

Ten

(Xavier's POV)

"Have you taken Xeraphina dress shopping yet?" I asked Lily, waiting expectantly for her answer.

"No Xavier, I have not seen her lately." Lily said as her voice had a hint of sadness lacing through her words. Why was she sad? Was she upset she hasn't gone dress shopping yet or upset she hasn't seen Xeraphina?

It has been three days since I last talked to or even seen my sister. Since the night I told her about the dragons, was the last I heard from her. In two days, it will be the ball and mothers running around worrying about Xeraphina.

"When was the last time you saw her?" I asked a question, hoping she has seen her more recently than me.

"After the re in the library. I went to check on her and she told me she was ne. I didn't push her any further. When I realized all the books had been saved from the re, I realized there was no reason to worry about her. I thought she would destroy the pack looking for who destroyed her books if they happened to have burned in the re." Lily rambled in nervousness. I knew she hated to be questioned about my sister. She always thought she was betraying her when she was asked questions. I wouldn't push her any further. For a gamma she was extremely timid.

Where could she be?

That means so far, I am the last one to have seen her. I checked our secret swing hole, her room, her reading hiding spot and our secluded fort in the woods we made as kids. We always had safe havens to run to, especially knowing how cruel everyone was to Xeraphina.

"Xavier, where is your sister? If your mother breaks down crying one more time and I find out that you know where she was, you will be in big trouble. Do I make myself clear?" Father bellowed angrily as he walked into the living room. I didn't want to answer him because I knew they would be worried when I told them the truth. Mother was behind him, barely keeping herself together.

"You have to let them know. They need to know we don't have any idea where she is either." Archer whined, his worry seeping through my body, consuming every part of me.

"I do not know where she is. I have not seen her since the day of the elders' meeting and the re to the library. I would tell you both if I knew." I sighed dejectedly. I didn't know what else to say. I have tried to link her many times. I had Archer try to connect with her wolf. I walked through the whole pack house and kingdom trying to catch her scent. Wherever she was, she didn't want to be found.

"I wanted to know if she liked the dress, I got for her." Mother cried, as tears ran down her face. I looked at her hands, trying to hide my shock. She got Xeraphina a hot pink dress and thinks she will wear that? Does she not know my sister at all?

"Mother, Xeraphina isn't really into pink. I am pretty sure Lily would love that dress though. Pink is her favorite color. Do not worry I will find Xeraphina and make sure she has a decent dress for the ball." I said calmly. Lily turned towards my mother, squealing about how pretty the dress was. Mother smiled, as her tears disappeared altogether. Lily dragged mother off so she could try on the dress, and I couldn't be more relieved.

"I see what you did there. Thank you, son. Though you better find Xeraphina and fast. I have already sent Ty out looking for her as well." Father said as he turned away, heading back to his office. I am sure my mother was making it difficult for him to try and get anything done. When she can't find one of her children she goes into a frenzy.

"Where are we going to find her? If she is none of her hiding spots then she must be hiding, purposely so she cannot be found." Archer said in concern.

"Do you think..." I start to reply.

Archer cuts me off with a growl, his anger boiling inside of me. "Do not wish that sentence. Nothing is wrong with Xeraphina and I will not hear of such nonsense."

He is probably right. If anyone can handle themselves, it is Xeraphina.

I walk towards the training grounds glancing around. She isn't here. I go back to the lake; she isn't here either. I ran deep into the forest, checking our fort. Empty. s**t. Where else could she be? I head towards the big training center; she usually doesn't like to go there unless it is empty. Most of the kingdom uses this one and she hates crowds, socializing or even being around people in general. Damn it, not here either.

Think, Xavier, think.

"What about the pack library?" Archer asked thoughtfully. I appreciate him trying to help.

"I already tried there, father has it blocked off till they organize the books that Xeraphina transferred there." I replied trying to figure out where else. It was a good idea, but she wasn't there.

Shit, what about the armory in the basement of the pack house? It used to be a gym until father decided to make a new one. Now it just holds all the weapons for the warriors. There are some old supplies that father decided not to use in the gym. Could she be there?

"Stop thinking about it and just go and check. We are running out of time." Archer says eagerly. He wanted his sister as much as I did. We couldn't stand being away from her for a long period, though she seemed to be fine as she always disappeared.

I ran to the pack house, trying to get to the basement as fast as I could. Before I could head down the stairs someone gripped my arm, stopping me in my tracks. Who would the f**k grab me like that? I growled in annoyance, pissed off I was stopped from where I was trying to get to. I whipped around, rolling my eyes in annoyance as I stared at the red head in front of me. She looked a lot like her mother but never acted like her.

"Hey sweetie, where you off to? You look stressed, would you like me to take some of that tension off your shoulders, my love." Ariana talked slowly and seductively but all I heard was a screeching banshee. How did she not take a hint yet?

"Ariana," I gritted out between clenched teeth. Control, keep control. "I advise you to get your paws off me before I do something I may regret. You know I am waiting for my mate, as should you and don't ever call me that again."

My father always called my mother, my love, and I thought it was the most romantic thing I have ever heard. I wanted to be just like them, so that pet names will always be reserved for our mate.

"As it should." Archer agreed with me.

"Baby..." Ariana whined with a purr lodged in her throat. I felt the vibrations through my body. Archer growled in disgust as I pushed her away, harshly. I couldn't take it anymore. I respected Gamma Mark and Gamma Ariel and their other two children, but this one always got on my last nerves. She didn't know how to take no for an answer and never knew when she should quit. Ariana picked herself up off the ground, tears brimming in her eyes. I felt a little guilty. She ran off crying and I knew I would get an ear full by my father before the end of the day.

"Nothing we can do about it now. If she had taken no for an answer, we could have avoided this. Let's focus on checking the basement for our sister." Archer said, his nonchalant response made me realize he didn't care. I couldn't blame him. I told Ariana not to continue multiple times, subtly and bluntly. My sister had also.

He was right. I continued my way to the basement, taking the stairs two at a time. As I pushed the heavy door open, I looked around for any sign of Xeraphina. Where was she? Was I wrong again? I walked further into the room until I heard it. The constant pounding. I followed the noise and froze as I stared at my sister.

She was beating the s**t out of a punching bag, twenty – three of them lying broken on the ground. I cautiously walked closer. The pounding of her fists became louder, as her foot snapped against the bag. The bag seemed to be barely holding on. Xeraphina looked exhausted. Her glowing lilac hair was disheveled and dull. Her eyes sunken in with dark bags circling underneath. Had she been down here training for three days straight? Did she not get tired or feel the need to eat? I am not sure if she has noticed my presence yet, but she gave no indication that she has.

"I know you are there, and I would prefer for you to stop staring at me as if I had just killed someone or died myself." Xeraphina said, her monotone voice making me realize it was surely hers. My mind came up with so many possibilities, that I was just hallucinating because I needed my sister, that a demon took over her body. I know it sounds ridiculous, but I wanted to understand why she would do this to herself.

"Xeraphina?" I questioned, still not believing my sister would do this. "Have you been training down here this whole time?"

Xeraphina stopped mid punch, turning towards me as she looked at me sharply. I gulped, nerves she may break from the lack of self-care.

"Mother has been going frantic trying to find you, father sent Grandfather Ty and I out searching for you. You have been gone for three days. Looking at you right now it seems you haven't eaten, slept or taken care of yourself since you were last seen. This is concerning Xeraphina. The ball is in two days and mother wants you ready and to have a dress. She brought you a hot pink dress, thankfully I told her that Lily still needed a dress and Lily stepped in helping me out. Would you like to go pick your dress with me or shall I do it myself?" I asked in concern. I couldn't believe she hadn't taken care of herself at all. I was worried but I knew she would think I was being dramatic, so I didn't show my feelings.

"I am more concerned about what made her go into this state." Archer whispered, as if Xeraphina could hear him in my head. Maybe she could. She barely spoke so I never knew to what extent her powers were.

She stared at me blankly, her nose scrunched up in disgust before going back to a natural, cold look. I knew what that meant, she hated shopping.

"Got it. Go get cleaned up. I will find you a dress that fits your style and send a messenger to pick it up with some food. Try to get some rest." I said calmly but it seems Xeraphina took it the wrong way as she glared at me. "It is not an order Xeraphina. I am only worried about you. If you want to meet those dragons, you are completely obsessed with them you better take my advice."

Xeraphina thought about my words before waving her hand. All the punching bags xed themselves as they lined against the wall. She walked by me and up the stairs without even saying a word. Seems she is going to take my advice. I will go and get food prepared for her and then head off to find her a dress. Thank goddess her style was easy.