

## Chapter 7

Alina's POV

I had just closed the bathroom door and leaned on the sink to steady my shaking body, wondering why Logan had such a physical effect on me, when the door swung open and there he stood. Forcibly, he shut it and locked it behind him.

"Er... um... I-I'm sorry. I must have forgotten to lock the door," I stuttered like an idiot. His ocean blue eyes took in my body and returned to my face as if he was regarding me for the first time. I watched as his muscular jaw clenched but he didn't make any attempt to move or speak. I saw some emotions flicker across his face. Anger and... lust? I shook my head slowly. I needed to get away from him. I was starting to lose my mind.

"Okay... Well, I'll just leave you to it then," I moved around him to reach for the door handle.

In one swift movement, I felt strong hands grip my waist and spin me around so my back slammed against the door. I looked up in shock and his face was inches from mine. It gave me the opportunity to admire his features up close. He really was astonishingly handsome. I could feel his rapid breathing tickling my skin. One of his hands was at the side of my head against the door and the other was still gripping my hip tightly. He pressed his body up against mine, caging me in. I immediately started to burn up at his touch and this strange sensation crawled across my skin from our contact.

"Who are you?" his voice was low and husky and it made my core ache with need.

"A-Alina Clarke," I whispered, so quietly I am sure he couldn't hear me.

Suddenly, he moved his head into the crook of my neck and inhaled. As he did, he tenderly trailed the tip of his nose up my neck, sending volts of electricity through my skin. A shallow growl escaped his chest as I squirmed slightly. Did he just growl? And then he whispered something I was not expecting.

"I can smell your arousal, Alina. Stop before I lose control."

What? Can he smell that I am turned on right now? How? Oh, this is beyond embarrassing. I put my hands on his muscular chest and tried to push him off but he didn't move.

"Please," I begged as I struggled against his power. He lifted his face and I drew my breath in sharply when I saw that his once beautiful, azure eyes had now turned a dark navy colour, almost black. Purple veins protruded out around his eyes like twisted jungle rivers. He looked feral and dangerous. I knew at that moment, the logical thing to do was scream at the top of my lungs and get out of there as fast as possible, but I felt oddly calm. Something told me not to be afraid.

Apprehensively, I reached up and stroked the pulsing veins with my fingers, making him freeze under my touch.

"Your eyes... they're... what are you?"

Without warning, he snatched my hand away and growled, "Someone you should stay away from, Alina. You need to leave this party. NOW."

And with that, he pushed me aside and bolted out of the door, leaving me wondering if any of that even happened, or did I imagine the whole thing?

I took a few minutes to mull over what had just transpired. Being a psychology student, I should be quite good at reading people's emotions and behaviours. His actions suggested he felt something for me, but his words were saying the opposite. He wanted me to leave. But why? What had I done to him?

The more I thought about our encounter, the angrier I got. How dare he come in here and touch me and then tell me to leave! Madeline invited me here, the girlfriend that seemed to have slipped his mind a few minutes ago, and I wasn't going to leave unless she wanted me to.

I opened the door and stepped out into the corridor. The front door was opposite where I was standing. I could just slip out without anyone noticing. But then I glanced to my left and saw him watching me from the kitchen. The man who had let Chloe and I into the party was talking to Logan intensely but his eyes remained fixed on me. I lifted my chin higher, not breaking our eye contact, and gave him my best 'f\*\*k you' smile before turning right and walking back into the living room. I was not going to let this guy or any guy from now on have any control over my life.

I marched over to Chloe who was outrageously flirting with a blonde-haired man.

"Lina, there you are! I was about to send out a search party!" I highly doubted that by the way she had been draped over that stranger a few seconds ago. "Here, have another shot. It looks like you could use it! Also, I made you a Malibu and coke," she giggled as the man nibbled at her ear.

"Thanks," I replied, sinking my shot and taking my drink from her.

"Buttercup! You're back. Come, sit with me," Darius called from the sofa.

I suddenly felt hot under someone's penetrating glare and I knew exactly who it was without looking back. Instead, I walked over to Darius and slumped down on the chair next to him.

"Has anyone ever told you that you could be a Victoria's Secret model strutting in that lingerie?" he flirted.

I giggled and hit his arm playfully. "It is not lingerie. It is a dress and one that I didn't even want to buy in the first place, but your friend, Madeline over there, forced me to."

"Good job she did! You look incredible in it."

I couldn't help but peek over to where I felt daggers radiating from. Logan was leaning in the doorway with his bulging arms folded across his broad chest. He looked furious.

Good.

I spent the next hour or so laughing and drinking with Darius, Chloe, and some others and I must admit, I was actually starting to have a good time.

"Everyone, come! Sit in a circle on the floor and let's play truth or dare!" Madeline ordered with a mischievous grin.

"Great idea. I love that game," Chloe said, following Madeline to the middle of the room. I was pretty sure Chloe would agree to just about anything Madeline asked of her right now.

"You going to play, buttercup? Or is it not really your 'scene'?" Darius asked with a twinkle in his eye.

I knew he was baiting me and it was working. But I was a new Alina tonight and I was up for anything. I stood up with a smirk and walked over to the group that had formed a circle on the carpet and felt him follow behind me.

"I hope you brought your A-game, buttercup. Maddy can be ruthless," he winked at me and sat down cross-legged next to me.

Okay, deep breath, this will be fun, I told myself.