

Chapter 14: Seby, Honey

S-Sebastian, what are you doing here? Inside my room?" Kate asked, her face paled as she clutched the paper against her chest.

"What? Caught you in the act? Are you getting curious about me?" Sebastian asked, and if it were not for the mask covering his face, Kate swore this man was smirking!

"I wasn't drawing you. What makes you think that?" Kate said. "What if I was drawing Zev?"

"Zev?" Sebastian groaned. His eyes narrowed before he leaned back. He said, "The door was ajar, and you seemed very focused on your artwork."

Sebastian looked around and, seeing her luggage, he said, "It's time to leave. We can't risk getting to the palace at night."

"Right," Kate responded.

Just like that, they were in a car, headed for the home of Vottara's werewolf monarch, Alpha King Henry.

As usual, Zev was driving them. Two other cars followed behind them as guards. While on the road, Sebastian and Zev covered the fire incident.

"Sadly, Alpha, it was simply a mishandled short-circuit. The Ragnulfs had been away for two years. No one was looking after their home. They were not able to fix the electrical problems of the house before moving in," Zev reported. "Sadly, it got out of hand because everyone was asleep when it happened."

Sebastian groaned. He gasped and ordered, "Let's put that as a mandate. We should have a regular electrical check-up on all houses now and then. The damage was too big, and many people were hurt. Use the emergency fund to aid the pack members in rebuilding their houses."

"Yes, Alpha," Zev responded.

Kate was silent the whole time. She did not have any money of her own, but she had already decided to ask for funding from her parents to help Sebastian's pack members get back on their feet from the fire.

"By the way, Alpha," Zev reported. "Other alphas have joined the gathering to welcome Luna Kate's parents."

Earlier, Sebastian was calm. But now, hearing the report from Zev. His hands balled into fists, and Kate felt the temperature in the car drop. She wondered, 'What is going on?'

Brawnlyn Hold Castle, Brawnlyn Capital, Vottara.

"Miss Kate, the queen has prepared a gown for you to wear tonight," a maid said, referring to the dress on the bed. The maid smiled at Kate but stiffened when she turned to Sebastian.

Sebastian crossed his arms against his chest, raising his chin as if scaring the maid to death. The maid meekly said, "The gathering will be at seven. The Alpha King and his queen look forward to your attendance at dinner."

After the maid left, Kate studied the huge room she and Sebastian were supposed to share in the next three days within Brawnlyn Hold Castle. Then, her mouth fell open, realizing there was only one king-size bed and no sofa.

'Why? Castles and mansion rooms usually have a sofa bed inside, right?' Kate mused. 'Where would I sleep?'

As if reading her mind, Sebastian said in a deep voice, "I'll take the floor."

"You don't have to. I can take the floor. I've already tried it. Xander locked me up, and the only bed I had back then was the cold floor," Kate described.

Instantly, Sebastian growled. He snarled, "He is going to pay for that!"

His reaction caught Kate off-guard. She and Sebastian ended up staring at each other. He did not have to make Xander pay, but that made her grateful. She smiled and said, "Thank you."

"Let's get ready. Dinner is about to start." He pointed to the bathroom and suggested, "Ladies first."

Kate bathed and changed inside the bathroom. When she stepped outside, Sebastian took his turn.

In front of a vanity table, Kate dried her hair and applied makeup. Just as she was using an eyeliner, Sebastian came out of the bathroom with

only a towel, lowly wrapped around his waist.

He had eight-pack abs, a really broad chest and shoulders, and thick arms. The tattoos on his arms added to the beauty of his body. This wasn't the first time that Kate had seen him naked. After all, he shifted into his human form while aiding those affected by the fire. However, this was the first time Kate had seen him newly bathed with fresh water beads forming all over his torso. The best part was how the room was bright enough for Kate to see every aspect of his upper body.

The wolf in Kate whistled in her head, 'Damn, somebody looks good. Even Xander didn't look like that.'

Kate did not miss the scars on his back and chest. She thought, 'If he did not mind showing these scars, how bad were the scars on his face that he had to hide them?'

While Sebastian took out his suit, Kate tried her best not to be noticeable. She continued to apply an eyeliner while the alpha walked around half-naked, her eyes never leaving him.

When Sebastian returned to the bathroom, Kate groaned. How she wished she could see more of him. Somehow, the idea of sharing a room with Sebastian was not that bad at all now.

After half an hour, they were both ready. Kate could not help but admire how Sebastian looked so good in his suit. It wasn't just how the clothes hugged his body perfectly or how they shaped his muscles; everything about him looked pleasing to the eye, and the mask added a hint of mystery to him.

'Goddess! What is happening to me? Why am I admiring this man when I tried to run away from him in the past?' She scolded herself inwardly.

"Let's go. Zev is already in the dining hall," Sebastian reported. "The king and queen will be there soon. We don't have to arrive late."

Their quarters were on the third floor. So they made it down to the second floor, where the colossal dining hall was located. The entire time, Kate walked behind Sebastian. They had always been like that, and Kate did not think much about it. From the start, Sebastian clarified that she did not have to pretend to like him.

When they entered the room, however, Kate saw how the people treated Sebastian.

There were about eight men who had powerful auras. Kate could only assume they were alphas of their respective packs. There were also four other females, and they looked like lunas. There were older men present too, perhaps elders or advisers of the alpha king.

The individuals around the table began to gossip. The women were so apparent, covering their mouths to whisper to persons next to them. As Kate and Sebastian made their way to their assigned seats, Kate could hear what they were talking about!

"Clearly, she is afraid of him. Look how far apart they are."

"It's only a marriage of convenience."

"He forced her to marry him. Of course, she would be afraid."

"Who would want to marry a man whose face is disfigured?"

"Poor girl. I don't know why the alpha king favored Sebastian. I bet he is abusing her."

Kate fumed. She thought, 'Could they try to be discreet? Could this be why Sebastian was angered upon learning that other alphas were attending?'

Suddenly, a growl left Sebastian's lips. Kate felt his anger and his alpha command aura emitted from his body. Everyone, even Kate and Zev, stiffened. Sebastian remarked, "Looks like the alphas and lunas have so much time gossiping; they need more work on their plates!"

The alphas, especially the four lunas, appeared to be choking on their own spew. Their eyes rounded at Sebastian while the latter resumed to scold them, "Whatever the circumstance of our upcoming marriage is none of your business! Worry about yourselves - "

Kate grabbed Sebastian's hand without warning him. The second their skins touched, she felt a zap of electricity that Kate pulled her hand away. Sebastian did the same, pulling his hand and unwittingly breaking down his alpha aura.

When Sebastian looked at her, clearly puzzled, Kate retook his hand, saying, "Let's not mind them, Honey. They don't know anything about us."

Kate glanced at the alphas and lunas. She winced at them before adoringly looking at Sebastian. She said, "Seby, Honey, let's take our seats. I'm so hungry."

On the outside, Kate may seemed confident about her decision, but inside, she was nervous. She certainly hoped her scary, soon-to-be husband would not throw a fit about her actions. After all, she did it to save him a face!

She may be marrying him as a contract luna, but she would not allow those people to disrespect him. No, not after learning that Sebastian wasn't as bad as she initially thought he was.

Halfway through their walk, however, Sebastian's fingers intertwined with hers. Kate gulped. Her heart skipped a beat, and strangely, the butterflies in her stomach did cartwheels!

Kate looked down at their interlocked hands and felt her knees going weak. 'Goddess!'



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