

THE LYCAN KING'S SECOND CHANCE MATE

#Chapter 0371 - Read THE LYCAN KING'S SECOND CHANCE MATE Chapter 0371

Chapter 0371

REAGAN'S POV.

I did not see the smile, but I know it was there on her face when I said those last words to her. I felt it. I was able to make her smile despite my creepy moves on her this evening and that's okay for me. I can go to bed with that.

That guy Leonard, he might think he's getting somewhere with her. I have no idea where he gets the audacity to try and woo a woman he very well knows is mated to his Lycan King. I commend him for his bravery and I hope he enjoys the little time he has with her because sooner or later, I'll be back for what's mine. Before that happens, I have to settle some issues and that's exactly what I'm about to start doing right now.

"Where's Selena?" I ask the servant who just opened the door for me. I just arrived at Selena's apartment and I don't care what state she is in right now. She's going to tell me what I need to hear.

"My Lord." The servant calls, bowing her head and keeping her gaze on the ground below. "She's in her bedroom." She reports and without saying another word, I walk past her and head towards the staircase.

I would have given Selena more time to settle in and be more comfortable before talking about her experience, but right now, I don't have all that time to spare. With everyday that passes, I can feel the rift between Ashanti and I widening. She's close yet so far... almost out of my reach and if I don't do something about it right now, I might lose her.

Heck, I might lose her to another man.

I'd die before letting something like that happen.

At the door, I wrap my knuckles against the door and wait for a response. When I get the signal to come in, I gently creak the door open and step into the room. I spot Selena sitting before her vanity mirror, dressed in her pajamas with her hair tied in a loose, messy pony tail. The moment, she sees me she rises to her feet with a shocked expression on her face.

She cannot believe her eyes.

"Alpha Reagan." She calls almost breathlessly, her low voice laced with surprise and confusion. NôvelDrama.Org: text © owner.

"Selena." I respond and she starts walking towards me, smiling.

"You're here."

"I am."

"I... this is a big surprise. I wasn't expecting you to ever come here at his time."

"Well..." I say, taking a step forward. "I'm here and there's something important..." She cuts me off by jumping forward and circling her arms around my torso, engulfing me in unexpected hug that nearly knocks me off my feet. I raise my arms by side and stare down at her head that's laying on my chest, shocked to the bone.

What's going on.

"I'm so happy to see you." She says and I do not fail to notice the state of her voice. It's shaky, teary and when she sniffles tears, that's when I know she's crying.

Why the hell is she crying?

"I.... I thought... I t..." She stutters and sniffles again, driving me into and even more confused state.

She was smiling just a few seconds ago, but now she's bawling her eyes out.

The frequency at which women's emotions fluctuate needs to be studied.

"Selena." She looks up at me with her tear drenched face. "Why are you crying?"

"I'm just happy to be here with you. thought I'd never see you again." Her teary eyes are searching my face. "I'm just... I'm happy to here with you."

swn

"Come here." I hold her by her shoulders and lead her to her bed where we both sit down.

"You don't have to cry anymore. What's important is that you're home now and you are safe. Okay."

"Okay." She agrees, mopping the

tears off her cheeks with the back of

her palms. As I sit here looking at her, I can only imagine what she must have been through all these years.

She was definitely treated very poorly wherever she was.

"Also..." She looks at me once she's done cleaning her tears. "You haven't told the subjects about my return, right?" "No. I haven't."

"I've been wondering... when do you intend to do so?"

My eyebrows nearly trip to my hairline in shock. My eyes widen as I stare at her, totally and completely dumbfounded. What did just say?

"I... I uh... I don't understand what you mean."

In

"I know the pack subjects mourned and I also know that they'll be thrilled to hear about my return. So, I want to know when you intend to tell them that their Luna is not dead after all. That's she's back home with them."

My jaw is sitting on my kneecaps as I look at Selena in complete disbelief.

I don't know how to categorize her attitude right now.

Ignorance?

Confidence?

Audacity?

I don't know what to make of it.

Chapter 0372

REAGAN'S POV.

"Selena..." My voice is a low and husky. She stares at me with eyes as bright as a hunting torch and I can see the excitement swimming in them.

"Yeah."

"Before that happens, I need you to tell me a few things."

"What is it you want me to tell you?"

I let out a heavy exhale before settling my gaze on her again. This will seem rushed, but I have to do it. Not for myself, but for my relationship with the woman I love.

"Selena, I know I agreed to wait until you are comfortable enough to talk about your experience while you were away these past years, but I don't think I can do that." I shift closer to her and take her hands in mine. "I want to know. I need to know what happened to you so I can deal with this issue once and for all and set my mind at ease. Please, tell me."

The excitement look on her face fades instantly and gloom returns to her eyes. Calmly, she takes her hand from my hold and tears her gaze from my face, plastering it against the wall on the other side of the room.

It's a sour topic for her. I know that. I hate that I have to force her to do this, but I cannot do otherwise.

"What happened to you? Why were there so many wounds on your body when you showed up here? Also, a lot of things have happened in my life these past years. Things that have reached the ends of this world and are on the lips of, if not all, but every member of every pack in this world, but surprisingly, you don't know them. I can't help but wonder how that's possible. Where could you possibly have been that even the most viral news did not reach you?"

"I was abducted!" She replies immediately, looking back at me. There's a firm, angry look in her eyes that makes me recoil on my spot.

Abducted.

Exactly what I suspected.

"On the day of the ambush, he faked my death and took me away. He had me imprisoned in an underground cell where he tortured me almost every night before retiring for the night. He didn't let me go out for any reason. That prison cell became my home and anything I needed was brought to me there."

"You mean to tell me you were locked up in a dungeon cell for five years with no access to the outside world?" I ask in horror. My heart nearly jumps out of my chest when she nods in agreement. I can feel all the bones dissolving in my body as I watch her shed tears.

That's barbaric!

"Who is 'he'? Does he have a name? What does he look like?"

"I don't know." She says, shaking her head fervently. "He never told me his name. He never let me see his face. Whenever he had to visit, I was either blindfolded or he had on a mask when he came and spoke only a few words. He left no traces of his identity."

Shit!

"Why did he do that? Did he ever tell you?"

"No. He never did."

Another sigh of exasperation escapes my lips. Her face is damp again with tears and her voice is croaked when she talks. She sounds and looks so hurt and I hate that I have to make her revisit the memories of that horrible experience.

I'm well aware of the fact that I have enemies in this world. People who hate my reign and will do anything to have me overthrown. However, I didn't think they would take out their anger on my mate.

Whoever did this must surely be an enemy of mine!

"How... how did you manage to escape?"

"I monitored him. I noticed he always held a dagger whenever he came to see me and since I was

always very weak and powerless, he never thought twice about coming into my cell. That fateful day, when he came, I pretended to be unconscious, so when he stepped into the cell to check what had happened to me, I swiftly seized his dagger and sliced his throat. I didn't even look back to see what I had done, I took off. I found my way out of the dungeon and ran for my life. I didn't stop until I got here."

She's almost drowning in a pool of her own tears right now. I can barely make out her words because of how much she's crying. I feel so sad and even more curious about a lot of things. Things which have to do with the explanation she just gave me.

All I wanted to find out today was what happened to her and she has told me. I will go into details some other time.

"I am so sorry you had to go through of all that, Selena."

"It's okay." She chuckles amidst tears. "What's important is that I'm here now. The past is in the past."

"Yes it is." I say, nodding. Even though that's not what I have in my mind.

There's more to this story than what meets the eye and I'm going to get to the root.

"You mentioned something about there being some times I'm supposed to know about which I don't. What are those things?" She changes the topic.

She pries her lips open to say something but no sound comes out. She closed them again and swallows dryly.

I can hear the sound of her heart banging against her ribcage.

God, I just destroyed her.

"Oh..." She finally manages to exclaim, but the shocked expression on her face has gone no where. "That's... that's cool. I uh..." She

scratches the back of her head, "You are the Lycan King, you cannot be

without a Luna. It's o

that

the Moon goddess sent you my replacement. It's cool."

"Selena I'm sorry."

"Sorry?" She chuckles in frustration. "You have nothing to be sorry about, Alpha Reagan. You've done nothing wrong. I completely understand. I was gone for too long, I needed to be replaced. It's fine." She insists, but the look on her face says otherwise.

My heart feels like it has been thrown into a shredding machine.

I feel so bad for doing this to her.

Chapter 0373

ASHANTI'S POV.

"Good morning everyone." I greet cheerfully as I approach my fashion team with Ryan by my side. They respond in chorus, with bright smiles on their faces. Everyone looks excited and I'm sure just like me, they cannot wait to start already. << We all look very cheerful this morning."

"That's because it's day one of the competition and we can't wait!" One of my colleagues replies and I turn to him.

"Really? One would think that a day like this will make you all nervous, but here you are in high spirits, wishing for the competition to start already. I'm so proud to have such

confident fashionistas as my teammates. I look forward to embarking on this journey with you all."

"We are going to have a blast and you'll be crowned fashion King. That's for sure!"

"Let's not get ahead of ourselves now." I say in a hushed tune as I look around to make sure no one else heard her. "This is going to be a tough competition. Take a look around and you'll see the amount of excellent designers we are up against."

"What does it matter?" That's Ryan. I blink in surprise. "You're the best." He says and goes to the back to take a seat. Just then, the entire hall goes dead silent and I turn to see what happened. My heart starts drumming in my chest when I see the judges walking in. There's six of them.

Four men and two women.

They are former Fashion King's who have won the title at least three times each.

The most successful and most

feared judge among them is Morgan James. He's a sixty-year-old who never smiles for any reason. During his prime years as a designer, he won six Fashion King competitions, four of which were in a row. He's the greatest designer to ever live in this world and just being in the same room with him right now gives me goosebumps.

I've watched a few clips about how he gives remarks on designs created by designers during competitions. He's absolutely brutal! He never fails to make designers cry with his brutal remarks about their designs.

I pray I don't cry.

"Today is the day the competition begins and we'll be starting with something simple but stylish..." One of the female judges, Mrs Elinda Jones reports. Only her voice can be heard echoing throughout the hall. Just like my team and me, the other head designers are looking at the judges with great concentration with serious looks on their faces. "Your are tasked with designing and creating bikini outfits for ladies. Each of you is expected to come up with three different designs which are to be displayed on the three mannequin dolls you see in your work spaces. As the competition progresses, real models will be required to wear your designs and walk a runway. For now, the mannequins will do. The time

allocated for this task is three hours and it starts when the sound of bell goes. You will be invigilated by people who will ensure that no foul play is done by any of you at any point of the competition and by us, the judges. Anyone caught trying to cheat in any manner will be disqualified and banned from taking part in this competition for a period of five years, so beware. Good luck."

The moment she steps back, about a dozen men and women, all dressed in black suits walk into the hall and station themselves at various corners of the hall.

The invigilators.

Way to instil panic in people's hearts.

Just great.

Soon, fabrics for the competition are brought in by servants dressed in uniform. We are all given the same fabrics but with different colours.

Ten minutes later, the bell goes and belongs to

the competition starts. As the head designer, I'm responsible for coming up with all the designs while my team members set up the equipment and fabrics we'll be using to sew the designs I'll create feel very confident about this because designing bikinis is one of my fortes.

The bikini line I launched a few

months ago was very successful. I'm sure to Ace this.

Chapter 0374

Mr. James is not going to make me cry.

Ryan is right by my side as I work. Watching and saying nothing, but assisting me with anything I need.

It takes me about one hour to draw my designs. And one hour thirty minutes for my team and I to bring them to life. There are a few mistakes in the process, but we correct them and the final results are displayed on the mannequins as instructed.

By the time the bell goes, we're done and so are most of the designers, but a few are still struggling with their final design.

My soul nearly leaves my body when the judges come together again at the centre of the room to address us.

I know I did well. The bikinis look great on the mannequins, but I still feel nervous. I've never had this kind of experience before. God, I hope I don't cry.

The next hour goes by with the judges approaching the designers and their designs and asking them to explain what they've created and why they think people should spend

their money on it. Mr. James does not fail to live up to his legacy of brutal blasting. I nearly lose my balance when they approach my team.

My heart is beating so fast, I fear it's going to hop out of my chest soon.

"Miss Ashanti Anderson." Cecil Logan, the other female judge, calls with a serious look on her face. "Can you tell us what you've created?"

I take in a deep breath and release to steady my heart beats and calm my raging nerves. Confidently, I walk closer to the first design. "This is a full cup bikini. It offers full coverage and excellent support for the breasts. This type of bikini makes you feel comfortable and confident especially if you have larger breasts. It's also for people who are not comfortable exposing their breasts. You can also see that the underwear below covers up the ass and every part around the pubic region. It's an excellent choice for women who like keeping their private parts private and who don't want too many eyes on them while at the beach. Sexy and comfortable. Those are the two words that inspired me to create this design." I complete the first presentation with a smile before moving to the next, making sure to avoid Mr. James' gaze at all costs.

The second design is an extreme

micro three piece bikini set and the third is a lingerie G-string underwear swimwear. At the end of my

I.n&

presentation, the only remark I get from the judges is "Hmmm" from

Mr. James.

I only breathe properly again when they leave my area for the next person who happens to be Leonard Kirk.

One word for his designs.

Stylish.Belongs to

He explains his impressive designs like the pro he is and as expected, most of the judges are nodding their heads in amazement but the imprable Mr. James remains as stoic as always.

The judges go back to the high table after the presentation. They are now going to evaluate the designs and rank them.

"I feel like I'm going to piss my pants." I whisper to Ryan, my emotional support. He places a hand on my shoulder and gives it a gentle tap.

"It's normal to feel that way. Those judges don't look friendly at all. Especially the man who made the other girls cry. He's cruel." "He's known for that."

"Your designs are very good. I'm confident you'll be within the first three." His words put a smile on my face and they turned out to be the truth because I came second in the rankings, after Leonard who got first position.

On his way out, Mr. James stops in front of a girl who I recognize to be one of the girls who were gossiping and calling me names the other day. The girl's lips curve in a wide smile but it's immediately wiped off when he points to one of her designs and says:

"This design is an unbearable eyesore."

Chapter 0375

ASHANTI'S POV.

And then walks away.

She bursts into tears.

"He's not wrong tho." Ryan leans closer and whispers into my ears. I shoot him a stern look that makes him smile and shrug his shoulders. "I said what I said."

The moment the judges exit the hall, I turn to my team mates and we all squeal excitedly as we exchange happy hugs.

"One look at those designs and I knew we'd occupy the top spots. They were fire!" Dean, one of my assistant designers muses and all I can do is smile.

"Ashanti." A familiar voice calls my name. My heart plummets and soars when I see Leonard standing before me. I blink in surprise as my smile widens.

"Leonard! Hi!"

"Congratulations!" He says, pulling me into a calm hug and I don't miss the opportunity to inhale his heavenly scent like my life depends on it. "Thank you, Leonard and Congratulations to you too!" I say, pulling out of his hold and looking up at his handsome face. He turns to the mannequins on which the bikinis are displayed. "I must say you made my jaws drop with these designs. I love how you were able to go from simple to spicy with the outfits. You are good!" Heat pools in my stomach and the warmth in my chest reroutes to a different area of my body. I'm blushing so hard, my cheeks must have turned crimson red by now.

"I... I don't even know what to say... I'm speechless."

"You don't have to say anything. I'll leave you with your team now. Talk to you later."

"Okay."

When I turn back to the others, all eyes are on me, giving me queer looks but no one is saying anything.

Thank the goddess for that because I really don't have any explanation to give anyone right now.

After the small talk, I leave the hall, making sure to take Ryan along with me because he keeps insisting on going around to take a look at the bikinis created by other designers. If I let him do that, he's going to come back home with a broken jaw because he he'd give a crude comment that will get on a designers very last nerves.

"You don't think I know how to control my mouth, do you?"

"I don't know what I know about you, Ryan. So I'm trying to avoid trouble. Now, you'll be my driver for today."

"When am I not your driver?" I shoot him a scowl.

"What's that supposed to mean."

"It means you should stop acting like you're not a passenger seat princess. We both know you never drive!"

I step Infront of our car and shoot him a tired look.

"I'm going to send you back home to your parents if you keep blasting me like this."

"But I'm only saying the truth."

"Ryan." A masculine voice calls and both Ryan and I turn to look in the direction of the voice.

Ah!

It's Leonard again.

This man is everywhere I go.

"Ashanti." He's still smiling.

"Leonard."

"I can see you're about to leave."

"Yes, I am."

"Can I drive you home?" He asks calmly and I don't know why, but my gaze goes over to Ryan who is staring at Leonard, deadpan. What the hell is wrong with this boy?

A few seconds ago he was mad about having to drive me home, but now that someone has offered, he's upset.

"There will be no need for that, Mr. Kirk." Another Masculine voice.

This time around it's a voice I'd recognize even if I was deaf.

Leonard turns to Alpha Reagan who calmly approaches us and only stops when he's by my side.

"Her mate is here to take her home."

I swear my heart stops. I freeze in time, my eyes stay glued to his face, staring at him as though he has lost his brain cells.

The very understanding Leonard, simply nods and walks away.

"Shall we?" Alpha Reagan's voice brings me back to earth.

"What if I say n?."

"Do you really want us to do this right?"

I shake my head in defeat.

"No."

"Good." He starts leading the way towards his car.

"Why does everyone treat me like I'm invisible? Ryan shouts out after him. Reagan stops and we both turn to face him. "I'm right here and I'm the rightful person to drive her home."

Regan takes calm, calculated steps towards him and only steps when he's very close to Ryan. The daring boy doesn't blink or flinch as he engages in a heated eye contact with his Lycan King.

Ryan!

"I'm guessing you fancy going for a drive around town in a sports car." Alpha Reagan breaks the silence.

Ryan's gaze intensifies. "I have

collection of sports cars at home. Beasts! All you have to do is go over to my castle and make your choice."

Ryan takes two steps back. He's not smiling, but his expression is a bit more relaxed.

"Alert the person in charge of the garage." Ryan says tightly.

"On it, Sir!" Reagan says, nodding with a smile.

Ryan doesn't even spare me another look. He hops into our car and drives away like he had been waiting.

"Do you always have to make things go your way?"

"I don't always make things go my way, Ashanti."

"Now that's a tie and you know it." Three steps and he's standing right before me, so close, our bodies are nearly touching. I can feel his gaze roaming over the features of my face can feel electric current crackling between us.

This connection with this man.

This mate bond!

"If you don't stop fighting with me and get into the car, I'll kiss you right here and now." He deciphers, using that low, husky voice that never fails to

make my stomach flutter.

I turn around and run towards his car.

This man will be the end of me.

Chapter 0376

RAEGAN'S POV.

Ashanti and I had another bickering session throughout the ride to her house. She kept scolding me about things, most of which I can't even remember anymore because all I

could think about at that moment was how cute she looked and how melodious her voice sounded.

Goodness, she has no idea how much I missed her these two years she was away. How much I'm excited about her return.

"That's because you haven't shown her. If you do that, she'll know and all this frequent bickering will stop." King chimes in from nowhere and I roll my eyes, hard. He's always attentive to my thoughts just so he can attack me unaware.

"You think I'm not trying?"

"It's not enough. All this showing up every now and then won't make things better. It's annoying Ashanti and I'm baffled that you can't even see it." "If she didn't want me coming around to pick her, she would not have let me give her a lift. She likes it!"

"Yeah, but she'll like it better if you made a choice between her and Selena right away. That's the ultimate thing you have to do to prove to her that she's the one you love and want to be with."

"You think I don't want that?"

"Then why haven't you done that already?"

"The Moon Goddess, King. We both know this has never happened before in the history of Lycans and Werewolves. No Lycan King has ever had two mates alive. I need to know what the moon goddess wants before making a decision. I cannot act rashly!"

"Then commence with the investigation already."

"That's exactly why I called the meeting I'm heading to right now." I stop in the castle premises, unbuckle my seatbelt and get out of the car through the door that has been opened for me by a guard. I respond to his greeting and that of the others around with a curt bow as I walk towards the administrative building where my office is located.

Ronald and Kyle are already waiting for me.

"Look, King. You're not the only one eager to be at peace with Ashanti again. I am too, but there's a great task ahead of us and we cannot afford to mess it up. Ronald and Kyle will help me make sure I don't make the wrong decision, so relax. We have everything in control."

"This is nothing but Karma coming back at you for not accepting her the first day you found out she was our mate. This is the Moon goddess' way of punishing you for allowing Ashanti to undergo all that suffering and humiliation in that Harem when all you had to do was claim her. Bear it!"

I shut him out.

I shut him out because he's right.

My evil deeds towards Ashanti in the past have come back to bite me in the ass! And I totally deserve it. I was an ass back then.

"Good day, My Lord." The guard stationed at my door greets as I approach. I nod and stop in front of my office door, exhaling deeply.

If only I could turn back the hands of

vel.ne

time. I would accept and claim Ashanti at first sight and save myself all this trouble I'm facing right now.

The door is opened and I step into the office. As expected, Ronald and Kyle are already inside, waiting for me. Ronald is standing by the glass window, while Kyle is pacing about and the moment he sees me he rushes over, almost panting.

"You're here."

"Yes, Kyle. I'm here."

"What's with the gloomy expression? Did something happen?" I sigh lightly and walk past him, but I'm stopped by Ronald's piercing gaze.

They want me to go straight to the point. Now.

I'd rather deal with Kyle's questions than Ronald's serious frown, so I turn back to him and shake my head.

"No. Nothing happened."

"What about Selena? Did you talk to her?"

Here we go. He's hitting the nail right on the head. No time for jokes.

"Yes. I did."

"So..." that's Ronald. He's approaching us slowly. "What did she say?"

I calmly narrate to them the

et

conversation had with Selena last night. How she told me she was abducted by a man who never showed his face to her and spoke only a few words whenever he came to her. Her escape plan and how she managed to execute it and show up here. By the time I'm done narrating, the two men are staring at me like they're expecting me to say more.

Chapter 0377

"And that's it?" Kyle is the first to speak. I calmly nod my head as I say;

"Yes, that's it." In a very dry tone. "She didn't give me a name. She said he wore a mask or had her blindfolded whenever he came to see her, so she didn't see his face and when I tried to ask if she could trace her way back to the house where she was locked up, she said she couldn't and started crying. That's all I got from her."

"So, she was locked up and in a dungeon cell all alone and tortured for five good years and she survived? She came out from that cell with all her brain cells still intact? I don't believe it."

"What are you insinuating?"

"Did you not stress on the importance of this investigation to her?"

"I did... but she was crying and she looked so fragile and pitiful .. I couldn't..."

"Exactly. That's her game!" Material

"What game?" I ask, curious as I keep my gaze glued on his face. He's fuming. It's just a matter of time before steam starts flying out of his ears. Why is he so agitated about this issue?

"Why won't she talk? She claims to have been locked up and tortured for five years, why won't she say anything beyond that? Anyone who experiences such a brutal treatment and escapes will want revenge, especially when he or she meets people who are ready to execute that revenge with her. Why is her case different? Why does she just want to bury everything and move on?"

"I do not have answers to that question, Kyle." I say in a tired tone.

"Alpha Reagan, I'm sorry to use this tone on you, but I really don't feel good about this girl's sudden return. It's bugging me."

"It's bugging me too, Kyle."

"Exactly why we have to investigate on our own, My Lord. I have been waiting, hoping she'll say something that could lead us somewhere, but since it's evident that she doesn't want to talk or tell us the truth, I'll do things my way and we both know my way has never failed!" He concludes with his stone called eyes fixed on my face.

I'm speechless.

"That said..." He continues. "If you'll permit me, I'd like to take my leave now. I have work to commence with."

I reply with a hand show to the door. He bows and exits the office. I turn to Ronald.

"Why is he so pissed?"

"You know he has a point, right?"

Asks Ronald as he comes closer to me. "I understand that Selena is your former mate. She's a woman you've loved with all your heart before, that's why it's hard for you to be as strict as you should with this case, but don't let past emotions and sentiments blind your sense of judgement."

"What do you mean?" I ask in the calmest tone.

et

"She looks all frail and pitiful and that's getting to you. I would be shaken as well if I were in your shoes, but like I said don't let past emotions derail you from thinking as you should. What I'm trying to say is, we should not rule out the possibility of this being a set up."

"A set up?"

"Yes. You have so many enemies and you'll be surprised at the lengths they are willing to go just to bring you down, so the last thing you want to do is trust anyone blindly. Even if that person is your ex-mate."

I let out another deep sigh.

Everytime I have a meeting with them about Selena, they say something that makes my heart trip.

Set up?

"Also, we both know you cannot accept two mates. The pack cannot have two Lunas so you have to choose between Selena and Ashanti. You want to make sure you chose the right person, My Lord."

"I'm well aware of that, Ronald."

"Then let Kyle do what he's best at doing. I trust he'll solve this case in less than no time and tell us what we need to know. For now, just keep trying to get what you can get out of Selena."

"Yes, Sir." I reply in a formal tone. He stares at me and shakes his head, probably calling me an idiot in my heart.

"That said, I'll take my leave now." I watch him turn his back at me and leave just like Kyle did. The moment the door closes behind him, I bury myself in my thoughts.

What exactly is Selena's purpose in this pack?

Chapter 0378

ASHANTI'S POV.

"Thank you very much, Ryan." I say to Ryan with a sweet smile as he park's in the driveway of Delta Kyle's house. I'm here to pay Tessa a surprise visit. This was an arrangement I made with Delta Kyle last night. He told me when Tessa would be home so I could come over and here I am. Material

"You're lucky Alpha Reagan is paying for all these services?" I chuckle lightly and start unbuckling my seatbelt.

"Why are you so cool with him, tho? You are never this friendly with any guy trying to come close to me. Not even Leonard."

"That's because none of those guys were or are your mate. Alpha Reagan is, so I have no choice. Besides, he's the Alpha King. I do not have the balls to go head on with Alpha King. Not even for you!" He explains firmly but I know that's a lie.

The only explanation to his change of attitude is that Alpha Reagan has managed to charm his way into his heart like he always does and now I'm at their mercy.

Great!

"Yeah. Whatever." I say rolling my eyes. The door is soon opened by a guard who immediately bows down and greets me while addressing me as Luna. My head starts swelling.

I'm not their Luna.

"Just go with the flow." Ryan propose when he notices my intention to correct the guard. I take his word and respond to the guard's greeting before turning to him again.

"I'll text you when I'm done."

"Yes, Ma'am."

"See you later."

"Have fun!"

He calls out as I step out of the car. The moment the door is closed, he reverses and drives out of the premises, through the gate. I suck in a deep breath and let it out before following the guard's lead towards the main door.

I don't know why, but my heart is beating fast.

The Tessa I'm going to see now is not the same Tessa I knew two years ago. She's now wife to the

Delta of this pack, making her a well respected personality. From the way we interacted when she came to my place, I could tell nothing about her personality has changed. She's still the humble, jovial and down to earth girl I used to know, but for some reason, I still feel nervous.

Soon, I'm being ushered into the living room and I nearly trip on my tracks when I see Tessa in the sitting area. She's so focused on the TV screen that it seems she hasn't noticed she's no longer alone in the living room.

"Tess." I call without meaning to. Immediately, her head whips in my direction and I watch her pupils dilate and mouth stretch wide in shock when she

sees me.

"Oh my God! Ashanti!" She calls, jumping from her seat and rushing over to me. Before I know it, her arms are wrapping around my neck and she's crashing into my body as she hugs me. I don't hesitate to return the hug. Tears burn at the back of my eyelids as I rest my chin on her shoulder and hold her like I never want to let go.

I missed her so much!

I will never forgive myself for leaving the way I did. She of all people needed to know.

"Ash!" She calls, pulling out of the hug and looking at my face in complete surprise. She's finding it hard to believe it's me. "It's really you. What are you doing here?"

"I uh... I decided to come pay you visit since you came over to my place last time. I didn't want you to be the only one coming to see me."

"Oh Ash!" She waves a dismissive hand in the air. "You know that doesn't matter."

"It does!"

"No it doesn't! Stop arguing and come here." She takes my hand guides me to the sitting area where we both lower our butts to the couch she was occupying. "How are you? How have you been? I'm so sorry I didn't visit you again after that day, I've been so busy."

Chapter 0379

"There's nothing for you to be sorry about, Tess. If there's anyone between who has to apologise, it's me, not you." I blink and pout my lips as I stare at her beautiful face.

I never knew Tessa liked make-up. She looks so pretty with it on.

"Tessa I cannot..."

"Stop!" She says, holding her palm out before my face. "If you're going to apologise for leaving the way you did two years ago, don't. There's no need."

"But I..."

"But nothing! It was the will of the Moon goddess. You needed a break with everything that was going on and she made sure you had that break. She even blessed you. Look where you are now. You wouldn't be the incredible designer you are today if you had stayed here. This was the Moon goddess' plan for you!"

"If this is her plan, it means she doesn't want me to be with Alpha Reagan anymore. Back then I prayed to her. I begged her to take me far from him and she did just that. She even sent his former mate to come take back her place in his life again."

"That's definitely not what's going on."

"Then what's going on? Why is Selena back from the dead after five years?" I ask with a deep frown plastered on my face.

Just talking about Selena makes me so mad.

Tessa backs away and gives me a queer look.

"What?"

"You're mad that she has shown up, aren't you?"

"What do you think?"

"I think there's nothing for you to be worried about." A crease forms between my brows as I furrow them, giving Tessa an intense look. "What do you mean by that?"

"You're the one Alpha Reagan loves and when the time comes for him to make a choice, he will choose you!"

"You don't know that. Besides, Selena will be devastated if that happens. I'm sure she still loves him. I don't want to be the source of another girl's pain."

"You won't be. She disappeared for three years and the Moon goddess chose you to replace her in Reagan's life. If the Moon goddess didn't want you for the Alpha, she would not have made this decision. Selena's time is over. Now it's all about you and you alone!"

That statement is supposed to make me happy, but it doesn't. If anything, my anxiety has peaked right now.

"Also..." Tessa continues. "Don't you think something about her return is off?"

"How do you mean?"

"Why did she only return after five years? Five good years."

"Maybe she got abducted or something. I remember Alpha Reagan telling me he found her in a haggard state. She must have been through some intense shit."

"We'll find out when Kyle is done investigating."

"Investigating?"

"Yes. You know how Kyle is. He

doesn't trust

Reagan he wanted to get to the root of this issue and he was given

he wanted. He told Alpha

permission. It's just a matter of time before we discover the whole truth about what really happened to

Selena and why she is here."

"Wow!" I relax and make myself more comfortable on the couch. "I uh... I'm speechless. I don't even know what to say."

"You don't have to say anything, Ash. Just observe like the rest of us and know that you are the only woman Alpha Reagan loves and wants to be with."

"Why are you do sure of that?"

"Because watched break down and lose his mind when you left. He was devastated and I can see the joy in his eyes now that you are here. You two are end game, Ash. Whether you like it or not!"

"It's not a must for us to be endgame."

"You're right. It's not. But you are end game."

I roll my eyes and look away from her.

I wish things are as easy as she thinks they are.

With Selena in the picture. Nothing is guaranteed!

And why exactly do I care? I thought I said I wanted to stay single.

Chapter 0380

ASHANTI'S POV.

"There have been some rumours." Tessa says, flashing me a queer smile. A small frown forms on my face as I face her once more.

I don't like rumours, especially when they come from subjects of this pack. They never lack something to say about me. I thought I was free from them, but I guess I'm not. I wonder what heinous crimes I've committed this time around.

"What rumors?" I ask, curious. She starts smiling.

"Rumours about a very tall and handsome Designer taking interest in you."

Leonard instantly comes to my mind.

He's the only tall and handsome Designer who has taken interest in me since I got here.

"Wow!" I exclaim in wonder, my mouth wide open. "Rumour really does spread like wild fire. Leonard and I have only been out once!"

"As future Luna of this pack, going out once with another man is enough to spark a rumor, ma'am!"

"What exactly are they saying? That I've fucked him already? That we're engaged? Our wedding is next week? I'm curious to know because I know their stories never dissappoint." I'm talking from experience.

"They know better than to open their mouths and say such. Alpha Reagan sounded a firm warning two years ago after Alina was hanged and since then, they've all been respecting themselves."

"They didn't spread rubbish about me all this time because I was away and there was nothing to be said. Now I'm here again and I'm already making waves. I should become a celebrity."

"It's a harmless rumor. This time around, Alpha Reagan is the one receiving the blows."

"How do you mean?"

She sighs and smiles, shifting closer to me.

"They are applauding Leonard for having the balls to approach the Lycan King's mate. Some say Alpha Reagan will lose his precious jewel, namely you, to Leonard. Other's say

Alpha Reagan is stupid for esay

letting Leonard live for taking a step closer to you. His ass is on fire!"

"But he's the Lycan King. It's his choice to make. If he wants to be with me, cool, if he doesn't, still cool." I say, shrugging even as my own words slice my heart in two halves. I keep saying things I don't mean.

I want him to want to be with me!

"The choice was already made for him by the Moon goddess and he has to accept it like every other Lycan is doing."

"What about Selena? Does that mean he has to accept her too?"

"Haven't I told you Selena is a case that needs to be studied. She's not in this equation, so let's forget about her."

"How about we forget Alpha Reagan and his dilemma for now and discuss something else? This topic makes me sick in the stomach!"

Tessa chuckles and shakes her

head before focusing her gaze on me once more. I roll my eyes and take a sip of the apple juice I'm holding.

Getting her to say anything negative about Alpha Reagan is always an impossible mission. She's as Loyal to him as her mate is. It's annoying. "So." She sips her orange juice and smacks her lips. "What do you want to talk about?"

I exhale heavily and think of something.

The competition plays fresh in my head.

"This might sound like I'm whining, but you know how there was always a group of girls talking shit about us back at the Harem right?"

"I could never forget that experience."

"Good. I'm facing almost the same issue at the competition hall. There's a group of three girls who hate me so much, they never fail to say something obnoxious about me, to my hearing whenever they see me."

"So..." She sets her glass on the table, clears her throat and leans closer to me. "Are we reporting them to Alpha Reagan so he can deal with them, or are we kicking their sorry asses by ourselves? I'm giving you the privilege to choose."

"We're doing neither of those things."

el.ne

Her head drops to the side as she casts me an intense look. I nod my head. "Telling Alpha Reagan will make look like a cry baby and kicking their asses will get me

kicked out of the competition. I don't want that!"