

## ELEVEN

I stepped back to allow Princess Elsie in. Behind her is another girl carrying a tray which she sets on the table, then she courtesies and left, closing the door behind her

“Oh dear. Have you been crying?” Princess Elsie asks. I think it’s pretty obvious what I’ve been up to, she didn’t need to ask, so I just looked away and avoided her eyes.

Princess Elsie looks magnificent and she’s the typical description of a fairy tale princess that I read in books and watched in cartoons as a kid. She is at least five foot an nine inches tall with long blonde hair that is neatly packed without a strand out of place. Her skin is flawless and without a single blemish. When she spoke, I notice her one sided dimple on her right cheek.

She has a strong aura around her. Her confidence and poise did not come from years of practice, she was born with it, and an angelic talking voice . I wonder how it would sound when she sings. Her nails too were very flawless and you can easily tell she has never had to do any form of work in her life. All of a sudden, I’m wondering what it must feel like to be a princess.

When she was introduced to us at first, I thought she was a little unfriendly but I think I judged too quickly. Standing right now and staring at me with her concerned eyes, I start to feel a like someone cared for me.

I wipe the tears from my cheeks “Your Highness,” I quickly greeted and she looked at me with amusement, a small smile across her lips which she tried to hide but I saw it already,



“You can call me Elsie,” she says cheerfully. I think I may be dreaming. The Princess wants me calling her by her first name and she's being friendly with me. I nod my head at her but I don't stare directly into her eyes. I don't want to get too comfortable around her. She is a princess and I am a nobody, I need to remind myself of my place here.

“I brought you food,” she says, then points to the chair next to the table which I reluctantly settle myself in while she walks over to the couch adjacent the table and sits. I'm not hungry, I do not have any appetite but it would be rude for me to reject her act of kindness.

“Thank you,” I say dryly and open the tray to eat. I can feel her watching me closely and it made me very self conscious but I pretend not to notice her stare.

“Tell me, how was your life at Eclipse pack? Who are your parents and Why were you given out?” She spoke after a while. I close my eyes briefly, contemplating if I should tell her the truth or lie or just avoid the question totally.

I shrug “Pretty normal. I lived like any other normal person and I don't know my parents,” I said dismissively, hoping she would drop the topic but she didn't.

“I know you are not just an omega. I can feel your strength and I feel your wolf. Definitely not an alpha breed though. Maybe beta or gamma?” she presses. She feels my wolf! The royals are very strong and their powers are way beyond any other werewolf. I am not surprised that she would be able to guess my status but I don't think it would be wise to go into details about my origin.

“It doesn't matter,” I say flatly. She doesn't say anything again and I start to feel bad. “I'm sorry Princess Elsie. I didn't mean to sound rude. I



just don't feel comfortable talking about Eclipse pack yet," I immediately apologized.

She nodded her head "it's fine. I don't expect you to, but with time you will come around I hope," she says.

Once again, I'm surprised at how friendly she is to me and the fact that she is even trying to make conversation with me. It's been a while anyone looked at me and saw an actual person. So, it's a bit overwhelming that a princess would be this nice to me.

"Can I ask you something?" I drop my fork and turn fully to her. She seats up and nods her head.

"Ask me anything,"

"Why am I been held here? Am I a prisoner? I want to be with my friends but the scary guy -" I point to the door "would not let me out,"

Princess Elsie is probably my age mate so I think I can relate with her.

"Erm.. eh.. I.." she stammers and then sighs "Ryder is just..." again, she searched for the words to describe her brother but she couldn't get the right ones to use "All I can say is he's been through a lot and he is a great guy," she chuckles briefly "But he can be very annoying sometimes and overly stubborn, just like dad..." she says and her voice trails off again.

I'm looking closely at her now. I didn't expect her to be so open with me but I'm grateful for her company.

"I mean he is the first prince and would be crowned king of the werewolves soon, so that is expected. He's used to getting what he wants but over all, I think you both need to talk first. It's not like you are his



prisoner, but knowing Ryder, he may have you under watch for as long as possible," she makes gestures with her hands "He's a great guy, he's just too uptight but don't get on his nerves if you must see his good sides, or if you want to ever get out of this room," she says.

That's not exactly the answer I wanted but I just nod my head and go back to picking on my food. Don't get on his nerves! Don't get on his nerves! Same thing the scary man told me. I am not allowed to get on his nerves but he has been getting on my own nerves by keeping me locked in here.

"Well, if there is anything you need in the meantime, you can let me know so I get it for you?" She offered.

I didn't think twice "I need my phone. Please? Can I have it? My friend Layla, she would be worried sick about me. I just need to place a call to her," I quickly explain.

She looks away and I think she is going to deny my request. She seems to be considering the idea and after what felt like forever, she says "I don't think Ryder would want you speaking to anyone yet, but I can get it for you, just don't let him find out," she says.

Another round of anger. I can't speak to anyone? No wonder that man said I was worse than a prisoner.

Princess Elsie stands to her full height "Ryder can be really busy, especially with the current case he is working on, so I get that he would not be spending much time in here. I would take the risk to get you your cell phone but he mustn't find out," she says and I nod my head again, trying to hide the anger in me.

"By the way, the others have started their respective duties and in case



you are worried about them, you should know they are doing just fine. It's a good thing you girls came at this time. During the days of my grandfather," she paused. Her grandfather had just passed on and a ceremony was just conducted for him yesterday and I know she is still hurting.

"Things were much harder," she continued "He was a good man but he had his flaws. Anyway, my dad and Ryder are making a few changes around here. It's why the servants are treated better and have a section within the royal castle. It wasn't always like that," she explains.

Princess Elsie has absolutely no reason to divulge so much information to me but she did and I like her for that. She spoke to me like we were of the same class. She didn't see a maid or someone of a lower class, she wasn't a spoilt brat like we assumed all princesses to be, her nose did not scrunch up when she spoke to me and I feel myself relaxing around her.

She pursed her lips "Anyway, there would be many days for us to talk and become friends," she says with a warm smile and I couldn't help but smile up at her too. A princess wants to be friends with me. Unbelievable!

"I would like that," I say and she nods her head before leaving.

I want to scream and cry at the same time but I did neither. Layla was the only one who was nice to me in Eclipse pack and in just a few hours I think I may have a couple of friends already. Sadie, Nora, Rose and now a princess!