

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 6

Chapter 6. Dress to Impress

“Ri,” Brayden’s head popped out of the door of Riannon’s office right when she was finishing discussing the pack’s primary school budget with the headmistress, “Do you have a

sec?”

“Yes, we are done here,” Ria handed the papers to the woman in front of her and the latter

gave her a sympathetic smile. The Luna remembered very well that she was the one who stood by her by the very end. That was one of the reasons she managed to squeeze in a little extra cash for the school.

“Luna, Alpha,” the headmistress bowed her head and left, leaving the husband and the

wife alone for the first time in a while. For the last few days, Riannon tried to avoid Brayden at

all costs. She remembered too well that their every meeting in the past life was ending badly during those days. Back then she tried to keep her dignity and not approach him first. They had meals together with pack members as always. And work meetings with Beta, Gamma and so on. But other than that, every time Bray wanted to talk to her, Riannon was finding a perfect excuse to escape. There was no point in talking to him since nothing could be changed. She debated telling him the truth about her rebirth but swept that idea under the rug. He could decide that she was crazy and use that during their divorce when she planned to get her pack

back.

The silence was getting awkward.

“Long time no see,” he came closer and she remained behind her desk to make it harder for him to approach her.

“Yeah, it’s been a while,” Ria threw herself back in her chair, “Is it about the Alpha Ball?”

“Did you get my flowers?” he asked. The flowers kept coming. He was probably still feeling guilty.

"Yes, they are lovely," she forced a smile, "Thank you. So, did you come to speak about the Alpha Ball?"

They already had this conversation. He caught her in her office and broke her heart.

"Yes," Brayed pulled the collar of his shirt to make it easier to breathe while Ria watched him with an indifferent expression that was clearly making him uncomfortable. "It's about Roxy

... I mean Roxanne."

"What about her?" she pretended not to know what it was about.

"Listen," he sighed and averted her gaze, "I kind of promised her that I would take her to the ball as my partner."

"It's... a long story," he cleared his throat, "Please, understand. My wolf is dying when she is unhappy. And she has never been to a ball like that."

"Oh, my," Ria gasped and shook her head, "Should I maybe take Enzo with me? He hasn't seen an event like that either. And neither did Cole."

She mentioned the hottest single warriors of the pack on purpose. And heard a growl

emerge from her husband's chest. That served him right.

"What is it with you lately, Ri?" he looked at her in disbelief, "My Luna will not be going with someone else!"

"But it's okay if my Alpha goes with someone else? How is that fair?" she shot her brow up, challenging him. And Brayden hated challenge.

"Maybe you should sit this one out then!" he snarled at her and for the first time, she

started to get worried here. She needed that ball. She needed it badly.

"No, thanks," the Luna crossed her hands on her chest, "I got my own personal invitation. Besides, it's important to mingle with other Lunas for the sake of our pack. We still need to organise student and warrior exchanges and a couple of mating events for over 18s. Or do you expect Roxy to be able to deal with it instead of enjoying her first big ball? What kind of Cinderella she would be then if she would have to work again?!"

He exhaled through his nostrils and she knew that she managed to win.

"Fine," he grunted standing up, "But you will go with Ash then. He is going anyway since he is the pack's Beta."

"Now you are sucking the fun out of his life too?" Ria chuckled, "I am sure he had a girl to

take there and impress."

"He already agreed to be you plus one," Brayden informed her, "He'll protect you there

too."

"How thoughtful," she decided just to go with it. Getting rid of Ash would be easy anyway. He would see some Alpha's daughter and off he would go.

Brayden prepared to leave but stopped at the door and turned to look at her again

"Ri," he looked her in the eye, "It's just a transition period. We will get through this and everything will be fine."

Lies.

"I will never take another Luna except for you."

"I still love you, it's just that she had such a hard life and I am not a monster. She is just a

sweet girl, she will never take your place."

Lies, lies, lies.

"Thank you for telling me that," she nodded, "I needed to hear that, Bray." She even forced a smile.

"Look, when the ball is over, let's take a day off. Just you and me. What do you think?" he suggested all of a sudden and now she looked at him in surprise. This was new. It didn't happen in the past.

"We'll have to see our schedules for that," she stretched her lips further, "But it's a nice

idea."

"Then I'll see you around?" he suddenly looked relieved as if he got rid of some kind of

trouble here.

"I am your wife, am I not?" she chuckled and his smile faded.

He left and Ria's phone buzzed with a notification that the dresses should have already

arrived.

She paused just for a second. It worried her that he offered that day off thing. Was it a good sign or a bad? She wanted to change the events that caused so many disasters but this

exact one wasn't in her plans.

In the end, she was late for the fitting and entered the room full of the most important females of the pack. Maya was there along with their friends Tatiana and Aria. They greeted her in their usual friendly way. On the other side of the room sat Harper and her minions.

Harper was Brayden's sister. And for some reason, she never liked Riannon too much since they *were* younger. She was one of the first to openly support Roxy. She was the one who opened the door for others who didn't know what to do and actually promoted the evil

redhead monster.

"Bring in the dresses," Ria commanded firmly. She wanted to be done here quick.

It was a tradition of their pack that outfits for the ladies invited to the Alpha ball were chosen together and paid for by the pack. After all, they all were representing the Silver River pack and it was important to let others see how well they were doing.

A few omegas rolled in clothing racks with the most beautiful evening dresses from the top designers. Luna always was the first one to choose and then they went according to their

Riannon knew very well which dress she was going to pick but still pretended to look at

them all to avoid suspicion.

"How about that emerald one?" Harper suggested the colour that would never suit

Riannon blonde hair and blue eyes.

"Do you like it?" she got the hanger and placed it to her chest with a smile, "It's Zac Posen."

"Beautiful!" her sister-in-law sneered.

"Then I will leave it for you," Ria returned the facial expression and kept going. Soon she reached it. She remembered that dress well. Peach and shiny, with loads of rhinestones on the

top.

She was choosing long enough and she took that one, moving to the mirror. Any second now...

The door opened and Roxy barged in, gasping, "Oh, my goddess! Luna! I am so sorry! I'll just go away not to ruin your mood."

She was already doing it. Implying that just a sight of her was affecting Riannon.

And it was. But it was mean to bring this up.

"Stay," Ria smiled gently and noticed how everyone was watching the two of them, "You

are going to the ball too and you need an outfit."

"I already got one," Roxanne mumbled, "From all the money that you gave me. I got it in

H&M."

One of Harper's minions snorted.

"This will not do," Riannon turned and sighed, "You need a dress good enough for your

new status."

"And what is that?" Harper couldn't help but ask the provocative question.

"Member of the Silver River pack," Ria replied without any hesitation, "Look around. What do you like?"

A little sob emerged. And then a sniffle. Everybody turned to see the crying Roxy. "This is so sweet!" she whined, "You are such a great Luna to take care of someone like

1. I never had such a beautiful dress in my life!" She pointed to the one that Riannon was holding. "I thought I'd never...have... an opportunity."

"You can have it," she stretched her hands with the garment towards the omega and pretty much everybody in the room was in shock

"But Luna!" Aria gasped, "You need to be the first."

"That's fine," Riannon shook her shoulders, "I saw a red one that I like too back there. Roxy can have that one since it's the one that made you cry like that."

Roxanne seemed a bit startled and Luna came closer, pushing the tasteless peach dress that was good enough for a middle school prom in some village.

"No, really," Ria smirked, "I want you to have it."

Their eyes met and Roxy gaped, realising that she had just been tricked.

"Now go to your room and try it on. It will look beautiful on you." Orhideous. As soon as Roxy left, Ria quickly went back to the rack and grabbed the first red dress she

saw.

"I like this one," she went out of the room as quickly as she could, followed by Maya, "Choose what you like, ladies."

They came straight to Maya's bedroom and as soon as they closed the door, they started laughing hysterically.

"Oh, my goddess!" Maya chuckled, "This was fun!"

"Indeed," the Luna agreed, throwing away the red piece of fabric she had. Because the real dress that she was going to wear to the ball was right here. It was the most beautiful dress she had laid her eyes on. It was a stunning wine red off-shoulder gown made of silk chiffon, draped beautifully around the breast and down to the waist, creating a geometrical pattern and, but flowing freely to the ground.

It was a gown fit for a queen. And in the past life, Ria didn't even order it for viewing as it was way out of her budget. But this time around she saw it again and thought to herself – just

why the hell not?!

The last time she went to the Alpha Ball, it was the most awful experience for her.

Roxanne was wearing a beautiful white dress and looking like the little innocent omega she loved to pretend, gaining everybody's sympathy.

At the same time, Riannon gained pity from the Alphas and was mocked by some of the Lunas who never liked her. It was humiliating as it was to come as the third wheel for her husband and his mate. But on top of that, Brayden spent the whole evening by Roxy's side. Ria

This time, she knew what to expect and was ready. This time, she was going there to

work.

"Do I look nice?" Maya grinned as she stepped out of the bathroom in a royal blue tight

gown.

"You took one too, I see," Riannon giggled as her friend twirled in front of her.

Today was a success thanks to Maya. She was the one who received all the dresses before the pack omegas got them and brought the one Ria wanted to her room without anyone seeing it.

"Of course," she placed her hands onto her hips, "We are leaving this pack, so I am not going to save them money."

"Just don't shout about it around the mansion, okay?" Ria rolled her eyes, "It's a secret after all. But you do look nice."

"Thanks!" Maya seemed to agree, "Shame I am not going with you. But there is always next time, right?"

"When I am the Alpha and you are my Beta, you will attend it every year," Luna winked at

her.

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In the evening, Ria finished her makeup and hair and walked out to the main part of her bedroom to find a blue box on the little table together with a new bouquet. She opened it and saw a luxurious and probably crazy expensive diamond necklace together with a simple card with one word only on it. Sorry.

"Huh," she bit her lip, remembering that last time Brayden gave it to Roxy. And he got her some ruby earrings which she never wore. That changed too.

However, now wasn't the time to think about all that. She put the necklace on since it was finishing her look just perfect and left for the ball.

She was walking down the stairs, the skirt of her dress flowing beautifully as she looked at it. Most of her hair was up, with a few curly locks falling down her bare shoulders.

"You look beautiful tonight," a male voice made her flinch.