

Chapter 44

Alyssa

The ride home is tense. I know for a fact that if Christine hadn't walked into the room, all hell would've broken loose right there—with Zuri and me stuck in the middle of it.

It was clear as fucking day that Gray didn't like that they stood up for me. It didn't sit well with him that they were willing to defy him, even if it meant fracturing their brotherhood ties. That spoke louder than any of the lies they told him today. It proves that they care about me, that I'm more than just his sister to them.

But what the hell are we doing? I can't allow this to continue. I need to leave. I'm putting them at risk and if Gray decides to hurt them because of me...I saw the way his eyes darkened with malice. He'll punish them. He'll make them pay.

I suck in a shaky breath, trying to steady myself. King catches my gaze through the rearview mirror, his eyes narrowed with concern, while Niko's head snaps in my direction.

"Sweet girl, what's wrong?" Niko's voice is soft, but I can hear the sharp edge of worry behind it.

"I'm fine," I mutter, giving them a forced smile.

"I don't like it when you lie, kitten," King growls low from the front.

I chew on my lip. "I mean...I don't know what to say right now. Except, um, thank you—for putting your lives on the line for me and Zuri."

Even if I don't understand their whole gang thing, I know that something

was broken tonight. Gray now has a reason to question their loyalty, and he's probably more suspicious about their intentions with me after they openly refused to obey his command.

The way that Niko spoke to him, I've never heard him speak with such authority before. That has to be the voice he uses in the club, right? The one that commands fear and respect from the other men as vice president. It's a dominance I've only glimpsed, and one he never shows around King for some reason.

"He'll need some time, but he'll get over it. Seems Christine is actually useful for something," King grumbles.

But I'm still not convinced. We can't keep whatever's going on between us a secret forever. Gray will find out eventually, and what will they tell him? That I slipped and tripped on their dicks?

"You heard him," I blurt, panic rising in my throat. "He's going to start watching us, and what if he finds out -"

Niko cuts me off with a grin. "You don't need to worry about that, baby. We've got it covered."

"How?" I snap, my voice rising an octave. Not annoying as fuck like Christine's, but still enough to make me cringe. "He's going to kill both of you, and then what's going to happen to me?"

My brother is crazier than I thought. He's perfectly okay with keeping me and my daughter locked up, as long as he thinks it's keeping me safe. He confirmed that he doesn't give a damn about whether I'm happy with his decision over my life.

Fucking prick.

"He's not going to do anything," Niko reassures me, putting his feet on the dashboard like we aren't talking about life or death right now. "I don't know if you noticed, but we kinda keep his whole operation running."

"Put your feet down," King growls, his eyes not leaving the road.

"Why?" Niko practically whines.

"Because I don't want to see your goddamn knees go through your skull if we happen to get into an accident."

Niko huffs and lowers his feet like a stubborn child. King throws him a sidelong glance. "Good boy."

I snort, a reluctant smile tugging on my lips. Warmth spreads through my chest, a feeling I'm going to continue to ignore because I'm afraid to know what it means.

Besides, no matter what they say, I've put them in danger. Gray's not going to give up, and that means I can't stay with them anymore. Not when I'm the reason they could end up dead.

I should've stuck with my original plan to leave before this got complicated, but I got caught up in the fantasy of it all. Of being happy. Safe.

But how can I leave without them knowing?

Unless...Mason. I need to wait until I'm alone with him. Maybe he can help me. Wherever he is. I haven't seen him all day, and I wonder what my brother has him doing.

When we get back, I sit on the floor in the living room playing with Zuri,

my mind swirling with half-planned thoughts about escaping. I can't help thinking that this place feels more like home than the house I shared with Isaac and even the house I grew up in.

"Alyssa?" I blink, looking up to find King standing right in front of me. From the look on his face, he's probably tried to get my attention several times while I was lost in my thoughts.

"I have a job to do with Mace tonight. I'll be back soon. Niko will stay with you."

He turns to Niko, who plops down on the couch beside me. King's voice drops to a low rumble. "Comfort her, but don't fuck her. We'll do that together later."

What? After everything that's happened tonight, he still wants to—

My eyebrows shoot up. "I thought I had too much baggage for you?" I ask, referring to the conversation with my brother earlier.

"You actually believed that?" He smirks, the glint in his eyes daring me to challenge him. "You know I was full of shit, kitten. I just said it to get Gray off my back. You should know better by now." He leans in, his voice almost playful. "Besides, whatever baggage you have, I can handle it. I'll carry it for you. All of it."

My breath catches, but I still shake my head. "King, I don't want to have sex -"

"Yeah the fuck you do," he interjects, his gaze piercing through me, stripping away every weak protest. "Don't lie to yourself because of him. You were such a good girl today, kitten. Let us reward you. Let us give you what you need."

My body betrays me, a shiver running down my spine at his words. My pussy clenches with anticipation, but I fight to keep my face neutral. He chuckles, clearly amused by my attempt at self-control, and leans down to kiss me like he's giving me a taste of what's to come later.

As the door closes behind him, I stare after him, hating how much I already miss him. Why does that terrify me more than anything Gray could ever do?



Comments



Support