

Chapter 54

Nervous couldn't cut it.

I was freaking out of my mind. Today was the day I'd be inducted into the pack. And I didn't know why, but my entire body ached like something was going to go wrong. I could almost feel it in my veins.

We were already at the packhouse. Tonight is the full moon and the night of my heat, so my induction couldn't happen at the barbecue like other wolves. For a while, I didn't think the pack would be willing to come. I pulled them out of their busy schedule to see me get inducted today. But I was relieved when I noticed that every member, from young to old, came to see me get inducted and claim my role as Luna.

It was slightly different from a regular induction. I wasn't only swearing an oath to become a member of the Primal Pack, but I was promising to be their Luna too.

Is it possible to be terrified and excited at the same time? Even if it wasn't, I surely mastered it.

"Hey, there you are," my mate's familiar voice said from behind me. I swerved around with a fake smile plastered on my face. The last thing I wanted was for him to doubt my skills of being Luna because I'm nervous.

"Hi," I said, but my voice ultimately gave me away. Traitor.

He frowned. "Nervous?" he asked, but he was only concerned. My former fear flew through the window right there and then.

I sighed with a nod. "Yes. I mean, why am I? I met half of these people at the gala; they love and accept me, so what am I so afraid of?"

In all honesty, it all came down to my strange feeling that something was going to happen. Something bad.

"Hey, relax." Maxim held me by the shoulders with a reassuring squeeze and an encouraging smile. "You'll be great. You only have one line, actually. Just one, and that's 'I accept'. Nothing more."

"I don't have to give a speech or something?"

She shrugged. "Only if you want to."

I nodded as I rubbed my sweaty palms against my dress. "Okay. I can do this... how long before we start?"

Maxim smirked at me knowingly. "Enough time for us to take a quick trip home so I can relieve you of this tension," he murmured seductively in my left ear. I gasped.

"Marcellus Augustin Dalton. We are going to spend the entire night having sex when my heat comes down tonight on me, and you want us to leave my induction ceremony right now?"

"Pretty much, yeah." He shrugged, rubbing circles in my palm. I shivered. Even after doing it every night since the first time, I still couldn't have enough of him.

"We might be late...." I mumbled, knowing damn well I was contemplating it.

"So? I'm the Alpha."

"The second Alpha," a voice we both knew too well said from behind us. Maxim stiffened, and so did I. It was Lukas indeed, and he just appeared out of nowhere.

"Hello," Maxim mumbled as he turned to face him. "Is there something you need?"

Lukas eyed us for a while before shaking his head. "I just wanted to ensure that Melissa was ready. We will start soon."

"I'm ready," I assured him. "No need to worry about me."

"Good. And you?" He faced Maxim.

Maxim shrugged. "Good."

I could tell that they missed each other, but Lukas didn't want to push himself too much, and Maxim didn't want to take the first step in forgiving him. I always told myself that time would heal. But what if it doesn't.

My stomach immediately began aching at the thought. I still felt in my gut that something was going to happen, and I hated it.

Soon, Lukas left after simply standing around us for five minutes. I think I knew what he was doing. He did it so Maxim and I couldn't go to do what we were planning to.

I didn't mind. But the minutes of silence made me realise that I was more nervous than I let on. Soon, Leonardo and Fiona arrived, and the meeting was being called to order.

I stood on the stage with Lukas, Maxim, Fiona, Leonardo and Maxim's parents. I hadn't seen them since the day I practically threw them along with Lukas under the bus. I was a bit sceptical about seeing them again. But now, I'm not. They didn't seem upset, but they wouldn't meet my eyes either.

What I did notice, however, was how well Maxim and Lukas spoke together. The pack would've never known that something was wrong between them as they greeted everyone.

They gave a general introduction about the proceeds for the day and ended with calling Fiona and Leonardo forward. They were a part of this as much as all of us. Their role was to be named as sacred witnesses of this ceremony, where they swore to examine me in my role for two weeks. If I was deemed unfit, they'd call another meeting with the Alphas about the matter.

As Fiona recited the words, I could tell that she was having a hard time staying serious. Even if I was unfit, Fiona wouldn't try to rule me out. She'd help.

Then, it was Mr and Mrs Dalton. Their role was to hand the 'mantle' over to me as one of the new rulers of this pack. I could hear a pin drop when they approached me. Luckily, there was no hesitation or reluctance. They simply took both my hands and recited their parts, and that was all.

Finally, it was time for me to become a pack member. I could see that Maxim was excited as he called me forward.

"Melissa," he said into the mic, glancing back at me swiftly. I stepped forward, where some men brought a golden coffer and dagger. Lukas took the knife and made a slice in his palm before doing the same with mine. I winced at the slight sting but connected my open wound with his, staring intently into his eyes.

He smiled. "I, Lukas Dalton, welcome you, Melissa Alexis, into our pack and home. As a Primal Pack wolf, you will lose your bond with your former pack and live by the oaths and

I nodded. "I do."

I tried to contain my smile as the euphoric rush of a new pack bond forming swallowed me whole. I could feel every wolf and their happy, cheering greetings flooding the mind link I've established with them. My eyes watered as I accepted their love and hospitality. It was great to know that they wanted me as their Luna this much and welcomed me into their home. I felt a tad sad when I felt my bond with Armor Pack break. But I was instantly refreshed with the feeling of a new home.

Now, it was Maxim's turn. My wound was already healing as I cleaned the blood from my hand, but I almost grew scared when I saw Maxim retake the dagger.

"It's now time to make you my Luna," he said. His smile wasn't like I had ever seen before. It was bright, proud, and his eyes were sparkling with all the emotions I could think of.

Slowly, he made a cut in his palm and mine, joining our hands together.

"I, Marcellus Dalton, make you, Melissa Alexis, my Luna. You will rule, protect and guide at my side, upholding the laws of the pack and keeping the best interest of our people at heart until our heir comes of age and fulfils their duty. Do you accept?"

I nodded eagerly. "I accept."

And just like that, the pack erupted in deafening cheers as Maxim pulled me into a hug. My vision grew blurry with tears. This was a magnificent moment for Maxim and me, and I will never forget it.

Soon, Fiona did her part in squeezing the life from me as Lukas and Maxim dismissed the meeting.

Even though tonight I'll be burning at every inch of my body, this was already the start of a perfect day.



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