

## Chapter 10

Verena

I wake with a start, my head aching as if I drank two bottles of red wine in one sitting the night before. "Ow..." I trail off as I reach for my cell phone on my nightstand...then my heart drops when I see the time.

"Shit, shit, shit!" I exclaim and rush out of bed, only to scream when I see Alpha Niklaus sitting on one of my chairs facing the bed.

He's leaning with his elbows on his knees and his chin resting on his steepled fingers looking effortlessly cool while I know I look like a mess. But then I look down and take in what I'm wearing: the dress from last night.

Wait, what is going on?

"Good morning, Verena," he says as if I didn't just scream my fucking head off. "I'm sure you're wondering why I'm here."

"That's the understatement of the damn century!" I say, out of breath, with a hand on my heart. "But not only that ... what happened last night? Why am I still in my uniform?"

He gets to his feet and places his hands into the pockets of his slacks, then he slowly walks over to me. I don't know

why, but the way he's walking makes me step back.

"Someone spiked your shot last night, but don't worry about that, he's been caught and punished," he says, and I'm pretty sure he means they're dead. "But, I discovered something odd last night while I had my witch in here tending to you. Something ... interesting."

I swallow deeply. What the hell does he mean by that? "I don't—"

Before I can finish the words, he has me pinned against the wall with his hand around my throat. He doesn't squeeze hard, like he did the first time we met, but he merely holds me in place.

The contrast is scary; because now I'm even more terrified.

"I thought it was odd for someone who isn't close to Lucan to know all his secrets, but now I've discovered that you are, or were, close to him," he says, and I frown.

"What are you talking about?" I ask, shaking my head. "I wasn't—"

"You rejected him the other night, didn't you? Before you ran to me, you rejected your Goddess given mate and thought it would be fun to play with his enemy."

My heart drops. Shit, he's got it completely wrong. "No, that's not it at all. Yes, Lucan was my mate, but I..." I trail off, then I sigh. "Forget it, you won't believe me, anyway."

With this, I remove his hand and push him away from me, but when I turn to walk away from him, he grabs my upper arm and pulls me back.

"Try me, Verena," he says, and I slowly turn my head to look at him. "Because I'm drawing fucking blanks here. I'm inviting you into my safe space, the least you can do is to be honest with me."

"It's not about being honest, Alpha Niklaus," I say, shaking my head. "It's about how incredibly stupid my story sounds, even to me. I don't know why I'm back here, why she brought me back to relive everything after being through five years of hell!"

He slowly let go of my arm, that frown growing deeper. "You lost me at 'brought me back' —"

"Trust me, I lost myself when I woke up back here," I say and pull my arm out of his grasp. "Do you believe in reincarnation, Alpha Niklaus?"

Oh, there it is. He's looking at me as if I belong in a loony bin and, to be honest, I think I do. I never thought I'd tell anyone my secret, but something tells me I can trust this man as stupid as it sounds.

"I'm not sure I do," he says, crossing his arms. "What does that have to do with anything?"

I offer him an apologetic smile. "Because a few days ago, I

woke up, and I discovered I was twenty years old again and not yet mated to the man who gave me five years of hell.”

His eyes widen slightly. “And you expect me to believe you?”

“I knew about your sister and I know you’re about to agree to an arranged marriage with the only heir of the Toya clan,” I say, and the confusion on his face fades to disbelief. “And four years from now, she will be pregnant with your heir, only for Lucan to kidnap her, torture her and sell her to a black market auction.”

He steps back, his arms falling to his side. “How the fuck do you know that? No one but my family knows about the arrangement— Fabiani,” he growls as everything seems to fit together.

I nod. “I knew more than Lucan thought, Alpha Niklaus. On the nights he chose my sister over me, I went around his office and I found out a few things about him that made my skin crawl. But stupid little me thought I could change him,” I say with a sad chuckle. “Newsflash, I couldn’t since I ended up pregnant and with a dagger slammed into my chest.”

Alpha Niklaus starts to pace the floor, one hand on his hip and the other over his mouth as he contemplates what I’ve just told him. “So you’re telling me that you’re from—”

“I die five years into the future,” Gods, that sounds weird. “ My sister, who is Lucan’s mistress, killed me after I ended

up pregnant with Lucan's child and he finally decided to leave her."

He shakes his head. "This is fucking crazy, and I don't know if I believe you."

I shrug. "I mean, I know a lot more than these little snippets I've told you about. The things I saw in his folders about you were enough to bring your entire empire down. But to be honest with you, I don't know how accurate they'll be now, since I've already started changing the future."

This causes him to pause and stop pacing ... then he leaves the bedroom while I stand there feeling like a dumbass. He's probably calling a mental institution to come and lock me up; Goddess knows I'd be safer there.

Oh, well. I suppose I should go clean up and get ready to face the nurses.

After a shower, I pull on a pair of cotton pj shorts and a tank top, then as I go into the kitchen, Alpha Niklaus walks in and I nearly scream again. I stop myself when I see the woman walking with him; she's tall, is wearing all black and has bright blue hair.

"Is this the nurse coming to take me away?" I ask, placing my hands on my hips. "Give me ten minutes. I'm starving."

Alpha Niklaus raises an eyebrow. "This is my pack witch, Shelby. She's come to verify your claims," he says, and now I feel stupid.

The woman, Shelby, walks towards me while giving me a scrutinising stare; then she circles me with a frown etched on her face. "You say the Goddess sent you back in time to right your wrongs?"

"I never said that. I only told Alpha Niklaus that I was sent back here for some reason or another, but this time I decided to change things and live my life differently," I explain and cross my arms. "Now, is there a reason you're circling me like a vulture?"

Shelby chuckles. "I find this fascinating, because last night I found out that the Moon Goddess has cursed you. You're slowly losing your wolf spirit and becoming a human," she says, and it takes a few seconds for her words to sink in.

"What?!" I exclaim, stepping back from her. "Cursed? But ... How? Why? She's the one who sent me back here! Why would she curse me if I wasn't sent back to change my future?!"

She offers me an apologetic look, then she shakes her head. "The Moon Goddess doesn't have the power to send you back into the past, Verena. She can only gift shifters with their wolf spirit, bless them with their Fated Mates, and guide us in our choices. Whatever happened to you ... wasn't the work of The Goddess."

I blanch and shake my head, refusing to believe her. "N-no... that can't be! Who would do this to me, then? Who would

send me back if it wasn't the Moon Goddess?"

"This is the work of witchcraft. It was a very powerful witch who dabbled in blood magic before she died. She spoke the hex with her last dying breath, making it more potent, so that means it cannot be broken," Shelby explains, while it feels like the wind has been knocked out of me. "It's why the Moon Goddess has cursed you ... in her eyes, you have committed taboo twice."


Sinking to the floor, I feel the tears slipping down my cheeks as I take in this information. The Moon Goddess didn't grant me this second chance after all ... I'm cursed because someone wanted to play god with my life.

But who? I don't know any witches now and I didn't know any back then! Who would do this and allow me to be cursed?

"From your reaction, I'm guessing you're as in the dark as we are," Shelby says, then she gets on her haunches and takes my hands in hers. "If you want to, you can pray to the Goddess and ask her what hex was put on your life and why it was done. There's a reason for all of this."

I tilt my head to look at her, noting the sincerity in her green eyes. "Would she listen to my prayers even after thinking I'm a traitor?"

She nods and cups my cheek. "You're still one of her children and you need guidance. Pray to her, explain what

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happened, and ask her for help. She's still listening to you," Shelby says, then she gets to her feet. "I'll do what I can on my side. See what I can do about you losing your wolf and turning human again."

"Thank you," I say and stand up, remembering that Alpha Niklaus was in the room as well and now he's seen my teary and snotty face. Ah, I don't care, not when my entire world has been turned upside down.


He looks at me and I think I catch a hint of concern in his eyes before he masks it again. "Take the day off, then return to work in the morning. Seems like you need it," he says, then he turns and leaves the room, with Shelby following.

Who would have thought ... My rebirth wasn't a blessing, but a curse.

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