

Chapter 0007

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Verena

An hour later, I step inside Elijah's bedroom to get all my stuff. The walls of the room make me suffocated as it reminds me of the times we have spent here. Brushing those thoughts away, I focus on my task at hand. There is no point in staying in this packhouse so I'll pack my things and leave. The money I have saved from my stock investments will get me to stay for six months in a five-star hotel.

I will use that time to find a job. Since I have always been focused on my duties as the Luna of this pack, I never got the time to pursue anything else, especially my dream to open a bakery. Now that I no longer have any duties towards the pack, I can focus on my dream and have a bakery shop of my own.

Feeling a little energetic from the idea, I start to pull out all my accessories from the drawer when my eyes fall on a photo frame. Bright blue sky, palm trees and sand fill the background before which stands a couple smiling at me. The lady's cheeks are pink, and the shine in her eyes is unavoidable as her man has his arm wrapped around her waist.

"Haha! You can't catch me!" I scream as I run across the sand, the warmth of the sun on my skin, and the cool breeze tangling my hair. Elijah has a challenging look on his face as he chases me, but there's a subtle smile on his handsome sun-kissed face.

Before I know it, his strong arms grab me from behind, "Looks like I won," I gasp as he gently lifts me off my feet, my heart fluttering in my chest. With a playful smile, he swings me around. Our laughter mixes and rings in the air, the world fading away as we get lost into the moment.

My hand trembles as I run my palm over the picture in the photo frame. Those were some of our best moments, filled with joy and sweetness. Our relationship wasn't one of love, but he was slowly warming up to me.

"Oh, looks like there is a thief in here," Nixie's voice startles me as I find her standing inside the room. "How dare you try to steal my things?" she accuses me with her arms crossed.

I look at the clothes that I am holding. "These are my things."

She scoffs, "No more. Whatever you had before, it all belongs to me now. Including Elijah." Her words cut deep, and she smiles in satisfaction, enjoying the effect her words have on me. Her eyes lower to my hand, zeroing in on the ring I am wearing.

I look at the diamond ring. It's a very special ring to me as Elijah gifted it to me on my birthday. "This ring will protect you from everything and my heart is in it. I give it to you," He said when he slid it onto my index finger. It's a rare diamond that can't be bought with money.

"Hand over that ring right now," Nixie says, her eyes beaming with greed.

I take a step back, holding my hand. "No." This ring means a lot to me. Even if I am separated from Elijah, I still want to keep a part of him with me forever.

"I won't say it again. Give it to me; it's my order! Your Luna's order," she shouts.

"You'll never be my Luna. And I'm not giving this to you," I reply confidently.

"Fuck you!" she grabs my wrist forcefully, and I yelp as a sharp pain shoots through my finger to my spine as she pulls the ring out of me forcefully. "Give it to me or I'll cut your fingers off, you fucking bitch!" she yells.

Instinctively, I push her away with my other hand, and she stumbles back onto someone's chest. My eyes go round when I see Elijah holding her from behind. His eyes are as cold as the Arctic, freezing me in my spot. "What is happening here?"

"E-elijah," Nixie starts crying, and wraps her arms around his neck, "I—" she sniffs, "I was only asking her how costly the ring is and she pushed me away." She sobs like a baby.

"That's not true. She was trying to take the ring from me!" I protest.

"So what if she did?" he asks, his face like a carved stone with no emotions. I stare at him, trying to process what he said for a moment. "I told her that she can have the ring when she asked me about it."

My eyes widen in disbelief, unblinking as they stare at him. Time stands still. I can't believe what he is saying.

"Hand over the ring to her, Rena," he demands in a frosty voice. My feet feel glued to the floor. Nixie's lips curl in a smile as she watches me in despair. The room closes around me, suffocating me with the weight of its shattered expectations. My lips curve upwards, a smile tugging at the corners of my mouth. It's devoid of any joy and is a mask to hide the emptiness within. Why did I even hope that he'll care for me? Stupid, stupid me.

I walk towards them and pull out the ring from my finger. "Here, take it," I say while the smile remains intact. "You can have everything else here too. I don't want it anymore." It's exhausting to keep hoping that things will change, that he'll take me back. Those are my last words, and I walk out of the room, accepting my defeat. Nixie wins, I lose.

Suddenly, I feel a hand grab my wrist from behind and hear Elijah's voice, "Rena." I freeze. His voice is so gentle. My heart pounds in my chest, and I look past my shoulder to meet his black eyes. "The rejection ceremony is going to start soon. I'll wait for you at the training grounds."
