

The Lycan 201

Chapter 201

RHEA'S POV.

"Alina." I call in a shaky voice. She offers me a crooked smile that doesn't reach her eyes.

"If you get hanged in public, that will be better than spending the rest of your life in a prison cell. Don't worry, I'll pick up from where you left. I'll have you in mind every time I want to make a move on Ashanti. Even in death, be rest assured that your dream of destroying Ashanti will be accomplished. That's my last promise to you."

"Alina you can't do this to me! You promised to have my back!"

"I did and I was willing to do so, but the Alpha and Delta dug out every detail and if I didn't release that footage of you poisoning the meals, things would have escalated. I would have gone down as well."

"So, you sacrificed me to save yourself!"

"Well, one of us has to stay alive to continue our mission."

"Alina, I'm your friend, you can't do this to me!"

"You are not my friend. You have never been my friend and you'll never be. I don't keep friends, let alone pathetic werewolves like you. I was just using you to get to Ashanti. To make life miserable for her and now, just like the others have, it's your turn to take the fall for me so I can ride on with my mission." Her words burn into my mind. My anger has spiralled out of control. I have never been so desperate to smack anyone before. If I were to get a hold of her face right now, I would break every bone on it and only stop when she's bleeding from every hole of her face, but none of that is possible because my hands have been cuffed. Tears burn at the back of my eyelids. They'll break lose anytime.

"Al..." I try to talk but my voice catches and I press my lips together. Glue them shut. I force myself to be still. I'm a rock. A statue. A moment frozen in time by the magnitude of her betrayal. My jaw is so tight, it makes my teeth hurt.

She used me. Now she's going to dump me.

She lied to me.

Chapter 202

ASHANTI'S POV.

I've been pacing about since the moment I got into this bedroom. My mind is restless, my heart is beating too fast, and sweating out of nervousness and confusion. I have no idea what's going on. When Beta Ronald got me out of that dungeon cell, I thought he was taking me to the execution ground, but he brought me to the Alpha's chambers and asked me to go wait for him in his bedroom. He didn't give me a reply when I asked him what was going on and now, my mind is in chaos as I try to imagine the possible reasons why I could have been brought here.

Does Alpha Reagan want to have sex with me one last time before he orders his guards to chop my head off?

Tss...

Terrible, terrible, terrible thoughts cross my mind.

I literally jump on my spot out of immense fear when the room door creaks open. My heart falls to the ground when Alpha Reagan steps in. I look at his face, trying to read his mood, but that plan fails because his expression is blank.

"Alpha Reagan." My voice is a broken whisper. He walks over to where I'm standing and stops in front of me. His eyes are trained on my face, giving me an intense look that nearly melts all the bones in my body. Suddenly, he smiles and I get even more confused.

"Your name has been cleared." He calmly deciphers. His words ring in my ear like a huge church bell. My pupils dilate and I let out a breath I didn't even know I was holding. Relief sends chills down my spine and I tremble at the sensation.

My name has been cleared.

That sounds too good to be true.

“Really?” That is all I manage. He gently nods his head.

“Kyle and I took it upon ourselves to investigate the issue and we found clues that led us to the main culprit. The person who tried to set you up.” He calmly explains and there's just one person that comes to my mind.

Alina.

She's the only one who has the courage and power to orchestrate such a plan. My sister, Rhea, could never do that. She doesn't have the heart, nor does she have the power to command people to do such dirty work for her in this pack. But I'm very sure she was involved. She could never miss the chance to be a part of a plan to make my life miserable.

“Who is the culprit?” I ask with searching eyes and in my heart I'm praying for it to be Alina.

Please, be Alina. Please, be Alina!

“Rhea.”

That single word shatters my heart into a thousand pieces. I pause and look up at him with total disbelief in my eyes.

That's a lie.

Chapter 203

ASHANTI'S POV.

Alpha Reagan accompanies me to the hallway that leads to Rhea's cell. I have tried to get him off my back time and again, but he's adamant to stay behind. He wants to go with me to the cell and hear what I have to talk about with Rhea.

"You know what you're about to do is invasion of privacy, don't you?"

"Fine, Ashanti." He finally surrenders and stops in his tracks. I smile. "Since you don't want me to be there, I'll go back down. Meet me when you're done."

"I'll do just that. Thank you." He turns on his heels and heads for the staircase. I keep walking forward, looking at the cells on my left and right, trying to locate Rhea's and I finally find it somewhere in the middle of the long, empty, and nearly dark hallway. It's so empty, that the sound of my boots clicking off the floor echoes all over the place as I walk.

I stop in front of her cell and the moment she sees me, she lets out an annoyed sigh. Barely an hour ago, I was seated just like her in another cell all because of her.

"What are you doing here?"

She doesn't sound or look impressed by my presence. I don't expect her to be.

"Are you here to mock me because I've finally found myself in a tight spot for once?" She asks rudely. I take a step closer to the cell door that's locked.

"You're not supposed to be here alone." I say, calmly. She looks at me with creased brows.

"What do you mean by that?"

"You didn't plan this all by yourself. You weren't the one who masterminded the whole plan. It was someone else and you simply followed her orders, but now, you're being labeled the mastermind."

Chapter 204

"Ashanti, leave." She sneers and her voice is a shaky mess.

“Not until you tell me why you hate me so much. What did I ever do to you, Rhea? Why did you always have to treat me with so much hatred and disdain? Why?” I ask bitterly and all hell breaks loose.

“Because you always thought you were better than me!” She screams and the tears in her eyes break loose. They flow down her cheeks like a waterfall. “I... I...” Her voice catches in her throat. “I can never forget the day our father brought my mum and me to the house. How you looked at me with the same disdain you complain about me looking at you with. How you and the other children around did not want to talk to me for the first few weeks. I had to work very hard to win them over. I had to work extra hard to win our father's heart as well. You were the jewel of the pack. Everyone loved you. They all adored you. Treated you like a princess. I wanted that. I wanted everything you had and I knew if I worked hard. If I just... worked... hard...” she sniffles tears and swallows hard. “I'd get it. That's why I turned your friends against you. That's why I made sure my mother influenced our father to always pay more attention to me when your mother left. I worked hard and I got what I wanted!”

“You call that hard work?” I ask in total disbelief, raising my voice as well. My body is vibrating with anger after hearing what she just said. I want to reach out for her face and claw her flesh with my nails. I want to rip these bars apart and meet her there, give her the beating of her life. She made my life a living hell in my own father's house for this stupid reason? Unbelievable! “That's no form of hard work. That's you causing damage to other people and stealing what does not belong to you! That's wrong!”

“You will never understand!” She shouts, shaking her head. Her face is completely drenched with tears and I'm trying hard to keep mine at bay. “Even if I explain from now till the next full moon, you'll never understand the reason for my actions.”

At first, I used to think her mother was the bad one. The one who influenced Rhea's behavior towards me, but I just found out that's not the case. Rhea simply followed her mother's path. She has a mind of her own and has become even more evil than her mother.

It was just a matter of time before she killed me out of jealousy.

Chapter 205

ASHANTI'S POV.

I'm terribly upset that Alina got away again. I don't know how she does it, but I'm going to give it to her. She's good. She knows how to use her power and influence to her advantage and she's not slacking off.

She's so desperate to get me out of Alpha Reagan's life that she's ready to destroy other people's lives and even go to the extent of committing murder just to get to me. She's dangerous and just like always, I need to be very wary of her.

"What's going to happen to Rhea?" I ask Alpha Reagan once we step into his bedroom. He closes the door behind him and focuses his gaze on me.

"You shouldn't be bothered about that." He says curtly. I shake my head.

"I'm not asking that because I'm bothered. I just... you know..." I shrug my shoulders. "I just want to know what's in store for her. The extent of her punishment."

"The extent of her punishment." He walks past me and stops a few metres ahead. I turn to look, but he's backing me. A frown forms on my face as I bore holes through his back with my scorching glare.

I won't be surprised if he doesn't reply to me and suddenly changes the topic.

He's very good at that.

"Is it possible that she be sent back to our father's pack?" That question gets his attention. He swiftly spins around and pins me on my spot with a serious gaze.

"Of course not!" His denial is firm and heavy with conviction. It's like what I just asked would be an abominable thing to do. I relax under his intense gaze.

"Why not?" I dare to ask. He shoots me the "Are-you-fucking-kidding-me" look and takes two steps closer to me.

"Someone was killed, Ashanti. Her attempt to poison the Alpha guests led to the death of a dear subject of mine. That's murder and it's not a forgivable crime."

“So, what's going to happen to her?”

Chapter 206

ASHANTI'S POV.

“Ashanti...” He whispers my name and reaches out for my left hand. I rear back angrily, ripping my hand away from his hold. If I let him hold my hand, a torrent of butterflies will take flight in my stomach, my heart will go soft and I will not address this issue with the severity I had planned to address it with. He won't take my point seriously.

“Don't “ I release a shaky breath and try to steady my voice. “One minute we were happy and everything was fine between us and the next, everything had gone down the drain. You started treating me like some worthless creature who wasn't deserving of your affection.” I cry out with tears burning at the back of my eyelids. He's shaking his head, trying to deny everything I just said but I know he's lying.

“You are not a worthless creature and I most certainly didn't treat you that way.”

“You did!” I insist, raising my voice and he opens his mouth to say something, but it seems like words fail him because he doesn't. He shuts his mouth and heaves out of exasperated breath. My heart is pounding as I watch him turn around and run his fingers through his hair, groaning and cursing under his breath and looking just as frustrated about the situation as I am. When he turns to face me again, he looks like he's about to cry.

“I got confused. Scared. Frustrated as well. The elders...” His voice breaks. “They kept asking to know if you're the one I've chosen to be my second chance mate and I didn't know what to tell them. I didn't even know what my answer was. That's why I started being such a jerk to you. I know saying sorry doesn't change how hard I've been on you lately, but I'm sorry.”

“I was hurt by your sudden change of attitude towards me, but what tore me apart was your lack of communication. You were mad about something, but you wouldn't even share it with me. I felt worthless. Am I just a whore to you like every other girl? Can I be replaced by just anyone out there?” I ask with a broken voice and he starts shaking his head again.

“No.” He whispers painfully. “No. No. Of course not. You're not a whore and I don't see you as one. You are irreplaceable!”

“Liar!” I call out angrily, almost raising my voice. I feel sick to my stomach. His misty eyes lock into mine.

“I'm not telling lies, Ashanti.” He steps closer and blood heats beneath my skin. I draw in a loud, deep breath and swallow the snakes in my throat. The fluttering sensation in my stomach makes me angsty and memories of all the harsh words he said to me are threatening to take over my tear ducts. I just need to blink and my face will become a waterfall. He takes my left hand again and this time around, I don't pull it back. I let him bring it to his mouth and he plants a kiss on it. A kiss that makes me burn. “You are important to me.” His voice is a nervous, shaky thing. “Very important.” He emphasises. He's staring at me, unblinking, his Adam's apple bobbing in his throat.

He's not lying.

He means those words.

“I'm not going to lie to you that I'm ready for...” He sighs. “That I'm ready for our next move. I'm not.” He closes his eyes and heaves out a shaky breath. He's nervous.

His hands are vibrating like there's current buzzing through him. His eyes are searching my face for what I do not know. His voice... it keeps breaking as he talks. That is not something I have ever experienced with him.

He's always very fluent. He always knows what to say, when to say it and how to say it. He always has everything under control, but right now his emotions have overshadowed him. He cannot control them.

He's scared.

“I still need time to figure everything out, but I promise to treat you better from now on.” His eyes are calm and humble. My heart is about to fall out of my body. I cannot believe he just said that. I open my mouth to speak but fail. “Things will be better between us from now on. I promise to be better.”

Chapter 207

KYLE'S POV.

Sibling rivalry.

It often starts when a second child joins the family and continues as the kids grow and compete for everything from toys to attention. It's mainly caused by concerns with fairness, individual temperaments of the siblings involved, parents conflict resolution skills. Children can show sibling rivalry by calling each other names, telling on each other whether truthfully or not, verbal sparring, hitting each other, breaking and hiding each other's possessions.

It can develop into full blown enmity if not properly dealt with from a young age.

Alina and I had our own share of sibling rivalry when we were little and I can't say it has completely dissipated. We still fight a lot, but it's not out of spite or jealousy. It's out of concern for one another. Our parents didn't let our sibling rivalry escalate to the point of enmity like in the case of Rhea and Ashanti.

It's such a shame two beautiful sisters grew up to be enemies. The parents who raised them are to be blamed for this.

This is not the first time Rhea is trying to get Ashanti into trouble. There have been many attempts, but this tops it all. I have a gut feeling my sister Alina was involved in this plan, but let's not go there. I'll just stay content with the fact Ashanti's name has been cleared.

I swallow the food in my mouth and wash it down with a chug of apple juice. My cutlery drops on the place and I let out a satisfied sigh.

I'm full.

I was starving by the time the investigation was over and drove straight to my father's house so I could eat my mother's food. Luckily for me, she had just finished cooking when I arrived.

Pushing my seat behind, I rise up and I'm about to leave the dinning when I see my mother approaching with Alina right behind her.

"You're done eating?" Mum asks with a bright smile. I nod my head.

“Yes mum. Thank you very much for the meal. It was delicious as always.” I walk over to her and plant a soft kiss on her cheek. “I have to go now.”

Her smile fades.

“But you just arrived. Why are you leaving already? Don't you want to spend time with your mother? Don't you miss me?” She nags.

“Mum...” I cry, scratching the back of my neck. Her nagging always frustrates me. I wonder how my father copes with her.

This is why I don't like coming over when she's around. She never wants me to leave and she never fails to try and emotionally blackmail me to stay.

“Stay just for a few more hours.” She pouts.

“Mum, I'm sorry I can't. I have work to get back to.”

“Is it about the issue with the contestant who was set up by her sister? I thought it had been resolved already.”

“It has.”

“Then why do you look like something is bothering you? You don't seem fine to me.”

“That's because the girl involved in the scandal is his crush.” Alina says out of nowhere. I shoot her a sharp glare, hissing.

“A crush? A girl?” Mum asks, surprised.

Chapter 208

KYLE'S POV.

“What?” I ask, almost frightened.

“Stop asking questions and get out of this car. You need to find her!” He orders. The butterflies in my stomach take flight when I look back at the brunette haired girl who has suddenly stopped walking and is looking around.

“Mate!” Ander calls out confidently and my hands drop from the steering wheel. I open the door and step out of the car, my eyes never leaving my mate's face.

She hasn't seen me, but she's looking, searching for something. Someone. Probably me.

Her wolf must have told her I'm around. That's why she's looking around.

“Why do you look so lost? Is everything alright?” I hear her friend ask and I hasten my footsteps towards them.

“My wolf ... she... she just...” she suddenly shakes her head and waves a dismissing hand. “Never mind. It's probably nothing. Let's go.” Pain pangs in my heart as I listen to her dismissal.

Why doesn't she care?

“Are you sure?” Her friend insists. She nods her head and flashes her a perfect fake smile.

“Yeah. Let's go.” She starts walking towards the main door of the building. I curl my fists by my side and release a heavy breath.

I'm not going to let her go like I did with Ashanti.

“If your wolf is giving you a signal, you shouldn’t ignore it.” I say out loud and the two girls stop walking. The brunette girl whips her head in my direction and all colour drains on her face when her eyes fall on me. I take calm, calculated steps towards her and stop when I am just a few inches away.

Chapter 209

ASHANTI'S POV.

“Thank you very much for the meal, Ma’am Charlotte. It was delicious as usual.” I tell Charlotte who's supervising the other servants as they clear the plates and left over food on the table. Alpha Reagan and I ate dinner in his bedroom like other days and right now, I'm so full, my stomach could burst.

Eating with him is one of my best moments.

“You are welcome and I'll make sure to let the cooks know that you enjoyed the meal.” She replies with her usual bright smile. I nod my head.

“Please do that.”

Moments later, the table has been completely cleared and Alpha Reagan who went to the bathroom to ease himself returns. My eyes are glued to his handsome face as he seats by my side on the couch. It's been several hours already, but I'm still finding it hard to believe that we are now on good terms. He has returned to his usual sweet self and I'm beyond happy.

“Why do you keep blushing? Never seen a handsome guy before?” He winks and I can't hold my laughter in. I turn my head to the other side and laugh hard.

Who knew he had it in him to crack jokes?

“I don't remember saying anything funny.” I turn to face him again and there's a playful look on his face.

“That obnoxious question of yours is funny. Get over yourself.”

"I should get over myself?" He asks, faking a gasp and a look of disbelief. "And that word, obnoxious, that is not a very nice word to use to describe your boyfriend." He fakes a frown and when the word "boyfriend" settles in my mind, my world flips.

Boyfriend!

Did he just call himself my boyfriend?

"Boyfriend?" I ask, stunned.

"Yeah. That's what I am to you?" He looks serious now. An unexpected chuckle tumbles from my lips. I palm my lips and wave at his face saying:

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to laugh. It just sounds funny. You, the King of all Lycans, a boyfriend. The title sounds too cheesy for a man of your caliber." I purse my lips together, pressing down the laughter that keeps threatening to burst out down my throat.

"Aaahhh..." He quietly exclaims, backing away to give me a clearer look and folding his arms over his chest. "Is that so?" One brow is raised.

"Well." I shrug. "It's an honor to have you as my boyfriend."

"Say it like you mean it." His voice and lips are tight as he gives that order. Still smiling, I lean closer to him and peck his lips.

"My dear Alpha Reagan, it's an honor to have you as my boyfriend."

"That was a very dry kiss." He complains and I roll my eyes.

"I think you should stop nagging." His body shakes with soft laughter as he shakes his head.

"You are something else." I do nothing but blush.

I missed this. I missed this so much.

"So..." He takes a more comfortable posture on the couch and I do the same. We are still facing each other. "Tell me, did you have other boyfriends before me?" He asks out of nowhere and I nearly choke on my spit. My eye brows shoot up, forming an arch of astonishment. A palpable pause reverberates through my chest.

Chapter 210

"Serves him right." With the way he's fuming, if Conrad were to appear in front of him right now, he'd punch the living hell out of him. It makes me feel so good.

"My father cheated on my mother too." I ride. He looks at me and blinks rapidly in shock. I nod my head. "Yeah, he did. Worst of all, she was his mate, but he cheated on her and that led to the birth of Rhea."

"That was a messed up situation."

"It was. It used to be just my mum, dad and I, but suddenly, one day, he came home with Rhea and her mum. Rhea was still a little girl. About three years old at the time. He told my mum about his infidelity and said he had to marry Rhea mum no matter what."

"No, he didn't!"

"Yes he did and he married her. My mum was devastated. She couldn't take the heartbreak and the shame so she left. I was about four years old when that happened and I've never seen her again. Whenever I tried to ask my father about her, he would scold me and threaten to beat me up, so I stopped asking. Right now I don't even know if my mother is still alive or not." I explain, my voice thick with melancholy. Alpha Reagan lets out a tired sigh, running his fingers through his thick hair. He looks speechless.

"Wow!" He exclaims under his breath. "Your father was cruel to your mother."

“Yes, he was.” I try to smile. I have the urge to beg him to grant me permission to find my mother, but on a second thought, I shove the idea off a cliff. Maybe some other time, not now.

“Enough about my sad past, what about you? I heard you lost your mate. That must have been a devastating experience.” The look in his eyes turn sad. I nearly regret bringing up the topic.

“Devastated, distraught, heartbroken... there's no strong enough word to describe how I felt when she died. I felt like my world had come crushing down on me. Like there was nothing else for me in this world until y...” He stops on his words and shakes swallows dryly.

“I... I'm so sorry about that.”

I can't even imagine what it feels like to lose ones mate.