

Chapter 21

Daisy

There is a party at the hotel when I get back. My plan had been to grab a few drinks and retreat to my room, but I can't take my eyes off Isabella. She is shit-faced drunk and currently dancing on top of the bar desk.

"Look at me fellas!" she cat-calls to a few pack members drinking beers around her. "Aren't I pretty?"

The pack members look uncomfortable, and I don't blame them. Calling the Alpha's girl pretty is risky business, and I laugh to myself before sipping on my drink.

I could watch this all night....

In the corner of my eye, I can see Lina approaching me. There is a sneer on her face, "Okay, little sister, you have to spill the tea

"Spill the tea?" I question.

She takes a seat by my table without permission. "What's going on between you and Alpha Xavier?"

Even though Lina is my sister, I know that I can't trust her. Nothing is going on between me and Alpha Xavier. Sure, he made me cum with his fingers, and yes, I dream about him kissing me with abandon, but we aren't an item.

And we never will be. Isabella is marrying his *ss in less than a month, and I'm not dumb enough to think I will stand a chance after that. Alpha Xavier will claim her as his mate-an Alpha can do that. All he needs is for me to accept the rejection and then we are done. Finito.

I answer her with a puzzled expression, "I'm not sure I understand what you mean."

"Liar," she accuses, pointing a finger at me as she leans in closer. I've seen the way you look at him, and don't even start with the way he looks at you. It's as if no one else exists when you two are in the same room."

"Don't be ridiculous," I scoff, straightening my back. "Alpha Xavier views me as nothing more than a future pack member

"Oh, that will be sooner than you think. He has challenged our Alpha to a duel and demanded he come here before the end of the week," Lina snorts. "And I'm sorry, but our Alpha doesn't stand a freaking chance."

The news hits me like a punch in the gut. A duel means either Alpha Xavier or Alpha Jack might die.

"Alpha Xavier did what?" I croak out.

"You heard me. she smirks, clearly enjoying my discomfort.

"He's demanding our pack's submission and our Alpha just might give it to him. Can't risk losing the little he has left, can he Anyway, I can't wait for Alpha Xavier to take over. The guy is

already insanely powerful, but imagine his power after he has taken over yet another pack.”

When I say nothing, Lina fans herself with her hand. “Isabella is so lucky to be betrothed to that smoke show of a man. I get hot simply breathing the same air as him.”

“Spare me from the sibling rivalry,” I say, rolling my eyes.

“By the way, do you think Alpha Xavier rejected his fated mate or something?”

Everything inside of me freezes. For the billionth time in a week I can see Alpha Xavier’s rejection flashing before my eyes. It still hurts since I didn’t accept his rejection; the mate bond is still there for me. But of course, I will never tell a soul.

“I...I don’t know,” I mumble.

Lina doesn’t notice my change in mood. “I’m just curious if his fated mate might show up to cause Isabella some trouble in the future. It would spice things up for sure.”

“I’m sure Isabella won’t need any assistance spicing things up,” I mutter, breaking away from her uncomfortable questioning.

As if on cue, Isabella lets out a raucous laugh, causing the heads around us to turn. She’s moved from the bar and is now dancing in the middle of an appreciative audience, her dark curls bouncing around her flushed face. The sight of her acting so carefree twists a knot in my stomach.

Why isn’t Alpha Xavier telling her to be a good girl?

Lina's eyes follow mine, lingering on Isabella. "Yeah, you're probably right," she muses, a small smile playing on her lips. "She does have a knack for stirring up excitement."

Suddenly, a movement at the entrance of the hotel catches my eye: Alpha Xavier walks in, his intimidating aura immediately silencing the room and gaining the attention of his pack.

"Speaking of the devil..." Lina says.

We watch as he makes his way straight towards Isabella, his gaze never leaving her as he maneuvers through the crowd effortlessly. If I didn't know him better, I could almost mistake his single-minded pursuit for fondness.

"He is a scary dude," Lina murmurs.

Isabella seems to sense his approach and turns around with a flirtatious smile on her face. For a moment, they simply stand there, their eyes locked on each other. The tension between them is palpable even from where we're seated

"Oh wow, he doesn't look happy," Lina comments.

"He really doesn't..." I say, unsure of what will happen next.

Suddenly, Alpha Xavier grabs Isabella's hand and pulls her close wrapping an arm around her waist as they begin to sway to the rhythm of the music.

He is so gentle with her.

The knot in my stomach tightens even more at the sight. Even though I keep telling myself that Alpha Xavier doesn't mean

anything to me anymore, seeing him with her still hurts terribly I can feel Lina's eyes on me, but I ignore her, my attention focused solely on the spectacle before me.

After what feels like an eternity, Alpha Xavier finally releases Isabella and turns away without uttering a word. He looks around the room, and our eyes meet for a brief second before he diverts his gaze.

"I think you should get some rest," Lina suggests suddenly, breaking the silence between us.

"Huh?" I turn toward her with a look of surprise.

She looks me up and down before saying with obvious concern in her voice, "You're too involved in this drama for your own good."

"Too involved?" I blurt out incredulously.

"Uh, yeah?"

"You got to be kidding me.." I mutter before raising my voice.

"I'm not involved with their love story!"

"Oh, really?" Lina doesn't sound convinced. "If that's the case, then why do you look like Alpha Xavier just ripped your heart out and stomped all over it with his fancy shoes?"

I glared at her and wanted to tell her she is wrong, but no words come out. Once her lips curl. I get the sinking feeling any thing because the truth is written all over my face.

“Look” she continues, her voice softening despite her smile.
“I’m not blind. And I’m not the only one who’s noticed. You’re playing with fire here, and you’re going to get burned”

I stay still a moment. I stay silent, unable to respond. My thoughts are in turmoil, and my emotions are in chaos, I’m also not sure why Lina is helping me. It’s not like we are close.

Finally, I manage to choke out a weak. “I’m fine, Lina

She gives me a searching look before finally sighing. “Alright, she concedes. “If you say so...”

I think she is done, but then she adds. “Do you want my advice?”

I glare at her “What’s it going to be! Go jump off a bridge!”

“No, I’m not going to give you hell.”

My eyebrows shoot up into my hairline. “No?”

“No.” she repeats, smiling “You’re already broken, so tonight, for the very first time, I will give you sisterly advice.”

“Let’s hear it then.”

“Run. Run as far away from this mess as you can,” she says, her voice filled with a surprising intensity: “This whole thing it’s never going to end well.”

Her words hang in the air between us, her words harsh and loaded with a bitter truth. A part of me knows she’s right. I should distance myself from Alpha Xavier and Isabella, their

twisted bond, and the inevitable chaos it will bring. But another part of me resists, clinging to the vestiges of hope I have left.

“I can handle it. I mumble, my gaze returning to where Alpha Xavier and Isabella still are.”

Lina sighs heavily “Well, you can’t say I didn’t try to keep you alive. Daisy.”

“Alive?!” I repeat, the bitter taste of that word lingering on my tongue. “I haven’t felt alive since Dad died. You and Isabella, even our mother, treat me like I’m a slave.”

Lina’s face flickers with something akin to regret, but it disappears as quickly as it arrives. “You’re right,” she replies softly. “We haven’t always treated you the way we should have. I guess we all made mistakes.”

“Mistakes?” I scoff, bitterness dripping from my voice. “No, Lina these aren’t mere mistakes. You all have made choices.”

Her eyes widen marginally before she looks down at her drink and takes a long sip. The silence stretches between us, heavy with unspoken words and buried emotions.

“Whatever happens,” she finally says, her gaze meeting mine once again. “Know that I’m sorry and...well...please take care of yourself.”

I stare at her. “Why are you acting so weird?”

“I’m not acting weird,” she defends, a shadow of a smile playing on her lips. “Just...remember my advice, alright? Run. Don’t stick around. Bad things happen here.”

Bad things? “Lina, what are you talking about-“ I fall silent when I realize she is already walking away.

“Geez,” Sera comments. “What was that about?”

I keep my eyes on the door Lina hurries to go through. I’m puzzled and honestly afraid. “I have no idea, but the way she acted is worrying. She never apologizes...”