

## CHAPTER 126

### Winter POV

King Axel seems to be a lovely man, albeit a bit strange. Almost like he struggles with his memory somewhat and he appears to be far older than I had imagined a friend of Kai's being. It made me more than a little intrigued about this Queen Vanessa of his and what she was like. Would she be like King Axel or be the complete opposite?

Kai waited patiently for me to finish getting dressed. I had taken care and dressed up more than I usually did, but still refused to wear a dress. Instead, I'd opted for a dressy blouse and skirt, topped with my favorite leather jacket. My hair shone from the amount of brushing I'd given it and I'd lightly applied some makeup. I looked beautiful, I saw with satisfaction as I gazed in the mirror looking at my reflection.

We look good girl. Ready for a night on the town.

Or a dinner date with the King of Werewolves? What do you think Sabriel?

I think our mate looks like he wants to take us to bed and I'm tempted to let him. Dang our man looks good.

He does, doesn't he. Sigh. Not enough time for bedroom activities though.

Winter, when will you learn. There is always enough time for bedroom activities, it just depends how much you're willing to make the other people wait for dinner.

I'm not making a king wait for me Sabriel.

Figured. Shame. I'm feeling a tad neglected on the sex front lately.

Sabriel! Shush.

"You look beautiful" Kai murmurs in my ear, making me shiver with anticipation, as I turn and wind my arms around his neck.

"You don't look so bad yourself" I breathe, eyeing him suggestively. Damn Sabriel, she'd made me horny! But I couldn't help it. His pants clung tightly to his legs and buttocks and the white shirt he wore, slightly open just made my mouth water as I spotted part of his naked chest. His scent tantalized my nostrils and I breathed it in, feeling dizzy myself. He had no clue what he was doing to me.

Kai's eyes darted towards the bed "maybe we can put that to good use later" he whispers, with a smirk on his handsome face.

Maybe he does know how he's affecting me now. I stand up on wobbly legs and offer my arm to him with a smile.

"Shall we" I ask and he grins, taking hold of me and clutching me tightly.

He leads the way to King Axel's private dining room and as we walk, I look around at the various paintings on the walls and the odd ornament here or there. A lot of it pertains to Greek mythology, a painting of Poseidon laying proudly in the center of one of the walls. "He likes his art" I comment to Kai who gives a nod.

"He's always loved art and he also has a keen interest in Greek mythology" he answers. "So, he combined the two when it came to decorating the castle. You have to see that he has a really good eye for paintings" he answers "whereas I have no clue when it comes to art. I just choose what I like, whether it actually goes with the decor of the pack house or not."

We reach the dining room and walk in slowly. King Axel looks up from his seat and smiles. "Welcome, welcome" he cries, gesturing at us both "take a seat. Vanessa is just running a bit late" he laughs. Kai pulls a chair out from me and I sit across from King Axel with a wide smile on my face. I feel nervous as hell. What on earth am I going to talk about? Kai slides in beside me.

"You look lovely" King Axel tells me with a raised eyebrow.

"Thank you, your highness," I say politely.

"Oh no it's just Axel dear" he says scandalized "I don't like being called King all the time. It gets rather annoying" he says in a whisper.

I giggle. Kai chuckles and shakes his head, reaching for a glass of water and taking a sip. "If it was me, I would insist on being called King all the time" he joked.

"That's because you have a big head Kai" Axel teases back.

I hear the sound of loud footsteps coming and turn in my seat to find a woman approaching. She's beautiful. ethereal looking. Her smooth, creamy porcelain skin was further enhanced by her bright red dress that clung tight fully to her bodice and across her hips and bum. She had pale shimmery silver hair that cascaded over her shoulders and down to her buttocks in waves. She wore bright red heels. Her red lips curve into a smile as she greets her husband, who stands to attention.

I frown and rub my eyes complexed. Something is wrong with my eyesight. I can't seem to bring Vanessa's face fully into focus, the outside edges seem to be blurry as though it's moving. I shake my head slightly.

"Sorry for being so late" Queen Vanessa apologizes as she kisses her husband on the cheek.

I blink. For a second there, it looked like there was some pale green light where she'd kissed him, but just as quickly it was gone.

"There's no need to apologize" Kai tells her.

His voice is husky. His eyes are staring at her intently, as though she's the only woman in the room. His mouth is slightly open in awe, and he's reaching his hand over to shake hers. I feel a flare of jealousy as she shakes Kai's hand, deliberately holding onto his hand for several long moments afterwards. I notice to my anger, that Kai doesn't yank his hand back and rather seems pleased by the attention.

Sabriel what's going on?

I don't know. Did you and Kai have a fight or something?

No, but at this rate we're going to be. It's like he doesn't even remember I'm sitting here!

Slap him on the head.

Tempting, but I can't do that in front of a royal couple.

Kick his leg? Stomp on his foot? Kick him between the legs and force him to sit down?

It's fine. It's just my imagination.

If that's what you want to think. But I think there's something fishy going on. I can feel it in my bones.

Then her eyes shift to me and her lips curl back. "You must be Alpha Kai's mate, Winter" she says slowly "what a unique" she coughs lightly "name to have."

It feels like a dig. "Please sit down" Queen Vanessa orders, but we all stand until she's taken her seat. Then we sit down, Kai barely even glancing my way. Ouch, that stings. I resist the urge to stomp on the bastard's foot and instead take a sip of water myself.

"It's so nice to have old friends of Axel's come out and visit" she says sweetly as her husband smiles and leans back in his chair, servers coming out and placing food on our plates. "Most just make a phone call" she says blithely "instead of making the trip."

She lifts her hand and drinks from her wine glass, a bead of sweat trickling down her breasts, Kai's eyes darting to it. I roll my eyes. Men, they were all the damn same. It's painful to acknowledge that Kai is like that, but the proof is right in front of my eyes.

"But isn't it lovely that Alpha Kai and his beautiful mate have come" King Axel says excitedly.

His wife gives a smile and kisses him on the lips, Kai looking sulky in his chair. I blink. There. This time, I'm positive that I'm not imagining it. I saw a green light flare where their lips touched. But what does it mean? Why the hell does Kai look like he's about to cry seeing it? King Axel is his friend for heaven's sake. Plus, doesn't he care how he's making me feel?

I grab a lettuce leaf and bite into it roughly. Queen Vanessa raises an eyebrow at me and delicately picks up her cutlery, smoothly cutting into her salad as I watched, placing it daintily into her mouth.

"You must be hungry" she trills and I shrug.

Kai reaches out and swipes some sauce away from the corner of her mouth. "Thankyou" she breathes and my heart gives a painful leap. What is he playing at?

"So helpful" Vanessa continues and Kai flushes, smiling wildly like a schoolboy. I glare at him and crunch loudly on my salad.

"Winter" King Axel says and I turn my head to look at the man, smiling despite myself. He's such a nice mannered man, it's impossible to be angry at him, even if his wife is pissing me right off.

"Yes King Axel" I answer.

"How long have you and Alpha Kai been together for now" he asks.

I stop. It takes me a while to think. After all I wasn't going to include being incarcerated in the dungeon by him or the times he pushed me away. "A couple of months" I say finally, looking at Kai who's still smiling like a loony at the queen "isn't that right Kai" I say raising my voice.

Kai looks confused. "Yeah, yeah, what you said" he finally mumbles, turning back to Queen Vanessa who's preening at all the attention he's giving to her.

"How did you two meet" I finally snap, looking directly at her. She blinks her eyes, bewildered, King Axel looking bemused in his own chair.

"Well, it was on one of his trips to my pack" Queen Vanessa said, looking slightly worried. King Axel looked confused, biting his lip and looking

away. She leant over and kissed her husband again, and the frown lines disappeared from his face and once again he looked calm and relaxed in his seat.

"Well anyway dear, these lovely people had a very good reason for coming to see us" King Axel said turning to her. Her eyes lit up with interest.

"Oh really" she said coyly "what would that reason be?"

Kai leans forward and grasps her hand "beautiful lady" he breathes "my mate Winter was made into a hybrid against her will. We've heard that you are a powerful witch and were hoping that you might be able to help us? To take away the vampire side of her so that she can be just a shifter again."

Vanessa's eyes glinted. Her lips curled back as she looked at me, her eyes sweeping me over. "A hybrid" she commented "that accounts for the nasty smell in the room" she hisses. Her face softens as she looks back over at Kai whose eyes are pleading with her. "I can help you, but it will need to be done under the light of the full moon" she says casually, "which is in three days' time. It's when my powers are strongest and when your shifter side will be at its strongest as well" she says, barely glancing at me, Kai listening to her every word.

"You would do that for us?" Kai says happily and she reaches over and grips his chin, smiling at him.

"Of course, I will do that for you honey" she chirps "after all I wouldn't want you to be unhappy if I can fix it" she whispers. I scowl at her, Kai beams and her husband looks aloof, as though he's not registering a single thing she's doing. How are these two mates, if she acts this way towards other men? I look at their necks and they are both marked. It's the oddest thing. I've never seen mated and marked mates act this way towards others

ever, especially not towards another marked mate. Kai is completely and utterly transfixed by her. My anger rises and eventually I can't take it anymore. I stand up, pushing my chair back loudly.

"Please excuse me" I say quietly "it appears I've lost my appetite."

No one says a word as I leave and as I glance back over my shoulder, I see with sadness, that Kai's not watching me walk away at all.