

The Lycan 181

Chapter 181

RHEA'S POV.

The words that Lycan girl and every other Harem girl threw at my face in there hit me like the worse form of physical pain. My chest is rising and falling. My breaths are coming in too hard. I stop at the balcony outside and the cold breeze whips my face, carrying my hair in the direction of its movement. My jaw tenses. My nostrils flare. I'm staring straight ahead into the pitch dark night with my thoughts tangled in words that are not mine.

... the one who has been sleeping with all the Lycan men...

...you tried to seduce my mate...

.... that one went on a fucking spree...

All those hateful words.

I'm now a laughing stalk in this Harem and Ashanti is to be held accountable for this. I did all this because of her.

I look down at the balcony, tears stinging in my eyes. Maybe I should jump down and end it all, but if I do, that would be proclaiming Ashanti the winner.

I hate her.

I've hated her since the day I first set my eyes on her even though we were only children at the time.

Growing up, our father tried his best to hide it, but I know Ashanti is his favorite daughter. The way talks to her, treats her or anything that has got to do with her. He loves her to bits because she's his first daughter and her mother was his one true mate.

I will never be as precious to him as Ashanti is. He has never loved us the same. Everything about his life revolves around Ashanti and that's one more reason why I can't stand her.

The day we stepped foot in this Harem, I swore to make life miserable for Ashanti. I persecuted and lied against her. I cooked up stories to make the other girls dislike her. I looked forward to seeing her suffer in this Harem and I did all I could to make that dream of mine come true, but every move I made was a mistake. Every calculated effort was a failure. Somehow, someone always showed up and saved her ass.

"Ashanti..."

.." I whisper her name as I pound my fist against my forehead. I take in a long steady breath. It's like there's a million screams caught inside my chest, but I have to keep them all in because if I scream and cause a scene, everyone will know I'm losing to Ashanti.

A stubborn tear rolls down my cheek I hastily wipe away, but another one comes streaming down and another another, from both eyes. Soon, I'm muffling tiny sobs and trying to mop my face with my hands.

Chapter 182

"I... I really don't get it."

"Do you want to get rid of Ashanti or not?"

"I do now more than ever!" I say firmly, from the depth of my heart.

"Good. Come with me."

She takes me to our private meeting spot.

"There's a competition to be hosted here this weekend. It's a competition between warriors who get to fight and the best fighters will receive handsome prizes from the Alpha." I'm nodding my head as I listen to her attentively. "Two important important guests, who happen to be Lycan Alphas have been invited and will be present. We are going to use them to finally get rid of Ashanti."

"Uh... how?" I ask unsure. The last we tried to use men to "get rid" of Ashanti, the plan backfired and she had to end up killing an innocent girl just so our secret would not be spilled.

"Poison."

"Poison?" I ask, aghast.

“Yeah. We are going to poison the two Lycan Alphas and make it seem like Ashanti did it. She will never be able to escape judgment for a crime of that magnitude.” She says it like it’s going to be a walk in the park. I start shaking my head in denial.

“No. No... that’s too risky. We can’t do that. If we get caught, it’ll be over for us as well.”

“We won’t get caught, okay. If I’m bringing this up, it means I know how we’re going to go about it. I’ve got a plan.” She tries to assure me, sounding confident as always. My body is shaking just thinking about what she wants us to do.

Poison two Lycan Alphas. Murder them.

That’s more of a suicide mission. We’ll be hanged in public if we get caught.

I shake my head in fear.

“Alina... I really do not think this is a good idea.” My voice is a nervous mess. I’m shaking my head. “I’m sure there are other ways for us to go about this. There must be something else we can do to get rid of Ashanti. Something that has got nothing to do with murdering two Lycan Alphas.” My eyes are searching hers as I speak. She comes closer, holds both my shoulders in a tight grasp and stares deep into my eyes.

“You might be a girl, but that doesn’t mean you have to be a p u y, especially with everything that’s going on in your life right now. Yes, the plan is risky. We will be publicly executed if we get caught trying to poison two Lycan Alphas. It won’t even end there, both our packs will be persecuted for being home and origin to people who attempted treason. Oh, it’s going to be messy! But whoever said we’d get caught? Yes, most of my plans to take Ashanti down have failed, but did I ever leave a trail that led the investigations to us?” She asks with raised brows. I swallow dryly and say;

“No.”

“Good. History will repeat itself if our plan backfires.” Her hand drops from my shoulders and she takes a few steps back. “I’ve never openly admitted this, and it kills me to do so now, but Ashanti is winning this fight. Alpha Reagan is deeply in love with her.”

“But rumor says he’s lost interest in her. He no longer treats her nicely and...”

“What they’re going through now is what I’ll call a lover’s brawl. They’ll be back together sooner or later. If that happens and in the end he chooses her as his mate... if Ashanti becomes Luna of this pack, then we can kiss our freedom

we’re behind every bad thing happening in her life. Ashanti is not an idiot. She knows

in this H r e m. She knows we’re both responsible for Hayley’s death. She’ll make sure we pay for everything we’ve done to her. The dungeon cells will become our new home. That’s if we don’t get executed. We have to strike now before she strikes at us when she gets the chance!” She says fiercely and her words are nothing short of accurate.

We’ll be done for if Ashanti gains power over us. I can’t even imagine the kind of punishment she’ll prepare for me. Goosebumps s c a t e down my spine at the thought of me kneeling down before her and begging her to have mercy on me. I’ll only let that happen over my dead body. I shoot Alina a determined look and nod my head. She immediately understands that I’m in on it.

The plan is risky. Dangerous. Life threatening. Sacrilegious. But it has to be done.

“Good.” Her voice is calm and she looks more relaxed and composed. “For now, I don’t have a detailed plan on how it’s going to work, but I will in a few days. Just let me think some more. She comes closer to me and places her hand on my shoulder again. “Let’s do this together and get rid of her once and for all. When I finally become Luna, I’ll make sure your name is cleared and punish everyone who contributed to spreading those horrible rumours about you. I promise.”

“Thank you.”

I smile for the first time today.

I can’t wait to kick Ashanti off her high horse and drag her into the mud once again.

Chapter 183

ASHANTI’S POV.

“I had the best dinner experience today since I came to this m .” Tessa declares excitedly as we walk to the Premium residence to retire for the night. I know exactly why she’s saying that.

“You’re not going to let that slide, with you?”

“Never.” She stops in her tracks and shoots me an intense look. “Do you have any idea how satisfying it is to see someone like Rhea being reprimanded? It just reminds me that the Moon goddess is just after all and that the universe has its way of making sure people’s evil deeds come back to bite them right the a s s when they’re least suspecting. Rhea, the one who bullies and instigates rumours about people, is now the one on the hot seat. To think the rumour flying around is the truth! Oh, sweet mother of all werewolves, Rhea has ruined her life.”

“Tessaaa.” I wipe a gentle smack on her shoulder, glaring at her. I know she’s trying to get me to talk trash about Rhea.

Trust me, I want to. I really want to trash talk about Rhea, throw mocking words at her anytime I see her and maybe even join the other girls in bullying her, but I can’t. That’s not what my father would want me to do to my sister. If I do any of those things and he ever finds out, he’ll be very disappointed in me. So, I’m just going to stand by and let the others do the bullying for me.

“What?” Tessa cries. “Since you’re not going to trash-talk her, let me do it for both of us, okay?” She says, winking her eyebrows at me and smiling. I try to hold back the laughter bubbling in my throat but fail woefully. It explodes out of my mouth and I barely hold myself back from howling with laughter. Tessa bursts into laughter as well and the atmosphere around us is filled with our voices.

I shouldn’t be laughing at my sister’s predicament. I’m such a horrible person.

We laugh all the way to the building entrance. As we walk towards the door, my eyes are looking everywhere else, but at Tessa’s face because I know one look at her and I’ll start laughing all over again.

I stop walking when the yellow headlights of a car flash behind me. Tessa and I turn to look and my heart falls into my stomach when I see a familiar car approaching. It's the same car Alpha Reagan always sends with his driver to come pick me up,

The car stops in front of us and the driver's steps and smiles when he sees me.

"Good evening

Ashanti. I'm here to take you to the Alpha's chambers. He's waiting for you."

No, he isn't!

I shoot Tessa a scared look, begging her with my eyes to tell this man I don't want to go over to Alpha Reagan's chambers today because I'm scared of what he'll do to me once I arrive. He's been cold and indifferent towards me these past days. Our interactions are emotionless. He f u c k s me hard without any care in the world. He scares me. My heart sinks when the driver opens the passenger seat door for me to hop in. I look at Tessa again and almost fall on my knees when she nods and urges me to go in.

"I don't want to." I cry under my breath, clutching onto her arm.

"I'm sure you know how furious he'll get if his driver takes that news back to him. Save yourself his terror and go see him already."

"But he doesn't like me anymore. Why does he keep calling me over?"

"Ashanti..." She peels my hands off her arm and pulls me to the car door. "You'll be fine. Just get in the car already."

"Please, come with me." I cry.

"Are you kidding me right now?" She whispers harshly and places her hand on my head, guiding me into the backseat of the vehicle. "Get in. You shouldn't keep the Lycan King waiting. And if you're too frightened to do anything with him, tell him. Okay?" I sit in the car and nod my head.

"Okay."

"Good. Seat belt on." She instructs like a mother would and I strap on my seat belt. "Have a wonderful night and see you tomorrow." She wishes with a bright smile on her face and closes the door.

I can't even smile back at her or wish her the same because of the sinking nervous pain in my stomach. It's like my guts are being chopped into tiny pieces and I'm going to s h i t them out

soon.

"Have a wonderful night."

I scoff when those words replay in my mind.

There will be nothing wonderful about this night with Alpha Reagan. I'm sure of that.

Chapter 184

ASHANTI'S POV

Twenty minutes later, I'm standing before Alpha Reagan's bedroom door with my heart in my throat. A mixture of worry and fear colls in my stomach as I try to imagine what will happen when I get in there..

Will he seize my lips in a harsh kiss? Bend me over his bend and f k me from behind like the last time? Horror skates through me, causing me to shiver from head to toe.

I'm so scared and nervous. I wish I could turn around and run away.

After contemplating for long, I exhale a long-held breath and rap my knuckles twice against the wooden door I'm in front of. I take a step back as I wait for a reply to come and it does almost immediately. I brush my sweaty palms over my dress before creaking the door open. My head goes in first and my eyes scan the scenario of the room before my whole body follows. The familiar feel and smell of the bedroom envelopes me as I close the door behind me. My eyes are searching. Searching for Alpha Reagan and they finally find him sitting on a sofa in the sitting area, his back facing me.

"Good evening, Alpha." I greet him with a curt bow.

"You're here."

"Yes, I am."

"You know what to do." He says with lethal calmness and without sparing me a glance still. I nod my head, even though he can't see it because he's backing me and then I head straight to

the bathroom.

My mind is with the moon as I take my shower. I need to try and distract myself from all this tension and fear, else I'll snap or go crazy.

When I'm done bathing, I walk into the closet where I apply his lotion on my body and throw on one of his shirts with no underwear. I go back to the livingroom and meet him in the same

position I left him a while ago.

"I'm done." I announce, My voice sounds so small and unsure. I release a shaky breath when he picks up the TV remote from the table and turns off the TV. My eyes follow his body form as he heaves himself from the sofa and finally turns to look at me.

He's shirtless and looking smashing as always. My eyes go down to his waist which, on it, lies on the waistband of the black sweat pants he's putting on. The bulge I see further down makes my thighs clench and my body burns until I think I'll collapse into a pile of ash on the floor.

That's how hot he is. Hot enough to burn me to ashes.

As he walks towards me, the ice pools in his eyes melt, revealing the blazing inferno that heated me from head to toe.

“Why are you looking at me as though it’s your first time seeing me shirtless?” He asks and stops barely a few inches in front of me, looking down at my face with his emotionless clear my throat.

eyes. I

“Nothing.” I reply dryly. He scoffs.

“Anyway. I’m sure you’ve been informed about the upcoming competition.” He switches to a completely unrelated topic and I’m not even surprised. He’s so good at doing that.

“Yes. Delta Kyle made the announcement today after training.”

“Good. Just so you know, I’ll be rooting for you.” My cheeks burn as I maintain eye contact with him.

“So...” He holds my chin in his right hand and stares deep into my eyes. His thick dark brows are lowered. “Don’t disappoint me.” He whispers rapidly. My pulse throbs through every inch of my body. My skin tingles with his gentle caresses on my cheeks. A mixture of fear and sweetness pools in my belly and I try my best to keep myself upright on my jelly- turned knees.

This man knows how to make my insides melt and catch fire at the same time with just a few words.

“I... I...” I croak. Stutter. “I’ll have that in mind as I fight.”

“Good.”

His hand drops from my face to my stomach and I suck in a deep breath when I feel fingers slide all the way down to my p u s s y. His other hand gently holds my neck and my eyes shut close when his index finger locates my c i t and starts rubbing over it. A soft moan escapes my throat and I part my legs to give him more access to what he’s looking for.

“How can you be so wet already?” He whispers with a husky voice. My eyes snap open. My entire body quivers from his hand-work on my c

and my breath has gone erratic. I’m climbing on my toes and falling back down as I take it all that he’s giving me. “You seem to like this very much.”

“L... I... like it when you do that,” I whisper breathlessly to him and squirm when he gives a gentle squeeze on my c l i t. “F u c . if you keep doing that I’m going to come too soon.”

He stops.

Our gazes meet.

apart before settling between them. Sparks break through across my body as he rubs his hard, veiny k against my pink p u s s y lips. My heart rate goes from steady to ra pid at the sight of his muscular c o k pressed against my p s s y. My hand reaches for his strong arms and grabs it tight. To my surprise, he looks up at me.

“Please...” I beg, almost breathlessly. He’s rubbing the tip of his c c k up and down my p s y and it feels too good, it makes me cry out in pleasure.

“Why are you begging me?”

“I’m begging you to f u c k me already.” As if waiting for me to say that, he slams his k deep into me. I convulse. A groan hitches in my throat when I f e e l his d i k hit my guts.

God, he’s big.

He’s hard.

He’s stretching my p s s y to its limit. I can feel every inch of his big c o k.

He slides out of me, taking out my wetness and rubs it all over my p u s s y.

“Like that?”

“Yes, please.” My hand goes over to my throbbing c l i t and starts rubbing it:

He takes a kneeling posture and holds my legs pulling me down, closer to his body.

No sweet words. No foreplay. No kissing.

He f u c k s me like it’s his last day on earth.

Chapter 185

ASHANTI’S POV.

“Over here.” Tessa calls once I walk into the cafeteria. It’s morning and the driver just dropped me off from Alpha Reagan’s chambers. He was long gone when I woke and I wasn’t even surprised. He’s been doing that for a while now.

I head over to Tessa’s table where she’s seated with Kelly.

“Good morning, girls.” I greet trying to sound as cheerful as I can. I pull out a seat for myself and as I sit down, Kelly rises to go and get me the only breakfast dish that’s on the menu.

“Good morning. You don’t look too good.” Says Tessa after observing me for a while. I sigh heavily.

I don’t look too good because I don’t feel too good.

My pussy is sore. Alpha Reagan fucked me hard last night and made things worse by leaving me to spend the night alone in his bedroom. When I asked him why he was leaving after sex, he told me to mind my business.

I cried myself to sleep.

"I'm good." I lie smoothly. Tessa doesn't look convinced.

"No i

"No improvement, I suppose." I shake my head.

"No improvement."

She focuses on her food. I don't want to talk about last night so I smile when Kelly arrives with my food.

"Thank you, love."

"You're welcome."

"Oooohhh, look who we have here." A loud voice cuts through the atmosphere. What follows is laughter and giggles from the rest of the girls in the cafeteria.

"It's the fuck champion."

"Rhea Anderson of Fuck Nation. Don't you love how that name just suits her!"

They all start laughing and pointing at Rhea who just walked into the cafeteria. I shoot her a sorrowful look. I've been in her position before. Having people laugh at you openly and throw snide remarks about you the moment you walk into the room... it's a horrible experience, that's why I can't bring myself to laugh at her.

“If she sits down to eat, I’m going leave. I don’t want to catch being a whore.”

“Whore!”

“Slut!”

“I think the perfect name for her is “nymphomaniac”, because no one would have sex that many men if they weren’t a nymphomaniac.”

her face v

when I

“They’re destroying her!” Tessa remarks and I expect to see a big smile on her look at her, but there’s none. There’s a disgusted look on her face as she watches the girls annihilate Rhea with insults. She’s not pleased with what’s going on.

Rhea finally runs out of the cafeteria in tears when she can’t take it anymore. I would go out there and try to comfort her, but knowing who she is, I’d be setting myself up for trouble and insults if I dared to do that. I can bet my life she blames me for what’s happening to her right

now.

Soon, the laughter dies down and the girls are back to eating their food even though some of them are still whispering insane things about Rhea. I can only shake my head and wish that one day, they all get a taste of their own medicine.

“Oh, how the tables have turned.” Kelly exclaims after a long sigh.

“It’s terrible to watch. These girls have no conscience.”

“Sure, they don’t.” I chime in.

“Ashanti, I heard about the competition that’s to take place this weekend among you fighters. You’re going to join, right?” Kelly asks excitedly as I nod my head.

Even if I didn’t want to, I would after Alpha Reagan told me he’d be rooting for me. He’s expecting me to join, so I have to.

“Yes, I will.”

“Great!” That’s Tessa. “I know you’ll make it to the finals and so will Alina. I hope you beat

her ass.”

“That won’t be easy, Tess. Alina is a Lycan warrior and she comes from a military

background.”

“And you’re an Alpha heir. All your ancestors were Alphas and soldiers as well. You are just as strong as she is. Even more because you have Alpha blood running in your veins and you’ve been learning how to fight since you learned to walk.” Her analysis makes me chuckle. “Look. I’m going to try and get to the final. I’m going to fight my best, that day. If I win, good. food and If I don’t, still fine. Expect too much from me at your own risk.” I take a scoop of my start chewing. Kelly and Tessa simply nod their heads and ride on with their meals as well.

What I just said is the direct opposite of how I feel.

I'm very determined to fight my way to the finals so I can fight with Alina. I look forward to kicking her ass in public.

And also... maybe.. just maybe if I don't disappoint Alpha Reagan by winning in the female category, his feelings for me will rekindle and things will go back to the way they used to be

between us.

I sure sound like a hopeless romantic, but what am I supposed to do when my heart beats uncontrollably for him? When the mere thought of him makes me blush till my face turns red. When my wolf never stops singing to me that he's my mate?

What can I do when I'm hopelessly in love with that man?

Chapter 186

ASHANTI'S POV.

A week has never run out as fast as this one did. One moment it was Monday and the next, it's the day of the competition. The week has been a tough one for those of us who are to partake in the competition. Normal combat training was put on hold and we only showed up at the arena to practice the fighting skills we've mastered and prepared to face our opponents on the

D-day..

The list of duel partners were posted just like Delta Kyle had announced and I'd even gotten to meet the two girls I'll be dueling with, which I must defeat if I want to make it to the finals. I watched them train and that was the worst thing I could ever do to myself. They are good, so good that it made me nervous at first, but I no longer feel that way, thanks to Delta Kyle.

He has been my personal coach for the past few days. He said he wants me to win and he has trained me for victory. Alina could burst into pieces anytime she walked into the arena and saw her brother teaching me.

For Alpha Reagan, I haven't seen a glimpse of him ever since the last night I spent at his place. It makes me sad and I miss him dearly, but I know this is what I need. Being around him will distract me from my training and make me less active. I'm sure he knows that, that's why he's been keeping his distance.

A loud banging sound jabs me out of my thoughts, my head snaps to the left to see what made the sound and it happens to be one of the competitors who just slammed the door to her locker shut. She seems to be upset about something.

We're in the dressing room at the stadium where the competition will take place. I haven't been outside to see the amount of people in attendance, but I suspect there are a lot.

"Ashanti." A voice whispers my name from behind. I almost scream with excitement when I see Kelly and Tessa rushing over to me with big smiles on their faces.

"Kelly. Tessa. You came!"

"We had to, even though it wasn't easy getting in here. We had to tell the guards at the door. we'd let them have us for the entire night if they let us come in and see you. The fools fell for it!" Tessa explains as she rolls her eyes. I giggle heartily.

I'm so happy to see them here. Nervousness was just about to slice my abdomen into two halves. Seeing them makes me feel at ease.

"Well, I'm happy they fell for it."

"How are you feeling?" Tessa asks, stepping forward. Her eyes are examining my face. "You don't look too good."

"I might die of nervousness, Tess. I've never done anything like this, I'm so scared. What if I embarrass myself out there?" My body is shaking as I lay out my worries to her. She steps closer and her soft palms cube my face in a firm hold.

"Hey..." She calls softly, her eyes searching mine. "It's okay for you to feel nervous because this is your first time doing this, but what is not okay is you trying to belittle yourself when you're just moments away from fighting with the others and proving your worth. Don't let negative thoughts steal your confidence. I watched you train rigorously for this. You are more ready and this competition will know no greater than you. You are a thousand times more ready than anyone in this room. Got that?" She asks in a firm tone and I nod my head.

"Got it."

"Good." She gives me a gentle pat on my cheeks and steps back. "We have to go now. We can't get caught meeting you here. We'll be cheering for you from the audience."

"Thank you, Tessa." I throw my arms around her, engulfing her in a tight hug and drawing in a deep breath. She has no idea how much better I feel now. The sinking nervous pain in my stomach is gone and I feel my confidence sprouting out and spreading through every pore in my body.

Her presence and words of encouragement have made me feel a lot better.

"Can I have a word with her too?" A familiar voice asks from a distance and we all snap our heads in its direction. It requires unbearable effort to keep me on my feet when I see Alpha Reagan standing at the door.

I blink several times, unable to believe that it's actually Alpha Reagan standing at the door.

He's the last person I expected to see.

Chapter 187

ASHANTI'S POV.

Tessa and Kelly quickly bow to him and rush out of the changing room to give us privacy. That's when I notice that even the other girls who were changing are nowhere to be found. It's just the two of us right now.

"Alpha Reagan." I whisper as he stalks closer to me.

It's been five days since I last saw him. I have been counting. Seeing him right now reminds me of how much I've missed him. He stops in front of me.

"Kyle told me you trained very hard for this competition." He says calmly, quietly.

"He was my personal coach and I'm grateful to him for taking out time to train me." My voice is lower than a whisper. My eyes are plastered on the floor below. Being this close to him does something catastrophic to my self restraint. My feelings for him, coupled with the fact that I miss him, might force me to do something I dare not do. I dare to look into his charming, brown eyes.

"Look at me." His calm order comes through. My face turns molten red and the flush spreads from my cheeks to my neck. I don't want to look at him for the reasons I just listed above. Ashanti." He calls my name, but I still do not look up. He takes matters into his own hands and lifts my chin with his index finger. When our gazes meet, I offer him a crooked smile that doesn't reach my eye. He chuckles. "I'd rather you frown than give me such a pathetic smile."

I don't say anything. I keep my gaze glued to his face with my mind as blank as a white sheet of paper.

"I'm glad you trained hard for this fight."

"I couldn't do otherwise, not after you told me you were rooting for me. The last thing I want to do is disappoint you."

"I know you won't. You're an excellent fighter and all you have to do is step into that circle with a positive mindset. If at any time you feel like giving up, just remember you're on the list of people who have lasted ten rounds of duel with me. There are only three people on that list, Ashanti.

You know what that means, don't you?"

I nod my head.

I have never won a single round with him, but resisting ten rounds means I'm quite strong and tactful. Resilient too.

"Good."

“Thank you for your words of encouragement.” I flash him a smile. It’s a genuine one this time around. I wish I could put the words he just said to me in my pocket, just to touch them during my fights and remind myself that they exist.

His gaze lingers along the length of my body as he takes a step forward. Thick, searing heat. distributes itself throughout my body when palms my face and gently caresses my left cheek. Sparks ignite on the spot he just touched.

“Even

on a day like this, with all this tension, you still manage to look beautiful.” His raspy voice whispers, taking me by surprise. “How do you do that?” I can see his face leaning closer and closer to mine. Soon, our breaths are fanning each other’s faces and I can feel the warmth from his body on mine. My body is humming with feelings, it’s almost indecent.

“I have no...”

“Shhhh...” He cuts me off and pulls me into his arms. Our lips touch and I know I’m going to split into two halves. He’s kissing me like he’s lost me, found me and I’m slipping away from him and he doesn’t want to let me go. I kiss him back with all my might, reliving every memory of his lips, his touch, his scent, his skin. I’m frayed and falling apart and making no effort to convert the tremors in my bones and he’s so hot, his skin is so hot, his lips are so hot, they ignite the blood in my veins. I’m on fire!

When we break the kiss, he connects his forehead with mine and we’re both panting like dogs.

This is the last minute preparation I needed for this competition.

Chapter 188

RHEA’S POV.

The day has finally arrived for us to carry out the plan we’ve spent the last three days

brainstorming on. Everything has been set in place and if things go smoothly, Ashanti will be out of our lives for good.

Just the thought of seeing her being behind bars or hanged in public gets me excited. I’m so ready to bring her down.

“Is everyone set?” Alina asks quietly as she walks into the room, already dressed for competition. Even in a fighting attire, she still looks gorgeous.

“Yes, we are.” I reply and so do the other six girls.

“Good.” She closes the door behind her and gestures to us to form a circle around her. We do that immediately. “Alright, right now, Ashanti has already been lured into the room where the guests’ meals are being kept. I need her to go there so that the CCTV can capture her entering the room. That will serve as strong evidence that she was indeed in the room with the food. Now, Nelly, while she’s away, you have to go to the dressing room at the stadium and plant the herb and the poison that will be used in her locker. You mustn’t get caught!” She warns.

“I won’t!” Nelly says firmly. Alina nods her head and turns to the other two girls who are dressed for combat just like she is.

“Celine, Lois, did you two already eat the poisoned meal?” She asks and they both nod their heads. “Perfect. It’ll take effect soon and during your duels with Ashanti, you’ll be too weak to fight. Ashanti will win easily and afterwards, you two will show up and accuse her of poisoning your meals so she could have an unfair fight and win. The herb Nelly is about to plant in her locker will serve as evidence of that accusation.” She turns to me. “Rhea, you will lead this other lot to the room Ashanti has been lured into and poison the meals to be served to the special guests.” My heart starts drumming in my chest, but I nod my head in agreement.

Yes, it’s dangerous, but this is a well crafted plan. It’s very unlikely that we’ll get caught.

She looks at each and every one of us with so much determination in her eyes. She trusts us to accomplish this mission and we cannot fail her.

“Celine and Lois, your role is to accuse Ashanti of poisoning you in order to have an upper hand during your duels. Rhea, Cynthia, Zina and Fay, your job is to poison the food for the guests and for you Nelly, all you have to do is plant the evidence that will further implicate Ashanti when she gets accused. The CCTV footage of Ashanti going into the room will be kept for more evidence, but yours will be deleted immediately. There will be no evidence to show that any of you went to the room or the dressing room or even in here. I have arranged with someone to get rid of the tapes. So

rid of the tapes. So you have nothing to worry about.”

I sigh in relief.

The last thing I want is anyone tracing these atrocities we're about to commit back to me. That

will be the end for me.

"That said, let's all get to work. I'll head back to my dressing room and so will Celine and Lois. The rest of you, get to work!"

"Yes, Ma'am." The other girls say in unison. I simply nod my head and follow them out of the

room.

When we get out of the Harem building, Nelly leaves us and heads for the stadium while the other three girls and myself head to the Premium Residence building where the food was cooked and is being kept.

The girls and I decide to dispatch and go into the building one by one so it doesn't look suspicious. I'm the one to lead the way. As I walk to the door, I almost trip on my steps when I see Ashanti walking out of the Premium residence, looking confused.

"Aren't you supposed to be at the stadium? I heard the competition has begun." I say, walking closer to her. She's looking around, as if searching for someone.

"Why on earth will Delta Kyle ask me to meet him there in the first place? And all that food I saw! What the heck!" She mumbles under her breath, completely ignoring me and moving forward. I watch her disappear at a corner before heading into the building.

Alina succeeded in getting her to come over here like she told us. She's a genius.

I go into the lobby and the other girls join me soon. We both head to the private room and to our greatest surprise, it's unguarded.

I take the poison from the girls and hastily pour in the dishes containing different varieties of food.

There's a fat smile on my face by the time I cover the last dish and turn to the girls. We all high five each other in the air and scamper out of the kitchen before the guards return.

Poisoning important guests. Poisoning fellow competitors so as to win easily. CCTV footage of her being in the room where the food was being kept. The same poison among her belongings.

Ashanti is going down for real this time.

Chapter 189

ASHANTI'S POV.

"What was that about?" I mutter furiously as I walk back to the changing room with a frown on my face. The guy clearly said Delta Kyle was waiting for me in that particular room, but when I got there, there was no sign of Delta Kyle. All I saw was dishes of food lined up on a table with their delicious aroma inviting me to go have a taste. I had to close my eyes and will myself to leave as fast as I could before I got tempted.

If I dare to eat before going to fight, I'm going to puke my guts out on one of my opponents heads. I don't think any of them would be pleased to have my undigested food all over their

bodies.

I sit on a nearby stool and tap my feet against the floor impatiently. The clamoring crowd from outside is an indication that the competition has begun. Soon it'll be my turn. I'll have to go out there and fight in the presence of a crowd, bearing in mind that I don't have to

disappoint Alpha Reagan. Let's hope I don't die of anxiety before I'm called out there.

Sighing heavily, I rest my back against the wall and pound my fist against my chest, trying to calm my raging heart beats. I take small, even breaths to help steady my mind.

"It feels strange seeing you in this state." A low voice speaks from the door. I snap my eyes

open

and turn to see who it is. A crease forms between my brows when I see Kyle walking into

the room with a smile on his face.

How dare he smile after playing such a prank on me?

I haul myself from the seat and cast a dangerous glare.

"You think pranking me amidst all this tension is fun?" I don't hide my annoyance. He stops walking and furrows his brows.

"Pranking you?"

"Yes. You sent someone to tell me to meet you at the Premium Residence, but when I got there you were nowhere to be found. Do you know how far it is from this stadium to the Premium residence? You made me waste the energy I was supposed to be saving for my fight!" I shout

at the

top of my voice. His face splits into a smile so wide, so beatific, I wonder if he's misheard me.

My temper rises even higher. "You think it's funny?"

"As a matter of fact, yes, I think it's funny. I didn't send for you. You should know I'd never play such a stupid prank on you. Not on a day like this." His voice is deceptively soft. The smile on his face is gone, but he isn't frowning either. He just looks very serious.

I blink several times before focusing my gaze on him again.

"What do you mean you didn't send for me? The guy clearly told me you wanted to see me."

"Ashanti." He calls and walks closer to me. "Believe me I didn't prank you. Someone else must have thought it'd be funny to mess with you before you go out there to fight. On a day like this, I won't ask you to come me, I will come to you, like I have now." My confusion has spiraled out of control.

If he says he didn't prank me, then he didn't. I trust him.

Now, the question is, who did?

It couldn't be Tessa and Kelly. They would never do a thing like that to me.

It can't be Alpha Reagan either. Heck, I'd rather believe the possibility that my father would play such a prank on me, not Alpha Reagan.

"Hey..." Delta Kyle's gentle call snaps me out of my thoughts. "Don't overthink it. Everything is alright. I'm here."

That's right. He's here. It doesn't matter if someone tried to prank me. What's important is that he has come to see me before I go out there.

"Yeah. You're right."

“How do you feel?”

“Nervous and confident.” I tell him and he calmly nods his head.

Chapter 190

“I understand. You have every right to feel that way.”

“I don’t think you understand. You’ve never been in this kind of situation, have you?”

“You think I haven’t?” He asks with a smile. I nod my head. “Have a seat.”

“Huh?”

“sit down.” He says calmly and I do as told. He sits down as well and faces me. “On the day of my coronation as Beta of this pack, I had to fight Alpha Reagan in this same stadium. It’s kind of like a ritual that is always carried out when

a new Beta is crowned. The Beta has to fight with the Lycan King to show his strength. I was barely eighteen years old. I remember stepping out of the stadium and being welcomed with a loud cheer from a large crowd. All the high ranking officials of the pack were present including every other Alpha from every other Lucan pack. I cannot begin to describe how terrified I felt that day. The cheering got even louder when Alpha Reagan stepped out from his own end. I almost fainted. We stepped into a circle and the whistle was blown for us to start fighting. There was no coach. They just left us to fight until we had no energy left in us. Alpha Reagan beat me, okay?” Laughter follows his last sentence. I can’t hold mine in so I join him. He looks at me and nods. “I’d been training my whole life for that day and when it finally came, I knew I was going to beat Alpha Reagan to pulp, but I forgot the fact that he had also been training for that day and he had the same goal as me. Coupled with that he’s the Alpha. He’s stronger, faster, more deadly than I’ll ever be. I got the eating of my life from him again.” a

“Why did they make you guys fight with each other? It doesn’t make sense.”

“You know, just like the Beta of the pack, the Delta is the Alpha’s advisor, defender, protector and friend. We are bound by oath to help him rule this pack until death separates us. Now, they make us fight on the coronation day to mark the first and last time we fight with each other. From then on, we only have to fight against other people. That’s why there was no coach. That’s why they let us beat ourselves till we have no energy left in us. According to our ancestors, that fight cancels every other fight we were meant to have with each other in the

future.”

“So, it is expected that from then on, you two will not fight with each other ever again?”

“Exactly.” He confirms. I scoff.

“And how’s that going?”

“Pretty well. It’s been almost ten years and we’ve never raised our fists against each other. Neither has Beta Ronald

“So, does it mean you had the same fight with Beta Ronald?”

“Well, Beta Ronald had his own coronation day and on that day, he fought with Alpha Reagan. Their fight took place before mine. And on the day all three of us were presented to the Pack. members as Alpha Beta and Delta we fought ourselves in the same circle with the same crowd.”

“That’s ridiculous!”

“That’s why it’s called a ritual. Most rituals are ridiculous.”

He sighs and rises to his feet.

“So. Trust me when I say I completely understand how you feel right now.”

“Now, I do.”

“Good.” He takes my hand in his and kisses them. “Forget about the knives that are slicing your guts into tiny bits of pieces. Forget about the drums playing in your heart and focus on the game. Lycan or not, you are a terrific warrior and you’ll win all those duels. It won’t be easy, but you’ll win. I know you will!”

“Thank you.” I smile heartily as I feel my confidence shoot up to the highest level.

I can’t wait to go out there and kick a s s.