

9. Under the mask

-Roman-

"So, are we going to talk about what happened last night?" Adrian stood up as soon as I walked inside the hotel room. He looked so fu.cking excited.

"Oh, this is going to be a long day. This chatterbox won't let that go," Karl huffed. "But after that night I had with... that nameless woman, shi.t, I wish I knew her name. You are an id.iot Roman. You should have asked her name. I am sure it would be as sexy as--"

"You are rambling, Wolf. Shut up."

I was dreading the conversation, but knowing Adrian, he would never let it go.

"It was your fault," I grunted, and Adrian laughed, and then winked at me salaciously. I shook my head.

"How do you suppose it was my fault? My fault that you took her to your room and - did-things to her? What did you do to her?" His eyes were sparkling. He looked very excited and I didn't like it. Not one bit.

"It was a one-time thing."

"She is sexy as hell. I had a dirty dream about her, too. She felt so good in the dream." Adrian moaned and blinked. "What did she feel like in real life?"

Like a dirty fantasy, I thought. She was innocent but not too much. She was wild, too. Fu.ck. She was breathtaking.

"How did she taste?" Did he just really ask that?

I choked and ushed.

"Like honey and poison," Karl whispered. "Like something you want to taste over and over again."

Adrian had no lters when it came to me. He always blurted things out like it was the most natural thing to say to me, his best friend.

I sighed as I rubbed my forehead and he grinned, looking like trouble.

I frowned at him.

"Oh, stop frowning, Roman. Admit that she was delicious and hot. So what if it was one night? There was nothing wrong with admitting that it was a good night. You deserve one good night."

I looked at him and wondered how we had ever become friends, but we had always been.

His father and my father were best friends. His mother and mine were like sisters. It was natural that we would be friends. But the thing was, I loved him, and I knew we would have become friends even if our parents weren't. I had very few people I truly cared about, and he was on top of that list, right there with my family.

I had never been comfortable around people. Adrian was the only one who made me feel at ease. After Feyona left me for another man, Adrian was the only one who knew how hurt I was, how broken I felt. He was my rock. A best friend anyone would want.

"Okay. She was good."

"She was phenomenal," Kurt said, his tongue lolling out.

What the f*ck was wrong with this Lycan? He was horny as hell. "I could have lived forever, buried between her thighs."

My body went stiff when the images of last night oated in my head. It was too hard not to get bothered by it. She was erce. She was unstoppable. And I had never felt so at ease, handcuffed to a headboard. I was always the one who had to be in control, but I didn't know what made me say yes when she ordered me to cuff myself to the bed.

My c*ck jerked from the memory of her.

"Damn. You are aroused." Adrian laughed as he slammed his palms against the table. I shook my head with a grunt. "This is fu.cking interesting. I hope we run into Red tomorrow when we go to Crystal Park. Did your dad talk with the Alpha?"

"I hope we don't. That will be really, really messy," I said as I opened a le and pushed it towards him. "Now stop talking, and do your job. Dad had already talked with Hiran. He told the Alpha that we were just going around from pack to pack, as a part of my training or whatever. But I think the Alpha didn't doubt my dad's words. We have to be careful, though," I said to him with a frown and he nodded.

"Yes, sir. Wait, did she call you that when you- you know-"

I threw the le at him and he laughed. A small smile lifted up on my lips.

"You are an id.iot, Adrian, an id.iot."

"I love you, too, Rome. So much. I am happy you are happy."

"Shut up, fu.cker."

-Riley-

Hiran looked raving mad. His eyes were ashing and gleaming with bloodlust, and I knew his words were not just an empty threat.

I knew I shouldn't antagonize him. Not now. I had to be smart about this. Everything in me wanted to protest and hurt him, hurt him in unimaginable ways. My body shuddered in anger and revulsion.

"No, I will complain about you to the council and the Lycan King. I am not going to take this s**t lying down. You are so f****g wrong, Hiran, if you think otherwise."

"Ah, suddenly my Luna has a voice and she is talking back to me?" He narrowed his eyes. "And the Lycan king has no fu.cking time for you." He laughed. "Before you even think of contacting them, I will burn that omega house down..." His eyes were sinister, and I had no reason not to believe what he was telling me right now. "If I am going to lose you, you will lose them."

"You cheated on me and now you- you are a-"

"Well, Keller gives a better bl*wjob than you, but you are still my Luna." He gave me an indulgent smile. "Only you will be my Luna. Now, go and nish the party planning. The ball for the newly shifted wolves is tomorrow. Chop. Chop. You have a lot of things to do."

I took a step back, my heart pounding in my chest, disgust creeping along my body. I had always known that my mate was possessive and jealous, but I had never thought he would be capable of this kind of threat. I knew I had to be careful, to tread lightly. My heart twisted. I would hurt him for this. I would nd a way to hurt him for that.

He shouldn't have threatened the pups.

I was always fond of them, because they came into the world, weak and frail and without their mothers and fathers. And no family to take them in. Just like me. But then I had spent every free hour with them for two and half years, and they had become an irreplaceable part of my life, and Hiran knew that. He knew I loved them.

"If you touch a single hair on their heads, you will see a side of me you have never seen in your life," I growled out as I took a step towards him, my body shaking in rage. My claws came out and he laughed, looking at me like I was a joke. The look in his eyes was degrading. Everything in me wanted to say f**k it, and lunge at him.

"Oh, come on, Riley. Stop being so dramatic. Go do your thing and I don't have to hurt anyone." There was no remorse, no shame. What kind of a man was my mate? How had I not seen this side of him before? Was I too f****g blind? I hated myself at that moment.

"We have to get out."

"I know, Gem, I know."

No way in hell was I going to stay with this monster, not after I had seen the face he had kept hidden from me. His real face. He was a monster and his soul was lled to the brim with greed and selshness and just pure evil. He was delusional if he thought I was going to stay with him and be an obedient f****g Luna after all this.

"I hate you," I hissed as he took a step towards me and gripped my chin in his hand. His mouth widened in a smile so gruesome. I wanted to punch him in the teeth. His thumb traced my lips and I pulled away with disgust. I wanted to puke.

"You are beautiful when you are angry. You have always been," he said with a dirty smile, before he walked away, as if this was done already. Had I been so docile and obedient before? So easily biddable, that he would think I would not ght back after this?

"We would show him otherwise. No way in hell I am going to be his Luna or his mate, but you are right. We have to do it in such a way that he won't go crazy and hurt the pups," Gem said with a thoughtful frown. She didn't look too pleased.

She had always been ercer than me, and wild, and to not give it back to him for what he had done to us, in a different way was so hard for her.

"We will have our revenge, Gem. I promise that," I said before I walked towards the small building that was built behind the pack house after I had insisted that there should be a better way to house the kids with no family and no parents than just dumping them in a single room.

Reid helped me with everything, from designing and planning it in such a way that it was warm and homely. Hiran was not very fond of the idea, but Reid stood by me and he was the one who helped me with everything. He also played with the kids when he wasn't busy doing his beta duties.

Now I wondered how someone like Reid could be Hiran's brother!

"We have to tell him," Gem said.

"I know, and I am not an i****t to think I can do it all alone. I could take Hiran if it was just him against me. I never thought he was heartless enough to pull the pups into this..."

"Luna, what color tablecloth do you want?" One of the party planners Hiran had hired asked me as she ran towards me.

Tablecloth? I want the tablecloth to be stained with Hiran's f****g blood.

"Red," I said.

"Red doesn't match with the owers, Luna."

"Then choose whatever you want, Jessica. I am going to see the pups," I said to her and she nodded.

"I will do it by myself."

"Thank you, Jessica," I said to her and turned around when I saw Keller walking towards me, his smile bright. He looked happy to see me.

Was that real? Ever real?

My throat closed when he took a step towards me.

"Hey Riles, I have been trying to call you and Dee since last night," he said. How could he look me in the eyes and smile and act like he loved me?

"And?" My voice came out sharp and snappy.

"Where were you?" His voice was hesitant.

"I was busy."

"With the party? Is that as.shole making you do all the work?"

As.shole was my husband. I had always thought Keller hated Hiran just as much as Dee did, but now I was sure this was a cover to hide his true feelings.

"Is that your nickname for him? Do you call him ass.hole because he let you use his?"

His eyes widened and he gasped. Blood drained from his face. I snarled at him as he took a step back, his human eyes wide with fear.

"Get the hell away from me before I rip your heart out."

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