

11. Surprise guests

-Riley-

I walked towards the pack house. The preparations for the ball were almost done, and the sounds of happy chatter lled the air.

"Hey Miller, have you seen Reid?" I asked our gamma and he gave me a look that made me want to bury myself under the earth and never come out. Full of pity and sadness. His gaze didn't comfort me. Something was clear to me now. He knew. Reid must have known it, too.

These men were the ones I would trust with my life, yet they didn't- in the end, they were loyal to their Alpha, and not me. And I felt like I had lost even more so.

It angered me to realize that my husband's extra-curricular activities were common knowledge, but no one even tried to let me know. I shook my head. "You knew, didn't you? You all knew, and you chose him over me."

"Riley- Luna... it isn't- we don't want to hurt you and we know-"

I was tired of hearing excuses over and over again.

"Stop it, now. I thought you were all my friends, but apparently not. I don't even care anymore. You are all traitors. You, Reid... everyone who knows what was going on behind my back."

I didn't feel sad anymore about leaving the pack. I would help the pups and then I would leave. I thought they were my family, but apparently not. I only had Dee, and my wolf.

"Riley, please."

I walked away. I really didn't have any patience to listen to them. Or see any of them.

I grabbed a bottle of wine Dee had left there in my room for special occasions. This was a special occasion, was it not? The moment I nally, fully realized the truth about my life.

"It was a comedy," Gem said with a soft sigh and I laughed.

She was right. It must have been entertaining for these wolves to watch how stupid their Luna really was.

I took a gulp of the wine. I couldn't even feel sad for myself anymore. I had crossed the limit of self-pity. I grabbed the phone and dialed Dee's number. She picked up after the second ring as if she was waiting for me, but giving me the space to call her myself. Now, this was a friend I would give my life for.

"What did the as.s banana say?" I chuckled a little bit.

"The amount of crap that came out of his mouth... it exceeded the crap that might come out of the other hole," I said and she guffawed. "But... that isn't it. He- oh Dee, he threatened the pups."

"That bloody son of a- well, the ex-luna wasn't a b***h, but you get the drift."

I told her about what transpired between me and Hiran, and she was stunned. Usually it would take a lot to make Dee speechless, but even she was speechless right now.

"And he said I would stay if I wanted to save the pups."

"That bloody wh*re," she hissed. "I will kill him in his sleep."

"Sounds good to me. And, the thing is... they all know about Hiran and Keller. Oh, and Keller came to the pack and I almost ripped his heart out."

"He would deserve it. So you mean, Reid knew?" Her voice came out hesitant. I knew how much she liked Reid.

"Reid, Miller, probably everyone in the pack."

"I will gut them and fry them like bloody shes they all are," she said with a growl. "Hey, Riley. I can write that letter to the king's council, you know."

"You can, but he has connections, Dee, and this might be a small pack out of nowhere, but he wasn't- he knows people. People that would scare you to your early grave. That is the only thing stopping me right now," I said as I leaned against the headboard. "Oh, and Dee, come to the party tomorrow."

"Are you drinking my wine right now?" she asked.

"Oh yes. It tastes good."

"Oh sh.it, that is a costly one, but yeah, you deserve it. Just leave me something."

"No promises are made, but I will try," I said as I took another gulp. "Bye, Dee."

I hung up, emptied the bottle and just curled up in my bed, staring at the ceiling. I knew drinking now was not the smartest idea, but lo and behold, I just found out I wasn't as smart as I had always assumed.

"Yippee-kay-yay!" Gem said with a nod. "That is a revelation."

"Don't make fun of me, you little bitch."

"Yeah, whatever."

I didn't know when I fell asleep, but when I woke up, the sun was already hot through my window and I could feel the effect of the empty wine bottle sitting on my bedside table all over my body. I groaned and stretched when someone pounded on my door.

"Stop pounding, I am coming." I sluggishly moved towards the door and pulled it open.

Hiran was standing there with a scowl on his face. "What are you doing? You- you look like a garbage truck has run over you."

"You smell like you have been pulled right out of a pile of s**t," I said.

He growled. "Do not antagonize me, Riley. This ball is important. You are going to act like a proper Luna, or I will hurt one of your little ones. Oh, the girl... What is her name? Mia? Bella?"

I st my palm until my claws were cutting through the skin. "You are disgusting. Why don't you ask Keller to wear a cute little dress and be your good little Luna?" I snapped.

He quickly looked around before slamming a hand against my ribs, pushing me inside the room, and then locking the door behind him. My chest hurt like hell from where he just pushed me.

"You will not talk to me like that, Riley. I thought I had made sure what would happen if you tried to stand up to me. No, don't try to be a hero. You are not, Riley. You have always been weak."

I rubbed my chest. I was sure he would have left a mark. "I was never weak, Hiran. I was in love, and it made me stupid. But not anymore. Touch me again, and I will make sure you never touch anyone ever again."

He pounced at me, his body moving at rapid speed and I saw his canines protrude out of his lips. He gripped my shoulder, his claws digging into my skin, and I had had enough. The thin thread of my control snapped.

Gem growled in my head, shaking her head in anger, and before I knew it, I was gripping him by his neck, pushing him against the wall. I watched with satisfaction as he looked at me in shock. He could easily break out of my hold, but his shock gave me a moment of victory. My long claws cut into his skin and blood dripped down his white shirt.

And soon the moment was over, but it made me just as happy as when I had s*x with Roman to hurt him.

"How dare you?"

"Do not threaten my pups ever again. You don't know what I might do. Remember this. I hurt you last night, because you cheated on me. And I will nd men. I will continue to hurt you, as long as you keep me a prisoner here."

"The pups will suffer because of that. Do you want that?" His eyes were cold. There was no humanity in his eyes. Only selshness and anger.

I pushed my chin up. "What did I just tell you, Hiran? Do not threaten my pups. If anything, anything happens to them, I will kill you. Look me in the eye and you will see I am not lying. As long as my pups are safe, you are safe in your sleep. The moment you do something, anything, you would have taken away the one thing that would keep me in line, and then... it will be a free buffet for me. And I will drink your blood."

He took a step back and, for just a second, I saw it and I savored it. Fear. He was scared. It was gone as fast as it came, that ash of fear, but I had seen it.

"Do not test me, Riley. You don't know me."

"Oh, I know you and now you know me, too."

"Don't push him too much," Gem said. "Yes, I understand, but if you push too much, he won't hesitate. Riley, come on."

"Get ready for the party, Luna. Smile and act like you are enjoying the day, and I won't hurt the pups." But his voice came out slightly hesitant. He walked away and I slammed the door shut.

I spent the rest of the day just aimlessly walking around the woods. Reid tried to mind-link me, but I ignored it. I didn't feel like talking with him or anyone else. When it was nally time for the party, I walked back to my room. I made sure I didn't run into anyone.

I grabbed the dresses I bought the day I nally realized that the candy-colored glasses I had been wearing were actually fake, and the love, the marriage, everything was a sham.

I bought two dresses. The rst one was blue and modest. Classy. It was the type of dress I would usually wear in public.

The second one was daring. It was deep red, with crisscrosses on the back and a thin strap, holding the dress. It had a plunging neckline, and it had a long slit from my ankle to my thighs, that made the overall dress even more daring.

I would look like a million dollar hooker. I bought it to surprise Hiran, and a surprise was what he was going to get.

I paired it with killer red heels. I knew my feet would destroy me, but if I was going to have to tolerate this sham, I would make him tolerate this, too. I knew he wouldn't like my dress. I knew he would hate that people were looking at me like this. He had always been jealous of that.

I took my time. I waited until the party was in full swing and then I walked down, my heels making a clicking sound. The whole room went quiet.

I could almost smell Hiran's anger as I reached the bottom step. He gave me a smile, which was so fake. "What the f**k are you wearing?"

"A dress?" I blinked my eyes.

"Go change or-"

"Alpha, the guests have arrived," one of the warriors told him. Hiran gritted his teeth. I laughed inside my head.

"Come with me, and be respectful."

Whoever these guests were, they were important, and I took note of that in my mind. I grabbed a glass of champagne from the passing tray and took a sip.

"Riley." Hiran glared at me, but he couldn't do anything.

"Welcome, welcome," Hiran said in a voice that was slick and charming.

"What a snake."

I took another sip of the champagne, and that was when I felt the prickle along my skin.

A familiar scent assaulted my nostrils.

I looked up from my champagne glass and my eyes met the hard, unrelenting gaze of Roman.

"F*CK OUR LIFE!"

"This is my Luna, Riley." Hiran's voice was proprietorial and I had a feeling Roman didn't like that.

"Hello, Luna Riley. Nice to meet you." He took my hand in his and my whole body trembled in need. His hand was familiar on my skin.

What was he doing here? What the hell was his game?

"Ni-nice to meet you, too."

And then Adrian walked behind Roman. "Oh, for fu.ck's sake, this is- no way in- kill me now and bury me in a-"

"Adrian, shut up," Roman hissed, which made the other man shut up.

"Welcome to the party, and I got a call from the King. You can stay in my pack as long as you want."

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