

The Alpha's Slave Mate

Chapter 43

Chapter Forty-Three

Daphne's Point of View

I am so excited; I get to spend today with my sister. I know that we had a little of a rocky start yesterday, but I attribute some of that to the fact that she was traveling all day. Caleb spoke with me this morning and he is going to have a guy's day with Dorian, and Theo. This gives Scarlet and I time to go shopping, and Caleb even suggested taking her out for lunch. He is having one of his warriors drive us since I still have not learned to drive. I called Hannah and invited her to come with us, but she said that she had other plans for today.

I throw on some black jeans, with a light blue tank top. I finish off my look with a black and white checkered long sleeve overshirt. I like the contrast of the flowy material and the tight jeans. I finish it all off with a cute pair of Vans that Hannah insisted that I buy. I throw on a little mascara and deem that I am ready to go. I bound out of my room, ready to find Scarlet and start our day.

I stop dead in my tracks as soon as I hit the hallway, I can hear yelling and it sounds like Dorian. On one hand I do not want to eavesdrop, but on the other hand I am curious as to what is going on. I inch closer walking carefully down the hall, making sure not to bump anything. It is clearer now that the person yelling is Dorian.

"I am not respected here. We should go to your parents' home. This whole trip is bullshit, just them trying to show off what they have. Like they are trying to rub our noses in it." My heart breaks a little, because I assume, he is yelling at my sister. I also get a little mad, Caleb and I would never try to make them feel bad or show off. I was not sure if I should knock and ask Scarlet if she was ready or wait for her downstairs. I can hear that they are still talking but their voices are lowered now, and I can not make out what they are saying. After a few moments I decide that it is better to knock.

"Hey Scarlet, are you ready to go? Hi Dorian, how are you today?" I did not want him to feel like I was leaving him out. Dorian grunts in reply, then turns around and heads for the bathroom. Scarlet looks after him sadly, but then looks at me and nods her head that she is ready. We do not say anything as we walk down the stairs and out the front door.

Caleb had the car ready for us, and his warrior was already behind the wheel. Scarlet and I climbed in the back seat. None of us spoke until we entered La Grande.

“Do you want to do some shopping, or grab something to eat first?” I was not sure where Scarlet would want to go first.

“How about we grab a drink?” Scarlet’s reply took me by surprise.

“Um there is a little café up ahead we can go there.”

Caleb’s man drove up alongside a little café, that had the option for outside or inside seating. It did not look busy and Scarlet and I were seated quickly. We both took a moment looking over the menu.

“Uh I was hoping for a drink that had a kick to it. Oh well I think I will get the chicken salad sandwich, and a sweet tea. How about you Daphne?”

“I am not that hungry so I think I will have a BLT and a water with lemon in it.” I was too nervous to eat a big lunch. The waiter came back over, and we gave him our order.

“So, tomorrow is the big day, are you nervous?” I thought about Scarlet’s question, in a way I am but not about it being with Caleb.

“I am not nervous about Caleb; I know that him and I are meant to be. I am nervous about messing up during the binding part of the ceremony. I do not want to embarrass Caleb.” Scarlet smiled at me, and the tension that had been between us seems to be lifting.

“I remember being nervous too, although I was more scared about leaving home. I wished I could have taken you with me. I am sorry Daphne.” Scarlet is looking down at her hands, so I reach over and place my hands on hers.

“Scarlet you know that they would have never agreed to that. The only reason why father agreed to selling me to Caleb was because he was paying a lot of money, and I am sure that he was hoping it would lead to farther trading with the pack. I was never mad about you leaving with Dorian. I had hoped that you were living a fairy tale love story.”

“It was pretty great at first. Dorian was attentive, and sweet. He always had a quick temper, but he used to work it out on the training field.” Scarlet pauses for a moment with a wistful look in her eye.

“He changed after he became Alpha. He spent money like there was an endless supply, he started drinking heavily, staying out longer. He quit telling me that he loved me. At first, I thought that once he got the hang of managing the pack that he would go back to being normal, but then rumors started and most of our pack left. That pushed him to drink more, and then his behavior became more erratic.”

My heart breaks for my sister as tears start to moisten her eyes.

“The day I walked into our bedroom and found him rutting with a slave was the day that I knew nothing would ever be normal again. I swear I felt my heart break that day. You know he looked over and knew that I was in that room and he still did not stop. Sometimes I wish it was as easy as humans, and we could divorce.” I wish there was something that I could tell her, but when I had talked with Caleb he did not know if anything could be done.

“I am so sorry Scarlet; I wish there was something I could do to help.”

“No, it is ok, honestly in a lot of ways I kind of feel like it is karma. For my entire childhood I was doted on, spoiled, and popular. I did not have any real problems, and I excelled at almost anything I tried. I went with the flow of everything. Even the beginning of my mating to Dorian was easy. We did not fight. I was overdue for some kind of strife. I never truly stood up for you. There were many times that I should have tried to stop them, or at least dealt with Heather but I did not stop them.” Although I know most of what Scarlet was speaking was true, I still did not want her to feel bad for not sticking up for me. She was still the only person that had shown me kindness. The waiter brought out our plates, and we started eating slowly, both lost in thought.

“Scarlet you were the only person that hugged me. I know that you think that you could have done more, and maybe you could have but at least you had shown me kindness. I clung to those memories, they made it easier to deal with the beatings. The fact is that we have messed up parents, but that is the past and we have each other now. I know that you live in California, but I hope that this is not our last time meeting up.”

“I do not want to lose you again either. I had wondered what had happened to you, but everyone refused to talk about you. I wanted to come back and visit but I was embarrassed by Dorian’s behavior.” I understand exactly what she means. Scarlet was a legend; I can only imagine how she would be viewed if anyone in our old pack had overheard Dorian earlier like I had. Thinking about it made me feel guilty that I had been listening.

Scarlet and I finish our food and make small talk. We talk about the differences between here, our old home, and her home in California. She tells me stories of going to the ocean, some of the members of her pack, and how she tried to learn knitting. Soon we were giggling and telling jokes back and forth. We decided to do some shopping and started walking around town. We picked up a few things from some local shops, and I found a great wallet for Caleb. Soon it was time to pick up the cake.

After the cake was securely loaded up in the car, we knew that it was time to head home. I did not want today to end. For some reason it felt like we were in a protected bubble, if this moment could last, we were invincible. Heading back to the house it was like that bubble was bursting, reality was returning. I was sad to see this day coming to an end.

We were parked and just climbing out of the car when the front door flies open. Dorian, and Caleb are both red in the face, Dorian has his hands in fists.

“Grab your bag NOW.” Dorian literally spits the words out in Scarlet’s face. I watch as her face falls.

“What happened Caleb?” I do not want my sister to leave, but once again it looks like Dorian is taking her from me.

“He tried to force himself on Hannah, thinking that she was a slave. Theo attacked him, and when I found out what he had done I had let him know exactly what I thought of him.” Caleb’s voice is cold, and monotone. His eyes are dark, and I can see that he is trying to contain his wolf.

“SCARLET I said get your bag NOW, do not make me repeat myself again.” Dorian’s eyes are wild, and he is pacing.

“AHEM.” Everyone is startled by the voice coming from the other side of the car, we had all been paying attention to the drama in front of us. Turning I can see that Theo is standing there, like Caleb his eyes are dark, and he is barely hanging onto his ability to talk normally. “If I might have a moment of your time Scarlet, I think there is some information that you may find useful.” Theo thumps down a rather old and yellowing leather-bound book on the top of the car.

“Dorian may have been your destined mate at one time, once he started sleeping with other women though that breaks your bond. You do not have to listen to him, you can leave him if you want.” Theo’s words ring out, loud and crisp in the night.

“She is going to leave me. Scarlet go and get your things right now.” Dorian’s voice is lowered and menacing. He is half growling and looks ready to brawl.

“No.” Scarlet’s voice was so low that at first, I thought that I had imagined it.

“What do you mean no?”

“I mean no Dorian. I am staying here; I am going to watch my sister get bound to her mate. Then I will decide what I want to do from there.” Scarlet’s voice grows stronger as she talks to Dorian. Dorian is not handling the news well and is growling deeply as she finishes. Dorian takes a step towards Scarlet, but Theo flies over the car, and Caleb jumps down the steps to come in between them.

“The lady said that she is not coming with you. I suggest unless you plan to fight me right here, that you accept what she is saying and leave.” I have never seen this side of Caleb. He is scary like this, menacing but protective. Although he appears scary, I am surprised that I am not scared of him. I am proud of him, and it is reassuring to know that he will and can protect me.

“You will all regret this.” Dorian spits out before turning and leaving. Caleb instructs his warriors to assure that Dorian leaves the area and does not come back. Scarlet and I make our way into the house. Scarlet looks upset but assures me that she is ok and goes upstairs to sleep.

“Thank you.” I want Caleb to know that I appreciate him for doing everything he can to help my sister.

“I am sorry that you had to see that side of me.” Caleb looks upset, like he is embarrassed.

“Caleb I am proud of you.” I walk over and tilt his face so that he is looking into my eyes. “You stood up for my family, and me. I like knowing that you can protect me if needed.” Caleb pulls me in for a hug. We stay like for few minutes, simply enjoying being close to each other. Caleb lets me know that he needs to finish up a few things before he can come up to bed. I am feeling exhausted, so I turn and start to head upstairs. I figure I will take a quick shower and relax before Caleb comes up.

The shower does wonders for my tense muscles. Drying off I grab my robe and wrap myself up in it. Walking back in the bedroom, I am a little disappointed to not see Caleb. I climb into bed hoping that he will be up soon.

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Chapter Forty-Four

Caleb's Point of View

For Daphne's sake I am trying my hardest to get along with her sister and Dorian. I ensured that she has enough money to treat her sister to some shopping and a nice lunch. Theo and I discussed having a guy day with Dorian, neither of us wants to but we are curious about him. Daphne and Scarlet have already left for the day. I find Theo and we go in search of Dorian.

We find Dorian in the kitchen harassing one of our Omega members.

“All I want is some damn lunch.” Dorian is yelling at Annie, who looks terrified.

“DORIAN” I used my commanding voice, knowing that he will pay attention. “No one here is a slave. My Omegas do not make me food unless they want to. Here we do things for ourselves. Annie I am sorry about the confusion this is Dorian, Daphne's brother in law. I will handle it from here, you go ahead and run along. Tell your folks I said hello and look forward to seeing everyone at the mating ceremony.” Annie quickly runs out of the manor house via the kitchen door.

Finally, I turn my attention to Dorian. He is looking at me like I grew another head. As

bad as I want to punch him in the nose for being a pompous ass, I love Daphne and I am going to try to make this work.

“Why don’t you have a seat Dorian, would pastrami sandwiches on rye work for you?” Even Theo is shocked that I am being this calm, I just hope that Daphne realizes how much I love her. Dorian thinks about it a moment, but eventually pulls out a chair around the island and sits down. I start getting ingredients out of the fridge and placing them on the counter.

“So, Dorian tell me about California, and the Cedar Wood pack. How are things going down there?” I find that most people let out small details when they start talking about themselves and I am very interested in Dorian.

“It is good, smaller than your pack here, but hopefully that will change soon.” There is something in his tone, that makes me want to press farther on and find out more.

“Oh, what are your plans for extending?” I am careful to keep my voice neutral. “My first step is to handle the rogue situation that we have. As I am sure you heard our previous Alpha was killed by rogues.” I nod my head letting him know that I had heard those rumors. “Once that is settled, I am sure that our pack numbers will rise. Plus, hopefully Scarlet will bear me an heir soon.” I can tell that the heir subject is touchy because he is practically growling when he finishes his sentence.

“What do you like on your sandwich?” While Dorian was talking, I have cut up lettuce, tomatoes, and cheese to go on the pastrami. Theo is still quietly listening leaning against the cabinets.

“Just meat and cheese, maybe some mustard.” I finish prepping the sandwiches and place our plates on the island. Theo comes over and sits down finally.

“So, your big ceremony is tomorrow, I bet there are a line of broken hearts huh.” Dorian’s words turn my blood into ice. I can see why Theo does not trust this man; he is a dog.

“No there will not be a line of broken hearts. I respect women and did not play around. There was only one woman before Daphne, we were young and dumb. It broke my heart when she found her mate. After seeing the guilt that she felt for not waiting for her mate, I decided not to hurt another person like that. So, I abstained, content to wait for the day that I would meet the person destined to be mine.” Theo is the only person that really knew the story of how I lost my virginity. I do not mind telling Dorian, in hopes that perhaps he will learn some respect for women.

“Oh man that is cheesy. There was a whole line of broken hearts when I mated with Scarlet. Shoot there are still broken hearts out there man.” I was disappointed as Dorian continues talking about his various conquests of females when he was younger. My disgust for him grows by the moment.

“We should go paint balling.” My head jerks up because this is the first time that Theo has spoken. We had not talked about paint ball earlier but imagining hitting Dorian with some paint is a great image.

“Yes, I love paintballing.” Great so Dorian is down. We split up to change clothes and then we head off to the paint ball field. Paintballing turns out to be a great idea. All three of us let off some frustration and tension. Soon we are all covered in paint, although I firmly believe that Dorian got it the worst. We head back to the house to shower and change, thinking that the girls will be home soon.

I had just stepped out of the shower when I heard the banging, and yelling. I raced out of the room and found the commotion in the den. Against one wall was Hannah, crying softly, a tear in her shirt. Theo has Dorian up against the wall, choking him. From the blood coming from Dorian’s nose I can tell that Theo has gotten in a few hits beforehand.

“What the hell is going on?” Theo does not remove his hand from Dorian’s neck. Although everyone has stilled in their movements, Theo is intent on killing Dorian.

“This bastard tried to hurt Hannah.” Theo’s voice is dead cold, and I know that he is about to lose control soon.

“Hannah tell me what happened sweetheart.” I walk over and position myself so that I am blocking her view of Dorian.

“I was looking for my book, I thought everyone had gone out. He came in and thought that I was some kind of slave or something. He cornered me by the couch, and tried to kiss me, telling me that he is some Alpha and I must please him. When I refused, he tried taking my shirt off, and that is when I kicked him in the balls. I tried to run out of the room, but he caught my ankle and I tripped and then he was on top of me.” Hannah is full out crying at this point. I pull her into my chest and give her a moment to gather herself. “That’s when Theo heard us, and he came in and saved me.” Hannah is shaking and now I can understand why Theo is enraged.

“I am sorry Hannah, I promised you a long time ago that nothing would hurt you. I want you to go get cleaned up, I need to deal with this now.” I give her a long hug and send her on her way. Turning I can see that Theo still has Dorian by the neck, his eyes are a deep onyx.

“How dare you come into my home, and assault ANY of my family.” Dorian has crossed a line and I am going to see that he remembers not to cross it again.

“Theo move out of my way.” Theo tries to resist but I am his Alpha and he is loyal to me. Slowly he uncurls his fingers and moves slightly to the left of Dorian. I do not warn Dorian before I deliver a blow to his guts that doubles him over. “You are a sick coward. You do not deserve the title of Alpha.” Dorian is still doubled over, but I have lost my patience with him. I grab his hair yanking him up to look at me. “This is my pack, my

home, my family. I will not think twice over ending your life to protect theirs. The only thing saving you right now is my mate, and that is barely a thought. You will return to your room and pack your things. Scarlet is welcome to attend the ceremony, but you are not welcome here." I drag the quivering bastard out of the room by his hair, tossing him into the guest room. I do not dare leave him to wreak havoc anywhere else in my home.

As I am waiting for him to pack his bags, I worry over how Daphne is going to take the news. She may be upset for a while, but I hope once she talks to Hannah everything will work out. Theo has left, I can only assume to check on Hannah and ensure that she is ok. I hope that this incident has not ruined our ceremony. Once Dorian is finished, I grab his bag and escort him downstairs.

"I am not leaving without Scarlet." I am surprised that Dorian has the guts to say anything to me.

"You will leave, I will inform her as to why you are leaving. She is welcome here, but if you ever grace my sight again, I will end your life." I stare him dead in the eye, I want him to know that I am serious. As luck would have it as I am leading him out of the house the girls are pulling in. Dorian demands that Scarlet leave with him, but she refuses. Theo and I move in front of the girls when Dorian steps forward threatening. Dorian makes a cheesy comment about how we will regret this and I have my warriors ensure that Dorian is out of our territory.

I know that the girls are tired from today. I send Daphne up to shower. I need to speak with my warriors before I can crawl into bed with her. I quickly assemble my teams, ensuring that our patrolling guards are alert to the situation. I also contact Marcus whom I know is nearby and he and his men are also patrolling. If Dorian makes a move, I will know about it well in advance. I then check in with Theo making sure that Hannah is ok, and that he is calm. He assures me that they are both well. With this knowledge I finally trudge up to bed exhausted. All I want to do is wrap my arms around my beautiful mate and sleep.

Chapter Forty-Five

Daphne's Point of View

When I first woke up, I was confused. I have gotten so used to Caleb having his arms around me that not having him here in bed with me is foreign. If I am honest, I do not like this feeling at all. Turning to where he should be in bed with me instead, I find a note.

Daphne, I can not wait until later today when we are bound as one in front of our community, and friends. I know we had a difficult day yesterday and I am sorry. Words can not express how happy this day with you makes me. Per tradition I am not supposed to see you before the ceremony, so I snuck out, while you were still sleeping. I am having breakfast brought up to you. Hannah, and the other girls will be over later to

help you with hair and makeup. I just want you to relax and enjoy today. I will be waiting with bated breath until you are in my arms. Love, Caleb. P.S. You are so adorable when you are sleeping.

Caleb's note is possibly the sweetest thing I have ever read. It is so hard to believe how much my life has changed in the last month. I can say that I am honestly happy, and I feel safe. In a lot of ways Caleb is like my real-life white knight, but I know that he is not the only reason I am happier in my life. Even with the age difference I feel like Hannah and I are friends, and there are many people here that I have come to care for, and I believe they care for me as well. Today I officially become their Luna, and I know that I will strive to be the best Luna I can be, and to put their interests and well-being first.

My thoughts are interrupted by a knock. I let the person in thinking that it was the breakfast that Caleb had said he had coming. To my surprise it was not only that, but Scarlet was delivering it. From her eyes I can tell that she has been crying.

"Hey how are you holding up?" I do not want to bring up bad memories of yesterday, but I want her to know that I am here if she wants to talk things through.

"I am doing alright, sad and disappointed with Dorian's behavior. A little embarrassed by all of it truthfully, but I have gotten so used to it that it took him behaving like that here for me to really evaluate how bad things have gotten." Scarlet's voice is so soft right now that I lean over and wrap her in a hug.

"I am so sorry Scarlet. I understand if you do not want to come tonight." I do not want her to feel pressured to be there, especially when her world is falling apart.

"Daphne I would not miss your mating ceremony for the world. Caleb seems like a good man and I can see how happy you are. That has always been my wish for you, that you would find some happiness in this world. Plus, your man is smoking hot, you hit the jackpot." We giggle a little at her last words and some of the tension seems to ease. I love the fact that we have this time to talk and bond some more.

"Caleb is a good man, and he does make me happy. Scarlet, how do you know when you're in love?"

"I would like to think that it is when you would do anything to make sure that your mate is happy, even if it means that you are unhappy. Although, I am starting to rethink my idea of love. I tried to make Dorian happy, and I ended up miserable, and I do not think that is how love is supposed to be. So, I think my new definition is when the very thought of the person you love puts a smile on your face, and makes you feel safe and secure." Scarlet's eyes have started misting over and I can tell that she is having a difficult time with everything.

"Scarlet, I know that it is too late for you to reject Dorian as your mate, but you do not have to stay with him. You could stay here; I know that Caleb would allow it." I can not

help wanting to ease her pain in anyway that I can. Truthfully, I want her to stay here, I would love having my sister close to me.

“Daphne that is very sweet of you, and it is very lovely here, but I have to go back. Not because of Dorian, but because I am the Luna of the pack now. I have not done a very good job of helping my people, but I think that they are going to need me now more than ever. Things there have to change, and I do not know if anyone else will stand up to Dorian.” My respect for Scarlet grows with her words. She is starting to act like the Luna I wish to be, and putting her own people’s needs before her own. I do want her to stay, but I understand why she is choosing to go back.

“I understand that. I am worried that he will hurt you. No offense but Dorian does not seem like a kind man anymore.” I do worry about Scarlet’s safety going back.

“I cannot lie to you; I am slightly worried myself. At one time I thought he was a decent man. The power of being Alpha has consumed him and his ego has gotten out of control. Even though I am scared, I cannot allow him to continue terrorizing what is left of the pack.” I can see the determination in Scarlet’s eyes, and I know that there is no talking her out of it. Perhaps I can speak to Caleb and see if any of our warriors can go with her, just until she gets Dorian’s behavior under control.

“Enough about that though, eat your breakfast it is getting cold. You my dear are going to be a fully mated woman tonight and you will need your strength.” Scarlet is giggling as she wiggles her eyebrows, insinuating what will occur in the bedroom tonight. I start eating the eggs, bacon and toast that she brought up with her.

“Caleb left me a note letting me know that Hannah and a few other girls will be coming over to help with hair and makeup before the ceremony.” I can see Scarlet visibly wince at Hannah’s name. “Sorry, do you want me to call her and ask them not to come?” I do not want Scarlet to feel uncomfortable, or Hannah for that matter.

“No, I need to apologize to her for Dorian’s behavior. Hearing how he attacked her made me review how he has treated some of the slave girls in our pack, and it makes me sick to my stomach. When it first happened, I thought he cheated on me because I had not gotten pregnant. Then it just kept happening over and over, and I grew numb to it. Now I wonder how many of those girls were willing, and how many of them were forced.” I had not honestly thought about all the horrors that Dorian has committed until Scarlet said that. Although, I had been a slave once, I had never been subjected to that kind of mistreatment. I cannot even fathom that depth of depravity, and it feels like the breakfast I just ate is about to make a reappearance. I am once again grateful to my wonderful mate for not having slaves, and always showing respect to women.

Just then my phone tings with a text message from Hannah letting me know that they are on their way soon. She stopped by the town center and check in with how the preparations were coming for the ceremony and assures me that everything is perfect. She also lets me know that Alpha Marcus has already arrived, along with a few of the

neighboring packs. Just like that my anxiety is back and I am worried about making a fool of myself in front of everyone.

“What’s wrong you are frowning?” Scarlet snaps me back into reality, and I let out a nervous giggle.

“Uh Hannah just texted me to let me know that the decorations and food all look fantastic, and it seems that some of our neighboring packs have arrived, along with Caleb’s good friend Marcus. Then I thought about the binding ceremony to the Mood Goddess and I am scared that I am going to make a fool out of myself. It seems like there is going to be so many people there and it makes me nervous.” I like that I can be this honest with Scarlet. I always wanted this kind of relationship with my sister.

“Do not worry. You will have Caleb right beside you, and truthfully you will be so focused on him that you will not even notice anyone else is there. I think that he really loves you Daphne.” Scarlet’s words shock me a little bit. I know that I have been falling in love with Caleb, but is it possible that he is falling in love with me too? The thought alone has me smiling like a hyena.

I can hear that Hannah has arrived, and it sounds like she has Bethany with her. Their voices are getting closer and Scarlet tenses up a little I squeeze her hand letting her know that everything will be alright. The girls come in the bedroom, with their bags of makeup and hair supplies, and I am reminded of the night of the Mabon Ball. So much has happened since then, but tonight will be different. Tonight, I will be declared Caleb’s mate for everyone to see, and the Luna of our pack.

“Hannah, I am so sorry about Dorian. I wish there were words to truly express how terrible I feel, and how I am sorry that he ever came near you.” Scarlet did not waste any time trying to talk to Hannah, who has not even put her bags down yet.

“Oh no please Scarlet do not apologize for him. You did nothing wrong, and I am sorry that you had to go through it too. He made his own decisions; you were not even here.” Hannah is quick to put her bags down and come over and hug Scarlet who looked like she was ready to burst into tears. It makes me very happy to see my sister and my friend get along. I was worried that the events of yesterday would put a damper on today.

Soon all four of us are pulling out different makeup brushes, and hair accessories. We are laughing like school children as everyone is trying to decide how my hair should be done, and how my makeup should look.

“If you were mascara make sure that it is waterproof. You might tear up and you do not want any stains ruining that beautiful dress of yours.” At Hannah’s words all the girls are calling for me to pull out the dress. I hurry and bring it out of the closet, carefully unzipping it from the bag.

“Hold on I have the perfect thing to go with that.” Scarlet stands up quickly and disappears from the room. She comes back moments later with a tiara, the same tiara she wore to her mating ceremony. It was also the one that our mother wore the day that she mated with our father.

“I know that our family has not treated you well, but I thought that you might want to wear this. It goes with the dress, and I think it is time you had it.” Scarlet’s words bring tears to my eyes. It is true that our family has not been great to me but having her here is all the family I need.

“I would love to wear this.” I finally let her know when I can speak again. With that decision made, the girls decide that they should curl my hair and leave it in loose curls down my back. It seems like no time has passed, before we are all getting into our dresses, and applying makeup. Scarlet tears up a little when she sees me in my dress, telling me that I am beautiful.

Finally, we all have our dresses on, makeup done, and our hair looks amazing. I love the way I look tonight, and I think Caleb will love it too. I am still nervous about the binding ceremony, but I put that out of my mind. Caleb will be there; he will know what to do.

Theo comes and knocks on the door and lets us know that it is time. He tells me that I am beautiful in my dress. Hannah and Bethany leave to take their places at the ceremony. Scarlet stays with me to walk me down. She gives me a big hug, and we leave the room walking downstairs. This is it, here we go.