

# **Betrayed Luna's Second Chance Alphas**

## **Read – Chapter 21-30**

### **– Chapter 21**

-Riley-

“The one we talked about... Her name is Feyona. Roman’s ex-mate. Ramsay’s now-wife.”

Now I understood why Roman looked how he looked. Pale and angry and... hurt. I felt a small pang in my stomach, which I didn’t understand, not at all.

“Oh sh\*t.”

“Oh sh\*t is right, Luna, oh sh\*t is so right,” Adrian said with a chuckle. “They are so over. Like years ago. She cheated on him with Ramsay and, oh, now that I think about it, you both have almost the same story.”

I almost wanted to ask him how she looked, but it was so basic, so... so not me. I was not this woman, and like I already said, Roman was a one-night-stand, who I hoped to have a few more nights with, but now that he had gone back, it was over.

“He said it was not a goodbye.”

“And I don’t believe it, Gem.”

“Did he go to a club and find a random stranger to get revenge, too?” I said, quirking my brows and Adrian laughed, shaking his head.

“Oh no, you are something special. Rome is not. Rome just applied to the council, and then they broke the bond. But she was only his chosen mate and I knew how much it had hurt him, changed him. He wasn’t... he used to laugh and smile and just be crazy. Now, I have to be crazy for the both of us. I am sorry you had to go through that.”

“How long have you known him?”

“All my life. Since we were both babies. Our mothers are best friends. Our fathers are, too. Our sisters, too. And then the three of us were, too.”

“Three of you?” I blinked. Adrian leaned back against the couch and put his arm over his eyes with a small smile on his lips. He looked like he was thinking about something good.

“Oh, Finn. It is Rome’s brother.”

“He has a brother and a sister, huh? His sister is... Ashelene, right?” Adrian nodded and for a second his eyes flashed, and then he was smiling once again. “What is your sister’s name?”

“Bella.”

“The same Bella that works with Dean?”

“Yes, that Bella.”

“I love how you are all so close to each other. It sounds like you are family,” I said with a twitch in my stomach. Keller and Dee and I were like that. Family. Dee’s parents were like our parents too. Keller had a dead-beat dad, who didn’t care if he lived or died. I had no one. And Dee brought all of us together. We spent Christmases and thanksgivings and every other holiday together. Why... what was Keller thinking in his head when he did this?

“Closer,” he said with a shrug.

“It still sounds amazing,” I said to Adrian as I looked at the time. I felt like eons had passed since Hiran first ran into the woods with Mirabel, but it was still only a few minutes past one.

“We should go back,” I said.

“The kids are safe, but...” Adrian looked at his watch, too, and his brows furrowed. “The party was still going when I came here, and I saw him talking with a few of the guys from your pack.”

“You saw Hiran?”

“And he didn’t look pleased. Come on then, let’s go back,” Adrian said as he stood up and gave me a hand. I shook my head with a sigh and he gave me a mischievous grin.

“What?”

“Can you put a lid on it?”

“On what? My sexiness? It is just too hard to control,” he said as he took my hand in his, pulled me up from the couch and twirled me around before pulling me closer and

dipping me. I laughed as he let go of my hand and gave me a bow. "Keep smiling, Riley. The worry lines don't look good on you. I know you are worried, but if Roman gave you his word, that word is a promise. We will keep the pups safe until then, okay? I mean... you have me, Reid and the human. But you are impressive all by yourself, too and you can do it. You can do anything."

"Thank you," I said as we walked to the sexy black car. I stared at the blurry houses racing behind me, and soon we were back in the pack. I looked at the house where my pups were, and realized it was quiet. Only the night lights were on.

I felt cold air wrapping around me as I walked towards the pack house. My heart was thundering, but I knew Hiran wouldn't do anything in front of the other wolves.

The music was still at full volume. We wolves... usually party late into the night. No one looked like they were tired. I could immediately feel the burn of the gaze on my skin. I knew... My body went rigid when I met the cold eyes of my mate, the f\*cking a\*shole. He walked towards me, his steps purposeful, his eyes swirling in madness. I unconsciously shuddered.

"Riley," he said as he looked at me from head to toe. "You look terrible." His voice was low and accusing. "You should not have done this. My wolf wasn't pleased, but I told him to stop. I am sorry for what happened in the woods, Riley. You know I wouldn't do that to you or the orphans. It was him, but his anger was justified, no?"

"No," I snapped. "It is not."

And everything he said was an absolute lie. There was no truth in his eyes, and once again, no remorse. We both knew it wasn't just his wolf.

"I have your heels. It is quite an expensive pair, too, isn't it, Riley? You shouldn't waste it. I will bring it to your room tonight."

"No, keep it. And don't come anywhere near me."

"Well, you really need some d\*ck in you, and it is better if it is your mate's, isn't it?" He sneered as he grabbed my shoulder. His fingers dug in into my skin, and I snarled, before I looked around.

I wanted to smash his head into the wall and be done with it.

"No, your d\*ck looks better in Keller's mouth, so keep it right there. I am not going to fake m\*\*n and put up with your d\*ck anymore, because... I just realized there are even more impressive d\*cks around. Oh... I see so many new wolves around here and I think... maybe I will try one of them," I said as I deliberately looked at Adrian who was standing with a glass of wine in his hand, and Hiran hissed.

“Don’t you dare go anywhere near them, or do anything... to mess this up, Riley, or I will burn you.”

“Oh, here is the Lycan coming towards us. Should I go talk to him?”

“RILEY. Do not test my patience. You won’t like the other side of me.”

“I don’t like this side, either, but don’t you worry, Hiran. I won’t f\*ck him. Yet. Maybe before he leave?! What do you think? Would he say yes?”

“He would definitely say yes,” Gem said with a huff. “Such a flirt.”

“Hi, Luna Riley, you are the only one I haven’t danced yet. I mean, why did you disappear?”

“She was tired,” Hiran asked quickly and Adrian and I shared a look.

“So... may I have the next dance?” I gave him a grateful look, and Hiran glared at me for a second before his lips pulled up in a smile.

“Of course, Alpha Adrian, she would love to dance with you.”

Adrian gave Hiran a fleeting smile before he turned to look at me. “I am not asking your permission, Alpha. I am asking for the Luna’s permission. So, Luna Riley, would you really love to dance with me?”

Hiran’s body went rigid. He didn’t like that Adrian dismissed him like that in front of the whole pack and his face soured in anger. My respect for Adrian grew.

“Of course,” I said as Adrian took my hand in his and twirled me away. “Thank you.”

“I am sorry. I saw you were getting angry and I wanted to help. Rome would kill me if I let anything happen to-”

“Thank you . You don’t have to be sorry. And I can take care of myself, too.”

“I meant, him. Hiran. Like I said, we still need that a\*shole. He would bring us a step closer to the bigger sharks,” Adrian said as he glared at Hiran’s back, his eyes turning into dark, midnight gray.

“You look so good in that dress, and without it-”

I gasped. “What?”

“What? I know you want Roman, but,”

“NO BUT.”

“If I wasn’t so drunk last night, you would have gone with me, wouldn’t you?” His eyes were dark, and prodding.

“You can’t say that now,” I said with a frown.

“Why not?”

“I- I don’t know, because I slept with your friend and it is not going to be- this isn’t happening and-”

“I am usually not the sharing type,” Adrian said as he leaned closer and I could feel the warmth of his body. He smelled really good. Maybe not Roman good, but GOOD. “But I can share you with Roman.”

“No one is sharing anyone with anyone,” I said as I quickly pulled away from him, my body heating in reaction to his words and Adrian laughed.

“I was just playing with you, Riley.” He kept laughing and I flushed.

“No, he wasn’t kidding at all,” Gem said.

“You are a bigger jerk than your friend.”

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-Roman-

It was killing me. I missed her. I was worried about her. And I felt like if I closed my eyes, I could smell her around me, and I would miss her even more. So I didn’t close my eyes.

Oh, I was also wondering about her and Adrian. I was going insane from the thought of him and her, alone. Ad had always been a flirt and a charmer, and he was easy on the eyes, and women always found him more comfortable to be around, more lovable. I was the one-night-stand material. And he... the boyfriend material.

The flight ride seemed unusually longer than before and I was left alone with my own thoughts, and my freaking wolf, who was screaming inside my head. He just wouldn’t shut up.

“Because... I am still freaking out about what happened. If Adrian hadn’t knocked...” Karl said with a shudder. “But then again, I don’t know. Would I have minded it so much?”

“That is the hundredth time you are asking me the same question, using a million different words. The answer still is... SHUT THE f\*\*k UP.”

I closed my eyes, blocking my wolf for a while. I had lived hearing his grumblings all my life, but sometimes I needed my peace and quiet. My mind was already like a roaring sea.

I also couldn't stop thinking about the way she looked at me when I walked out of the door. I wanted to stay and talk, but I was so confused about everything that had happened and angry with everything Adrian told me, that I practically ran out of the door. It was too consuming, and I had to get away.

Marking... It was a big f\*cking deal. I dated Feyona for two years before I finally asked her to be my mate. And Riley... I knew this crazy, headstrong, kind, brave woman for a day and a half? And I almost didn't ask her before marking her. That was so wrong. I was not like that, and it scared me.

When we landed, I was the first one to storm out of the metal box. I looked around, planning to hire a cab when I saw a familiar face running towards me. She threw herself at me, and I steadied her.

“Hi Ash, how are you? What are you doing here?”

“We are here to pick you up,” my brother said as he threw an arm around Ash's shoulder. “This coconut-head dragged me from my foam bed,” he complained with a yawn.

“So... Rome... Bella called, and she-“

“I know Ramsay is back. That is why I am here.”

“No, not that. Bella met Feyona in a cafe... and she talked with her.”

“Why the hell did I not know that?” Finn said with a growl. “Bella should have just killed that wicked witch with an aconitum or something.”

“Did Bella find out what Feyona's doing here?”

“She said something about making amends and learning from the mistakes of the past. Amends? What the f\*\*k! That b\*\*\*h is crazy!”

“No, don't worry about that. Our only problem now is Ramsay,” I said as we three walked to our car.

“Oh, she will always be a problem for us, and we detest her,” Finn said with a growl. I smiled a little. “And we will destroy Ramsay. Of course, we will.”

“Yee-haw,” Ash yelled at the top of her lungs.

“Read the room, crazy,” Finn said with a huff,, slapping her against her back and she whined and turned to me, complaining about Finn.

And I am HOME!

## – Chapter 22

-Roman-

“Roman, Rome. Is he daydreaming or something?” Finn’s voice pulled me out of my thoughts. I realized I had been driving for a while, and we were really close to our pack house, which was not really a pack house in the traditional sense, but it was.

“Finn, make sure he doesn’t drive us straight to our graveyard, please.” I heard my sister whisper yell. “I am only nineteen and I have so much to live for.”

“What do you have to live for? You are lazy, you don’t have any passion-“

“I am passionate, you fool,” Ashelene grunted as she thumped Finn on his back. By now, they would have forgotten why they were calling me in the first place.

“About!? Enlighten me!”

“FOOD. EATING.”

Finn laughed and Ash joined with him. I chuckled to myself as I steered the car down the familiar roads before I stopped in front of the massive hotel. NIGHTSHADE. That was our hotel name, and our pack name.

“They should have just let us daydream about it... Riley. Oh, her lips are really pretty, don’t you think, Rome? And when she k\*\*\*\*s...”

“Karl, really. You are either freaking out about what happened or obsessing about kissing her. This is really making me crazy.”

“So you weren’t crazy before?”

I parked the car and walked out, before knocking at the windows.

“We are here,” I said to them and they both blinked and then looked at each other with a sheepish smile before they walked outside. I handed the key to one of the human valets and he bowed to me slightly before he walked away.

Our pack house was more like a grand hotel than an ordinary pack house. It was very close to the woods, though. Werewolves love their woods no matter what.

I still couldn't help but be struck by the hotel's sheer size and grandeur. The building rises up from the ground, its towering glass windows reflecting the sunlight and shimmering in the breeze.

I didn't live in the hotel. It was too loud and noisy with humans who buzzed around the place. Of course, humans were only allowed on the first three floors and after that it was only wolves in our pack, but still, that was one too many humans for me, and wolves, too. I always loved my solitude, after rough days of travel and detective work.

As I stepped inside, cold air wrapped around me. I could see the open lobby was already filled. This place was too costly to stay in, because my father didn't want too many humans to come, and yet... they came. They always came. I knew they were intrigued by the mystery of "Nightshade" and they were willing to pay a lot for it. They were also curious whether the werewolves really lived here or not.

"Hey Rome, you were deep in thought. What were you thinking? Is everything alright back there?"

"We still haven't found much, but I am sure Alpha Hiran is a part of all of this," I said to him as we walked to the private elevator that would lead to our parents' suite.

"The a\*shole, but you seemed more distracted than you usually are and-" he paused, as Ash and he shared another look.

I looked at her with a frown. What was all this about?

"We were worried about Feyona at first and so we didn't notice."

"Guys, stop being so cryptic and just tell me."

"You smell of a woman!" Ash blurted out and Finn winced.

"You have no finesse at all, Ashelene Lena Night."

"F\*ck finesse."

"See, this is why you are still single."

Ash's face fell for a second before she shrugged.

"Finn, apologize. She is a strong, amazing woman and no one is worthy of my little sister," I said as I wrapped an arm around her shoulder and she snuggled closer to me, and poked her tongue out at Finn.



“Ew,” Finn made a face. “You are the one who spoils her. She failed her art exam. She is the one who wanted to go to an art school and she is even failing that.”

“Art is about feeling. You can’t memorize your feelings. You won’t understand that, Finn. You are a neanderthal.”

“Stop you two. Let’s go see dad.”

“Oh, we have not forgotten Rome,” Ash said as she sniffed my shirt. “She smells beautiful. Does she look beautiful, too? Come on, tell me, brother.”

I glared at my sister as she looked at me with wide innocent eyes, which were not innocent at all. She could pretend all she wanted, but I knew she was secretly evil.

“No. She has one and a half eyes and a bucktooth,” I said with a straight face and she grumbled. Thankfully, the elevator came to a stop with a ding, and I hurriedly walked out, knowing very well my siblings wouldn’t let me be until they knew all the answers, even the ones I didn’t want to say. I might be one of the best operatives in the biggest organization of Lycans and werewolves in the world, but my sister was good at interrogation.

“You are not getting out of this that easily, Rome. I will find out,” she said before she knocked on the door.

My dad opened and gave me a half smile as he motioned me to go in. “Come into my study, Roman. Things are getting really problematic and troublesome here. We need to put an end to it soon or I have a feeling, it will cause major problems to everyone.”

“I will find out what Ramsay is doing, dad. Don’t worry about that. That is the first place why we went to Crystal Park.”

“It is not just that, Rome. Two humans were killed last night in Central Park. They had bite marks on their necks and arms, and they were completely bloodless.”

My eyes widened as I looked at my dad’s troubled face. He looked really worried.

“Vampires? But they aren’t stupid enough to do that, are they?”

“It didn’t look like a vampire bite, Roman, here... NYPD brought us some evidence and photographs.” My dad took a manila envelope, and pulled out a few photographs, before he spread them on the table and I stilled. My eyes traced the photos and the wounds on the two dead humans.

The wounds were the size of a child’s small finger. There were holes closer to each other. Vampire bites would look tiny and the two bites were not close to each other. It looked like someone had really big, curved and sharp central incisors.

"What the hell is this, dad?"

"That is what we are trying to find out, Roman, but the Watchers' guess... it is part of Ramsay's experiment that has gone terribly wrong."

"I should have killed that a\*shole," I growled under my breath as I grabbed the photographs. The two bodies looked terrible. But it was the wound... "What the hell is he really doing? I don't think he is doing all of this by himself. So who is... fronting this operation, dad?"

"We need to find out soon and then stop it before there is bloodshed and chaos, Roman. I have a very bad feeling about it."

I had, too.

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-Riley-

I kept thinking about asking Adrian for Roman's phone number, but I was a freaking coward. I just couldn't put myself through that. I mean, he didn't say he would call me. He said he would call Adrian. I was weirded out by myself. This was strange... I knew him for a night. It was supposed to be over with that night. But why did fate kept bringing him... them back to my life?

"Stop being melodramatic, Riley. You are not a heroine in those tragedy novels."

"I feel like I am."

"You will most likely be a side-character. Now, me, I am the female lead material. And just ask Adrian for the phone number. He is not going to bite you. Wait, would you mind if he bites you?"

"You are insane, Gem. I can't actually say it enough, but you are."

"Just ask him. I have a feeling you will not sleep, at all, thinking about him and Feyona... and everything else."

"Are you talking about me or yourself, Gemmy?"

"Here. You haven't eaten at all." Adrian came back with a plate of chicken fingers.

"And you think this finger food can fill me now?"

"I can fill you..." Adrian said in a soft whisper that made my skin tingle. No way in hell. This guy was a freaking flirt. "With food, I mean."

"Yeah, you meant food, alright!" I rolled my eyes. "Have you gone to some special school to flirt like this? And tell me something. Does this line usually work for you?"

"I don't usually need a line, Riley." He gave me a smile that could blind you, and I believed him. I was sure just one smile was enough.

I grabbed the plate of chicken fingers from him and bit into it.

"Oh, come on, what did it do to you?"

"It shouldn't cluck too much," I said with a pointed look in his direction and he laughed. I smiled, shaking my head. My smile fell when Hiran moved next to us.

Adrian took a step towards him, and I subtly shook my head to stop him.

"This dance is mine, Luna," he said as he took my hand in his, and it was a shame I still felt the f\*cking bond. "Oh come on, smile, Riley. You look good when you smile. Your pups are all safe in their house. All in all, it is a good day. I was in a very forgiving mood, too. You should forgive me, too, Riley."

"You are shameless. What is your problem, Hiran? You know I don't want you. You don't want me, either. So why? If I go away, you can stay with Keller."

"Keller?" Hiran scoffed. "Why would I stay with him? And how would I introduce him to everyone? My Luna? I am not a f\*\*\*\*\*g idiot."

"Aren't you?" I whispered and he gave me a look that was full of mockery. "Do you want another one of my heels on your back?"

"You can fight all you want, Riley, but this is your place. Right next to me."

"I am tired. I am going to sleep," I said as I pulled away from him. The longer he touched me, the more I felt like I would really vomit, despite feeling the tingles. My skin liked his touch, but my brain hated it, detested it.

"You can only run to your room, Riley. Run, but I will always catch you."

I growled before I stomped away to my room. I locked the door, and fell on my bed with a sigh. I wanted to poke his eyes out or even kill him. Just thinking about him made me feel like I was stomping through garbage.

"Then think about something else. Think about Roman and how his fingers felt buried in your p\*ssy!"

I m\*\*\*\*d and then pressed my palm against my lips to keep myself from moaning too loud.

Guess tonight was going to be so f\*\*\*\*\*g long. But I think... maybe I needed this night away from him. I was getting too attracted and I knew that was asking for trouble.

I closed my eyes, and was once again distracted by Gem's crazy voice in my head, going on and on about Roman.

"His hands... so damn big. You know... like he could break our neck in a single twitch, but when he grabbed your throat, it didn't even hurt, did it?"

So... this really was going to be a long night.

I ran my fingers down my stomach and sighed.

I was already wet from Gem's incessant talk about Roman's hands and fingers.

"Touch yourself."

"You are a freaking hussy."

"I know, and I am not ashamed. We live only once. Close your eyes and think about Roman and..."

I arched up as I pulled my panties down and g\*\*\*\*\*d when I realized I was already too wet. I rubbed my fingers against my clit, my eyes fluttering closed... and f\*\*k...

I jumped up when my phone screamed from the bedside table.

Who the f\*\*k was calling me now?

I grabbed the phone and saw it was unknown. My heart thundered. Was it Roman? My body heated in response and my heart thundered. My throat felt like it was stuffed with heated sand.

"Should I answer?" I whispered.

"Yes, of course."

"Hello?"

"It is me."

"Roman... what are you- I mean, why did you call me?"

"Because I can't stop thinking about you in your bed, Riley, and I want to be in that bed with you." His voice was rough and hoarse. "Were you asleep? Did I wake you?"

“No.”

“What were you doing?” He asked and I heard the sheets rustling. Was he sliding into his covers, getting ready for the night? Did he sleep naked?

“If I tell you now...”

“Tell me.”

“Touching my wet p\*ssy, thinking about you.”

A dark, deep growl came from the other end that made me tremble, and then he m\*\*\*\*d.

“Touch again, Kitten, and know that I am touching myself thinking about you, too.”

!!!

## – Chapter 23

-Deidre-

I felt like I was going crazy. I couldn't even move on this freaking couch. I felt like I was sleeping on a ground, and let me tell you, I was not made for things like that.

Riley sent me a message a while ago, saying that everything was alright, and if I wanted to come back to the pack-house, I should, but I told her I would stay here, because... certainly not because the couch was luxurious. Nope. I should have just gone back, but why the hell did I stay!? Because I was freaking crazy, that was why!

“Are you asleep?” he asked from the floor. His back was facing me. I closed my eyes tighter, hoping he wouldn't turn around. I was the worst liar there ever was. “I can hear your heart thundering, hoping I wouldn't catch you now, and stop snoring. You sound like a dying donkey.”

“What the hell is wrong with you?”

“Are you still angry, Dee? I said I am sorry.”

“You are also a part of something that hurt my best friend. If I could just kill your brother,” I mumbled under my breath and Reid sighed as he turned around and looked into my eyes. My breath hitched. He had eyes that were a mix of strange blue and gray, and I had always loved staring into his eyes, but I knew that shouldn't happen.

“And I will help you bury him, if you want. Better yet, why dirty your pretty hands? I will help you kill him, dig his grave and bury him.”

Did he... just call my f\*\*\*\*\*g hands pretty? My hands were not pretty. They were big. When I put my hands next to Riley, sometimes, I would always feel like a giant of a person.

Of course, the rest of me was sexy as f\*ck, but not my hand, nope.

I turned my hands around, trying to see if they were really pretty, and I was right. He was blind for a werewolf. He chuckled a little.

“What are you looking at?”

“Nothing,” I grumbled under my breath. I had known Reid for two and half years. The first time I met him, I knew I had to do everything in my power to not give in to the temptation to k\*\*s him. As time passed, we flirted here and there, but I knew I should never cross the line, because he was a wolf, and I, a human, and it would be nothing but a tragedy. For me.

I was not a dumb id.iot.

But lately... it looked like the dumber side in me was winning.

“It is pretty,” he whispered softly as his eyes darkened. “You know how I feel, Dee, won’t you make a move?”

“You want me to MAKE a what now?” I hissed as I sat up on the couch and clutched the blanket to my chin as I gave him a startled look. He looked bewildered for a second, as if he didn’t understand the words that had just come out of his own mouth. But then he shrugged.

“Make a move, Dee, make a move.”

I shook my head with a frown. “Are you- did you hit your head somewhere? What move do you want me to make?”

“You always know everything. You are the strongest woman I know, next to Riley, and I grew up among werewolves who are not as strong or brave as you. So I know you know. And I have been waiting and waiting for years. I knew you needed space at first after you lost your parents and I wanted to be there for you as a friend, but that is not what I want to be, forever. Make a move.”

“You have lost your fu.cking mind, Beta.” I said with a hiss as I stood up. I almost wanted to stomp and scream, but I convinced myself not to do anything stupid like that right now.

"Now that you have finally stood up, walk towards me."

He really was crazy, but I didn't know why I was walking towards him. It was as if his voice was some kind of hypnotic music.

"Sit, Dee."

"What- what are you doing?"

"K\*\*s me, Dee."

I leaned closer and pressed my lips softly against him. He g\*\*\*\*\*d as he pulled me up to his lap. I wiggled closer, as he gripped my hair in a tight fist and tugged me closer to him, before he kissed me with everything he had. His lips were plump, soft and the k\*\*s was... it was making me lose my head.

He deepened the k\*\*s and I m\*\*\*\*\*d when he bit my lower l\*p, before his tongue sneaked into my mouth. His tongue explored me, as my heart thundered. I had never tasted something as delicious as him.

My hands roamed over his carved body, caressing and teasing, igniting a fire that had been burning for a while.

He pressed his body against mine, pushing my breast further into his chest, as I started grinding against his e\*\*\*\*\*n, and I knew, if I didn't stop, I would come, right here, fully clothed.

His lips were masterful. His tongue danced and teased around mine, creating a f\*\*\*\*\*g malestorm in my chest. Our tongues tangled together and we kissed passionately, our mouths devouring each other, like two starving animals desperate to taste every last thing.

The years of waiting had made it even more unbearably sexy.

I could feel myself getting wetter by the second; my n\*\*\*\*\*s hardening against the fabric of my blouse and bra. I couldn't wait any longer. I needed to feel him inside me.... but...

"I want to touch you," I m\*\*\*\*\*d out as my hand went to his e\*\*\*\*\*n. A loud growl left his lips and I quickly thrust my tongue inside him, before pulling away. "Quiet. You will wake the kids."

"Come on, let's go to the empty room at the end of the hall. Nobody uses it," he said as we both quickly stood up. The room was filled with things nobody ever wanted, but it had a door and the door had a lock. I was okay with it.

I pushed Reid against the wall, and my fingers fumbled at the button of his jeans, before I yanked them open and undid his fly. Then I pulled down his zipper and grabbed hold of his throbbing c\*ck, moaning as I did.

He released a g\*\*\*n, as I ran my hand up and down his shaft. His hands reached out for me, pulling me close so that he could press his e\*\*\*\*\*n against my stomach.

“You feel good. I- want you inside me now.”

“Now?”

“Yes, do you have a condom?”

He nodded, and quickly rolled it into his c\*ck before pushing me against the wall and then pulling me up. I moved until his c\*ck was closer to my p\*ssy. There was no going back now, even if I wanted.

“Now,” I ordered.

“You are very bossy, but yes, now...” he growled out and his voice was so sexy that I org\*smed a little.

I was ready to have him inside me.

When his head nudged against my entrance, I closed my eyes and leaned towards him, pressing my lips against his. We both breathed heavily, our chests rising and falling rapidly. I had a feeling he was just as nervous and excited as me, and it gave me a strange thrill. When he finally entered me, I gasped loudly at the sudden sensation, before I began to move with him. Faster, harder.

I wrapped my arms tightly around his neck and pressed my lips firmly against his. We moved in unison, thrusting harder and faster, panting, until we were both edging closer and closer to the release. Suddenly, he began to shudder and his d\*ck swelled within me.

My body contracted from the intense pleasure from that before I started to move more forcefully.

“Ah, touch me,” I whispered as he started to thrust harder. His growl became fiercer and I felt myself clenching around his c\*ck before I orgasmed. I cried out in pleasure, as waves of ecstasy coursed through my body once again when he continued to move and then he came, screaming my name.

\*\*\*

-Roman-



Last night's phone call had put me in a weirder mood. Despite everything that had been f\*\*\*\*d up, I was smiling. I couldn't stop smiling, as I thought about what we did last night.

She didn't shy away from the conversation, though. She took my words like a good f\*\*\*\*g girl, but I knew she was not.

"I want to thrust two fingers inside your p\*ssy, and then scream for me, Kitten."

"I would rather have a c\*ck, but..." she said with a deep sigh.

"Did Adrian..." I paused knowing very well that was something I shouldn't ask her while she was pumping her fingers inside herself. Her m\*\*\*s grew louder and her grunts were sharper. I could feel her breath on me. My fingers tightened around my c\*ck as I used my other hand to touch my balls.

"Yes, he did."

"I know that."

"What are you doing now? Tell me Roman?"

"I am touching myself, and I have beads of pre-cum I wish you can lick..."

"Touch it, Roman..." I g\*\*\*\*\*d as I touched the wetness. "Now push that finger into your mouth and suck."

"Oh, Riley... I want to come back Now. I want your mouth on me, as you drink every last- oh, f\*\*k," I screamed as I come, spurting c\*m on my blanket. f\*\*k. This was going to be a headache to clean it. I should just dig a pit and bury it. "Now, let me help you, Kitten. Close your eyes. I want to lick you until..." I started to whisper into the night as her m\*\*\*s grew harder. I knew how exactly she would look right then. Depraved. Sinful. Like all my dirty, darkest fantasy.

"Knock, knock."

I jerked back and flushed, as I realized I was stroking myself once again.

It might be because I had been abstaining from s\*x for years. But just thinking about her was now making my c\*ck erect.

"Because her mouth felt so good... I wish to do that when I am half shifted."

"No way in hell, Karl. In your perverted dreams."

I opened the door and smiled when I saw Dean standing there. He quickly pushed me inside before he slammed the door shut. "I couldn't afford to be seen," he said as he removed his leather jacket and threw it on the couch.

"So, you can't get into Dirty Secrets, obviously, but Ramsay owns another club, this one, above the ground, but still shady. You can go and sniff around."

"I know. I am already ready for that," I said as I grabbed my own jacket. "Stay and come out after I leave," I said to Dean and he nodded. "Oh, wait, so who is the girl?"

"Already? When did Finn call you?"

"I met him a few hours ago," Dean said with a smile. "Now, off you go."

I wandered around the city for a while, and then made a stop at NYPD to meet the chief. He was my dad's friend, and we unofficially helped him, whenever and however way we could. The important thing was protecting the city.

After collecting reports and the test results on the wounds on humans, I walked back to my car and spent another hour reading on the documents, which made my stomach churn. I was usually calm and unshakable, but this made me shudder.

No b\*\*\*d. And the wounds were covered in some kind of milky white, sticky substance. The medical examiner had mentioned in his report that it might be a kind of poison, but a new kind of poison. He also noted that humans didn't die of b\*\*\*d loss, they died because of this strange poison.

When it was time to go to the club, I drove to the club. This was where Ash said Bella met Feyona, so I knew I might run into her. As if she heard me thinking of her name, Feyona walked towards me, or more like waltzed. She always walked like that.

Her Silver-pink hair was pulled up in a high ponytail and she was wearing a very short skirt and even shorter top, that showcased her body. She looked as she had looked when I caught her cheating on with Ramsay. Perfect. Sexy. And cold.

"It was suffocating for me, Roman. You are suffocating." That was the first thing she said when she saw me, and she didn't pull away. He didn't, either.

She stopped in front of me.

"Roman. You still look like a hot, angry soldier marching onto a battlefield. This is a club."

"And you are an enemy. So I won't mind shooting you. Keep your distance, Feyona!"

“Still so testy, huh?” she leered before she leaned closer and kissed my chin. “And still so sexy. Sometimes I do miss that big c\*ck of yours.”

## – Chapter 24

-Riley-

I woke up this morning, feeling strangely lightheaded and happy and almost giggling, even though nothing was right in my life. The sound of my giggle was strange even to myself. I had never been a giggling girl, even when I was young. I couldn't afford to giggle.

And the day only got better when I realized how peaceful the pack-house looked and felt, without Hiran's obnoxious voice ringing throughout, and that made me even more happy.

I spent the whole morning with my pups, and since there was no school today for the older ones, and Hiran wasn't there, as well, we all had a picnic together. I wanted to cheer them and myself up after last night. It was fun, and I could really smile after looking at their happy faces. Mirabel looked like she had totally forgotten what happened last night, and that relaxed me.

I sighed as I took a sip of my beer. “The picnic was good, wasn't it?” I said as I looked at my best friend. We were now in the same bar where I first met Roman and Adrian.

“Yes, good. It is a good, good day. Everything is shiny here,” she said, her voice strangely sing-songy. I looked around the dimly lit club and no, nothing here was shiny.

“Deidre Anne Austin, you are glowing. Now, spill?”

“It is the neon lights,” Dee said with a grin. I wasn't born yesterday, and I wasn't her friend for a day or two.

“Yeah, neon lights,” I said with a scoff as I ordered Vodka. I knew what I should do. I would get her drunk and then find all her secrets. I already had an idea, but I wanted her to tell to me. I knew she would, but still... this would be more fun. “Here, drink,” I pushed the shot glass towards her and she shook her head, as she narrowed her eyes at me with suspicion.

“Are you trying to get me drunk?” Dee slurred even as she gulped down her shot.

“Why would I do that? The past couple of days have been hard on all of us. So, I am just pampering my best-“

“Then why are you not drinking? And you look like you are schemi-“

“Here, I drank a shot. Now you drink this, and then tell me,” I said as I pushed another glass towards her. She bared her teeth at me, but I knew she lacked the willpower to say no.

“I hope they have at least kissed. I mean, I have been waiting for years. Too long,” Gem complained. “Dee is usually faster with other men.”

It had been too long, and I had eyes. I just pretended that I hadn’t seen all the googly eyes my best friend and my brother-in-law shared when they thought the other, and no one else was looking. I was always looking, though.

“Because Reid actually means something to her. The other men didn’t,” I said with a sigh as I looked at my best friend. Her blonde hair was pinned up and she was wearing no make-up, but still she was the most gorgeous woman here in this club. Even in a sweatshirt and jeans.

“So, how was the k\*\*s? It makes me icky to ask, but is Reid a good kisser?”

“Oh my God, what do you me-mean by good? He was the greatest,” Dee blurted out and then bit her tongue as her startled eyes met mine. “Yo-you sneaky b\*tch. I am going to kill you.” I laughed as she tried to stand up and then slumped back down. “Okay, I-I won’t kill you, because you are my besht friend, but... I will avenge this conspiracy,” she slurred as she grabbed another shot glass.

“Okay, that is enough already. So did you only k\*\*s?” I winked and she g\*\*\*\*\*d as she knocked her head against the table.

She pursed her lips together, shaking her head. “I am not saying another word. Reid’s d\*ck is beautiful and delicious.” She gasped and pressed her palm against her lips and I winced back. I should have just kept my mouth shut. This was not something I needed to know.

“Kill me now.”

“It is your fault. You shouldn’t have pried,” she pointed a shaky finger at me. “Let’s go home.”

“Yes, come on.”

I tried to call a cab, but the only driver I knew in Crystal Park didn’t attend the call. It rang for a few minutes before it stopped. I tried Reid’s number, and once again, he wasn’t picking up. I sighed and looked around. I definitely wouldn’t drive. Even though I only drank a bottle of beer, I still couldn’t drive.

“No one is answering the f\*cking phone,” I grumbled. “Why carry a phone if you won’t answer it?”

“Should we walk?”

“I could shift and you can ride on Gem.” We had done it a million times before, it was basically her second mode of transport.

“I already feel like puking. No thank you. Call the second hottie. You know, the one you first wanted...”

“Adrian wasn’t there in the pack-house when we left, either.”

“Do you know his number or not?”

“I don’t, but I can message Roman and ask for his number,” I said with an excited smile.

“I love that you are smiling now,” Dee slurred out as she rubbed her eyes. “I hated it when you cried for that a\*shole. My heart broke when I saw tears in your eyes.”

“I don’t know what I would have done if you hadn’t been there. I would have probably kept crying like a whiny b\*tch,” I sighed out as I sent a quick text to Roman. “I definitely wouldn’t have walked over to some strangers’s table.”

She laughed loopily as she twirled around and stumbled back.

“Yeah, but then you would have stopped crying and start being the badass b\*tch you are. Now, are you calling anyone? I need to be in a horizontal position right now or things are going to get messy.”

“He is not replying to my text,” I said with a sigh. I wondered if the big, bad Alpha ever texted in his life.

“Just call him, already. My head is already spinning,” Dee said with an exasperated sigh.

“Should I?” I looked at her and she nodded.

“Yes, you so should. I mean, I need a car. Like yesterday. You are the reason for my condition.”

I dialled Roman’s number, and I didn’t know why my heart pounded, but it did. The conversation we had... wait, no one would call that a conversation. It was more like word porn.

Roman answered on the fourth ring. His voice was soft and I almost didn't hear him over the music, and laughter. He was in a club that must probably be a hundred times bigger than this one. I could almost feel how alive, how vibrant that place he was in, just from the sounds.

"Are you in a club?"

"What do you want?" His voice was short and curt. It sounded like just how he had talked the first time we met. I cringed a little.

"You should buy me drinks, Rome, for old time's sake."

I already had a feeling who that was.

"Adrian's number."

There was silence at the other end for a second and a long sigh.

"Hang up, Rome. Come on, drink with me, and- maybe f\*ck me after... I am feeling a bit nostalgic," a sultry woman voice said. she sounded so close to him.

"How much closer?" Gem hissed.

"Should I ask him? Shut up, Gem."

I flinched. My fingers slightly trembled. I almost wanted to hang up, but my body didn't obey.

"I will text it to you," Roman said before he hung up. No goodbye. No nothing.

He knew I would have heard that woman. He knew I would have heard her tell him to f\*ck her... and...

But, of course. Why did he have to tell me anything? Why did he have to tell me not to worry, that he wouldn't take her up on her offer? Even if he took her offer, it was not wrong.

"Won't you hate it when he, if he takes her up on her offer..."

"I don't care," my stomach felt like a cyclone had started in there. I understood that it was a lie. Obviously, I cared, and that was just wrong. Was I that stupid? I knew nothing good would come out of this. I thought I was smart, but here I was, traipsing once again straight into a territory I should never have entered in the first place.

"He entered... you didn't."

“I am not in the mood to joke.”

“Oh, calm down, Riley.”

My phone pinged with a new message, and I saw Adrian’s number. I quickly dialled him and he picked it up within a few rings.

“Can you come to The Siella? You know that bar where we met. Dee is drunk, and I am a little, too.”

“You want me to be your chauffeur?” Adrian’s voice was full of laughter.

“Yes.”

“And what will you pay me?” Adrian’s voice was teasing. I heard the engine start. “I will be there in a few minutes, Riley.”

“Adrian?”

“Yes.”

“Name your price.” I knew asking him that was a bad idea.

“A k\*\*s?”

My heart thundered and I thought about it for a moment. My eyes fluttered closed... and then I jerked back, and shook my head. It was probably best for me to stay as far away from the two men. They were both trouble.

“Are you shaking your head right now, Riley?”

I laughed a little.

“Just come.”

\*\*\*

-Roman-

“You should buy me drinks, Rome, for old time’s sake.” Feyona gripped my shoulder, her claws digging into my skin. I glared at her as I waited for Riley to answer. She shook her head and gave me a big smile.

“Adrian’s number,” her voice came out hesitant.

“Why the f\*ck does she need his number?”

There was a moment of irritation, but I knew I should hang up soon. Feyona was good at sniffing things, and I didn't want her to know anything about Riley.

"Hang up, Rome. Come on, drink with me, and- maybe f\*ck me after... I am feeling a bit nostalgic," Feyona sighed next to me. She was wearing the same perfume she used to wear when we were married.

After telling Riley I would send her the text, I quickly hung up before turning towards Feyona. "What do you want? Why are you being a- you didn't want me, and now you suddenly act like it wasn't your fault..."

"It was my fault. But you were too intense, Roman. You were too much for me. I was only twenty-one. We shouldn't have gotten married..."

"There was still another option. Breaking up with me and then f\*ck Ramsay. You chose to do what you did, Feyona."

"And I am regretting it." Her eyes were downcast. The arrogance in them was gone. "I made a terrible mistake, and now I can't take it back."

Her shoulders slumped in defeat as she let out a deep sigh.

"It is too late for this, isn't it?" I shrugged.

She smiled a little. But it didn't feel right. Did she know about Ramsay? Could I use her to get more information? But Feyona had always been a wildcard, even when we were married. I never knew what I should expect from her, or her wolf.

"Yes."

"But come, I will buy you that drink," I said to her.

"And?" She quirked her brows.

"And nothing else."

## **– Chapter 25**

-Riley-



“Stop looking at me, and look at the road, Adrian,” I said with a sigh as we drove through the winding roads. The night was darker, and the moon was only a thin little slice in the sky, and the wind was freezing, but everything looked strangely beautiful.

“I am good at doing both,” Adrian said as he gave me another smoldering look, his gray eyes turning heated and I felt my breath stuck. I felt what I felt when I first saw him at the bar. The intensity of his looks made my heart race, and I had to tell myself once again, how wrong it was.

“So...” I trailed off and he looked at me, quirking his brows.

“Go on. I have a feeling you are itching to ask me something. It is either that or you really want to pee.”

I bared my teeth at him. “You are an i\*\*\*t, sunshine,” I whispered and he laughed.

“What did I tell you, drunk girl? I am no sunshine. Ok, go on, now. You look like you will burst.”

“I called Roman to ask for your number and he- I heard a woman’s voice. Do you know- I mean, did he call you?”

“Do you want to know who she is, curious cucumber? Should I call Rome?”

“He might be busy with her already, and I know who she is. It is his ex-wife.”

“Did he tell you then?” Adrian asked. He looked surprised. It was weird. I knew nothing about Roman, and still a part of me felt like I knew him for lifetimes. Even Adrian.

“No, but I know. Oh, and she asked him for a drink and a f\*ck,” I said without moving a single muscle in my face. I was very impressed by myself for not screaming or stomping.

“Okay, that must be Feyona, but like I said, Roman won’t even look at her.”

“Is she ugly then?”

Adrian gulped and then shook his head.

“So? Is she supermodel sexy?”

“That she is, but she is nothing when compared to you. Come on... You are gorgeous and you know how much he wants you, how much I want you...”

“You are very slick, Adrian, very slick. I told you it would never happen,” I said, waving a finger at him, chuckling as I did, but I couldn’t help but remember the morning Adrian

touched me when he mistakenly thought he was dreaming... and how good it felt to have his hands on me. I shook the distracting memories away.

I had decided. NO ROMAN OR ADRIAN. Definitely no Roman and Adrian.

"Are you sure?"

"Are you sure? I can hear your hesitation."

"Would you do it to your friend?" Not that Roman would be affected by this in any way, but still.. I looked at Adrian, wanting to know what was going through his head right then. Adrian shook his head, running his fingers through his brown hair, messing it up further.

"You are the one who said it was a one-night-stand with him. You don't worry about a one-night-stand. That is the point. Also, I am sure a woman can never hurt our friendship, even if that woman is you. I just need a chance, Riley. You are amazing, and-" Adrian's voice was a soft growl.

"You can get anyone you want even without trying so hard, and I know that. So why are you wasting your time on me?" I said and almost jumped up when I heard a loud snort from the back. I turned to see Dee's head lolling to the side, and she wasn't laughing at me. She was sleeping and snorting. I chuckled a little and wondered what weird dreams she dreamed when she slept.

He didn't answer. He just let out a breath. "So you don't really like me? Not even a smidge? If that is the case, I will stop. I might be a flirt, Riley, but I have never flirted with a woman who hasn't enjoyed it."

"You enjoy it," Gem said. "And that is okay. We don't know much about both of them, but we know we are attracted to both of them. Ok, maybe we are more like obsessed with Roman, but it doesn't make you cringe when Adrian flirts with you. You actually love the attention."

"Maybe I do, because I just found my husband with my friend. So... maybe I am selfish person."

Soon, we were in Dee's apartment. I dragged her inside her bedroom, and she fell to the bed with a g\*\*\*n.

"I am going to sleep for three days straight," Dee mumbled.

"I am leaving water and an aspirin. Take it when you wake up," I said, and she nodded before grabbing a pillow and putting it over her head. "Bye, Dee."

“Ri-ri, I love you,” she sang in an absurd voice and I laughed as I tucked her inside the blanket.

“I love you too,” I said with a smile before I walked out of the bedroom and softly closed the door behind me. Adrian looked up from the couch. “Should we go or... I have an idea.”

“What now, Adrian?”

He pointed to a bottle of wine on the shelf. Dee had always been a wine girl.

“Let’s drink. You know, to toast our new friendship.”

“That is Dee’s favorite. She will kill you if you empty it. She got it at a local auction.”

“Hah, don’t worry. I can replace it easily. Have you heard of Wine, Dine and Mercer?”

“Don’t tell me your family owns that?” I blinked at him and Adrian smiled. I grumbled under my breath. One was a literal prince, and another was the heir to one of the biggest wine distributors in the USA. Or maybe even in the world. “Adrian Mercer. I haven’t heard of you, but your father... is he William Mercer?” Adrian nodded. “I really should kill myself.”

He smiled and nodded. “Yes and no, you don’t have to kill yourself.”

“But still we should go-” I started and hissed when I felt the first hint of the familiar pain. It started like a small cramp, and soon it spread to my chest, and I felt like I was dying.

Hiran. My legs shook. A soft whimper left my lips as I sat down on the couch. Adrian bent towards me, his eyes worried as he cupped my cheeks in his palms.

“Riley? Riley? What is going on?”

“It is Hiran. He is having s\*x with Keller.”

Tears trailed down my cheeks. How could Keller do this even after... all of this? He told me he was sorry. He lied, once again. I clutched my chest as Adrian sat next to me and started rubbing small circles on my back.

“Listen to me. Just listen to my voice,” Adrian’s voice was concerned. I ground my teeth together, trying hard not to let it get to me. The physical pain was too much, but it was the betrayal, once again, from Keller... that made me weaker.

I swiped the tears away from my cheek, but it just wouldn’t stop.

“What should I do to help you, Riley? Oh, I wish I could kill that a\*shole for you,” Adrian growled, and I could feel his body shaking next to mine. “Just wait here,” he said to me, his voice urgent, before he ran to the shelf and grabbed the wine. “Here, drink this.”

“Get me something to sto- make it stop, Adrian,” I whispered as I clawed at my throat. I realized how much more painful it would have been in the past for me without the pain medication they had been giving me for the past few months whenever I complained about the pain. So, they at least had a microscopic amount of kindness.

“Aspirin. On Dee’s bedside tabl-” He ran before I could finish and came back with it. I took it with water and prayed it would work. I waited for the pain to go away, but even after ten minutes, the sting wouldn’t go. “Call Keller,” I whispered to myself as I pulled my phone out. I gritted my teeth as a low growl left my lips. He picked up the phone in first ring.

“Rile- Riley. Can we-“

“Are you with Hiran?” I hissed out and Keller went quiet, before I heard him clearly say NO. And I had to believe him, because if he had been in the middle of s\*x, he wouldn’t have picked the phone up in the first ring.

“I am in my apartment. Alone. I- I was a terrible person, Riley, and Hiran did call me... but I haven’t met him since you and I last spoke and-” Keller paused. “Why did you ask? Pain? Do you feel pain, Riley?”

“Yes. He is having s\*x with someone else. I thought it was you. Only you,” I said and gasped when another shot of pain hit me right in my chest. “Tell me... how long have you been f\*ckin-“

“It was when we went camping and-“

“Three weeks.” I hung up without another word. So he had been cheating on me with more than one person. I had been feeling this pain a lot longer than three weeks.

“It is not him?” Adrian looked at me as he wiped rest of my tears away.

“I don’t want to cry, but the tears just won’t-“

“It is fine for you to cry, Riley.”

I looked into his eyes and saw how warm they were. This f\*cking pill was not working. I bit my lips until I felt the b\*\*\*d on my tongue.

“Adrian, k\*\*s me.”

He looked shocked and startled as he stumbled back and fell to the floor. “What?”

I was confused as to why he was looking so spooked. After flirting with me for days, why would he look at me like I was a ghost when I asked him to k\*\*s me?

“You are right.”

“I am right about what?” I said with a wince as I gripped my throat when another shot of pain ran along my nerves.

“I can’t do this to-“

“If I didn’t hurt him back, Adrian, I would forever feel like he had won. I won’t let him win.” I snarled as I stood up. Everything in me was burning with anger. “He is not allowed to hurt me without- without any consequences. He is not allowed to threaten my pup and then runaway somewhere to f.uck someone else.”

“Riley...”

I laughed as my eyes watered. This was funny as hell. After all that he had said...

“You don’t want to?”

“I want to, so bad... but wouldn’t I be using you if I...”

“I am the one who is using you, Adrian. I suppose I am selfish,” I said as I stood up and stepped closer to him and g\*\*\*\*\*d when my spine felt like it had been crushed under a truck. I gulped as I grabbed him by his shirt collar and pressed my lips against his. I could feel the hesitation in his lips, but I was desperate. The only thing in my mind now was to stop this pain and hurt Hiran back.

For a second I wondered would I have done this if it was anyone other than Adrian, but I didn’t have the answer to that.

He g\*\*\*\*\*d, before he gripped my hair and pulled me closer before his lips slammed against mine.

The moonlight poured through the window, casting a soft glow around us. As his lips moved against mine, I felt the pain subduing.

He pulled me close, his hands wandering down my curves. I m\*\*\*\*\*d as he deepened the k\*\*s. Hungry. He looked hungry. His lips were hot and fast, his tongue exploring mine with an urgency that made me catch my breath in anticipation.

“Oh...” Gem g\*\*\*\*\*d.

He finally pulled back and his fingers softly trailed down my cheek to my neck. His lips traced a path along her jawline, down my neck, and onto her collarbone. I shuddered under his touch, my fingers tangling in his hair as he continued to go down.

I g\*\*\*\*d as he growled softly and tilted my head back with a hand.

His hands cupped my breasts through the fabric of my dress, thumbs grazing my n\*\*\*\*s, while his mouth continued its relentless attack on mine. He used one hand to pull me by the waist as he ground himself against me through our clothes.

With a sudden jerk, he pushed me against the wall and lowered his head to my neck. His teeth scraped gently, sending shivers up and down my spine.

His eyes met mine, and though they held hunger and l\*\*t, there was also something almost tender about them as he bent down and took a n\*pple between his lips and I arched my back to meet his mouth.

“Is your pain gone, Riley?” he whispered as he finally pulled away and my eyes widened when I was finally caught up with what I had actually done.

I nodded as he touched my cheek with a gentle look in his eyes and he just stood there, staring. I didn’t move. I couldn’t move. We both jumped apart when his phone rang. He grabbed it out of his pocket and winced. I knew who it was from. Roman.

“Roman,” Adrian answered the call and mumbled something before he handed me the phone.

I grabbed it from him and sighed. “Riley, I- I was-“

“I kissed Adrian.”

## – Chapter 26

-Roman-

(30 minutes before Roman called Riley)

“Are you not drinking?” Feyona asked as I pushed the glass of whiskey towards her. Her lips tilted downwards as she gave me a pensive look, and I had seen that look. Whenever I tried to do something for her, something good or nice, she always gave me that look, as if she didn’t know what to think about me.

It was the same way she looked at me when I asked her to marry me. I should have known then that was not a normal reaction.

“Get the hell out of here and call Riley back,” Karl growled, and I could feel his agitation. He was angry that I had hung up the phone call from Riley. “And tell her nothing will ever happen between you and this soul-sucking b\*tch.”

“Karl, we don’t call a woman b\*tch.”

“Yeah, but she isn’t a woman,” Karl said with a scoff. “Now move your a\*s.”

“You know I have to do this. For the greater good.”

“I don’t care about the greater good. The whole world could go to hell. I don’t want her to worry about what she has heard. Understand? I want her, Roman. And if you mess this up, I will destroy you.”

I had never seen Karl so worked up. I had no idea why he was acting like this, though. He was not normally very vocal about women. Even after we mated with Feyona, he was a bit distant with her. So what was that about Riley that was making him crazy protective of her?

“I said I would buy you a drink, not drink with you,” I grumbled as I sat down. For years, I felt only anger and resentment towards Feyona. Just thinking about meeting her again made me lose control, but now... it felt like something had changed, like somehow the past and pain didn’t matter. She didn’t matter.

I thought about Riley and how she felt under me, over me... and it felt like this woman, this stranger I had known only for two days, had somehow healed me in ways I couldn’t comprehend. Just a touch, a smile, and that stubborn press of her lips... it had changed me completely and it scared me to admit it, even to myself.

I knew she wasn’t looking for a relationship, and neither was I.

“You are still so obstinate,” Feyona sighed as she pressed the cold whiskey against her forehead. “Still intense. And hot.” Her voice turned seductive as her hand slightly brushed against my thigh. It was the exact same way she used to talk with me whenever she wanted me to f\*ck her hard, before everything became sh\*t in our relationship.

“What do you really want, Feyona?” I grunted and pushed her hand away from me. It didn’t excite me like it once did. Oh, nothing about her excited me. I didn’t want cold blue eyes. I wanted soft, forest green eyes turning dark with l\*\*t as they looked into my eyes. I didn’t want pink hair. I wanted fire-red curls.

I studied her face, thinking if she really was a part of all of this Ramsay had been doing. I knew Feyona was cold and manipulative, but was she cruel enough to do something like this?

"If I say I want you back..."

"I will say bullsh\*t."

She gave me a soft smile as she leaned closer to me and pressed her face against my arm.

"It is true, Roman. I was an idiot. You were the best thing I could have asked for and you were mine, but I messed it all up because you were overwhelming, you were... the perfect husband, and I was not. I didn't know how to love you like you loved me, Roman. You gave me so much, and instead of making me happy, it scared me. I felt like I didn't deserve any of that and so I found a way to destroy everything. I did." She sighed as if talking about it was emotionally taxing.

"I don't believe a word you say, Feyona, but even if what you say is true, I simply don't care anymore," I said with a smile, which surprised me. I was almost afraid to meet her again, but I came because I knew I had to. "So, are you saying Ramsay and you aren't together anymore?"

"We are together, but it is... it is complicated."

I scanned her face. "Complicated how?" I watched her closely, trying to gauge her reaction to my words.

"No, nothing."

My phone rang. I opened it to see it was from Dean. "Yes?"

"You need to leave that place immediately. Ramsay is on his way, and if he spots you there, he will sense that something is amiss. He will become alert," Dean said, and I took in a sharp breath. He was right. Ramsay had to stay in the dark for now.

"Okay, bye." I hung up before I stood up. "I need to go. Bye, Feyona."

"I hope we run into each other again, Roman," she said as she stood up and hugged me.

"I really don't," Karl said with an indignant huff as I pulled away from her.

I was walking towards the entrance when I saw a familiar looking face walking inside one of the VIP rooms in the club with a man and a woman hanging onto him. They already looked like they were ready to tear each others's clothes and f\*ck.

My heart hitched as I quickly followed him, making sure to hide myself in the shadows. I knew I had to get out, because Ramsay would be here any minute now, but I was



curious to know what the heck Hiran was doing here, of course, other than having s\*x. Was he here to meet Ramsay?

I heard a m\*\*n and a growl from behind the curtain and that was when I realized Riley would be feeling the pain of what he was doing right now. My heart burnt in anger. I wish I could be there to protect her, to comfort her.

“I want to kill for her.”

He wanted to shift and take Hiran out right here, right now, consequences be damned. I felt the same anger, but I knew I couldn't barge in right now.

But Karl was resisting and I had a feeling he wanted to do something drastic.

“Please.” Karl and I had never been out of sync. Yes, his anger was tremendous, but we always thought twice before we did anything. With the power came the responsibilities, too, and Karl understood that. But now... his animal side was angry, and he wanted only one thing – to hurt Hiran.

My claws grew and I shuddered as I felt the ripping pain. No. It couldn't happen now.

“Stop. You have to trust me, Karl.”

“Open your legs wide, you sl\*t. The sl\*t back home has to learn her lessons,” Hiran's disgusting voice said. And I knew the moment my wolf pushed me back and took over. He didn't fully shift yet, but he was closer and I didn't mind anymore. “Yes, take me just like that, you little wh\*re. You, put your d\*ck-” And then he stopped, and screamed. My eyes widened. “That f\*cking wh\*re.”

And I gave in to my Lycan.

“That slimy d\*ckhead,” Karl hissed and roared in agitation and punched the wall next to the room and ripped the curtain away.

“Just don't kill him,” I said in defeat. Karl rolled his shoulder and smirked, his smile vicious and I knew he was my Lycan, but even I shuddered from the sinister smile. I had never seen him like that.

The voices inside the room stopped.

“Who is it?” Hiran's confused voice asked as he walked out. Karl waited for the right time to walk out. An angry Hiran followed Karl, cursing and threatening.

Hiran had never seen my Lycan, so he wouldn't recognize it was me.

“Just hide the power,” I said to my Lycan and he nodded when I heard the back door open. The stupid bastard had walked into the trap by himself.

Karl chuckled. This was exactly what he wanted.

“Today I will pay you back for hurting her,” he growled softly, his voice dark and dangerous.

“Who the f\*ck are you, you little piece of s\*\*t? I will end your life tonight.”

“We will see,” Karl growled out as he watched Hiran’s every movement from the shadows, waiting for the perfect moment to pounce.

“You don’t know who you are messing with, you-” Karl didn’t let Hiran finish his empty threat. He leaped out of the darkness, his dark gray fur gleaming in the moonlight, his lips peeled back in an angry snarl.

Hiran stumbled back, seeing the Lycan standing there on his two feet.

“Wh-what?” Hiran was stunned to see a Lycan there. “Who-who the f\*ck are you?”

“Your death,” Karl said before he bounded once again towards Hiran. His sharp teeth latched on to Hiran’s arms, and he pulled, and I watched with satisfaction as b\*\*\*d gushed out.

Hiran screamed in anger and agony before he shifted to his wolf. Karl laughed, his laughter loud and mocking.

“This puny a\*s wolf- do you think you can take me down?”

Karl was relentless, vicious, his every move calculated to hurt the other wolf. I had never seen this bloodthirsty side of him. He bit, clawed until the wolf was whimpering and cowering back, but he didn’t stop.

The wolf raised his head, showing his throat in surrender.

“If I want, I can rip your heart right out of your chest. But for now, this will do,” my Lycan roared as his claws dug into the wolf’s balls. He crushed it and even I winced. I had no pity left for him, but... damn, Karl, that was beyond cruel.

The wolf howled again and pulled back, his body shaking in pain and humiliation. “What did you do? Well. Your face is ugly as f\*ck and it just pissed me off.”

Karl kicked the wolf like he was a soccer ball. The wolf hit the tree and howled in pain, before he stood up and backed away, and ran into the darkness. I could still smell the scent of his b\*\*\*d, and if we wanted, Karl could easily hunt him down.

“For now,” I said. “It is enough for now.”

Karl went to the car and grabbed the backpack with clothes we always carried around, making sure no one else saw us. I quickly shifted, pulled my pants up and drove towards my apartment, knowing very well I couldn’t sit here any longer.

“Call her and apologize for being rude to her.”

“I wasn’t really rude. I just didn’t want Feyona to know that I was talking with a woman.”

“You know that. Riley didn’t know.”

I called Riley’s phone, but it was unreachable. I called Adrian’s number and he picked it up after a few rings.

“Roman...”

“Do you know where Riley is? Can you find her and ask her to-”

“She is here with me. I will put her on.”

My hands tightened around the steering wheel when I heard Adrian say that.

I knew the moment she was at the other end. She didn’t even have to say a word.

“Riley, I- I was-” I was going to explain why I was rude to her, when she cut me off with... “I kissed Adrian.”

For just a second, my ear rang. The sound of my heart roaring was deafening. My throat felt like it was filled with hot lava. I couldn’t even form a word. Only a loud growl was all I could let out as the car swerved wildly out of control, before I hit the brake hard, making it stop.

“Roman? But it was Hiran and he- he was having s\*x with someone and I wanted to-”

I knew exactly what Hiran was doing.

“I kissed Adrian and the pain stopped.”

“She kissed Adrian...” Karl said with a soft howl. “We should have stopped Hiran before she kissed-”

“You don’t have to explain anything to me. It was a one-night-stand. Bye, Riley.”

“I am going to break Adrian’s f\*cking mouth,” Karl hissed.

“Well, I won’t stop you.”

I dialed Finn’s number. “Come to my apartment with enough alcohol to drown NY. And no wine.”

“What did Adrian do this time?” Finn asked with a deep sigh.

“He f\*cking kissed her.”

## – Chapter 27

-Roman-

My car raced towards the parking lot, and I slammed hard on the brake, growling in anger and agitation. I wanted to go back and find Hiran, again, and finish what Karl had started. My anger boiled and it was hard for me to control the rush of power, or the feelings inside me.

The car skidded and came to a halt. I stepped out and saw that Finn was already there with a shit-eating grin on his face. I glared at him as he followed me, still smiling, not saying another word.

“You are an i\*\*\*t,” Karl said with a deep sigh as I opened my apartment and Finn ran in. “I asked you to call her to comfort her, not get angry at her.”

“You were angry too, Karl,” I grunted to my Lycan as I kicked the door shut and Finn yelped.

“What the hell, Roman?” he hissed as she sat down and grabbed a beer bottle and threw it to me. “So is this the same girl whose scent you were wearing?” Finn asked as he took a sip of his beer. I sat down next to him and pressed the bottle to my cheek as I looked at Finn.

“Yes, it is her,” I said as I gulped the beer down, hoping it would somehow cool down the burning sensation inside me. “I wanted to kill him.”

“Whoa? What? Adrian? No...” Finn looked shocked and confused. I shook my head with a sigh.

“No, not Adrian. Just a broken nose and mouth would do for Adrian. The one I want to kill-” I grabbed another bottle of beer. “Is her mate. He is the one... we are investigating, Finn.”

Finn sat there in silence for a while before he looked at me, his eyes wide and bewildered. "This sounds messy, Roman, and you don't like messes, Rome. You have never liked it. The Red Watchers... won't be pleased with this."

"I know," I grunted. "It is too much. But I- I couldn't..." I slammed the empty bottle down and grabbed my third bottle. I had never much liked drinking until everything was incoherent, but today I wanted to be dead drunk.

"You couldn't?" Finn slurred as he leaned against the wall.

"I couldn't stay away and I told her she was just a one-night-stand."

"And?" Finn prodded, buzzing with excitement. I glared at my brother, and his smile fell.

"She is- she is not, and that scares me. I don't want to go there, Finny."

"Oh, you are calling me Finny. You should stop drinking anymore," Finn said as he grabbed the bottle from me. No. I didn't want to let go. I wanted to drink until this dull throb in my heart would stop.

"You know what? I should call Riley and tell her sorry," I slurred. "She-she has such pretty eyes. Like emerald. And when she looks at me, I feel like my whole world is tilting and I am drunk from her eyes. She is like a drug. I don't want to get addicted. I want to- you know, make a miniature version of her and keep her in my pocket and-"

I grabbed my phone, and my fingers trembled. "No, no, you are not drunk calling who might be my fu-future sister-in-law," Finn stammered and then g\*\*\*\*\*d. "Oh, my head... I want to kill myself and bury myself inside a little tomb as a punishment. Do you think Ramsay sleeps in a tomb?"

"I saw the jerkface. His face is st-still sleazy as hell. Finn? Finny?" I stared at my brother and he was lying on the floor, snoring softly. I grabbed another beer and dialed Riley's number, waiting patiently for her to pick up. The ring went on and on.

"She is angry. That is why she is not picking up. You are an-"

"Idiot. Isn't that what you are going to say?" I grunted as I emptied another bottle. I looked around and saw the empty beer bottles scattered across the coffee table. Finn was still snoring.

I ran my fingers through my hair, and tried again.

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-Riley-

"It is a one-night-stand. Bye, Riley." Something in his voice and words felt so final. I didn't like the tone of his voice. I did what I did, not to hurt Roman, but to hurt Hiran, but now I- I almost wanted to take that moment back, even though it meant something.

Gem whined. "You are always impulsive. Now he is hurt."

"But he was wrong, wasn't he? I did what I had to," I said with a deep sigh and Gem shook her head, looking a little bit displeased. My heart twisted. I knew I told myself that it was a one-night-stand a million times and one, but when he said it was, something in me cringed and winced. I didn't want him to dismiss it like I had dismissed it. I wanted it to mean something to him.

Did that make me crazy?

"He hung up." I looked at Adrian with a frown and he sighed. His gray eyes were soft and hesitant and the usual glint in them was gone.

"Do you regret it now? Kissing me?" His eyes were wounded. I didn't know what I felt right now. I didn't know how to comfort or console him, but I didn't even know how to do that for myself. I wanted to scream and shout and call Roman names, but I knew he was hurt, and he had the right to, but...

Bye, Riley. His words kept ringing inside my head. No, it couldn't be our goodbye. I wouldn't let it be. I shook my head. "I don't know, Adrian, and I am sorry for that. I am such a bad person and you don't deserve it."

"No," he said with a sigh. "Don't worry. I will talk with Roman and explain everything to him. He will understand. You know, Rome gets angry easily. It is- the curse of being born as he is, but he is also rational."

"He didn't sound rational. He sounded... mad. Just pure rage."

"He would calm down. It is always like that with Roman."

Adrian took his phone and dialed Roman's number, once, twice. It rang until it stopped. He called again and again.

"He won't pick up now. Forget it," I said with a wince. "But Adrian, I wouldn't have kissed just anyone. If it was someone else other than you right here, I would not have kissed them. That is all I know right now," I said, knowing very well I couldn't hurt him, too. Adrian deserved much better than me. He was a good guy. Even though he was a flirt, he was also sincere, too, with me. I knew that much.

"That is all I need to know right now, too, Riley. Thank you for giving that to me," he said before he dialed Roman's number once again and shook his head. "Let me try Finn's number."

But it rang and then stopped, too.

"I am sorry, Riley."

"Take me home, please," I said, and he nodded. We walked down to the car and he drove me towards our pack. I checked with nanny Roza about the kids, before I walked towards the pack house. I walked past Hiran's study and realized he still wasn't back. Where the hell did he go?

I realized what Roman and Adrian said about him, and quickly opened Hiran's study door and locked it behind me. I looked around the room. It was ostentatious. Decorated with leather furniture and a red wood table and books he hadn't read. The image of him and Keller made me wince, but it didn't bother me just as much as it once did.

The whole place smelled like Hiran, and looked like him. Gaudy and new money and classless. I tried to pull the table drawer, but it was locked. I grunted. I could easily break it, but that would raise suspicion.

I looked around, trying to find anything that could be useful for Roman's investigation, and I found a small notebook under the binders that said pack budget. The files were still untouched. Reid was the one who made pack budget and my a\*\*\*\*\*e mate hadn't even opened it.

I grabbed it and flipped through the pages. I was nervous, but I knew even if someone found me here right now, no one in the pack would tell Hiran, except maybe a few.

I saw a few names scribbled on the notebook. There were question marks drawn after some names. Something about these names were familiar, but I couldn't make any connection right now. I narrowed my eyes as I read the names again, trying to remember where I had heard them.

"Take a photo and get out," Gem said and I nodded as I hurriedly took my phone and captured photographs of the pages and placed everything back in place before I walked out of his study.

My heart was thundering when I reached my room and closed the door behind me. I leaned against the wall and took in a deep breath before walking to the bathroom. I was washing my face with cold water, trying to calm myself, when I heard the phone ring. My heart danced.

Would it be... could it be Roman?

"Please, please, moon goddess, let it be Roman," I muttered to myself as I almost ripped the door off its hinges and ran back into my room.

I grabbed the phone and smiled when I saw it was Roman, indeed. "Hello," I said with a straight face, but my straight face was already breaking. I could feel myself smiling. I looked too eager even to myself.

"Hey little kitten," a small, sing-songy voice said. My eyes widened as I listened to him sing a song.

"Are you drunk, Roman Eros Night?"

"Umm, a bit little, a little bit, I think, kitten. It is fine, I am boy big..."

"Big boy," I said with a chuckle. "So why did you call me now?"

"I didn't mean- I don't. Forgive me, kitten. I don't like not talking with you," his voice came out jumbled, but the painful throb in my chest lessened and I didn't feel like my heart would explode. Not anymore. It was only a drunk call and he might forget it tomorrow, but I was glad he still called me.

"You- you hung up on me, Roman. You were angry, and you told me I don't have to explain to you. I kissed Adrian because-"

He sighed.

"I wish I was the one there... I wish I was your he-hero," he slurred again as he let out a soft growl. I heard him moving around the room and winced when I heard a loud thud.

"Did you fall, Roman? Sit in a place, please."

"I can – I am fine," Roman said. "I won't sit until you tell me you forgive me. Tell me, Kitten, will you please forgive me. Karl is very angry with me. And I-"

"I heard Feyona say that she wants to take you to the room and-" My voice came out jealous.

There was a few seconds of silence and then Roman g\*\*\*\*\*d. "Karl says... he would rather f\*ck a lamppost. I am sure he have f\*cked a lamppost once or twice before," Roman said with a deep chuckle. "He would kill me if I- no, I don't want to do anything with Feyona. I only want to do bad-bad things to you, with you, my sexy kitten."

I gulped as my body heated to that confession.

"Why did you hung up? You said Bye, and it felt so final," I said with a sigh. "I didn't like that."



I could hear him grumbling something under his breath. “No, no, kitten! Sorry. I didn’t- I don’t- you see, my tongue has a mind of its own sometimes. It just... slipped, you know? It is slippery tongue syndrome.”

“Slippery WHAT syndrome? You’ve got to be kidding me,” I laughed, unable to control myself and Roman chuckled at the other end.

“Stay happy kitten. I hate it when you are sad. I don’t want you to be sad. I love you, my sweet kitten. I love it when you are smiling.”

My eyes widened and I gasped. Did he- no... it must be because he was drunk. That was Slippery tongue syndrome, too.

“Really?” Gem huffed.

“Rome? Roman? You crazy bastard?”

There was no answer from the other end. How could he- he drop a bomb on my head like this out of nowhere and then disappear? That drunk bugger!

“Don’t make a scene,” Gem said with a smile. She looked so calm, so in contrast to how I was feeling right now. I felt like a cyclone was forming deep in the pit of my stomach.

“Roman? You i\*\*\*t? You can’t do this and then hang up again. That is-no-no...” I stood up and paced back and forth, trying to regulate my heart, but it just wouldn’t stop. I heard a soft snore at the other end of the phone. “You are drunk. Yeah, that is the only reason.”

“Roman, you dumb bear with... stupid, pea brain...” I spewed curses before I disconnected the call.

My stomach twitched and turned.

“So...” Gem asked.

“He was drunk. It doesn’t mean anything,” I said to my wolf with a growl as I jumped on my bed and pulled the blanket to my face and screamed.

“You will be my death. Roman.”

## **– Chapter 28**

-Riley-

I woke up, grumpy and looking like a hybrid between a racoon and a rat. I grunted as I looked at myself in the mirror, and thanked the goddess that no one was looking at me right now.

The words Roman had said kept ringing in my mind, and I wondered if he even remembered calling me, or saying things... he shouldn't be saying to me. No, not after knowing me for two days. Especially not on the phone. That bastard was the reason why I looked like this and if I caught him right now... I would probably- faint?

"And then he will catch you with those strong hands of his and..."

"I am not in the mood for this. I am already going crazy thinking about THAT!"

"Well, like you said, he was drunk," Gem said with a deep sigh. I had a feeling she wanted him to say it when he was sober and not dead drunk. She was- no, she was so f\*\*\*\*\*g crazy. I wasn't.

"But now... because of him, I can't stop thinking about it. I- I am not ready to hear that." I really wasn't, and it was messing with my head. I should just forget it. There was no way he meant that. The guy that called me last night was probably not even Roman.

"Then forget it. He might have already forgotten it. Stop making me crazy," Gem grumbled, looking very cool and collected.

"You are no help, no help at all!"

After a quick trip to the bathroom, I walked out of my room and saw a flustered looking Adrian, who was pacing from one end to the other of the small corridor. He didn't even notice I was there.

"What is wrong?" I asked and he looked startled before he stopped pacing and looked at me with a smile that didn't reach his gray eyes. I wondered what was wrong – this wasn't how Adrian smiled.

"Hey Riley," Reid said as he opened his room door. His eyes were downcast as he walked towards me. "Can we- can we talk now? I miss you and I don't want to- I am a terrible friend, and if you want, please hit me. I feel so sad when you-"

"Yeah? Did you feel so sad you wanted comfort from my best friend?" I gave him a scorching look and he choked and paled. I was secretly enjoying all of this. I knew Reid truly regretted what he did, but I wasn't an easy person. "Hmm... if you break her heart, I will break your skull."

"I- I- it isn't-"

“Yeah, yeah, stop,” Adrian cut Reid off. “We don’t have time to keep talking about this. We have to hurry up.”

“Hurry up about?” I said as I looked at Adrian and he tugged at the end of his hair before he g\*\*\*\*\*d. “The kids.” He thrust his phone to me, where a message was opened. I almost laughed out loud as I read the message.

When I see you again, you slimy a\*\*\*\*\*e, you better run fast. But I will catch you and I will break your balls and teeth. Oh, and Ash will be there in a few hours, for the pups. Send them with her before Hiran comes back. Also, Hiran is here in NY. I don’t know what the hell he is doing here, but I will find out.

“When did you get the message?” I looked at Adrian, my heart banging wildly against my chest,

“This morning.”

I wanted to ask him if Roman texted anything about me, but I didn’t.

“Don’t worry. I don’t think he will break your balls or anything.”

“You don’t know anything about Roman, Riley,” he said with a deep frown. “But he is not the one I am worried about right now.”

“Hiran? Don’t worry about that a\*\*\*\*\*e, either,” Reid said as we all walked towards the house where the pups were.

“No, not him either,” Adrian said with a nervous shudder as he looked around.

“What? You look spooked. Wait, don’t tell me you are afraid of Ashelene,” I said with a laugh and he looked at me, his eyes wide. “Really? Her?”

“You don’t know her. She is – she is Satan’s big sister,” Adrian said with a grunt as I knocked on the door. I sent a quick text to Dee, explaining about the pups and the arrangement Roman made.

Nanny Linda opened the door with a smile. I could smell the heavenly aroma of bread baking as I walked inside the house.

The house was filled with the sound of laughter and chatter. Mirabel ran towards us and I pushed my arms forward, waiting for her to run into me, and my eyes widened when she instead hurled herself at Adrian, blinking at him with her wide blue eyes.

“Little traitor,” I whispered to myself. Mirabel giggled when Adrian lifted her up in his arms, and then snuggled closer to him.

“How are you doing, little lady?” he cooed in a strange voice and she laughed again.

She looked comfortable with him, and my heart melted. He was truly a good guy. “I see I have been replaced,” I said to Adrian as I leaned closer to him and placed a k\*\*s on Mirabel’s cheek.

After they all had their breakfast, I motioned them to gather around. Ten eager faces looked up at me, their eyes curious.

“Anyone wants to go on a vacation? To some place awesome?”

“School is not over yet,” Bailey said, pushing her glasses up.

“Nerdy Bee,” Jake said and she glared at him

“Yeah, I am not failing all my classes.”

“I am only failing math,” Jake shrugged.

I laughed. Bailey and Jake were best friends, so I didn’t mind the harmless teasing.

“Yeah, it will be so good, though. You guys have always wanted to go somewhere beautiful.”

“Where are we going?”

“Somewhere beautiful, but this is a secret and you shouldn’t tell anyone, okay?”

They all looked excited. I looked at Nanny Linda and Roza and they both nodded.

“What is really going on here, Luna?” Nanny Roza mind-linked me and I sighed. I knew I had no idea what to tell her or how to explain everything to her. “Is it the Alpha?”

“Oh, Roza, yes. He is- he is an a\*s.”

“I wish I could do something to help you, Luna,” she said with a sad smile.

“You are already helping me with the kids. But Roza, will you go with the kids? I don’t trust them with anyone other than you and Linda,” I said out loud and Roza smiled and nodded, along with Linda.

“Of course, Luna. We need a vacation, too, don’t we?” Linda said as she hugged Ryan and he cheered.

Claire looked at me with a pout. “But we miss you.”

"I know, Claire-bear, but you don't have to miss me for too long. It will be over before you miss me. Come on now, I will help you pack your bags," I said as the door banged open.

My best friend walked in looking like she had just come out of death's door. "What-where?"

"They are all going on a vacation," I said. "You know, away from the- big, bad wolf."

"Yeah. So the hottie came through," Dee said with a smile. "And you owe me a bottle of wine."

"Not me. Him," I pointed to Adrian and she waggled her brows before we went upstairs.

"It is time to pack," I said as we all packed the bags with the kids' clothes and stuff. Soon, there were ten little bags packed and ten eager looking pups looking at us with wide smiling faces.

"Are we going yet?" Ryan asked and I laughed.

"No. But soon..." I said as I looked at Adrian. "Do you know when she is coming? Did you call her?"

"Umm, I didn't. I texted Finn. He said she would be here any minute now," Adrian said as we walked out of the house. I motioned Roza to lock the house.

"What is his problem?" Dee asked as she put an arm around me.

"He is scared of- well..." I stared at the girl walking towards where we all were standing. Her brown hair was sticking up in all directions and her beautiful brown eyes were full of fire as she met Adrian's eyes before turning away from him and looking at me. Her lips formed a thin line. "HER!"

She stopped before us. "I am Ash, and the mission pups is on right now. We will be leaving in two hours stat. Our pilot and co-pilot need some rest, but then it is straight to NY."

"Your pilot?" I blinked, totally confused about what she was saying.

"Didn't my brother call you?" She gave me a look. "I came on our private plane to take the little ones back."

"You own a plane?"

"Well, technically not me. It is my dad's." She shrugged as if private planes were not a big deal, and then she turned towards Adrian. Her eyes gleamed as she took a step

towards him, and he backed away from her, his eyes darting to the sides. "Roman asked me to tell you to sleep with your eyes open!"

Adrian paled. She chuckled darkly before she whirled around. "I am hungry. I need food. A lot of food."

\*\*\*

Ash was fun. She was also good with kids. She also ate a lot, and I loved it about her.

"So Riley, you are what my brother smelled like when he came back," she said as she took a bite of her pizza. "Oh, this is delicious. This is better than what Alonzo makes," she said as she looked at Marie, our head cook. "If you come with me, I will pay you thrice what they are paying." Marie blinked and looked at me, looking totally bewildered.

I realized how Ash was like a fierce storm. A good kind of storm.

"How about six times more than what you are making now? No? Still no? Shame!" she asked as she finished her pizza and licked the sauce off the plate. "Goddess, I want to stay."

"Stop trying to steal our cook," Reid grumbled and she shrugged.

"Ah, back to you. So... you are mated. What were you doing with my brother? Hmm? I don't think it was anything innocent. My brother flushed a bright red when I asked him about you and he isn't the blushing type."

I flushed as I looked around. Reid's eyes widened. Dee looked like a f\*\*\*\*\*g Cheshire cat.

I cleared my throat. "It was nothing. He was helping me with-"

"Some plumbing problems," Dee muttered under her breath and I glared at her.

"You do smell beautiful," Ash said with a sigh as she stood up and looked at the time. "Oh, it is time already. f\*\*k. It had gone by too soon. It is very nice meeting all of you, though it is not the best time. Come to NY when you can. Nightshade will always be open for you."

I walked with her and she stopped before turning to look at me, her eyes intense. Her smile was gone. "If you hurt my brother, I will poison your food. It might not kill you, but you won't be able to live away from the bathroom for three days. I did the same to Feyona, twice," Ashelene said before she saluted me. "Ta-ta, now."

"I told you she is Satan's big sister," Adrian said as she walked inside the big van she had driven here.

I would miss them so much, but I knew keeping them safe should be my only priority right now.

I kissed all of them and hugged Mirabel tight. She kissed my cheeks. I buried my face into her little neck and sniffed. She smelled like home. "Oh little pup, I don't want to let you go... but I have to."

"Lee-lee..." she whispered as she clung to my dress and I blinked, my eyes blurry. "Luv yooo," she sang and I laughed.

"You are becoming a big girl," I whispered as nanny Roza took her from me. "I will be back by your side soon."

"Don't worry, Riley, I will take care of them. Your pups will be safe with us, I promise."

"Thank you for doing this, Ashelene."

"You should thank my brother. Roman overlooked everything, with a killer hangover, too, but he wouldn't let anyone mess with your pups. You know what you could do to thank him?"

"What?"

She winked at me, and I knew whatever she was thinking was... nothing good.

My phone blinked with a new message.

I opened it and flushed and looked at Ashelene. She winked. I was startled when my phone started ringing, and almost dropped it when I saw Roman's name.

"Ah, that must be my brother," she said and she started the van. The kids waved at me as I answered the call. "He must have had a feeling that you wanted to give him a gift," Ashelene shouted before she pulled out of the driveway, racing towards the open roads, taking my kids to safety. I breathed out a sigh of relief.

"Hello!" I said and my heart raced. I felt like a teenager getting her first phone call from her freaking crush. This wasn't good for me.

"Are the pups gone?" His voice was grumpy and familiar and I wanted to wrap myself around him and soak on his grumpiness. I missed him already. Every bone in my body wanted him close... and then I remembered what he did last night. The jerk.

"They just left."

"Good. From the reports I had, Hiran will be leaving NY tonight, and I want the pups gone from there before he reaches the pack."

## – Chapter 29

-Riley-

“I don’t know how to thank you, Roman,” I said with a bright smile, and then flushed when I remembered the picture Ash had sent me. It was an image of a very skimpy dress. That woman was mad.

I gave her my number in case of emergencies, not to send me dresses I could wear to thank her brother. What the hell was that woman even thinking?

I expected a reply that was something dirty, something Roman, but all I got was a disinterested grunt that made me angry. After what he put me through last night, was this all I got? A grunt? “You don’t have to thank me.”

So, he didn’t even remember calling me last night, let alone saying the words he said. Here I was, thinking and overthinking about it and here he was... completely oblivious to my dilemma.

“You are an i\*\*\*t, Roman Night.”

I heard a low growl, and it was absolutely shameful that even when I was angry with him, my p\*ssy just reacted to his sound in ways I couldn’t comprehend.

“Do not make me angry, little Luna.” His voice came out in a dark, raspy grunt. My stomach fluttered as I shook my head, completely disgusted with my reaction to his voice, his growl. I licked my lips and took in a deep breath. I had never been like this, but Roman awoke a side of me, a lustful, unabashed side of me that I had never known existed.

“But you love it, that side of yourself. I was right. Roman was good for everything, especially your p\*ssy.”

“Yeah, you must get your poetic license, Gemmy!”

“Oh, really? What will you do? Huh?” I said with vinegar in my voice. “You can’t even touch me.” I almost resented the fact that he couldn’t even touch me.

There was a long pause at the other end.

“I am hanging up.”



“Coward.” I knew I was pushing him, and I didn’t know what I was planning to achieve here, but... I just didn’t want him to hang up. I wanted to keep listening to his voice and his sexy growl that was turning me on. “And do not drunk call me ever again.”

I heard a sharp intake of breath from the other end. “Did I- I call you last night? Oh shit.”

“Oh s\*\*t is appropriate, you jerk.”

“I am sorry. I don’t remember anything, Riley, but I really need to go.”

“Is Feyona there?” I knew I was being difficult, and I knew... he— or was that Karl — would rather f\*ck a lamppost, but...

“What are you talking about?” he said with a deep sigh.

“Hey Riley, now that the pups are gone-” Adrian walked towards me and stopped when he looked at the phone in my hand. He quirked his brows, mouthing Roman? and I almost burst out laughing at the look on his face.

“Now that the pups are gone, what?” Roman hissed from the other end. “What does he want to do now that the pups are gone?”

“I am hanging up,” I said with a smile as Adrian took a step back from me as if he was afraid that Roman would grab him by his balls through the phone.

“Little Luna... do not let him touch you.” His voice was possessive and proprietary, and I would normally have bristled at that tone. If anyone other than Roman had said that to me, I would have bit their heads off... but when Roman growled the words out, my knees trembled and my breath hitched.

“I am going to leave you alone. I will talk with you later,” Adrian said with a half wave, and I nodded. He gave me a look before hurriedly jogged away.

“Or?” I said in a soft m\*\*n.

“You are doing this on purpose, aren’t you?” he complained as he took in a deep breath.

“Am I? Really?”

“When I come back... Kitten, I will punish in ways you can’t even imagine. I will punish you until you are begging me for more, until you are screaming for more... and...”

“And?”

“I will take you to the edge of the cliff, Kitten, but you will never come down. You will stay on that cliff... until I say so.”

“Roman?” I whispered and he grunted again. “I can’t wait for it. Now, I really have to go.”

“Kitten?”

“Yes?”

“I – I- it is stupid, Kitten, but I miss you. I miss touching your curves, I miss the smell of your hair, and I miss how you felt when I was all the way inside you... sweaty, screaming, flushed... and so f\*\*\*\*\*g tight around me.”

I gulped, and ran my fingers through my hair. My body heated. I felt like I was standing in a sweltering desert.

“Bye, Riley.”

“B-bye, Roman,” I said in a voice that was barely audible, but that was all I could manage. I stared at the phone for a second, and wished I could somehow conjure him here in front of me, just for a minute or two.

“You look like you are going to explode, bestie,” Dee said as she jumped next to me and looked at my phone screen. “So, it is the hottie?! I am still worried about it, Riles, but... he also brings out a side of you that I hadn’t seen for a while. So I am still unsure whether he is good or bad for you.”

I thought about telling her the phone call I got from him last night, but I didn’t. It felt too strange to tell her when the man who had called me didn’t even remember the call or the things he said.

“So now that the pups are safe... what should we do to Hiran?” She winked at me, and I sighed.

“Nothing that would kill him for now, but I have some ideas,” I said with a smile as I walked inside the pack house, feeling a burden had been lifted from my back since the first day Hiran threatened my pups.

They were safe now. Hiran could not touch a single hair on their little heads, not anymore.

“Okay, I really need to get going. I will call you later,” Dee said.

“Oh, and Deidre, the next time, I want you to NOT tell me that Reid’s di.ck is the most beautiful di.ck you have ever seen. You know, boundaries?!”

“It is you, bit.ch. You plied me with alcohol, until I was blurting out things I didn’t want to say.”

I laughed as she bared her teeth at me before she walked out. I stared at her for a second before I walked to my room and grabbed a book, and spent the rest of the evening reading the book.

\*\*\*

I was walking towards the dining room for dinner when I heard a familiar voice talking with Gamma Miller. I quickly hid behind an empty room and listened to his conversation. They talked about his trip, and something, and I realized he might not have heard about the kids yet. His voice was whiny, not angry.

"Where is Doctor Abel?" Hiran asked.

"He is in the clinic, of course," Miller said. "Why? Are you okay, Alpha? You look pale."

"No, no, I am okay. I just need to talk with him for a second. I will go and see him now," Hiran's voice was a bit distorted, as if he was in pain or something.

Did something happen back in NY?

"Okay Alpha. If you need anything, let me know," Miller said as he walked away. I waited patiently until Hiran left before I walked to the clinic. I was curious to know why he sounded funny, and why he was walking like someone had stuck a three-foot pole in his as\*hole or something.

"You know... that thing about curiosity that killed the cat?" Gem said with a deep sigh.

"Well, the cat would have died a satisfying death," I said to my wolf as I reached the clinic. The place was almost empty by now. It was a small building, and there was only doctor Abel, and two nurses, but this served as the emergency clinic, if we had any trouble in the pack. Usually, werewolves were good at healing themselves, so we rarely needed doctors, so mostly, only the kids used the clinic.

That was why I was even more curious about what really happened to Hiran, that he needed doctor Abel!

I heard a whisper coming out from behind a room. I hid behind the door, and listened. I hoped no one would see me eavesdropping on doctor Abel and my as.shole mate.

"So what happened, Alpha?"

"I- wolves heal much faster, right, doctor Abel?" Hiran's voice was hesitant. I had never heard him sound so hesitant in his life. He was always so sure of himself. I thought it was confidence. Now I realized it was just arrogance.

"Of course. The power of our inner wolves help us heal our physical wounds."

“But I have this wound on-” he said and trailed off, his voice breaking at the end. “It was an accident and my- my testicles are hurt.”

I almost choked on air. I pressed a palm against my mouth to stifle the bubbling laughter.

“He hurt his f.ucking balls?” Gem snorted, looking just as excited as I was.

“It had been a day, but it- it is not healing like the other wounds. I am worried that something must be wrong with my-“

“What really happened, Alpha?”

“Like I said, it was an accident. So... what do you think?”

“I can’t say anything without looking at it, Alpha,” Doctor Abel said, and I heard Hiran cough. I peeked through the glass door and laughed at the way Hiran looked. He was an ugly shade of red as Doctor Abel motioned him to pull his pants down and lie down on the bed.

Oh. This was getting interesting,

I saw Hiran pull his pants down and lie on the bed. The doctor gave him a look before turning away from him.

“I will be back in a second, Alpha,” he said before he came out. I quickly hid as he walked away.

I heard Hiran cursing something under his breath. I sharpened my ears.

“The f\*\*\*\*\*g Lycan came out of nowhere. Who the hell was he? Why in the hell would he f\*\*\*\*\*g crush my balls like...” he growled under his breath and my eyes widened. “If I ever find out who you are, you better run fast, you furry bastard.”

Lycan? Crushed his balls? I knew. I felt content and happy. The happiness wasn’t just my pettiness showing. Of course, I was happy about Hiran’s condition, but I was more happy with what Roman did for me.

“Oh Karl... he is so damn romantic,” Gem said with a deep sigh, her eyes twinkling with freaking red hearts. The wolf was really uncontrollable, but she was right. It was romantic. I couldn’t ever have imagined something like that, but it was the perfect punishment.

I remembered what Roman said about how he wished he was the one saving me, how he wanted to be my hero. He really was my hero. I knew I could take care of myself, but still... what he did for me was everything.

Dee and Keller were the only ones who had always been in my corner since I was sixteen. And when I found Keller with my mate, I decided I wouldn't trust anyone ever again. But Roman... Roman just gave me something I hadn't thought was possible for me to have again. To trust a person.

I trusted him with my life. And that to me was... bigger than love right now. I felt a small flutter of hope and excitement. If he was here right now, I would have kissed those grumpy lips until I couldn't breathe anymore.

"Hiran deserves the pain, and Karl... Karl deserves..." I felt my throat close. I knew I shouldn't cry or anything, because this really was something to be celebrated... but my eyes were blurry anyway.

"Karl deserves a good lick on his balls and c.ock too?!"

"Are you for real, Gemmy?"

"If you don't want to do that, it is fine. I have a good, working tongue," she said as she poked her tongue out, and I shook my head before I pushed the door open. Hiran jerked up when he saw me walking in. His pants were pulled down, but unfortunately he was still wearing boxers.

"Oh, oh. s\*\*t. Did I hear it right? You broke your balls, Alpha?" I said with a smirk.

He growled as his eyes blazed. "Get the fuc.k out, you crazy bi.tch."

I scoffed. "Oh, Stop growling. I am not scared of someone with no balls! I mean, I wasn't scared of you when you had balls, too, but..."

"Riley. You are crossing your limits," Hiran snarled. "You know what I will do if you..."

I cut him off with a wave of my hand.

"Next time, I hope you break your d.ick, too. Maybe I can ask the same Lycan to- you know, to help you match. A crushed p\*\*\*s to go with crushed balls."

"Was that you? Did you- did you do something? Did you hire someone to hurt me?"

"Me? Was that me? Well, you will never know!"

!!!

## – Chapter 30

-Roman-

Dinner with family was something I loved and hated at the same time. I loved my family, but sometimes they were just too much for me.

“Roman? You look distracted?” my dad said as he pushed me the big bowl of pasta. “Eat.”

“No, no, dad, I am okay and I am done. I can’t eat anymore. I am full,” I said with a sigh as I leaned against the chair.

My mother smiled as she put a hand on my shoulder. “No, Roman. You are not okay. So is it about that girl Finn told us about?”

“No one in this family knows how to keep a secret,” I grumbled with a frown and my mother laughed as she shook her head. I glared at my brother and he gave me a shrug.

“Oh darling, we are not equipped to keep secrets from each other. Now, spill the beans, boy,” my mother said as she leaned closer to me, her eyes attentive. She was the only one who called me BOY!

“Mother, I can’t talk about my love life with you. That is just- no.” I shook my head as I took a big bite of my pizza and turned to Finn with a growl. “You should have just kept your mouth shut.”

“Why not? I have three of you, and I am actually the best one to give relationship advice.”

“Whoa there, mom. No one is talking about relationships,” I said and she laughed.

“And mom, we just believe that you made the three of us in the Build your wolves section in a children’s toy store or something,” Finn said with a shudder.

“I made Roman in the backseat of your dad’s old jeep. You were made in the ki-“

“Mom, mom, stop. TMI, mom,” Finn and I shouted as we stood up together.

“Okay, we are leaving to meet Bella, dad. Let’s hope she has something,” I said and walked out of the dining room, while Finn was talking with my dad.

My mom followed me out of the dining room, her eyes watching my every move.

“Roman, you deserve happiness, and I have never seen you look so- so relaxed. Something changed after your visit to Crystal Park and I know it was the girl and it makes me happy. Hold on to her, Roman. She will be good for you.” My mother gave me a soft smile, and everything in me yearned for what she wanted for me, but I also knew that life wasn’t... roses and bouquets of flowers.

Bad things happen. Some people die. Some cheat. Life was not straightforward and easy.

I shook my head. “No, mother. We are — she is not in the place for a relationship and neither am I, mom. It just wouldn’t work out,” I said, much to Karl’s displeasure. He let out a deep growl in response to my words.

“How do you know, Roman, if you don’t even try? It has been too long since Feyona. You are my baby, and I want everything good for you. Feyona wasn’t the one.”

“But I thought she was. So what is the guarantee anyone was the one? I am done with all of this, mom. I am good the way I am right now.”

“I have never seen you look like this, Roman, happy, and that is why I want you to give Riley a chance.”

“You already know her name too.” I rolled my eyes and my mother laughed. “Finn is an idiot. Come on, idiot, let’s go, or Bella won’t be too happy.”

Finn walked out and we drove towards Bella’s apartment. “So, what do you think of those gruesome pictures, Rome?” Finn asked as we took the elevator. “Could it really be something Ramsay is doing?”

“I am sure it is. Was he trying to create vampires? Hybrids?” I glared at the blinking golden light above my head. “I just wish we could kill him. You know...”

“I do fantasize about plunging a stake through his heart and cutting his head off with a machete, but...”

“Yes. If it wasn’t for that ‘but’ this would have been over the second we knew he was involved. The a\*\*\*\*\*e is one of the powerful members in the vampira council, and there is just no way we can touch him without any proof,” I growled with frustration. “Or it will be war.”

The elevator stopped on the sixth floor. We looked around, once again, to make sure we were alone, before walking to Bella’s apartment. She opened before we could even ring the bell.

“Hey guys,” Dean looked up from something he was reading.

Bella motioned us to sit. "This is bad, Rome, Finn," she whispered as she took the couch opposite to us. "The illegal fighting ring is terrible, but this- this sounds like a horrible disaster. Experiments..." She shuddered. "So, I spied on that guy, you know, the one you sent the picture of. That slimeball."

"Go on."

"I caught him meeting with Ramsay directly, and twice, too. You know Dean has been trying to get a meeting with Ramsay for months now, but still can't. So that guy, whoever he was, he wasn't just some random bloke, Rome. You made the right decision to go to Crystal Park. I have a feeling that this guy is more involved than any of us had previously thought. He is in deep, Rome."

"Bella is right. I think we will get closer to Ramsay's operations through Hiran Waites," Dean said.

"So, Bella, did you hear anything? Got any audio clips?"

"I couldn't get any audio. I almost got caught. But I heard some names being mentioned, and they both looked serious. I also heard Ramsay saying, the supply has to keep coming. The other guy wasn't very pleased. That's all I got. I am sorry I couldn't-"

"No, Bella, this is already more than enough," Finn said. "We know how dangerous it is, what you and Dean are doing."

"Well, we become a part of Red Watchers for this," Bella shrugged.

"They didn't have any doubt, right?"

"No. I am just a rich, spoiled bit.ch who wants to party hard and spend hee parents' fortune. Nobody suspects otherwise. It is good I am not as popular as my playboy brother," Bella said with a chuckle and I grumbled.

"That's good, Bella. And please be safe," I said as I hugged her and she sighed as she buried her face in my chest.

"Of course, Rome. You too."

"Yes." I said as she pulled away. "Bye, Bella."

"I will call Finn when I find more, huh?"

I nodded as Finn and I walked out of her apartment, and quickly reached our obscure car, which we chose just because it was easily forgettable.



My phone pinged again. I grabbed it and smiled when I saw Ashelene's message.

We are here, and the pups are safe. Just called Riley, too.

\*\*\*

-Riley-

"Me? Was that me? Well, you will never know!" I blinked at Hiran and gave him a big smile, showing him all my teeth. It was how a great white shark would smile at you, before making you as its next meal.

"I will find out, Riley, and if it was you, you will have to pay for that," he snarled out.

"Yeah, whatever," I scoffed as I walked closer to him. "And Hiran, take some rest for tonight, because you won't be resting anymore."

"What the hell are you-"

"Hush! Don't make so much noise, or maybe I will really make sure the p\*\*\*s matches the balls. You know, broken d.ick is not... fun. Not that your d.ick is useful or anything, but still..."

"You f\*\*\*\*\*g-"

"You know, that night I cheated on — wait, no, that night I finally took my revenge on you, that was the first good f.uck I have had in years." I closed my eyes and I could immediately remember how Roman felt inside me. My breathing hitched. I blinked my eyes and shook my head. s\*\*t, this wasn't the time to get distracted by Roman's di.ck.

"But it is a very, very extraordinary di.ck." Gem! This creature had gone completely mad.

"And that was my first org.asm, too. In perspective, after thinking about it for a long while, I think I am a bit grateful that you have cheated on me. Or I would have died never knowing how real org.asm would feel like and that would have been such a shame, no?"

"You bloody- I am going to-" Hiran growled and tried to jump up, and then winced, before adjusting himself on the bed.

"Oh, protect your already broken balls, Alpha, or I don't think you will ever get to use them again."

"I will kill you... Riley."

"We both know you won't. Your time starts now, Hiran. And you will regret every moment of it, until you are begging me. You made a mistake when you refused to let me go."

"Have you forgotten about your pups?" His eyes gleamed in malice. He thought he could forever control me, keep me as his slave by threatening my pups. Not anymore. Now that they were safe, there was nothing that would stop me from paying him back for what he had done to me, us.

"Pups? What pups? I don't have any pups with you and thank the goddess for that." I blinked. "Get some rest, Hiran. Because it is going to get bumpy for you," I said with a smile as he growled. "Oh, here is doctor Abel. I have some work to do. Bye."

I walked out the room and grabbed my phone when it rang. I smiled when I saw Ashelene's name.

"I promised I will call you as soon as our feet touched the ground. It did. We are enroute to Nightshade, and we are all safe. Stop worrying now. And start thinking about how to destroy your mate. I am already rooting for you. Go."

"Thank you, Ashelene. Okay, bye. Tell them I love them."

I walked towards the dining room. I was hungry from goading Hiran.

Reid and Adrian looked up as I entered the room. "Where did you go?" Reid asked as I sat next to him.

"Oh, I am just coming back from visiting your brother," I said with a chuckle. "Someone crushed his balls and he is worried why it is not healing yet."

Adrian gasped and looked up and his eyes met mine. I nodded and he shook his head with a smile.

"Do you know who did that?" Reid asked and I gave him an innocent shrug.

"No idea. He must have angered someone else," I said as Adrian grabbed a slice of pizza and handed it to me.

"Thanks Adrian," I said as he looked at me again. "And Ash called. They are safe."

"I am so happy to hear that," Adrian said with a deep sigh.

"I am and now I am going to go to my room and sleep. I haven't slept properly in a while," I said with a yawn, and Adrian and Reid chuckled.

"Come on then, I will walk you to your room," Adrian said, and I nodded. I leaned against him as he put an arm around my shoulder as we climbed upstairs.

"I really am grateful to all of you," I whispered.

"I know." He pressed a k\*\*s on my cheek and softly pressed his palms to my cheeks. "I am sorry you have to go through all of this, Riley."

"I think I am not. Not anymore. Hiran is a bad guy, all around, and I am glad I have found out about it. Okay, goodnight," I said as he looked at me with eyes that made my heart twist. His eyes were yearning...

I wanted to lean into his touch, but...

"Bye."

"Bye, Riley," he said with a sigh before he walked away. I walked inside and closed the door and jumped on my bed, and soon fell asleep.

"Wake up, Luna. You are done sleeping," a soft voice teased the fine hair at the back of my neck. I stirred and m\*\*\*\*d when a hand cupped my breast through my shirt. The touch was familiar. The scent was familiar. And then I felt the cold air on my skin when the shirt was ripped open.

"Ahh... Rome..." A soft m\*\*n left my lips and I g\*\*\*\*\*d when my hands were pulled up and I felt the cold metal on my wrist. Arousing. Enticing another deep m\*\*n out of me.

The sensation of his warm breath ruffling my hair made me shudder all over again. It wasn't what he did; it was how he did it. His lips were gentle yet firm, his tongue teasing as it moved down my throat. Was I dreaming? I probably was, but I didn't care. All I cared about was the amazing sensations that ran along my nerves.

When he reached my chest, he stopped kissing me long enough to say, "You taste delicious." Then he kissed my ni.pple, before he bit down gently on the tip, eliciting a gasp from me. My body began to tremble as he traced his tongue across my skin, first one breast, then the other. When he finally let go of my n.ipple, I m\*\*\*\*d in disappointment.

His deep voice rumbled in my ear, sounding dangerously delicious. "You're so soft, so warm, like silk in my hand, and I have missed you. I want to be buried inside you, Kitten. NOW."

"Am I dreaming?"

