

## Chapter 10

### ABBIE

"Can't I stay with Ivy?" I ask, watching as Ivy walks in a different direction after retrieving a mop bucket from the closet on the bottom floor. She was in such a rush she didn't even notice me.

"No, the King asked for her specifically," Clarice explains.

"Why?" I blurt before I have a chance to stop myself. Clarice doesn't answer, so I sigh and drop my gaze, knowing better than to question my superiors. Clarice shows me to the other side of the castle. This place is huge, like a maze. One could easily get lost by taking a wrong turn, and I wonder how long it will take me to memorize the layout.

Most of this morning was spent in the kitchen while Clarice showed Ivy where she was being placed. Now I am being led to new quarters, though I instantly become nervous when I find out it's for the Beta.

I want to stay with the other female servants. Learning only the Beta and the King's private guard reside on this side of the castle made me nervous. I don't like the idea of being surrounded by so many men.

Clarice had explained to me that it was the closest quarters to Ivy, yet it feels further away than the servants' quarters. We climb the stairs to what appears to be some sort of loft area which actually opens up to a vast space.

"This is Beta Damian's room. You won't have to do much. Beta Damian is quite clean and hardly stays here, mostly changes and leaves," she tells me.

The room is quite nice, with a bathroom and wardrobe, yet the Beta doesn't seem to have much in the way of belongings besides his clothes. Everything is clean, and the bed looks like it hasn't been slept in. Heavy dark blue drapes hung from the windows, and a huge white rug lay on the floor, not a speck of dust in sight. Was I expected to keep it this clean, or is Clarice right that he hardly comes in here. The place doesn't look lived in; in fact, it looks empty.

Clarice leads me to a set of doors and stops, turning toward me, and finally his little library, which has been turned into a gym that all the men use," Clarice tells me. I peer inside to find heaps of gym equipment.

"Now, the floor below you will be in charge of cleaning too but stay out of everyone's rooms, especially the far two rooms," Clarice explains, leading me back downstairs and showing me around the quaint room that separates the two sides in the middle of the guard's quarters.

When she shows me around this floor. There are twelve doors lining the walls before a separate area with a small sitting room containing

three armchairs, a TV, and some artwork. There are two more doors at the end.

"Now, the other rooms you can clean except these two." She points at them. I glance at them and then at her wondering why they're off-limits. "Don't enter into these two rooms unless asked to do so, and maybe stay away from that one completely. Liam can be somewhat unhinged at the best of times," she tells me, and I chew my lip.

"Liam?" I ask, nervously.

"Oh, you won't see much of him. The man is as silent as night, but this one," she points to the other door. "Gannon likes his privacy. You met him in the car earlier," Clarice says, and I nod. So his name is Gannon. I hadn't paid much attention to names other than Clarice's since she is in charge of us.

"Gannon is moody and temperamental, so steer clear and don't speak unless spoken to," Clarice says. Well, I had no intention of conversing with anyone of the opposite sex, so that was okay with me.

"So, how many people stay in these quarters?"

"Just the King's guard, so Beta Damian and the King's Gammas,"

"Shouldn't there only be one Gamma?" I ask her, trying to remember how the pack hierarchy worked.

"All the King's guards are Gammas, but they still have rank. Gannon is third in charge, while Dustin and Liam lead as fourth together. It depends on the trials; those I mentioned are the highest ranking in the royal guard. Trey is a bit touchy, so try to avoid him too, but the rest come and go depending on their shifts, but yes, they are all Gammas. You only need to worry about Beta Damian, Gannon, and Dustin. They will probably be the main ones you run into while staying here."

"So basically, I should avoid all of them," Clarice nods. Great, not only am I the only female, but all the men on this floor appear unapproachable and anti-social. Great!

"So everything is understood? I need to get back to the kitchen," Clarice asks, and I nod.

"Okay, well, dinner is at 6 pm for the servants, so make sure to head down then, and your room is this one," she says, wandering down the hall. She points to the door we didn't enter. Which I assume is a cleaning closet, so I have to clean this floor and share it with the men here. I would have preferred the bunked servants' quarters.

Clarice cups my cheek in her hand. "You'll do very well. They are a friendly bunch. Just stay out of their way," she says before turning. Yeah, they sound super friendly after telling me not to go near pretty much all of them!

"Wait, when can I see Ivy?" I ask, and Clarice stops.

"When the King allows it," Clarice says, and my brows furrow. Wait, what is the King doing with her?