

THE LYCAN KING'S SECOND CHANCE MATE

Chapter 0421



ASHANTI'S POV.

“Congratulations to the top 5 contestants of today's phase of the competition. You all created outstanding designs and deserve to be at the top. Let's give a round of applause to these magnificent design teams.” The hall erupts with applause from the other contestants and I can't help but smile proudly as I clap along. My team came first today and to say I'm proud would be an understatement. These little wins are important for boosting my esteem and determination to win this contest. The designs we had to create today were quite tricky, but we nailed them and even the live models we hired to model for us did an outstanding job.

My eyes spot Mr. James, the male judge. He doesn't look impressed at all by what's going on. The man seems to be allergic to giving people compliments. Even seeing others do it irritates him. If it were up to him, no words of encouragement should be given to us the contestants and even the final winner should not be given an award. He's such a killjoy. It must suck being his wife or child or friend at the very least.

I tear my gaze away from his depressing figure and look back at the sweet judge who's showering us with compliments we deserve. The applause has stopped and the hall is back to its quiet and tranquil state. All eyes are on Mrs. Johan once again. It seems she has more to say.

"Also, I want to formally announce that there will be a one month break in the competition. During this month, you contestants are advised to stay back and practise more because the next phase after this will be more tedious and competitive as it will be the start of the knock-out stages whereby the design team which takes last position will be disqualified."

My heart misses a bit even though I know under normal circumstances, my team will never come last.

"That's cold." Ryan whispers and I lean into him and whisper in his ear.

"That's why it's called a competition, love." He shoots me a scorn as I withdraw from him, grinning from molar to molar knowing I just annoyed him. He hates it when people get too close to him.

"So, use this break to do more research, practice like you've never done before and arm yourselves because the next round of this competition will not be an easy one. That said, have a nice day, you all and see you in a month's time." With a beaming smile on her face, she steps down from the podium and we all rise to our feet as the three judges exit the hall in a straight line. Once they are out of the door, chitchatting commences and I release the breath I was holding.

I swear I wasn't expecting that.

One month break?

I'm definitely going to have a blast getting ready for the next round of the competition.

I congratulate and hug my team members before leaving the hall as well. After all the work I did today, all I want to do right now is go home, fall on my bed and sleep for the rest of the day.

"Ashanti." A very familiar voice calls from behind, stopping me in my tracks. Calmly, slowly, I turn around to see who it is and my eyes wide in shock when I see Leonard, standing before me in all his glory and smiling cheerfully like he always does. As usual, he's flamboyantly dressed like the designer he is and as he draws closer, the sweet smell of his cologne nearly knocks me off my feet.

Why does he always smell so good!

"Leonard!" I called, shocked. "Hi. What a pleasant surprise." He stops in front of me and shoves both hands in his trouser pockets.

"Hello Ashanti, it's good to see you

too." He greets in that low baritone voice of his that would have had the ability to make me melt like butter if Alpha Reagan had not already stolen my heart.

All of it.

There's no space left in it for any man. Not even if the man was almighty Leonard who was a genius designer with an amazing fashion sense and who always smells very nice.

Chapter 0422



He's stolen all of my heart yet he has the guts to live with another woman in his chambers...

Ashanti, now you are going off topic. Leonard's standing right before you. Focus your thoughts on him and the conversation you are having with him.

"I uh..." I stutter, pushing a few strands of hair that keep flying into my face, behind my ear. "Now that you're here, I just realised you've been absent for a while. Hope everything is okay with you."

"Oh yes. I'm perfectly okay. I just had an emergency to take care of back home, that's why I left abruptly. But it's all good now. Thanks for asking." "Oh, it's nothing. The only thing one could notice was your absence. Your design team still aced every phase. You have some amazing designers in your team."

"You can say that again. They are awesome. By the way, I heard what Tamara did to you. That was awful." He says with a worried expression and my mood nearly turns sour thinking about what I had to go through in that bitch's hands. I swear the next time I set eyes on her, I won't stop myself from plucking hair strands from her scalp.

"Yeah..." I chuckle lightly. "Worst day of my life. Luckily she was caught and apprehended. We wouldn't want someone like her lurking around here." "Of course not." He says firmly, almost frowning. I nod and look at the ground below because I have nothing else to say. Five seconds of silence go by like ten years. The next words that come out of his mouth make my knees grow weak.

"I've missed you." I looked up at him, startled. I nearly sprout out a pair of wings when he nods, sealing his statement.

"Oh..." Is all I manage to say.

"And I would love to catch up with you for these weeks I've been away. How about I buy you dinner tonight so we could catch up as we eat?" Immediately, Alpha Reagan comes to mind. He's going to be livid if he hears Leonard is

asking me out to dinner. The thought of him going red with rage and jealousy makes me smile within.

"I'd love for you to buy me dinner, but I'm really not in the mood for going out on a formal, fancy dinner date. If we could keep it casual, I'll be good."

"We'll keep it casual then. Dress for the weather, go for a walk, enjoy the evening breeze while we eat junk food and chit chat. How does that sound?"

"I feel like I'm in high school again." I say, giggling like a child.

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He's not only good looking and soft spoken and kind, but he knows how to

On and accept a woman's

in order to make her feel

comfortable around him.

Leonard, you are a rare gem. Whoever you end up with will be one lucky girl.

"I take it that you like the idea. So what time works for you?"

There he goes again, considering me first.

He's simply the best.

"Six pm will do."

"I'll be at your doorstep to pick you up at six on the dot."

And I know he will. He's very time conscious. I smile widely as I nod my head in agreement.

"I will be waiting."

"Can I walk you to your car?" He asks, showing the way to my car that's parked a few metres away. I quietly nod and he starts leading the way, but three steps later, a car pulls into the driveway and the moment a man dressed

in a black suit alights from the passenger seat and goes to open the back seat door, I freeze in my tracks because I know exactly who is going to step out of that car.

Leonard, who definitely gets the memo, stops, as well and we both watch Alpha Reagan alight from the car. He has his usual poker expression but the moment he sees Leonard standing by my side, his face turns basalt.

This is not good.

Chapter 0423



Chapter 0423

ASHANTI'S POV.

"Good day to you, my Lord Alpha." Leonard, who's still standing by my side, greets the disgruntled looking Alpha Reagan with a bow.

"Good day to you, Leonard." He replies with his deep voice laced with dark undertones. I guess he still dislikes seeing me with Leonard. He's going to lose it when I tell him about our dinner plans tonight.

"Leonard, you don't have to walk me to the car anymore. I'll go with Alpha Reagan. See you tonight."

"Alright then, take care." He flashes me a warm smile that makes my heart tight with guilt.

Every time we meet to discuss, Alpha Reagan shows up from nowhere and ruins the moment.

"I will, you too." He gives me a reassuring nod and he leaves in the other direction while I walk over to Alpha Reagan who is still frowning.

What is wrong with him?

"Hi." I greet with a small wave as I take my stand before him. A dangerous look flashes in his eyes and I immediately understand that he is not pleased with my greeting.

What did he expect me to do? Lean over and plant a passionate kiss on his lips?

"Why are you here?" I ask, even though I already know the answer to that question.

"To take you home." He replies dryly.

"You didn't have to."

Without saying another word, he turns on his heels and marches towards the car.

Uh-uh...He's mad.

I follow him to the car where we both get into the backseat and once the driver kicks off, he puts on the privacy partition and my heart starts beating fast.

That's not a good thing, right?

"See you tonight?" He says several moments later, breaking the excruciating silence in the car and I let out a quiet sigh of relief. I'd rather fight with him than have him give me the silent treatment. It's agonising. I turn to him, utterly confused by the statement he just made. "Are you meeting with him tonight?" He adds and for some reason, my heart starts beating fast.

I suck in a deep breath and try to calm my raging nerves. There's nothing for me to be nervous about. He's not going to eat me up. After all, me going out with a man tonight is nothing compared to the fact that he is living with his ex-girlfriend in his castle.

Goodness, when did I become such a petty brat?

I look at him and flash him a half-ass smile.

"Yes, I am." I say, trying my best to keep my voice from cracking. He adjusts on his seat and shoots me a glare.

God, he looks so jealous, I'm tempted to laugh despite the choking tension riding in the atmosphere right now.

"Well, he has been away for a few weeks and we are meeting tonight to catch up on how we've both been faring and discuss the competition. It's nothing formal..." I find myself further expatiating so he doesn't get the wrong idea.

"It's just an informal dinner outing. We're not going anywhere fancy. Just strolling around and eating junk food. That's all." I seal my explanation with a shrug and a wide grin even though I'm cursing myself for saying too much.

I'm not supposed to give him any explanation that would make him feel better. I'm supposed to give him the impression that Leonard is going after me as punishment for living with a girl who is not me under his roof

"If an informal dinner outing is what you want, I could take you out. You don't have to go with some strange man."

"But Leonard is not some strange man." I firmly object and his brows trip to his hairline as he shoots me an unamused gaze.

"Oh yeah?" He asks aghast and an unexpected chuckle spills from my lips. My entire body shakes as I laugh heartily at the sheer look of jealousy on his face. He looks like he's about to set something on fire right now.

"I'm sorry, did I say something funny?" He asks in a calm, stern voice and I stop laughing and point at his face.

"You should see the look on your face right now. You look so jealous!"

"I'm not going to deny it, I'm jealous, alright? I'm not comfortable with you going out with that man at night. Heck, I'm not comfortable with you going out with any man at night!"

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"And I'm not comfortable with you living under the same roof with another woman." I fire back and the fire blazing in his eyes instantly quenches and his body retracts like a snail going into its shell after being touched. He stares at me in

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complete disbelief and a pang of guilt hits my heart.

Maybe I shouldn't have brought that up. Now, he looks like he's about to cry.

"Ashanti, you know the reason why I brought Selena to come live with me. You know how much I'm repulsed by the fact that I get to see her in my house every day."

"That still doesn't change the fact that she lives there with you. I don't trust her one bit. I'm sure she has a brilliant plan up her sleeve and now that she has succeeded in getting into that house, she is going to do all she can to execute that plan. This might sound very bitchy of me, but she means no good and if you keep indulging her, her

comeback is going to take you

off-guard!"

I feel the car come to a halt and when I look out of the window, the familiar view of my compound comes into view.

We are home.

"You don't need to walk me to the door. I will go by myself." I say, opening the car seat door before the driver can do it for me. Once I'm down, I blow out a shaky breath and drag my shattered thoughts along with me towards the main entrance door of the house.

I need to keep setting his ass ablaze until he comes to his senses and does the right thing.

Chapter 0424



ASHANTI'S POV.

My heart sinks into my stomach when I hear Reagan's car zoom out of the premises. I hate starting a fight with him, but with his recent behavior, I couldn't help it. It's annoying when he acts so possessive of me, but can't decide if he wants to end up with me or his ex-mate who's living under his roof. Until he makes a clear, concise decision, I'm not going to relent my efforts in giving him hard times like this.

Two can play this game.

I let out a small huff as I turn to go into the house. My phone starts buzzing in my handbag and I quickly fish it out. Cold sweat breaks across my skin when I see my mother's phone call. Ryan told me she was going to come over this weekend because she found out I was having a hard time with the competition.

God, I love my mother to bits, but I hope she's not calling to tell me she's on her or has arrived and wants me to come and pick her up somewhere around this pack. I'm already having a hard time dealing with Alpha Reagan, I don't want to add her to the equation. "Hello mum." I answer calmly once I press the phone on my ear.

"Ashanti, sweetheart. How are you doing?" Her caring, motherly voice comes through and it makes me smile even though I don't want to.

"Hello mummy. I'm doing just fine, thank you." I say, resuming my journey towards the main entrance door.

"Ryan didn't give me that impression when I called earlier. He told us you were having a bit of a hard time over there."

I grit my teeth and huff out a tight breath as I step into the opened main door.

Ryan! That sly brat! I will deal with him later.

"Mum. Ryan might have exaggerated a little about my wellbeing. You know how he can be."

"Ashanti, we both know your brother is not the type to raise a false alarm. If he says you are not doing oka

over there, it's nothing but the truth."

I facepalm myself and let out a heavy sigh of exasperation. Ryan and I need to talk.

"And your silence means he is right."

"No mum... I mean, yes. I mean... it's not that... that..." I blabber like a confused fowl and suddenly pause and take a moment to cool down. To gather my bearings. Mum is waiting patiently at the end for me to calm down myself and ride on. "Alright e mum. You win. Both you and Ryan have won." I simply give up. fighting this issue with her will lead me to a dead end.

"It's true that I' been going through a bit of a rough time since we got here with the competition and others, but it's not as bad as you guys make it seem. I'm getting a hang of things now and I will be a lot better now that the organizers have given us a one-month break. That's enough time for me to recuperate and get back on my feet."

"Would you like to come and spend the break here with us?"

"No!"

My response comes out a little firmer than intended.

"I mean, no...." This time around the "no" is gentler. I don't want her thinking I completely abhor the idea of spending my break with her because that's not the case. Alpha Reagan is the reason why I want to be here, will miss him dearly if I leave and who knows what brilliant stunt Selena will pull the moment she finds out I'm out of this pack. There's no way in hell I'm leaving. "My team and I will need to practice during this break because the next round of the competition will be a lot tougher. That's why I can't come. But I can spare a few weekends." I tilt my head to the side and smile as though she can see me. I listen to her sigh heavily on the other end.

Chapter 0425



She knows all that talk about me staying here so I can practice more with my team members is utter crap. She knows Alpha Reagan is the only reason why I want to be here.

"Alright honey. If you say so. But remember I'm just a phone call away. Do not hesitate to call me if there's anything wrong with you. Promise me you won't keep things to yourself and struggle alone." "I promise not to do that, mum."

I mean, why would I when I have Alpha Reagan to nag?

"Good. I have to go now. Take care honey and tell your brother to pick up my calls!"

"I will mum. Good night. I love you."

"I love you more, baby." Three beeps and the line goes dead. I exhale heavily as I turn towards the staircase. My heart rate skyrockets and I jump back in fright as a small scream comes flying out of my lips when I spot Ryan standing like a statue on the staircase. "Ryan!" I call, clutching my chest with my free hand and breathing hard.

God, he scared me!

"Why would you scare me like that!"

"I didn't even do anything." He says as he starts descending the stairs and I notice he's dressed in sportswear and has a sling bag perched on his chest.

Where the hell is he going?

"Where are you going dressed like that?"

"The gym."

"The gym?" I crease my brows in confusion.

"Yeah. I found this gym around and got a membership. I start today."

"You're liking it here, aren't you?" I flash him a knowing smile and he reciprocates it.

"Glad you figured. I might as well just settle down here."

"Mum would lose her mind if you were to do that."

"Well, she'd have to choose between me settling here and going to college this academic year or going back home and taking a gap year."

"You are a heartless monster!"

He scoffs and says; "I already started my college application."

"What?" I ask, aghast. "When? I mean... I thought you said you were torn between medicine and engineering. When did you finally decide and which did you choose? Which school are you applying for?"

"You're just throwing all these questions at me without giving me a chance to answer. That's a bit unfair." His nonchalant attitude will be the end of me.

"Ryan, this impromptu decision of yours is going to give our parents a heart attack!" I'm already having a mini one right now.

"Eighteen years with me and they

still haven't gotten used to my ways. It's on them. If they have a heart attack once I break the news. I have to go now. Don't want to be late on my first day." With that, he takes long strides towards the door.

"And why aren't you answering mom's calls? She's pissed!"

"Oh please! Mum's just being the drama queen that she is. We spoke this morning!" He calls out and before I know it, he's out of the house.

I calmly rub my chest and take in a deep breath to steady my heartbeats.

"Brat!" I mumble under my breath and head to the staircase.

The moment I step into my bedroom, memories of the conversation I had with Alpha

Reagan in the car on our way here replays fresh in my mind and I sigh heavily. An unwelcome sense of guilt washes over me as I plop on my bed and bury my head in my hands.

This back and forth with Alpha Reagan is draining me physically, emotionally and psychologically and I wish it would end already because I'm tired.

"It's actually tearing you apart to see

Alpha Reagan hurt because of your decision to go out with Leonard tonight. So why don't you just call

the Leonard guy and cancel?" My wolf, Lena, asks in an irritated tone and despite the fact that that's what I really want to do right now, I shake my head in denial.

"No Lena. I have to do this."

I need to do this to keep Reagan on his toes.