

## Chapter 17 Paula Blackthorn

\*\*\*\*\*Erika's POV\*\*\*\*\*

"I'm done" I declared as I placed the spoon down on the tray.

I was unable to finish the entire meal, but I ate some, for Melisse's sake.

If father returned and found out that I had not eaten, he would surely blame the poor girl.

"No problem. But you didn't finish the food" She stared at the half eaten bowl of soup and other food she had brought, alongside fruits.

"I'm full" I informed her.

"Are you sure about that, Alpha?"

I cocked a brow. "I'm not a child, Melisse. I should know when I'm full, right?"

"Yes, Your Highness. I'll be leaving now." She gathered the tray. "You need anything else, Your Highness?"

"Some peace and alone time would do" I told her.

She merely smiled. "It's okay, Your Highness, You'll be fine with time"

"But it you all decided not to give me the time to be fine." I grumbled.

"Sorry about that, Your Highness" She chuckled softly. "The Alpha just wants the best for his daughter."

I nodded. "I guess you're right"

She left and I went back to lying in the same position I'd been in before.

Maybe I should try to get some sleep.

My head was still aching.

I closed my eyes in a bid to catch some sleep but Serenity's face flashed through my mind and my eyes flew open.

I groaned loudly.

Why was she haunting me now?!

I wasn't even the reason she was in bad shape, she had tried to bring me down by ruining my life.

That knife belonged to her. That crazy, mean Serenity.

It even made me wonder where she had kept the knife that I had been unable to find it.

I sighed and tried to go back to shutting my eyes tightly, wishing for the sleep to come.

I was almost succeeding and getting carried away into dream land, when the door suddenly made a knocking sound again.

"Whoever you are, go away!" There was frustration and annoyance laced in my voice.

Maybe I should just go lock the door, father might not be happy if he was unable to get access in to see me, but he would have to understand.

The door opened regardless. I sighed, why was no one listening to me?

Well, they would have to talk to themselves because I was not going to talk to anyone.

"Tell that to anyone but Paula Blackthorn"

At the voice, I jerked up instantly

"Paula?!"

"In the flesh" she gestured to her entire body and I broke out into tears as I made my way towards her.

I was definitely not expecting to see her.

And she was holding a small douffel bag.

She pulled me in for a bone crushing hug.

"Gosh, you've lost weight! How are you doing?!"

"Managing" my voice muffled as it was buried in her neck as I inhaled her ever so comforting scent.

She wrapped me in tighter. "I'm so sorry I was not there for the dissolving matebond thing ceremony. I had asked around and I was told it was a quite a painful ceremony, so I could not bear to come see you in pain" Paul's said softly and patted my head

"It's fine, Paul's. I'm just happy you came."

Paula Blackthorn, one of the two best friends I had.

While she was calm, there was this 'don't mess with me' aura she oozed off.

Sometimes, people mistook her calmness for weakness until they saw her in action.

My three years with Alexander had been bearable because of her and some other important people in my life. "I never wanted things to end the way it did for me and Alex, But it did and I feel like it's kind of my fault." I said as I pulled away from the hug.

She cradled my face firmly, her green orbs – the shade of a very lush forest – stared into my own silver grey ones. "It's never your fault. You did your best, it's just a pity that Alpha Alexander never valued what he had and now he has decided to cherish a pebble, letting a beautiful emerald slip through his fingers" she said in an exaggerated tone and I chuckled.

"Why emerald?"

"It's my favorite gemstone" She replied cheekily.

"Does this have anything to do with the fact that you have very fine green eyes, though they are more forest than emerald" I asked and pulled her to sit on my bed.

"My favorite color is green, you know that."

"I thought it was blue" I purposely taunted to get a reaction from her.

"Hey, don't mess with me." She gave my hand a light swat.

I laughed in return, "Sorry"

Of course I knew her favorite color was green.

It paid to have wonderful people around during trying, depressing times.

"Was it why you went for Forest, because green is your favorite color and you have eyes like that of forest?" I teased again, always enjoying the moments with her.

"Oh, that was a nice observation. I've never really thought of it that way" She chortled. "I guess you can say the Moon Goddess understood my love for green and gave me Forest as my mate."

I laughed at that.

Making herself comfortable on the bed, she slipped off her shoes.

And yes, you could guess they were green heels, the shade of her eyes.

Her bag was long dropped on the low table where my meals were served sometimes.

"I hope Alexander is not going to be mad that a member of his pack is here?" I asked.

"Mad that I'm here?" She raised a brow. "First off, does he know who you are?"

I shook my head. "No. But you told Gage?" Gage was her fated mate and

the Beta of Moon Forest pack.

Gage Forest, the good looking young Beta with long brown hair, a huge tattoo and a bad boy attitude. Perfect for Paula.

Though he always defended me in the pack, I still wasn't comfortable with him.

"No, you said you wanted no one to know. And though it kills me to have a secret hidden from my mate, I still won't tell him." She sighed.

"Thank you" I offered a small smile and hugged her again.

"Where's your father? I should say hello to him, that should have been the first thing before coming to see you" It was a rule guiding the werewolves.

Any outsider that came to the Alpha's home must pay homage to the Alpha before going about their intended visit.

"He's not home" I replied.

"Where did he go?"

"Had some Alpha duties to carry out" I informed her.

"Alright, I'll just have to wait then" she brought out her phone and called Gage.

But She ended it and frowned, "His line isn't going through"

"And the Mindlink?" I asked.

"Nah, we haven't opened that yet. Maybe after sex which I'm not ready for"

She dialed his line again for the second time and it went through, thankfully.

"Gage"

"Hello beautiful"

She had the phone on loud speaker as she stared at me.

"I'm at the Ironclaw Pack" she suddenly said and my eyes went wide.

"What the hell are you doing?!" I whispered yelled and she smiled, gesturing for me to calm down.

"Ironclaw pack?" Gage was surprised, "why are you there?"

"I went to meet up with a friend" she answered and Gage chuckled.

"Are you pulling my legs? Do you even know that pack? That's the number one in Fangoria. Now you have a friend there?" He asked playfully and Paula frowned.

Before she could say another word, he added, "soon you'll tell me it's the next Alpha of the Ironclaw Pack that is the friend you went to see"

I and Paula, froze.



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