

## Chapter 18 - Sophia's Revenge

Sophia's POV

“Baby girl, let’s go downstairs for breakfast. You have to come out of this room and this way you can meet Luke and his mate, Sara.”

“He might be there.”

“I won’t let anything happen to you; I promise.”

“Ok.”

He had been trying to get me to leave the room, but I wasn’t ready, but I had to face the music, but I was hopeful he wouldn’t be there.

We walked down the stairs and headed towards the dining room. This is really the first time seeing the house. It’s huge and beautiful. It had cream-colored walls with dark-colored wood floors and matching trimming. The walls were decorated with beautiful paintings.

We had walked into the dining room and Kane had me wrapped up in a story so that I didn’t see him at first, but then I caught his scent of fresh cut grass and rain showers. I looked up and scanned the room and froze on the spot when I spotted him. He was watching me and smiled when our eyes met.

“Baby girl, don’t worry, he won’t hurt you. I won’t allow it, I promise, but we’re going to have to sit by him. That’s the ranked members’ table.”

“Kane I can’t. I can’t be that close to him.”

“Baby girl, you can. Rip the band aid off. You will have to be near him soon, anyway.”

“Promise you won’t leave me.”

“I wouldn’t dream of it.”

We fixed our plates, and he led me to the table, and we sat down. He had me sit across from Xander. He was apologizing to me and trying to get me to look at him. I looked up through my lashes at him. He really is a beautiful human. My heart is telling me he is telling the truth and I should trust him, but my brain is screaming no at me. I just answered him and look back at my food.

He reached out and touched my arm and I wasn't expecting it and it caused me to jump and cower into Kane. Kane wrapped his arm around me and whispered, "It's OK. I'm here and not leaving." I relaxed a little, but he left his arm around me.

I started to eat and just tried to ignore everyone around me.

Some girl came and sat by Xander, but she was basically on his lap, and, for some reason, that made me jealous. They were talking about something, but I wasn't paying attention.

"Hey mutt, I asked who you were and why you think you can sit here?"

I looked up at her but didn't answer her and went back to my breakfast. I was trying not to listen to their conversation, but they were literally two feet away.

I heard her ask him to take her to a party this weekend. That got my attention, and I looked up to see his face. "Clarissa, well talk about this later," was his reply and, for some reason, that hurt me. I had no reason to. He was nothing to me, but for some reason, I couldn't stop the way it made me feel and it made me want to cry. I quickly left the table and ran to my room as fast as I could.

I locked my bedroom door and ran to the bathroom and locked myself in there, figuring Kane would be up soon or I was hoping he would, but I also wanted to be alone.

I heard Kane come in and go straight to the bathroom door and knock.

"Baby girl, if you don't answer, I'm coming in."

I couldn't answer. I was lying on the floor in a ball crying my eyes out and I didn't understand why. His actions this morning hurt me.

"OH, baby girl, come here."

He came over and picked me up and walked me to the couch where he sat down and just let me cry. He sat there and just stroked my hair like I liked and told me everything would be OK.

"I don't understand Kane. He is nothing to me. He scares me. My brain is screaming at me to run, but something in my heart tells me there is something more. I just wish I could just disappear. I don't want this life. All I've ever wanted was for someone to love me for me. I know I'm not the most appealing person to look at and I'm covered in scars, and I'm terrified of everything, but I didn't ask for that. I didn't ask for any of this. I just want to disappear like I was never here."

Kane grabbed my chin and brought my face up, so I was looking him in the eyes. "You are the most beautiful girl I've ever met, and those scars tell everyone how strong you are and how much you've had to endure, and I do love you. If you weren't here, I would lose my best friend and I couldn't live with that."

His words made me cry harder and hold him tighter. He is the first person in a long time to be kind to me and I don't think I would be alive if it weren't for him. He stood up and walked to bed with me and laid me down and tucked me in, saying he had a meeting. He had to go, but would be back soon.

I watched him walk out my door and just laid in bed, telling myself I wasn't going to cry anymore. I needed to learn to be strong and figure out my life. Where was I going to go because staying here wasn't an option. I may not get punished, but Xander makes my heart hurt. It was times like this that I wish I had a best girlfriend to talk to or my mom. She would know what to do. I fell asleep trying to figure out where I could go.

I was running through the forest and feeling the wind on my face. It was freeing. Seeing all the trees and flowers and small animals always made

me feel good. Something about nature is a happy place for me. I slowed down and was walking around picking wildflowers when I saw a figure coming towards me. I wanted to run away from it, but I was rooted to the spot I was in. It was quickly approaching and was taking the form of a woman. She approached me gently and started to speak. "Sophia, I know you feel alone in this world, but you're not. You have more people than you think, but you need to learn to trust and lead with your heart. We love you. As fast as she appeared, she disappeared. I continued to run through the forest.

I heard my door open and Kane approached my bed, but I still wasn't ready to see him yet. I laid there pretending to be asleep so he would leave. I kept thinking about my dream. That woman felt familiar to me, but I didn't know why. Kane still hadn't left, and I wanted to be alone.

"Kane, you can go. You don't have to babysit me all the time. I am sure you have something else you can do."

"That's where you're wrong, baby girl. I like to hang with you, and I really don't have much else right now."

"Please, just go. I want to be alone."

"OK, but I will be in my room, so just yell if you need me and I will be right over. I will bring lunch for you."

He walked over to me and kissed the top of my head, and left. I didn't even open my eyes to look at him. I really just need to be alone. I have spent most of my life alone, so having Kane around is a different feeling for me.

I must have fell asleep again because I heard Kane opening the door again and placing something on the table. He walked over to the bed to see if I was still sleeping, and I wasn't ready for him to be here, so I just kept my eyes closed and made sure my breathing remained steady and slow. He must have felt satisfied that I was still asleep because he left.

I must have been more tired than I thought because I never heard Kane come back in and there was another tray on the table and the other one

gone, and it was completely dark out. I got up and walked over to the food. Some roast and potatoes. It smelled good, but the thought of eating was making me nauseous. I placed the lid back on the tray and walked over to the window. There was a window seat here. This was nice. I grabbed the blanket that was at the other end and made myself comfortable.

Looking out at the moon and stars. Some movement caught my eye, and a large black wolf stepped out of the clearing. It was huge and intimidating looking. He started to shift back, and that's when I saw Xander just standing there in all his naked glory. My goddess, I think I am drooling. His body is covered in muscle. I can see his eight pack and the V cut that leads to the lower and holy goddess speaking of lower. How is any man blessed with something so large? He looked up at my window as if he could sense me looking at him, but his face held sadness. It made me sad that he would look that way. What did he have to be sad about?

I don't know if he could see me or not, but I moved off the seat and over to the couch and turned the TV on. I had no clue what to watch, as I really had never watched anything before. I turned on some movie and laid down. Apparently, it wasn't very good because the next thing I know, Kane was storming into my room. He placed another tray down on the table and came over to the couch.

"Baby girl, you need to get up. You have been sleeping for like 18 hours and you haven't touched any food."

"Kane, please just let me be. I want to be alone."

"Look at me. You need to go shower and eat some breakfast and then we can walk around the grounds and get some fresh air. I think you are depressed; the sunshine will be good for you."

I looked up at him to tell him to go away, but the sight of his face was shocking. It was black and blue and swollen. He had two black eyes, a split lip, and a giant bruise going down his jawline.

"Kane, what the hell happened?"

“Oh, that, it’s nothing. Don’t worry.”

“You can’t come in here and demand that I talk and do something when you won’t tell me what happened to you.”

“I got into a little fight with someone. No big deal.”

“Who?”

“Don’t worry about it, baby girl.”

Since he wasn’t talking, neither was I. I just walked back over to my bed and crawled in and turned my back to him.

“Please baby girl, will you shower and eat at least?”

“No, you won’t tell me what happened. Unless you want to tell me everything, then I am not moving.”

“Listen, it’s not that big of a deal. I had a disagreement with someone, that is all. Will you please shower and eat now?”

“Go away, Kane.”

He got up and left, slamming the door as he went out. It made me jump, scaring me. As soon as I figured he had gone far enough that he couldn’t hear me; I let my dam break. I started crying uncontrollably. I don’t understand what is going on here. I hate Xander; he scared me, but when I saw him telling that other, she wolf he would talk to her later and the way she practically sat in his lap had me feeling things I never had. I was angry and jealous. I wanted to be the one to touch him, but I couldn’t. I had too many fears to let him even get close.

I really needed to shower. I know I smelled bad, but I just couldn’t force myself yet, so I continued to wallow in my self pity and cry until I had nothing left to cry out. With my eyes burning, I closed them and welcomed the sleep that came with it.