

Chapter 0233

"So, let me get this straight. I'm going to go into meetings about pack safety, give my opinion to pack Elders and Alphas who are decades older than me, like what I have to say is more important and then c*ck block them from throwing their daughters at Xander?"

"In a nutshell, yes. It's a good thing you are strong willed and don't mind giving your opinion freely when asked for it." He smiles at me again and winks.

"You are getting far too much pleasure out of this. What's in it for you?" I ask playfully.

"I have been with the Royal family since my mate died." A look flashes across his eyes, but before I can give him any sympathy he holds his hand up. "No need, it was a long time ago, but my wolf died with him and the Alpha King and Luna Queen took me in and offered me protection. I have become an adopted part of their family and I love Xander like a favorite nephew. I have seen what the ranked politics look like and how bad it really can get when wolves start messing with the Goddess' plan. I don't want that for Xander. I want him to have what I had with my mate. Even with all the pain that followed his passing, I wouldn't trade it for anything. You seem to care about him and want nothing more than friendship, and just that has you in my good graces along with the Luna Queen." [2](#)

I wonder if he knows the whole situation with my relationship to the royal family? I made a mental note to ask Luna Anne.

"So, am I going to be on my own all morning, or is Xander going to be with me, or you, or Luna Anne?"

"Someone will be with you at all times. We may be throwing you to the wolves," He laughs at his little joke, "but, we won't let you go it alone. Your reservations are accurate with some of the Elders. A few of them are, how could I put this, old school? They don't like women in the planning meetings in general, and you are young, but times are changing. We have two female Alphas amongst us now and as you have seen about a third of our Elite Warriors are female. It only makes sense that those same Elite Warriors would become part of the safety and defense team that keeps the Royal family, the Royal Pack and our surrounding kingdom safe."

I nod in understanding. He basically confirmed there will be people who are going to actively belittle and degrade me, while also trying to not offend the Alpha King. Maybe it is better that no one told me, I would have been overthinking this thing the whole week.

We finally pull up to the castle, but instead of going to the front entrance like last time, we head down an semi-hidden gravel drive to a parking garage nestled into the mountain. The stone facade made it blend so well, if I hadn't seen the doors move, I never would have noticed them.

Seeing my expression, Barty smiles, "You get to use the super secret entrance from now on. Now more mundane front door entrances for you." 1

"What?!" I laugh at him. "Is this really necessary? It feels a little over the top."

"You won't think that when all of the elitist people here start trying to figure out who you are and where you come from. And since you do have to go back to the training grounds eventually, it's safer to have you come and go from the royal family's private garage in a car that maintains your privacy."

Oh, wow. This just got real. We step out of the car and I take a good look around the garage. The whole bunkhouse could fit in here, it's so big. I can't even count how many cars, motorcycles, four-wheelers and other gas-powered toys there are in here. And on the far end, near what appears to be a second set of garage doors, there is an expanse of tools, boxes, bottles and other various things to maintain all of these toys. I just smile. All the guys must have a good time when they are here for training. It reminds me of the picture from Dakota's room where they are all sitting on a log in front of the lake, looking wet and sun-kissed and like they are the most happy and relaxed I have ever seen them.

Chapter 0234

I jump when Barty's voice startles me out of my thoughts. "I bet the Alpha Prince would love to take you around the territory sometime. There aren't many people, let alone ladies, who would look at any of his toys with that kind of fondness."

I laugh at his statement. "I am definitely not your typical girl. Speaking of, I know I agreed to wear the fancy dress to the gala ball thing tonight. Is Luna Anne going to put me in a monkey skirt suit all day too?" I try to school the nauseous feeling I get thinking about being uncomfortable in my clothes as well as with all of these people today.

"I believe she is aware of your affinity for pants." He winks at me and leads me to an elevator.


We head up in a comfortable silence and reach Luna Anne's floor quickly. I walk into the same suite we did the dress fittings in, and it actually looks more terrifying now. My eyes go wide. Not only is the dress I chose for tonight hanging from a tall rack, there are at least five more that she said 'were good contenders.' Next to that was a rack with items in varying shades of white hanging from it. Pants, jackets, vests, blouses and to my irritation skirts with frilly bottoms. The third rack had similar business attire, but in cool shades of greens, blues and purples. Rack four was on repeat with warm shades of yellow, orange, red and pinks.


"Close your mouth and stop looking so terrified, we have a job to do and the first impression is always the most important." Luna Anne pops out from behind one of the racks.

"Are all of these things necessary? It's just one day of meetings and then a ball. Or did I miss something?" I looked accusingly between her and Barty, knowing parts of what he told me were strategically left out so she could explain herself.

"You didn't miss anything, but Luna Ava and I decided that if we told you everything all at once, you would refuse." I nod my head agreeing with their assessment. "As Barty told you, Reggie and Osiston want you in several of the meetings today, and for good reason. You are smart and very good at tactical planning. Unfortunately there has been a development. First, you are not a show pony and I don't want you to think that, but somehow word got to a few of the Elders that 'Xander's date,'" She air quotes, "is attending meetings. So several have insisted that they get to bring their daughter's to also learn the ropes of pack management." She rolls her eyes at the thought. "It has become a joke now, but there isn't much that Reggie can do without explaining your ties to the family and opening Xander up to the piranhas trying to get a queen out of this whole situation."

I rub my temples already feeling the star of a headache that

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comes from dealing with self important morons. 


“Don’t look like that, you will do great and it gives me an excuse to also attend, which I normally do not, since most females are not needed for such things. I’m actually kind of excited, but that also means you will be under a bigger spotlight than we anticipated.” She at least has the audacity to look a little ashamed of the situation I am in, but also far too excited about the prospect to dress me up. “I have several outfits picked out for you and as we get you dressed I will explain the day.”

I reluctantly nod my head in agreement.

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