hesitate to question Rose. "Why did you text me when you can just barge in like you did now?"

"I didn't want to be seen as suspicious. You know, the walls have eyes."

Great!

I rolled my eyes, meanwhile, she opened the box.

“Here you go,” She smiled widely. “A pretty dress for a pretty girl.”

I glanced at her and watched how she pulled out a red dress from the box.

“What is this about?” I questioned her quickly.

“It’s about the agreement we had. To be honest, the petty thing I wanted you to do is to wear this dress,” She grinned, almost making me irk.

I furrowed my brows, “And why am I wearing it?”

She snapped, “Just do it!”

???

I changed into the red dress Rose gave me in her room as she instructed. It was a fitting dress, accompanied by a female perfume Rose gave me. She sprayed a lot of the perfume on me as it had a choking scent.

Afterward, she left the room and mentioned that she would be back in a jiffy. I paced around the room, waiting for her anxiously. At one point, I assumed that she would not return to the room.

So, I reached down and unclasped the straps of my heels, sliding them off my feet because I was uncomfortable with them.

Standing up, I felt a wave of dizziness wash over me. Hastily, I sat on the bed and tried to calm myself.

Just then, the light in the room flickered and they turned off instantly. The room became dark, and a creak echoed from the door.

“Rose, I think you need to contact a doctor. I feel dizzy,” I muttered, but Rose didn’t respond.

Instead of her response, I heard heavy footsteps approach me. Turning in the direction of the footsteps, I couldn't see a thing because it was dark, but my nose caught a familiar cologne.

Everything happened too quickly, like the dream I had the other time. But this time, I woke up with a splitting headache. It took me a moment to realize that I was in Rose's room with my body feeling sore and weak.

I tried to sit up, and that's when I saw it – a masculine figure lying next to me on the bed. I jumped back in shock, staring down at my own body. I could only stare in horror as I realized the truth – I was naked!!

The man on the other hand seemed to not be bothered as he let out a silent groan.

I panicked and yelled, "You pervert!"

Just then, the man turned around slowly. Upon seeing his face, I gasped, while a look of confusion crossed his face.

It was Alpha Xander!

He furrowed his brows, "Why are you-"

Before he finished his statement, I grabbed the blanket quickly, and wrapped it around my body, intending to leave the room as soon as possible.

Alpha Xander blocked my path, his bare muscular body being revealed. He looked handsome even when he hadn't taken a shower with his blue eyes flashing beautifully. His physique looked sculpted, with each muscle perfectly defined.

"None of these happened deliberately. I'm not the kind of person who would cheat on his mate," He spoke in a rushed tone.

I clenched my fist at his statement. He didn't want to cheat on his mate, yet he spent the night with me! It felt like he was indirectly saying that I caused this and I did everything deliberately to make him cheat on his mate.

Although I was pale, I managed to control my emotions. I narrowed my eyes at him and responded with a cold and flat voice.

"I don't want to talk about it."

With that, I moved aside and walked away from him. I could not even recall what happened last night and speaking to him will only make me feel disgusted at myself.

A loud bang rang. My ears perked up, and I turned to the door.

Surprisingly, Rose stood beside the door. She glanced down at me and the blanket around my body. Perhaps she noticed that I was naked.

I clutched the thin, cotton blanket to my body and watched how she curled her lips in disgust.

Turning to Alpha Xander, she froze like she saw a ghost. Her face turned pale instantly.

"You witch!" Rose yelled, giving me a venomous glare.

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ZIVA

Rose rushed towards me with her hand raised in the air. As she swung her arm towards my face, I ducked and turned my head, bracing myself for the sting of her palm against my cheek.

But the pain never came. Instead, I felt a rush of air and heard a sharp gasp from Rose.

I glanced up and noticed that Rose stood before me with her hand frozen in the air. Also, Alpha Xander grabbed her wrist, as he stepped between us.

“What are you doing? Let go of me!” Rose’s voice rose to a shriek as she struggled against Alpha Xander’s grip.

Meanwhile, Alpha Xander spoke to me with a firm tone, “You need to leave.”

I didn’t hesitate to listen. I moved away and rushed out of the room since that was the only option I had. As soon as I reached my room, I locked the door and heaved a sigh of relief.

If I stayed there earlier than I did, Rose would have attacked me even though I had no idea about how I and Alpha Xander got involved in this. Everything seemed so messed up.

XANDER

“Let go of my hand!” Rose yelled, her face twisted in anger. I released my grip on her hand, watching as she immediately pulled away from me, while Ziva left the room.

“How could you! You cheated!” She hissed.

“Alright, Rose. You know that I will never do such,” I replied. I returned to the bed and picked up my shirt, which was lying crumpled on the bed.

“Oh-oh! You will never do such, so what do you call what happened?!”

“A mistake,” I cut in with a calm tone, “I don’t know what happened or even how it happened. I was with Alexei earlier, discussing with him until he mentioned that you were here-”

A mind-link rang in my mind, interrupting my statement. “Alpha, the Crystal Moon is missing.”

The mind-link was from Lance and it was definitely not a joke. It didn’t sound like one.

Hurriedly, I put on my shirt and darted out of the room. Rushing into the Crystal Moon’s room, I noticed the unconscious guards on the floor with the door opened widely.

Lance was inside the room. He bowed as soon as he saw me, but his respect was the least of what I needed right now.

Then, I glanced up and realized that the Crystal Moon was missing!

“Get the guards! Search every nook and cranny, and return the Crystal Moon to me!” I ordered with a strict, authoritative tone.

My statement echoed throughout the mansion, and it was also sent as a mind-link to every guard in this pack.

But inwardly, I was panicking. Without the Crystal Moon, this pack can be ruined in seconds.

Lance nodded, and he hurried out of the room. Meanwhile, worry settled in me. I creased my brows, wondering who had stolen the Crystal Moon.

“Lance, how did you find out about the missing Crystal Moon?” I inquired through a mind link.

Lance replied, “I intended to meet you, and that was when I noticed the unconscious guards.”

Damn it!

I clenched my fists. A thought ran through my mind, and I didn’t hesitate to mind-link the men guarding the pack’s gate.

“Ensure that you do not allow anyone to leave this pack, unless I permit you,” I ordered. Surprisingly, the men didn’t respond.

“Understood?” I yelled in the mind-link.

“Yes, Alpha. But... Lady Ziva and her assistant left a while ago.”

I almost choked at the man’s statement. I managed to keep my composure and continue my statement.

“Did I permit you to let them leave?!” I roared.

Instantly, I bolted out and stepped into my car. I started the engine and zoomed out of the pack quickly.

If Ziva had stolen the Crystal Moon, then there is only one place she is heading to – the Granelma Pack.

That Darwin’s daughter! I should have known!

Rose was right about her. She is nothing, but a sly witch after all.

Just like I expected, a car zoomed through the Granelma Pack’s gate. The gate was locked before my car could reach it.

ZIVA

Anji had stolen the Crystal Moon and we drove into the Granelma Pack as soon as possible.

My heart yearned to see my mother, and finally, I could see her. But another part of me feels guilty. I don’t know how important the Crystal Moon is to Alpha Xander, but he must be very annoyed.

“I am just too smart,” Anji squeaked, with her gaze focused on the driveway. She gripped the steering wheel with her hands, while I had the Crystal Moon in a bag.

I glanced at the window, recalling the moments I had in this Pack.

“Rose was dumb to think that she could spike your drink and make you have a fling with Alexei. I knew she was preparing something devilish with the dress she sent. Thank goodness, I outsmarted her and exchanged the drink with Alpha Xander’s instead.” She spoke, but I was not ready to respond to her.

She nudged my hand slowly and winked, as a sly smile played across her lips. “My plan was amazing, wasn’t it?”

I pulled my hand away.

“Perhaps you should have informed me about Rose’s plan and the spiked drink,” I snapped..

Anji took her foot off the gas and the car rolled to a stop. “Why are you acting up?” She said, turning to face me.

“We went to that pack for the Crystal Moon. Now, we have it. Do you have a problem with that?”

“No,” I bit my lips.

I should be thankful for her help with taking the Crystal Moon and not scolding her.

“I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to sound rude,” I apologized politely, realizing that I was being selfish.

I wanted the Crystal Moon after all, so why do I feel hurt about leaving that Pack?

Also, Anji confirmed that she gave Alpha Xander the spiked drink. That means he was right about not intending to cheat and that makes me feel more guilty.

I pressed my lips tightly, and turned to Anji, intending to change the subject.

“We should hand this over to Alpha Darwin first.”

Then, Anji shrugged her shoulders. She turned the key, and the car's engine roared to life. Staring straight ahead, she continued her speech.

"I know and I understand. I shouldn't have exchanged the drinks and made you get involved with him."

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ZIVA

Anji continued, "But you shouldn't be annoyed because of that. It was just a night, and I had no idea what to do. You know, if he wasn't with you, I may have been caught stealing. Duh, I'm not prepared to die."

I narrowed my eyes, glancing back at the car window as the memories of what happened last night flashed in my head.

I'm certain that Rose was planning to create a rumor about me and Alexei to ruin my reputation. She is definitely more than I thought she was.

"No worries," Anji smiled playfully as she drove, "You can get some birth control pills while you are here."

I rolled my eyes. "How can you be more annoying?"

"Tsk, I'm just stating the truth," She replied.

Anji sped off. Within a minute, we reached Alpha Darwin's mansion.

I stepped out of the car with my lips fixed tightly, as I became very attentive. I had to be careful with Alpha Darwin, in case he had other plans.

I clutched the bag with the Crystal Moon tightly, as a cold breeze hit my jacket. Luckily, I listened to Anji and changed into a brown jacket, boots, and hand gloves before moving out of Alpha Xander's pack.

Looking further, I stared at the entrance of the mansion. The door swung open immediately. Alpha Darwin and his Luna appeared, approaching me quickly.

They didn't have a smirk on their face and they didn't throw a dirty glare at me either. Rather, they had a sweet, wide smile on their face, like they were welcoming their long-lost daughter.

That, I've always wished for, but not anymore. They were just facades to have the Crystal Moon.

They had always given me glares and scowls, while I had furrowed brows and a confused look before. Now, I had the glare on my face, meanwhile, their sweet smile was permanent on their faces.

"Oh, Ziva, my daughter! You look so pale, come in, and let's have lunch," Alpha Darwin's Luna spoke with a sweet tone.

I scoffed, holding the bag in my hand tightly. "What about your darling daughter, Tania? Is she fairing well?"

"Don't be so ridiculous," The Luna waved her hand, ushering me into the mansion.

I followed her, walking into the mansion, while she continued her speech, with her body clinging to mine.

"Aren't you aware that Tania returned last night? Also, the Moon Goddess blessed her abundantly. Nikolas's pack is safe and he is also doing well now."

"Good..." My voice trailed off, and I moved to the most important part, "Can I see my mother now?"

“Sure, sure!” The Luna grinned. Alpha Darwin approached me, and he interfered, “Not now, we will have to test the Crystal Moon first, to ensure that it is the original version.”

I smiled in response, “There is no need for that. I tested it and it is original.”

Pulling my glove away from my hand, I revealed my red, swollen fingers that I used to check the Crystal Moon. It looked awful and it was painful.

Although the pain in my fingers was unbearable, I managed to maintain a calm expression.

“Even if you tested it, we need to have an evaluation done,” Alpha Darwin insisted.

“Alright,” I surrendered, “Can I see my mother before the evaluation?”

“Of course,” Alpha Darwin spoke as a tight-lipped smile appeared on his face.

He gestured to the dining hall, and upon reaching there, I met a slim woman sitting on a chair.

The woman had her brown hair packed in a bun. My heart raced quietly, as my eyes welled up in tears.

Is that my mother? I walked faster, intending to see the woman’s face. Just then, the woman turned to me. She faced me and I realized – she was my mother!

“Mum!” I squeaked in excitement and pulled her into a tight embrace. She sniffled in the embrace, hugging me tightly like I would vanish if she released me from the hug.

“Dear, where have you been?” Her soft voice hit my ear. She pulled away from the embrace and stared at me with her loving hazel eyes.

I cried as tears of joy streamed down my cheeks. I didn't even know where to start from. It has been three years since she was taken away from me, and I could not think of a meaningful statement.

I wanted to tell her all that happened, but it would consume too much time. Rather, I pulled her into a tight hug again and cried miserably.

"I missed you so much, Mum!"

Her hand stroked my back softly. I couldn't help but smile and hold her warm hands.

Surprisingly, there were silver cuffs around her wrists. Hold on... What is going on?

I glanced back, facing Alpha Darwin with furrowed brows. To my utmost surprise, he had taken the bag with the Crystal Moon.

Goodness! I dropped it out of excitement.

"Why is my mother cuffed?" I questioned Alpha Darwin quickly..

"You promised that you would release her as soon as I get the Crystal Moon. Now, you have it, release my mother immediately," I spoke with a strict tone.

The Luna scowled instantly, "Will you stop blabbering? Yes, we promised to release your mother. Don't rub it on our faces."

I stood my ground, talking back at the Luna. "I just want my mother's release, nothing else."

Alpha Darwin patted his Luna's back, calming her with his filthy hand, I guess...

"We will do as we promised." Alpha Darwin spoke calmly.

I rolled my eyes and folded my arms. They were so eager to speak with me earlier. Now, I'm treated like a trash.

“You two can have some rest in the guest room. Anji will be there to assist you,” Alpha Darwin uttered.

“What about my mother’s release?” I interfered.

“We will deal with that later,” Alpha Darwin replied. He walked away with the bag of Crystal Moon and his Luna followed.

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ZIVA

Deal with that later?

I clenched my fists angrily, almost piercing my palms with my nails.

“Hey!” I yelled at the top of my lungs. “You can’t just walk away. I did as you instructed!”

My voice echoed throughout the mansion, but Alpha Darwin did not glance at me. He continued to walk away.

That animal!

Intending to follow him and snatch the Crystal Moon from him, some muscular, hefty guards stood before me. Obviously, they were blocking my path and attempting to protect their Alpha.

I snorted and retreated from the guards. A warm feeling enveloped my hand. I glanced down and noticed Mum’s hand on mine..

She gazed at me with concern and worry in her eyes and spoke slowly, “Your fingers are swollen and you look pale. Just rest today.”

“No, mum. You don’t understand-”

She cut in, "Do it for me... For my sake."

I looked away, letting out a sigh, "Alright."

Then, the guards escorted us to the guest room. The room was small, and I assisted Mum to step inside.

Quietly sitting next to her, the mattress sagged under my weight. She held my hand, and muttered, "I'm glad to see you here."

"Same here. But they didn't hurt you, right?" I blinked and continued, "I know I failed to be a good daughter. I didn't help you sooner, and you had to suffer—"

"Don't say that. You are the best child any mother can wish for. I'm proud of you."

I smiled at her response. Just then, the door flew open.

"Aw, a family reunion," Anji spoke playfully as she stepped in. She had a bag of ice clasped in her hand and she handed it over to me.

"Here... For your swollen hand," Anji uttered sweetly.

My lips widened, and I smiled, "Thank you."

"No need to thank me. Also, if such happens again, just get these bags instead of using ordinary water. Water won't help reduce the swelling, only these special bags will do the trick."

"Alright," I replied. She waved goodbye quickly and left the room.

Meanwhile, I placed the ice bag directly on my fingers and the swelling reduced instantly, even the pain.

"She was right. It works." Mum muttered.

"Yeah. Also, you should rest. You must be so exhausted," I replied.

I stood up and took off my neck scarf. To be honest, as soon as I entered this room, I was struck by the warmth that greeted me. It was a nice contrast to the cold outside, and I felt my body relax as the tension of the winter chill melted away.

I let out a sigh of relief, grateful to be out of the cold.

Attempting to take the pillow and assist Mum to lie on the bed, Mum's voice pierced the silence in the room.

"Dear, there is something on your neck," Mum stated, with curiosity tinged in her voice as she stared at me.

"What's that?" I questioned, rubbing my neck. Perhaps something fell on me, and she saw it.

Mum squinted her eyes, still staring at me.

"I'm not sure. It is large, deep, dark purple, with a jagged edge that spreads across the side of your neck," Mum uttered.

I moved away from the bed and went into the inner room of the room, the bathroom.

I wanted to check what she was talking about since she sounded serious like it was something important.

Glancing at my reflection in the mirror that was positioned above the bathroom sink, I searched for what Mum was talking about.

Then I saw it – large, deep, dark purple like Mum said. It was a hickey.

I scoffed. Why didn't I see it earlier? I only wore a neck scarf because Anji suggested I did, I didn't even know that I had one on my neck.

Perhaps I didn't notice in the mirror while changing or I was distracted by other things.

“Dear, are you alright?” I heard Mum’s soft voice outside the bathroom.

“Yes, yes... I’m fine,” I stammered.

“Alright,” Mum said.

I pressed my ear against the door, and when I didn’t hear her voice, I turned to the bathroom sink.

Perhaps I should scrub my neck to make the hickey fade away.

Hastily, I grabbed a scrub and a washcloth from the shelf in the bathroom, intending to remove the hickey. I’ve never had one before, so I hope it works fine.

Ugh, I’m not prepared to receive an earful from Mum on our first day.

“Uhm, dear,” Mum’s voice echoed again.

“Yes, mum?” I faked a smile like she could see my face through the door.

“I won’t recommend scrubbing your neck to make the hickey fade away. In fact, scrubbing your neck can make it worse – it might irritate your skin and make the area red and sore. You just have to be patient and let the healing process happen naturally.”

I sighed. Swiftly, I opened the bathroom door with a fake smile on my face.

“Thank you?” I whispered to her.

I know too well how Mum insisted when I was seventeen years old to never get involved in such, except I was mated. You know, those virgin mum rules...

She crossed her arms, and I expected her brows to be furrowed. Instead, she released her crossed arms and smiled warmly.

“Are we going to talk about him?” She asked softly.

I almost threw up at her soft voice. She is acting weird... Too nice.

She rolled her eyes and crossed the room, sitting comfortably on the bed.

“I know, I know. I restricted you from engaging in such, but it was for your own sake. I didn’t want you to end up heartbroken later on, and get dumped by some guy who isn’t ready to take responsibility as your husband or mate.”

I let out a sigh of relief, and responded, “I guess you were only trying to be careful, so I won’t end up with some guy like Dad. But there is no need for that. I will never feel heartbroken because of some Guy.”

I ensured that I emphasized the Guy. Instantly, Mum shook her head.

“No, no. Your Dad, Darwin is an asshole. He is like the devil himself. I can’t believe that he will lock me up.”

“No, mum. I’m not talking about Dad – Alpha Darwin. I’m talking about my real Dad, my biological father. The asshole who abandoned us.”

Chapter 67



ZIVA

Mum furrowed her brows, and questioned, “What are you talking about?”

I exhaled loudly, “I found out about everything. I know that I’m not Alpha Darwin’s biological daughter. Even Alpha Darwin told me himself.”

Then, Mum clenched her fists and looked away, with her eyes welling up in tears.

I quickly voice out, not wanting to make her feel awful about what happened in the past.

“It’s fine if you don’t want to talk about it. I know Dad abandoned you because you were pregnant. I’m to be blamed, so just rest.”

“I didn’t want to tell you this, but I guess I have to tell you now,” Mum’s voice became shaky.

She turned to me with a worried expression and muttered, “Your biological father didn’t abandon us, he will never... That, I know.”

Inwardly, I huffed. She is just hoping or believing that he didn’t abandon us, but he did.

I didn’t speak about it, since I didn’t want her to feel annoyed or pressurized. So, I stepped out of the bathroom without saying a word.

Mum snapped her fingers, changing the subject quickly. She had a happy expression on her face, meanwhile, I narrowed my eyes, knowing what she would say.

“So what about him? Who is he? What is he like?” Mum asked eagerly.

“I think we should skip that question. I’d rather not talk about it,” I explained.

Inwardly, I gulped, recalling Alpha Xander and what happened last night.

Everything happened too quickly, but I certainly remember what happened now. The kisses and the way our bodies were like two instruments, playing a melody of desire and passion.

Ugh, I’m certain that if he sets his gaze on me again, he will kill me.

“Why?” Mum asked curiously.

“It’s a long story.”

~ ~

I had breakfast with Mum, even lunch. Afterward, Anji handed my phone over to me and she mentioned that I had left it in the car.

Luckily, the driver was nice enough to hand over the phone to her rather than fleeing with it.

As soon as I turned on my phone, I noticed the numerous missed calls and messages from Alpha Xander. Even Rose sent some messages.

Alpha Xander: 'Get the hell out of there and hand over the Crystal Moon!'

Rose: 'I've always hated you from the beginning. Do you have to be this gullible?'

Reading the messages, I gulped. Hastily, I turned my phone off and threw it inside the garbage can. I don't want to speak to any of them or even reply to their messages.

"If it isn't Ziva..." A feminine voice spoke sarcastically. I turned around and saw Tania in a short dress.

She had a smirk on her gorgeous face, as her lips were painted. Stepping down from the staircase, she crossed her arms.

"Back to your pathetic life of being a slave, uh?" She said in a mocking tone.

I wanted to ignore her and walk away, but she continued, "And here goes your sweet mother... The shameless slut."

I clenched my fists, as her words pierced my chest. Mum sat next to me, and she must be feeling so terrible to hear Tania's statements.

Mum pressed her hand against mine, gesturing to not cause a fight.

So, I turned to Tania with a cold expression on my face, "Do not speak about my mother."

"Oh my, I'm so scared," Tania replied with a fake expression of fear on her face. Then, she snorted, "You will be banished from this pack soon. Then, I won't have to see your ugly, disgusting faces."

I scoffed, narrowing my eyes, "I may be banished from this pack, but at least I will have my dignity and integrity. You, however, are nothing more than a vile, cruel creature who takes pleasure in hurting others. I pity you, Tania. I do."

"Tsk, your mother is no better than you are," Tania retorted. I moved away from the chair, almost throwing a blow at her cheek.

Mum stopped me amidst my attempt.

Meanwhile, Tania continued, gesturing excitedly with a wicked smile on her face, "You two deserve each other, wallowing in your own sins. I hope you enjoy your exile because you won't be missed here. You'll just be a distant memory, and soon enough, no one will even remember your name."

With that, Tania walked away with her chest pushed out confidently. I despise her.

I turned to Mum, "You ought not to have stopped me. I'm sure she will repeat this and try to bring us down. If I had slapped her or hit her, she wouldn't dare talk about you."

Letting out an exhale, Mum muttered, "I know. But we are not free yet. We have Alpha Darwin and his guards watching our every step. The slightest mistake, and we will be as good as dead. Perhaps you should restrain from speaking to her."

I sighed. Moving closer to Mum, I whispered, "Speaking of Alpha Darwin, we should prepare an escape plan since he is with the Crystal Moon."

Mum let out a sharp gasp, "Crystal Moon?"

"Yes, I and Alpha Darwin were discussing it earlier."

"Oh my goodness!" Mum shrieked. She held her chest like she was going to collapse. I was frightened, so I had to hold her hand and help her sit on a chair.

Then, she glanced at me and muttered, her voice quavering with fear, “What have you done?”

“Oh... About stealing the Crystal Moon from Crescent Moon Pack,” I spoke, assuming that was the reason for her fear.

“I had to do it in exchange for your release. But It’s fine, they can’t find us. We are safe,” I reassured her and patted her hand.

Suddenly, Mum withdrew her hand and stared at me coldly, “I was preoccupied with your presence and I didn’t notice the Crystal Moon. You’ve done the wrong thing, Ziva.”

I furrowed my brows, worry and concern filled my heart. Mum continued with a shaky voice, “Now, no one is safe.”

Chapter 68



ZIVA

“No one is safe?” I looked at her with a puzzled expression. “What do you mean?”

“The Crystal Moon is a powerful object. If it is in Darwin’s hands, it will be used for his selfish reasons. Hold on...” Mum’s voice trailed off like she was thinking, “He is with the Crystal Moon, then he will... Never release me. I’m the Crystal Moon Guardian... He will only use me too.”

I almost choked at her statement.

“You are the Guardian?” I stammered, my throat dry. I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. How could this be true?

That reminds me... The collar, the lie detector detected that I was lying to Alpha Xander when I mentioned that I didn't know the location of the Guardian.

"Oh no..." I exclaimed, with fear evident in my voice, "What do we do now?"

Mum's face grew pale as she glanced around the room, her eyes darting from corner to corner.

"There are eyes everywhere. We need to go somewhere private," Mum suggested quickly. She darted towards the staircase and I followed.

With my heart racing quickly, she stepped into the same guest room assigned to us earlier.

Shutting the door behind me, I glanced at Mum who paced to and fro in the room.

Suddenly, she stopped and turned to me.

"Can you reach the Alpha of the Crescent Moon Pack, the pack you stole the Crystal Moon from?" Mum questioned anxiously.

My heart raced at the thought. I couldn't dare to try to reach him, not after what I'd done. To be honest, he will kill me if he sees me.

I shook my head in response, unable to find my voice.

Then, I managed to choke out a reply. "No, but why do you ask?"

I was still reeling from the revelation that she was the Guardian. My mind was racing. What did she want with Alpha Xander?

I tried to make sense of what she'd said. But before I could speak, Mum continued.

"Possibly, he can get the Crystal Moon and stop Darwin from every one of his selfish plans."

I scoffed, blurting out, "He will kill me before that happens."

Even the idea of him finding out about what I'd done makes my blood run cold.

"What did you say?" Mum asked curiously. I creased my brows, confused and she continued, "You mumbled something."

Trying to think of a way to change the subject, I stammered.

"I-I... I remembered that I threw my phone in the trash without looking back. I should probably get that first," I spoke, avoiding her eyes.

Moving out of the guest room, I rushed toward the trash can. Surprisingly, the trash can was empty and sparkling neat.

With a sigh of annoyance, an Omega walked past me. Goodness, they must have disposed of the phone in the dirt.

If I want to save my mother and free her, I need to reach Alpha Xander. I approached the Omega and explained the phone incident.

The Omega seemed friendly and youthful. I'd never seen her before at the Granelma Pack.

She was quick to assist me in finding it. Meanwhile, I tried to search around, in case I dropped it on the floor, and not the trash can. After my efforts, I could not find it.

Suddenly, I heard a shrill voice exclaim, "Let Ziva and her filthy mother leave!"

That caused my ears to perk up. I walked in the direction of the voice and reached the doorway to a large room.

I distanced myself away from the room, to not get detected by my scent. But, I ensured that I was attentive to the voices whispering in the room.

“Dad, Mum is right. We have the Crystal Moon and they are of no use to us,” I heard Tania say.

Just then, a loud bang echoed. Silence filled the room and Alpha Darwin interfered.

“I will do what I wish to do! Ziva and her mother will be under our control, and then we will execute them,” Alpha Darwin snarled, causing me to gasp silently.

Execute?!

Oh no, this is not good! I clenched my stomach, as worry settled in my mind. I and Mum need to leave as soon as possible.

I rushed back into the guest room, my heart pounding in my chest.

As I entered, I heard the floorboards creak beneath my feet. I turned to see Mum watching me, her expression a mixture of curiosity and concern.

Had she heard me coming, or was she just surprised by my sudden appearance?

“Mum, we need to leave,” I managed to utter, my breath coming in ragged gasps.

But Mum was clearly confused, and her brow furrowed as she asked, “What’s going on? You’re making no sense.” She heaved a sigh and continued, “Why don’t you take a seat and relax for a moment? Then we can talk about this calmly.”

I tried to calm myself and reach for my neck scarf hurriedly.

Struggling to find the right words to say, I stuttered, “It’s... Alpha Darwin. He’s planning to kill us once he executes his plans. We need to leave right now.”

“No dear, we can’t leave,” Mum replied, shaking her head. “I mean... what about the Crystal Moon? Everyone will be in a mess because it is with Darwin.”

Unable to contain my frustration, I exclaimed, “I don’t care about the Crystal Moon!”

My voice rose, “I care about you! I care about us!”

In a desperate attempt to make her understand, I stepped forward and took her hands in mine.

I spoke with a croaked voice, “It’s only you I care about, Mum. If anything bad happens to you, I will never be able to forgive myself.”

My words hung in the air for a moment. Then, Mum’s face became a mask of turmoil. Her hand slipped from mine. “As the former Luna of this Pack, I’ve committed a lot of crimes and mistakes just for the sake of my love for Darwin.”

She continued, “I ruined so many lives for him because I loved him. Now, I have the chance to seek forgiveness and help the right people, you want me to flee?”

Chapter 69



ZIVA

I could see the anguish on Mum’s face as she spoke, and I felt my own guilt rising up inside me.

“Mum, even if you’ve done terrible things, that’s not who you are anymore. You can’t make up for what you’ve done by staying with Darwin. He’s dangerous, and he’ll only bring you more pain,” I said, trying to convince her.

“I’m staying for the Crystal Moon…” Mum began, but I cut her off.

“We can’t risk it, Mum. I can’t risk you. Please, just come with me.” I pleaded, my voice breaking.

“I’ve made up my mind. I will not do the wrong thing this time,” She replied, making my heart squeeze. Why is she so adamant?!

“I will need your assistance too,” Mum completed her statement.

I almost burst into tears. What’s wrong with her? This is our only chance and she-

I bit my lips. I traveled to another pack and endured everything for her. If I leave her now, my efforts will be a waste.

“I have no choice.”

Suddenly, her face lit up with a wide smile.

“Thank goodness you agreed. We really have to act fast about it, and perhaps you will be able to find your locked wolf,” Mum replied, patting my hands.

I creased my brows, with confusion brewing in me. “Locked wolf? What are you talking about?”

Mum looked at me, surprise evident with her facial expression, “Were you not aware that Alpha Darwin locked your wolf after discovering the truth about your identity? He did it to punish me, and I’m deeply-”

“Hold on,” I cut in, “My wolf has been locked up for all these years? I am not wolfless?”

“Wolfless? No, you are not.” Mum paused, “Now, reach the Alpha of the Crescent Moon Pack, and let’s get to work.”

“I lost my phone, and let’s talk about my wolf. How can I unlock her? Can I see her now? Or maybe talk to her? Yes, yes... I heard her voice once. She once spoke to me,” I stammered. The worry that settled in me became mixed with excitement.

I have a wolf!

“It is possible with the use of the Crystal Moon. But we can only get hold of it once we have more people in our team, most especially an Alpha.”

I snapped my fingers, “Don’t worry about reaching him. I will work on that.”

~~

I met the nice Omega at the doorway and requested to meet Anji. Without wasting time, she took me to Anji’s room and excused us.

“What’s with the unexpected visit?” Anji questioned as soon as the Omega left.

I rushed to her side and gave her a shut-up gesture with my finger placed on my lips.

She raised an eyebrow, perhaps she was confused. Then, she crossed her arms, “What’s going on?”

I approached her and whispered, “Do you have Alpha Xander’s phone number?”

She nodded, “Yes?”

“I need to use your phone,” I uttered. Without hesitation, she handed her phone over to me and showed me Alpha Xander’s phone number.

I took her phone and returned to the guest room. The text 'Dialing' appeared on the screen. Suddenly 00:01 appeared.

Okay, he answered the call. I took in a deep breath and exhaled. I inhaled and exhaled before managing to say a sweet, "Hi."

I knew he wouldn't recognize my voice; and I would need to explain in detail, that I was his shameless wife who stole the Crystal Moon and I was calling him because I needed his help.

"Ziva?" His voice rang.

I glanced at the screen, hoping that it was not a video call. If it was not, then how did he recognize me?

"You dumb-dumb!" He snarled over the phone.

XANDER

I was not so bothered about the call I received since I had other pressing matters to attend to and the caller had an Unknown ID.

My wolf, Maz urged me to answer the call and I gave in. Perhaps, it was something important.

"Hi," A shrieking voice said quietly. Then, I heard some soft exhale over the phone.

I could not see the caller. But with his or her soft breathing, I recalled what happened the other night.

It was a coincidence. When I think about it now, I think I was intoxicated. I would never cheat on Rose, and I would have detected that it was Ziva. But that night, I could not detect any scent, except for an alluring fragrance.

And the soft breathing... It was that of Ziva's. It was the same with how she breathed softly during the night we spent together.

“Ziva?” I called out. I didn’t receive a response from her, and just then, I knew that my instincts were right.

“You dumb-dumb!” I blurted out, with my heart racing quickly... For no good reason. After what happened that night, I can’t seem to get her off my mind. Even when I tried to remind myself that she was nothing but a sly witch, she was plastered in my mind.

Perhaps I’m not too worried about my Pack, because I believe that we can still overcome whatever trouble before we have the Crystal Moon back.

“You fulfilled your motive. Now, what do you want?”

“I know, I know. I shouldn’t have,” She said, her voice trailing off. “But I had no choice. Now, I need your help.”

“What is this?” I scoffed. “Another one of your plans with Alpha Darwin?”

She interrupted with a rushed tone, “How about we meet physically? I will send the location.”

With that, she ended the call and I glanced at my phone with worries filled in my heart.

If this was a trap or plan prepared by Alpha Darwin, she wouldn’t be speaking with a low tone. Also, leaving my pack won’t cause any harm or problems, especially when I have Alexei by my side.

Suddenly, a ding vibrated from my phone. I checked it and it was a message from Ziva with the location and time of our meeting.

Chapter 70



XANDER

The moment the clock struck the given hour, I grabbed my brown jacket and wore it, striding towards my car. I had already informed Lance about my departure, but I didn't mention where I was going.

To be precise, the location Ziva sent was the Del Tree. Del Tree was a mysterious tree outside the Granelma Pack. It is known for its mysterious ability to dry up and grow colorful flowers during different seasons.

The moonlight shone brightly on my car as I drove out of the Pack, heading to the Del Tree.

As soon as I reached there, I stepped out of my car. There was no sign of Ziva or even her scent.

A few seconds passed, and I became worried. The breeze alone could freeze someone to death. I rubbed my bare hands and hugged my jacket. Why is it so cold here anyway?

Then, I saw a thin body slowly moving towards my side... Ziva!

I took a step, intending to approach her, but a thought struck my mind. Won't I seem too clingy or affectionate?

I took a step back and patiently waited for her, without looking anxious or impatient. I should look tough and annoyed too.

Ziva let out a few heavy, panting breaths as she reached my side.

I took a bottle of water from the car and handed it over to her. And I definitely won't talk about the bread and juice I brought in case she was starving. I scolded myself inwardly. Why will she be starving? She is Darwin's daughter!

"No..." She shook her head, and spoke amidst panting, "There is no need for that."

I shouldn't have. Now, she might think I care, or something like that...

“Why did you call and... I don’t see the Crystal Moon?” I asked, darting my eyes around her to check for any bag.

She managed to speak properly, “First, I don’t have it with me.”

“Tsk, then why did you plan this meeting?” I glanced sideways, hoping that no one was around.

I turned to her and squinted my eyes, searching for any sign of suspicion in her hazel eyes.

“Is this some kind of alpha-napping plan? If it is, it won’t work,” I spoke to her plainly.

“No,” She replied, “Just like you will never cheat on your mate, I will never alpha-nap you.”

“Are you trying to be sarcastic?” I asked, raising my brows. Then, I let out an exhale and spoke clearly, “What happened the other night was a mistake. I will never cheat-”

“I know!” She exclaimed, not giving me space to continue my statement. “I planned this meeting to talk about something important. Yes, I stole the Crystal Moon, just like I was directed by Alpha Darwin, but I had my reasons.”

I scoffed, stuffing my cold hands into my pockets, “Let me guess... He promised to get you a car and a big apartment.”

“I don’t want to talk about that, but I had a very good reason.”

I narrowed my eyes, “Yeah, a very good reason to almost destroy my pack.”

“I found the Crystal Moon Guardian,” As soon as I heard Ziva speak, I turned to her, my brows lifted in surprise.

She nodded, "I'm telling the truth, and Alpha Darwin had this plan all along. Obviously, he did it to have the Crystal Moon and it's Guardian. Now, he has those two, he is powerful."

I ran my hand through my dark hair, feeling frustrated by what she said.

"If Darwin has those two, he can get united with more packs, destroying my pack with little or zero effort," I muttered, thinking about what she said. Things will be worse than I expected.

"So, I need your help. Have the Crystal Moon and do whatever you want with it."

"Doing that will only assist me, but what about you? What benefits will you get?"

"I have my own plans," She uttered, looking away from me.

I could tell she was trying to avoid my gaze, and I knew I had to get her to face me.

I reached out and grabbed her arm, gently but firmly turning her to look at me. I expected her to be angry, but instead, she just looked confused and a little scared.

"What plans? Are you hiding something from me?" I questioned, staring directly into her eyes.

Her gaze softened as she looked at me. Different thoughts hit my mind, and one disturbed me.

I inquired quickly, "Are you planning to divorce me again?"

She stared at me like a mute, innocent cat and she didn't respond. Her silence made me more disturbed as it seemed like my thoughts were true.

I tightened my grip on her arm and asked with a firm tone, "You aren't, right?"

She stayed mute, causing me to snap out in anger, "Answer me!"

"What's the use? It's not even a marriage. You have a mate-"

I interrupted, "We will not be divorced."

"What's your problem?" She sighed deeply and continued, "You can have the Crystal Moon and continue to be Alpha Darwin's enemy, but I'm leaving this all behind me. I don't want to be a part of this feud anymore."

"Leaving?" My eyes widened. She was planning to be a rogue, but why? Why is she sabotaging her father and leaving her luxurious life?

She pushed my hand away from her arm and spoke confidently, "I know you are holding onto this so-called marriage because I am Alpha Darwin's daughter and you plan to ruin Alpha Darwin by having me. But that won't work. I am not Alpha Darwin's biological daughter."

Her statement caught me off guard.

"What are you talking about?" I questioned, creasing my brows.

"I and Alpha Darwin are not related biologically. I'm just his useless fake daughter who was forced to get married to you..." Ziva glanced up at me and continued, "After everything is settled, we are getting a divorce. Then, I will stop bothering you."

I was stunned. The truth is finally before me and my plans to ruin Granelma Pack fell apart. She isn't his daughter, and she is not valuable to him.

No wonder, Alpha Darwin will never allow his daughter to marry me when he knows about my capabilities.

"Save the phone number I used. I will be handling it for now. So, if you have any message or call about how we take the Crystal Moon, I can always assist," Ziva uttered, before turning around and walking away quickly.

She had taken a lot of steps away from me like she was so eager to leave this place and I made her uncomfortable.

Meanwhile, I felt guilty. During our marriage, I mistreated her and hurt her, both physically and emotionally.

From the cold shoulders I gave her, never listening to her when she needed help, throwing her out of the mansion.

I am the real sly witch/asshole here...