

## Chapter 76

### Silver

My father opened his mouth to say something, looking mortified that Elliot was actually standing up for me. To be honest, I was kind of shocked by this. Nobody has ever stood up for me before, not even Gavin. My cheeks flushed at the sentiment, and I found myself wanting to lean into him and soak in his warmth and scent.

"If you'll excuse us," Elliot said, taking my arms and starting to pull me away but my father stopped us once again.

"I wanted to discuss the recent attacks," he called after us.

"Alpha, we are at a ball right now. I'd rather not discuss business." He said calmly.

My heart was thrumming from that interaction. My father was left in shock.

"Elliot," another voice said once we were far. "You didn't come to find me. I was looking all over for you!"

Shirley walked through the crowd and in our direction. Her smile faltered slightly when she saw me standing beside him.

"Oh, hello there, Silver. It's a pleasure to see you again," she said, her fake smile never leaving her lips. Then, she turned back to Elliot and looped an arm through his. "I hope you don't mind if I steal your husband for a little while. We have much to discuss and there are some Alphas we must speak to."

I frowned as I looked up at Elliot.

He sighed and looked back.

"It'll only be a little while. How about you do some mingling as well," he suggested.

"Oh, uh... okay," I said, forcing a smile.

Shirley kept her hold on Elliot as they walked away. My chest tightened as I watched the two of them.

As usual, Shirley was dressed beautifully and between her incredible form and model-like features and his strong physique and handsomeness, they looked like an incredible couple.

Jealousy burned in the pit of my stomach as they walked towards a group of Alpha's and started speaking with them. I hated that, Shirley was still touching Elliot. Her arm was looped with the entire time and he was just letting her hang onto his arm like her life depended on it.

At one point, they started to laugh, and Shirley put her hand on his chest.

I was seeing red as I glared at them. I needed to step away before I lost my temper and made a fool out of myself in front of everybody.

They were already talking for about 10 minutes and the conversations didn't seem to be getting any less. He probably wouldn't even notice if I slipped away for a little while. I decided to walk away and find a bathroom or something.

What I wasn't expecting was for Stella to be in the bathroom powdering her nose.

I froze at the doorway and just as I was about to turn around and leave, her voice stopped me.

"Saw that your husband is with Alpha Shirley. Honestly, it's probably for the best that she takes him out of your hands. You'd never be able to handle

a man like Elliot anyway," Stella said, her eyes fixed on her reflection while she applied a new layer of lip gloss.

"They are just friends," I said, folding my arms across my chest.

She rolled her eyes.

"Keep telling yourself that, sweetie. But allow me to give you some sisterly advice Walk away with the little dignity you have left because this isn't going to end well for you the weak ones never get what they want and Hun... you are the weakest of the bunch. Don't forget who you are, Silver. A wolfless freak; Elliott could never love. But Shirley on the other hand, it's impossible not to love her. He was with her once; he will be with her again soon enough."

I was fuming by the end of this conversation. I wanted to lunge at her, but I was too frozen to move. She turned to face me as she put her gloss, powder, and mascara back into her purse.

## Chapter 77

Smacking her lips together she looked at me one last time.

"Don't think for a second just because you got a little recognition for your paintings that you are somebody worth anything. You are worth nothing," she said through her teeth as she stepped around me.

Anger coursed through me in waves; I needed the one person who could put me back at ease. After I finished doing my business in the bathroom, I left the ballroom and went to find Elliot. At this point, they had found a

new group of Alphas, and they were dazzling. I huffed when I saw that Shirley still had her arms wrapped around his.

Then, the words that were being spoken by the Alphas they were talking to left me feeling paralyzed.

"You are quite lovely, Shirley. Alpha Elliot is a lucky man!"

"You two really should set a wedding date. You make such a lovely couple."

"The world's prettiest Luna that's for sure."

Heat rushed to my cheeks and before I knew what was happening, I was marching over to them and standing beside Elliot.

"Hello, Alphas. It's nice to meet you. I'm Silver, Elliot's wife," I said, leaning my head against his shoulder.

They all looked at one another frowning and frozen. Then, their faces grew red as realization struck them.

"I'm so sorry, I guess there was a misunderstanding," one of the Alphas said sheepishly. "It's an honor to meet you, Luna."

I smiled. I could feel Shirley glaring at me from the other side of Elliot.

"Yeah, we meant no disrespect," another Alpha said, holding up his hands in surrender.

"It's not a problem," I assured them.

"I hope I didn't make you feel uncomfortable, Silver," Shirley said with a pout. "It wasn't my intention. I also didn't mean to keep him away so long."

I wasn't sure what to say, so I just nodded.

She walked toward me and grasped my hands.

"How about I buy you a drink as an apology," she offered. "Then we can get to know one another a bit better."

Within a few minutes, Shirley returned with a glass of red wine. She smiled brightly at me.

"Take this as my way of saying sorry," she said, raising her glass.

"Let's make a toast to beginnings and new friends."

I can't see Shirley and me ever being friends, but I toasted anyway, took a sip of the deep red wine, and sighed in contentment at the delicious scent and taste.

Shirley excused herself to speak to other Alphas and Elliot guided me over to a table. I sipped more of the wine as we took our seats.

"I'm sorry about Shirley earlier. I was about to say something before you showed up. I wouldn't have let that go on much longer."

I smiled at him.

"I know," I told him, putting my hand on his affectionately.

Just as I brought the wine glass to my lips once again, flashes of color went through my vision, and I gasped at the sudden feeling and sight of it. My familiar headache surfaced in my head, and I gasped, nearly dropping the wine glass in the process.

I stumbled to my feet, the chaotic lights continuing to flash in my eyes, and I let out a whimper of distress.

My entire body quivered and shook.

What was happening to me?

It wasn't the full moon yet!

Unless...

I thought back to the sweet wine I drank.

Could it be possible that there was mistletoe inside of it?

## Chapter 78

### Silver

Flashes of light appeared in my vision and an intense ache appeared in my temple. I let out a troubled cry as I buckled over, not sure what was happening. There must have been mistletoe in my drink; but how did this happen?

How could Shirley possibly know what mistletoe does to me?

Nobody paid me any attention because all the rich folks were in their own worlds while they sipped their cocktails and mingled. It wasn't until my hair grew white and my face transformed that somebody finally took notice. For a moment, I was too stunned and, in too much pain, to move, but then I heard the gasps and the screaming as others began to take notice of me.

"A monster!!!"

"Who is that monster!!!"

"We need gamma security in here right away!!"

I could hear the shouting and the shuffling of feet as the gamma security barged into the room, trying to find the target. Everyone else's words faded away; I knew Elliot was trying to say something to me as well, but I could hardly hear him between the gasps of horror from everyone else, the

gamma security shouting, and Shirley's chuckling. Not to mention the pain in my head and the relentless flashes of light.

I felt a pair of hands on my shoulder; I knew immediately that it was Elliot but something inside of me snapped and I flinched away from him. I blinked and saw the looks of horror on everybody's faces; they all pointed and called me names while the gammas shoved their way through the crowd.

I knew I couldn't stay here any longer. Without much thought, I ran.

I shoved my way through the crowd and ran as fast as I could out of the banquet. I could hear the feet getting louder as I was being chased. Tears sprang from my eyes and my chest ached as my lungs fought to stay intact. Everybody now knew my secret, there was no doubt about that, and just as I feared they all thought of me as a monster.

A sob escaped my lips as I ran.

"Where did she go?!" I heard one of the gammas yelling at the others.

"I think she went this way!!"

My heart hammered wildly in my chest as I continued to run; only pausing a moment when more flashes of light appeared in my vision winced as pain course through my head, nearly paralyzing me on the spot. But I had to keep going; I had to keep moving.

I'm not sure where I ran to or how far away from the banquet I was, but I could hear the trampling of feet that didn't sound entirely human. was frozen on the spot while the flashes of bright and colorful light went through my vision and then it cleared only slightly for me to see my surroundings.

At first, I saw the dirt on the ground I stood on, and then I saw the wooden fence posts. I looked up and saw the bleachers that were fairly empty only because most were at the banquet, but I knew immediately where I was.

"Look out!!" I heard someone shouting from behind me.

I whipped around to see a ton of racehorses running in my direction.

I was at the pack horse racetrack. My heart leaped into my throat; they were going so fast and with the ache in my head along with my vision being blinded by flashes of lights, I knew I wasn't going to be able to get out of the way in time.

"I think she went into the racetrack!" I heard someone shouting from a short distance.

Before I could comprehend anything more, I felt a hand wrap around my wrist. I let out a strangled scream, but another hand clasped around my mouth, keeping me silent. Just as the horses reached me, seconds before they trampled over my body, I was pulled off the track. I struggled too much for a moment, but I was in too much pain to really put up a big fight and I found myself going limp against this stranger.

There was no doubt in my mind he was taking me to the gammas; maybe he was a gamma.

He kept his hand around my mouth and his other arm around my waist as he pulled in behind the bleachers. It was a small and dark place, not seen from any other area on the racetrack. When he released me, I fell to the ground, tears springing from my eyes, and my body trembled uncontrollably.

"Hey, it's okay..." I heard a familiar voice.



## Chapter 79

My body tensed for a moment and when I felt his warm hands brushing the hair out of my face and tucking it behind my ear, relief flooded into me. "Elliot?" I gasped, nearly flinging myself into his arms.

He wrapped his arms around me and pulled me into his chest.

"Where did she go?!" I heard the gamma yelling at the others.

"I swear, I thought she went in here," the other said.

The shuffling of feet disappeared while they searched the perimeter.

My entire body trembled out of fear.

"Just stay calm; it's going to be okay," Elliot whispered in my ear. "They don't know it was you, so you'll be safe once you transform back."

I nodded against his chest, hating that my tears were soaking into his nice suit. I will have to apologize for this later.

I winced as more pain slammed into my temple.

Elliot's rough and calloused fingers ran up the side of my face and massaged the side of my head, relieving some of the pain and tension. I could already feel my body relaxing into his as I clung to him. "That's it," he whispered to me. "Let me help you like you always help me."

I sniffled, finally finding my voice I asked, "I help you?"

I could feel him smiling as he pressed his lips against my forehead.

"All the time," he answered simply.

"How?" I asked, peeking up at him through my wet lashes.

He wiped the tears off my cheeks with his thumbs as he continued to massage my head. I was momentarily startled to see the red light surrounding him like a bright aura. It wasn't a painful flash in my vision like it had been, but it was settled and perfectly outlining him.

A long time ago, I encountered a Seer who had told me I had a special gift; I could see scents. I went to her the first time I transformed when I turned 18. She couldn't tell me much more other than that, but she told me if kept practicing, I could eventually control this power. I wasn't sure how to practice such a thing, but at this very moment, while my mind and body were calm listening to Elliot's words and feeling his warm touch, it felt controlled.

It was almost as if Elliot was the calm in the middle of this chaos.

"I've suffered from insomnia my entire life. The best sleep I've had was when you were by my side. I can't really explain it, but something about your scent and your body... it calms me. Being away from you is almost painful for both me and my wolf. So, yes, you help me a lot. I owe you for that."

My cheeks warmed from his sentimental words, and I found myself leaning into him. As I looked into his eyes, I didn't feel like a monster. no longer felt the pain in my temple and the flashing of light was gone. I knew I still looked strange because of the transformation, but there was this tugging inside of me that drew me towards him regardless of what this might look like. It was an aching need I couldn't explain but there was a part of me that didn't want to explain it.

At least not right now.

"I don't think she's here, Boss," I heard one of the gammas saying nearly.

"Shit," the other gamma, the leader, muttered. "Let's go back to the banquet. We'll have to explain to the Alpha that we let her escape."

With those words left in the air, I heard their feet descending from the area. I let out a breath of relief. Elliot's eyes never left mine though; it was like he hadn't even heard them in the first place.

He put his fingers under my chin and lifted my head so my gaze would meet his. My cheeks warmed even more under the intensity of his stare.

There was something in his eyes that wasn't there before; he wasn't the ruthless and cruel Alpha I had heard so much about from those around the pack. He wasn't indifferent; he was genuine, kind, and caring. He made my heart swell in a way that it never has before.

I couldn't exactly tell what was in his eyes when he looked at me though; could it be love?

Could Elliot possibly love me?

His lips were on mine before I could think too much about that thought.

## Chapter 80

## Silver

"Alpha, Luna, where have you been? You were searched for at the banquet last night," Beta Leo said as we walked through the front doors of the palace.

We stayed at the horse track until the sun began to rise early this morning. Elliot didn't want to take a chance of having me be seen, so we stayed wrapped in each other's arms. Eventually, we both fell asleep and when we woke up, I was back to normal.

"Do I really need to explain myself to you, Beta?" Elliot asked coldly, making Beta Leo pale.

"No, but I wasn't sure what to tell the packmates. It would have been nice if you warned me that you were leaving."

Elliot wrapped an arm around me and tucked me into his side.

"I don't need to inform you when I want to have a little quality time with my wife," he said, his voice dropping low and deadly. All traces of that sincere, kind, and gentle man that comforted me all night were gone.

Leo bowed his head, baring his neck as Elliot's Alpha powers washed over him.

"Of course, sir. I apologize," he said, his voice low and defeated. Before Elliot could guide me away, Leo spoke up again. "Sir, there was another rogue attack last night. With that creature that appeared at the banquet and the series of attacks, I was only seeking you out because I was worried for your safety."

Elliot paused and turned to look at his beta.

"Another rogue attack? Was anyone hurt?"

"One of the gammas is in critical condition," Leo answered solemnly. "I just returned from there. I was hoping he would be awake and tell me what exactly happened, but he was still in a coma. The others didn't actually see the rogues but heard the attack. When they got there, this gamma was lying on the ground covered in his own blood. The stench of rogues was all over the place."

A low growl escaped Elliot's throat.

"I'm going to change and then I'll meet you at the packhouse. Gather some of the toughest gammas."

"Yes, Alpha," Beta Leo said nodding his head.

Without another word, Beta Leo left the palace.

I turned to look at Elliot, worry clear on my face as I peeked up at his strong and determined features.

"Please, be safe," I told him.

He smirked, a playfulness in his eyes that made my heart flip in my chest.

"Are you worried for me, Mrs. Crown?"

I bit my lower lip, trying to keep a stern face, but feeling a smile tugging at the corner of my mouth.

"I simply need you so I can keep my status as Luna and continue to drive your nephew insane," I teased right back.

He looked alarmed and a flash of hurt went through his eyes, making me laugh. I stood on my toes and kissed him gently on the cheek.

"Just be safe, my husband," I whispered before walking past him, making sure to sway my hips as I continued up the stairs.

I felt Elliot's eyes on me the entire time and I would be lying if I said it didn't make me feel good about myself. I liked that he was checking me out and seemingly liking what he was seeing.

At some point, Elliot must have left because he didn't return to our bedroom. I was able to take a shower and put on some fresh clothes. My wardrobe for the day consisted of waist-high skin-tight jeans and a white crop top. I tied my hair into a pony and applied only a little makeup to make myself feel lively.

Once I was done getting dressed, I went downstairs and into the kitchen. I was pleased that Mariah was in the kitchen, and I was even more pleased when I smelled breakfast cooking. My mouth was practically watering at the different scents.

She turned and gave me a kind smile as I sat at the kitchen island.

"I hope you're hungry. I made plenty of food," she told me.

"Starving," I admitted.

She piled food onto a plate and poured a cup of coffee for me. She grabbed some creamers and sweeteners and placed those on the counter as well.

"I'm a bit short-staffed at the packhouse this afternoon, so, I'll be going there to help in the kitchen. So, if you're hungry just head on over and you can grab some food." Mariah told me.

I bit into a piece of bacon and moaned with satisfaction.

"I might take you up on that," I told her. "I'm going to spend some time in my studio and work on some paintings."

She nodded thoughtfully.

"I can't wait to see what you've been working so hard on," she said, a sly smile on her lips.

I winked at her.

"Soon enough, all will be revealed," I teased.

She chuckled and started to clean up the kitchen.

We bantered some while I continued to eat breakfast and once, I finished, she grabbed my plate and coffee mug to clean them.

"I can do that," I protested.

"And then what would I do?" She asked, raising her brows. "Let me do my job, Luna Crown."

I smiled at her and shook my head; I knew there was no arguing with her. I slid off the barstool and went into my studio to get to work on my newest painting.