

The Lycan 51

Chapter 51

ASHANTI'S POV.

I am startled out of my own skin when I walk into the arena and see Alina lacing up her shoes.

She hasn't seen me yet because she has head bowed down and has her hair hanging over her face as she arranges her shoe lace. She's dressed in a white. tracksuit, meaning she's here for training.

Nope.

I can't stay.

I'm just going to turn a round and...

"Ashanti! Hello!" Nelly greets cheerfully.

Loudly.

Getting the attention of everyone, including Alina. I freeze in my tracks and wave curtly at her.

"Hello." Is all I manage. Nelly grabs my wrist and playfully pulls me along with her towards the seats where we usually keep our backpacks.

"You are early as usual." She takes off her bag and places it on one of the seats. I do the same.

"Yeah. I am." I'm using all my will power to stop myself from looking in Alina's direction. I can feel her gaze boring a hole through my spine.

Why is she here?

Has she come to kill me like she said?

There'll be too many witnesses. She won't go Scott free. I'm not sure she's that dumb to do that. She's probably here to torture me, I'll confirm that if she proposes to have a duel with me.

"I can see Delta Kyle's sister will be training with us today." Says Nelly as her eyes scan around the room. Confusion spreads on my face as I try to understand what she just said.

Delta Kyle's sister?

Who the hell is that?

"The Delta's sister?" I ask.

“Yes. She nods in Alina’s direction. “The girl in the white tracksuit. She’s Delta Kyle’s only sister and you should watch out for...” She trails on but I don’t hear a single word again because my entire being has been shut down by that very shocking discovery.

Alina is Delta Kyle’s sister.

They are **g siblings!

Blood siblings!

Goddess what have I done?

“Alina and Delta Kyle are siblings?” I ask harshly and Nelly stops her narration and gives me a surprised look.

She scoffs.

“What? You didn’t know?” I calmly nod. “Tsk tsk tsk.” She’s shaking as she makes that sound with her tongue. “You seem to be unaware of many things around here.”

“But... how... How are they siblings?”

“Are you seriously asking nie that question or are you just shocked?”

“I guess I’m just shocked. They are so different.”

“I know, right? Delta Kyle is an angel. The sweetest man to ever grace this earth and he’s calm and easy going. But his sister is the direct opposite. She’s the devil’s incarnate... female form and she’s every girl’s nightmare. She brings along her dark aura wherever she goes. Just watch and see how gloomy and devastating training will be today just because she’s here.”

My heart starts pounding real quick. I nervously wipe my sweaty palms against my trousers and swallow the needles in my throat.

She’s here for me.

She’ll end me.

“Maybe I should just go back to the H**m and do something else.” Nelly slicks her arm around mine and holds me tight.

“And leave me here alone with this mean-spirited girl? What if you come tomorrow and hear that I died? My death will be on you?” I look down at her and chuckle lightly.

“Don’t be such a namby-pamby!”

“I’m serious.” She even pouts. I shake her off of my body and arrange my wrinkled clothes.

“Fine. I’ll stay.”

“Ashanti!”

Oh, G*d. No.

Nelly scampers away as Alina approaches me with a wicked smile plastered on her face.

“Alina.” I call. Tightly. She stops a few metres away from me and I wish she would stop smiling at me already. Her smile makes me feel like there are caterpillars crawling all over my body.

As usual, she looks elegant.

We all look casual in this very casual tracksuit outfit, but Alina manages to stay elegant.

Nice one.

“I’ll be joining you guys for training.”

“I noticed.”

“You should watch out. You never know when an accident will occur. You might be going home today with a broken leg.”

“Might. Thank goodness it’s not certain. I’ll make sure I don’t.”

“You grow more confident as the days go by.”

“You are my inspiration.”

She’s still smiling. The caterpillars are crawling into holes on my body. My ears, my nostrils, my eyes, my armpits.

I want to scream.

“See you around.”

Then she walks away.

Delta Kyle comes in a few minutes later and announces that Alpha Reagan will not be joining us today because he has business to take care of in another pack.

The disappointment on Alina’s face is not something I miss. Even I am disappointed, but I hope she doesn’t notice.

As we warm up in a group, I am deeply regretting the fact that I asked Delta Kyle about the mate issue.

What if he discussed it with his sister?

That’s only going to get to bully me even more. I let out an exasperated sigh and as I take the next step forward, my right leg hits against a hard object and I lose my balance. I trip and land on the floor on my stomach. Everyone gasps before the entire hall falls silent, but a loud, rude laugh cuts through the atmosphere, making bile boil in my stomach.

It’s Alina.

She’s laughing at me.

And it’s her fault I fell because the object I tripped on was not really an object. It was her leg.

“Alina, out of the line. Now!” Delta Kyle instructs, furiously.

“But I didn’t do anything.”

“Don’t let me repeat myself. Out. Now!” He’s pointing to the seats as he speaks. Alina steps out of the line, smiling down at me and showing her middle finger.

“Are you alright? Is anything broken?” Kyle asks, concerned as he helps me to my feet. I daintily step on both feet, hoping to feel a sharp pain in any of my ankles, but there’s none.

No sprained ankle. Thank the goddess.

I smile up at Kyle.

“I’m fine. Thank you.

“Good.”

My eyes betray me and look in Alina’s direction. She has made herself comfortable on one of the seats. and when our gazes meet, she cuts her thumb through the air, across her neck, telling me in silence that I’m doomed.

That this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Chapter 52

ASHANTI’S POV.

“It’s duel time.” Delta Kyle announces and my blood pressure shoots up. Unintentionally, my eyes look in Alina’s direction and I see her smiling wickedly at me. My knees buckle when she raises her hand in the air, getting her brother’s attention. “Yes, Alina.”

“I would love to have a duel with Ashanti. I hear she’s a great fighter. I want to see that for myself.” Her eyes are still trained on me as she speaks and her smile has become a smirk. My heart’s palpitations almost crash into my chest.

I can’t fight with Alina.

She’s a Lycan warrior. She hates me. She’ll break me into pieces the moment we get in that circle. I give Delta Kyle a scared look, begging him with my eyes not to validate her request, but my pleas go in vain because he smiles and looks away from me before saying;

“Alina, Ashanti, to the circle. Now.”

This is the perfect moment for me to jump off a cliff. Having this duel with Alina will be the end of me!

Calmly, carefully, I make my way into the circle and so does Alina. My eyes are glued to the floor. I don’t want to look at her face lest I feel discouraged. I shouldn’t let her kill me without a fight.

“Why aren’t you looking at me Ashanti? Are you that scared?” I roll my eyes hard before planting them on her face. She flashes me a tight smile, I don’t dissolve the frown on my face.

“Your safe word is “Red.”” Kyle announces and I snap my head in his direction.

Traitor.

He couldn't take a single hint and decline his sister's request. Now I'm at her mercy.

“Are you two ready?”

“Never have I been this ready for something in my life.” Alina replies. I can hear her excitement in her voice.

Her excitement to end my life.

I clear my throat and look back at Delta Kyle.

“Ready.” I croak. Immediately, there's an uproar of cheers from the other guys and I can hear Nelly's sharp voice cheering me on.

They are all rooting for me to win.

Right!

Now, not only am I going to get out of this circle with broken bones and bleeding lips, I'll also get out with the shame of losing and disappointing everyone in here.

“I'll have the honor of making the first attack!” Alina says, sprinting towards me. When she's close, she swings her right fist towards me, targeting my face, but I'm quick to dodge by turning in the opposite side, letting her blow pass through the air.

Because the heavy blow doesn't meet a stopping point, Alina loses her balance and plunges forward and I take that opportunity to give her a hard kick in her back, causing her to completely lose her balance and she falls to the ground, groaning.

A loud cheer erupts from the guys and I give Delta Kyle a brief glance, expecting him to be mad at the fact I just hit his sister, but instead, he's smiling and cheering me on.

That victory gives me the confidence to attack Alina fiercely. I confidently swing a fist at her face, but she palms it and twists my arm, causing pain to shoot through it. I scream in agony and turn around to counter the twist, but the next thing I feel is myself being pulled forward, towards Alina's body.

She slicks her arm around right arm and grabs my left shoulder and I feel is my feet being lifted of the ground. I'm in the air, over Alina's shoulders before, she drops me on the ground in the most brutal way.

I fall on my back and pain incapacitates me. Everyone in the room gasps in fear, but no one steps forward to check on me meaning the fight is still on.

Pain is shooting up and down my spine like bullets. Alina is smiling victoriously at me, while inviting me with a hand show for another round.

The same action repeats itself one more time.

In the end, I win just four out ten rounds and my entire body feels like I have been run over by a trailer.

The look on Alina's face tells me she enjoyed kicking my a**

Ashanti." Delta Kyle calls my name as I step out of the circle, breathing hard. I look at him. "That was brilliant." He compliments me, but I don't even have the energy to smile. I simply nod. "And for you, Alina ..."

Chapter 53

Ouch!

Ouch!!!

Does he have a problem with his sister? Why would he soil her face in public like this?

The entire arena is buried in deep silence. Even the wind is afraid to make a sound. Everyone is looking at each other, unsure of what to do or say next and thankfully, Alina breaks the unbearable silence by threatening me.

This isn't over!" Then she storms out of the arena and oxygen returns into the room. Everyone lets out heavy sighs of relief.

Nelly was right. Alina carries along her dark aura everywhere she goes. She brings gloom and devastation in every gathering. She's the devil's incarnate.

I'm being targeted by the Devil's incarnate.

The moment Delta Kyle gives the announcement for the training session being over, I bolt out of the arena at the speed of light. Even Though Alina left a while ago, being in there still felt like I was under the scrutiny of her evil, watchful eyes. Now, the only place that feels safe for me to go to right now, is my bedroom.

I arrive at the servant quarters and as usual, there are girls walking around, carrying out various assignments. There's a group at the corner who all turn and face me the moment they sense my presence.

"And here she comes..." One of the girls announces.

"The boyfriend snatcher."

I was going to ignore them as usual, but that last statement rings a bell in my head, making me halt in my tracks.

"Look. She's stopped walking....ohh.... This girl sure knows her title."

"Was it fun, Ashanti? Sleeping with your sister's boyfriend."

I know I should ignore them. I shouldn't pay heed to their words. They are only trying to get me riled up. I should keep walking, but how can I when they are accusing me of something I didn't do?

I gulp hard and turn to look at them.

"What did you just say?"

"I said, was it fun having sex with your sister's boyfriend?" I'm in shock as I listen to her repeat the question.

"Rhea told us everything. How you seduced and slept with her boyfriend of four years. You really are a despicable tramp! If you aren't bullying her, you're trying to steal what's hers. How unlucky of her to have a sister like you." One of the girls spits out bitterly.

Of course Rhea reversed the roles when she narrated the story to them. Now, I think I understand why all these girls hate me so much. They have a different narrative of my actions told to them by Rhea. She's vilifying me to them so they can take her side and hate me.

"That's not true." I try to defend, but I know I'm

wasting my time because it's my word against Rhea's.

They'll always take Rhea's.

"Stop trying to deny it. You're a s**t!"

"A whore!"

"A boyfriend snatcher!"

They keep raining insults on me as rush into the building, my heart pounding hard in my chest. I can feel anger sprouting from the pit of my stomach, shooting its branches down to my legs, up my

spine and into my arms. When it finally reaches my head, my brain turns.

I won't let this slide.

I stop in front of my room and let out a hard, hot breath as I stare at the door intensely, grinding my molars against each other.

After a long moment of contemplating, I turn on my heels and march towards Rhea's room.

I should not let this slide.

Chapter 54

ASHANTI'S POV.

"Rhea!" I shout at the top of my voice as I barge into the bedroom, slamming the door shut behind me. My eyes are flashing bright. Rigid, raw with anger and indignation. Anger is coursing through me with vigor I have never felt before. I can hardly keep my hands from shaking.

Rhea, who's lying on her bed, steps down from it and rises to her feet.

She looks confused.

"What are you doing here?" She asks.

"Why did you lie?" My voice and lips are tight as I ask her that question. Her brows crease in confusion for a split second before they dilate and her face lights up with a smile.

"Oh...yeah... that." She chuckles. "The news must have gotten to you."

"You mean your lies?" I ask furiously. "You were the one who seduced and had sex with my boyfriend several times behind my back, not me!"

"Oh yeah? How about you go out there and tell them. See if they'll believe you." She smirks, folding her arms over breasts and taking a killer pose. Anger explodes in my brain like a dynamite and my brain flashes before my eyes a million things I can do to hurt her right now.

Pull her hair till I rip half her strands out of her scalp.

Ram her face into a nearby wall.

Punch it till she's bleeding and can't feel anything.

Beat her up to a pulp.

My clenched fists are shaking by my side as I stare at her angrily, but I implore myself and my mind to not act on those thoughts. The consequences I'll face will be way more severe than what she has done and hurting her will only make the girls believe her more.

They'll say I beat her up because I was upset that she spilled my nasty secret.

"Your entire body is shaking with rage. What do you want to do? Beat me up?" She snorts. "Lay a finger on me and the rest of the girls will believe my story even more. They'll drag you in the mud till every inch of your body is covered in filth. It'll suit you though."

I go limp. My jaw is unhinged. My arms slack at my sides, eyes are wide with worry and a sliver of defeat.

There's really nothing I can do right now.

Hurting Rhea will only make matters worse for me and I cannot convince the girls that she's lying.

"What do you want from me, Rhea?" My voice is almost inaudible.

"I thought you'd never ask." She takes a few steps closer to me. The anger in my heart has turned into pity.

Pity for myself.

She always wins.

She's always gets what she wants.

"What I want is for you to know your place, Ashanti. For you to accept the fact that you are a nobody!" She fires at me and I calmly shake my head. Her words bounce off my skin and fall to the ground and I put on my armour of confidence.

I won't let her words get under my skin. She can use other people to torture me, but I'll never let her do it herself.

"That's not true. If there's anyone between the two of us who's a nobody, person is you, not me." Her eyes widen in shock. "Yes." I smile. "And that's because your mother is not our father's true mate, mine is! Your mother seduced our father. She turned him against my mother and I. Your mother is a homewrecker!"

"My mother is a strong woman who knows what she wants and goes for it. She is a goal getter unlike (your mother who's a p**y. She can't fight to keep what's hers and you're just like her! Ashanti I won't stop until I send you under! Until I make you less than nothing, just like my mum did yours. You'll be nothing but trash and people will trample all over you and you'll have no voice to object!"

"It all starts with your mother being the horrible, manipulating b**h she is! Thank you very much for making your intentions clearly known to me. I'll make sure you fail, or if I'm going down, I'm

dragging you along with me, so watch your back Rhea. You're not the only one who can pull stunts in this H**m."

"I'd love to see you try."

"Oh, you will. I'd do anything to see the look on your face when I finally send you under. So, if I were you, I'd watch my back from now on." I flash her a tight smirk before barging out of the

bedroom, feeling a lot better than I did when I walked in.

She's was taken aback by my sudden outburst. I saw it in her eyes. She had expected me to break down the moment she threw those degrading words at me, but I fought right back and that's what I'll do from now on.

I'll fight back as much as I have to.

I might not have a team of mean girls on my side. like she does, but I have the Moon goddess... and Tessa. That's all I need.

I'm met with judging eyes and more murmuring as I run out of the building. I need to get some fresh air. To clear my head of the horrible words Rhea threw at me. I run over to the green field, breathing hard and I only stop when my chest can't take it anymore. There's a fire ball burning every inch of my chest and my throat is as dry as a dessert.

I'm thirsty and breathless and relieved and angry at the same time.

"Is someone chasing you?" A deep voice speaks from behind, startling me to the point where I scream and I trip as I try to take step forward, but I don't reach the ground because a pair of strong, capable arms warps around my waist from behind, stoping me from falling. I get of whiff of the man's scent and my mind immediately knows who it is.

That smell.

I can never miss it!

"Are you alright?"

I turn around at the speed of light and jump away from his electrifying touch. He's looking at me with so much concern in his eyes. I clear my throat and nod my head.

"Yes, I am, Alpha."

"I don't think you are. Your lashes are wet. Have you been crying?" I bring my hands to my face and touch my cheeks, that's when I feel the wetness.

Have I been crying?

Oh G o d! Did I shed tears in front of Rhea?

What is wrong with me?

"I uh... I... No. I... I haven't been crying."

"Don't lie to me Ashanti. Tell me why you've been crying."

"It's nothing important."

"You don't strike me as the type of girl who would cry over unimportant things. Tell me."

Awwn... Thank you for the compliment.

“It’s nothing I can’t handle. I appreciate your concern, but it’s nothing, really. If you don’t mind, I’d love to go in and have a shower. I reek of

perspiration. Please.” I beg. He tortures me with his silence and intense look.

One, two, three, ten moments fly by and I’m still melting under his intense gaze.

“You are dismissed.” He finally speaks.

“Thank you, My Lord.” I step away from him and run for my dear life.

Today is officially “Torture Ashanti Day”!

Chapter 55

ASHANTI’S POV.

“And... sleeping beauty finally awakes.” A soft giggle escapes my throat as Tessa’s voice fills my ears. I lazily sit upright and lean against the

headboard, stretching my arms and yawning lazily. What a nap I’ve had.

“Did I sleep for too long?” I slur with a raspy voice. Tessa calmly tilts her head from side to side with bent lips as she tries to probably recall for how long I’ve been asleep.

“Well, I got here at four pm and now it’s six pm so, two hours is what I know you’ve been asleep for. Could be more depending on when you started.” She shrugs.

I got on this bed at thirty-thirty pm, meaning I’ve been out for two hours, thirty minutes.

Great.

Now I’m going to be the night’s watch woman. I won’t get even an ounce of sleep all night.

Groaning under my breath, I step down from the bed and go into the bathroom to take a p**

“Your name is buzzing all over the H a r e m.” Tessa tells me the moment I sit on my bed again. My brows raise in confusion as I give her a close look.

“My name? What about?”

“There’s talk that you seduced and had sex with your sister’s boyfriend of four years.” She says. quietly. I facepalm myself and let out a heavy sigh of exasperation. These girls, including Rhea won’t stop anytime soon, will they?

“Oh... that.” I brush my palm over my face and cube my chin between my thumb and index finger. I press my lips shut and chuckle in amusement. My eyes dart over to Tessa and I notice she’s giving me a very serious look. I raise my brows and tilt my head to the side, my eyes trained on her pretty, serious face.

“Wait... you don’t think that’s true, do you?”

“Let’s say, I’m eager to hear what you have to say about the issue. It’s definitely something that has happened, but I don’t trust Rhea to have told the entire truth. I want to hear it from your mouth. I’ll believe what you say.”

“Why? What if I lie?”

“Then I’ll take your lie and stand by you, just like the girls have done with Rhea.” She flashes me a sweet smile. “But I’d rather you don’t lie.” My hand drops from my chin and I intertwine my fingers and caress each thumbnail with the other as I give her a serious look.

“Well, this is not a lie. Rhea reversed the roles in the story. She was the one who seduced and had sex with my boyfriend. I caught them the same day Beta Ronald came to recruit us for the Harem.”

Tessa lets out a gasp as she covers her mouth with her palm.

I nod sadly. Her hand drops from her mouth.

“Oh my G o d, that’s horrible. Rhea truly is a tramp! And she has the nerve to vilify you in this story when you’re clearly the victim of her malice. Goodness, she’s the worst!”

“You have no idea how terrible Rhea can be. I’m not very bothered by this because she has done worse.”

“Wait... does that mean you came here with a broken heart? Because that was just a few days later.” I sigh in exasperation and nod.

“Yeah. I did.”

It’s true that I came here with a broken heart. The memories of Conrad and Rhea lying naked on Rhea’s bed were still fresh in my mind and because I loved him, his betrayal made my chest hurt like there was a wound in it. But surprisingly, magically, all the pain and loathing disappeared the moment I set eyes on Alpha Reagan. The moment Lena signalled to me that he was our mate.

All the feelings I had for Conrad vanished into thin air and the fact that he cheated on me didn’t bother me even one bit and I’ve not even thought about him for once for a while now. And even now that I’m thinking about him, I feel nothing. No pain, no anger, no disgust. Just nothing.

It happened like magic, but I’m grateful.

And for Alpha Reagan.

Alpha Reagan.

He saved me from falling this afternoon at the field. I can still feel his touch on thy waist. It was so soft and gentle, I almost kissed him. The look of concern in his eyes when he tried to find out why I had been crying. He looked worried.

He was worried about me.

What am I supposed to make of that?

Obviously nothing.

Snap out of it Ashanti.

"You seem lost." Tessa points out. I smile and shake my head.

"I'm fine."

"Are you going to do something about Rhea's false story?"

"Nopity-nope. I'll just let her have her fun."

"But she's ruining your reputation in this m . Sooner or later, no one will respect you."

Chapter 56

"As if they respect me now." I sigh and shake my head. "It's just another story that will die down soon."

"And who knows what next she'll say about you? It could be worse." I smile and don't say anything.

There's no need fighting Rhea or trying to prove my innocence to the girls who clearly dislike me. I plan to get away from here soon.

A knock sounds on the door. Tessa gives the signal for whoever it is to come in and almost immediately, the door opens, revealing one of the m girls with a sealed box in her hand.

"Ashanti." She calls, stepping into the room.

"Yes, Wendy."

"Ma'am Lisa has an assignment for you." She walks over to my bed and drops the box on it. I step down and look at her, confused.

"And what am I to do with this box?"

"You are to deliver it at the Beta's house."

"The Beta?" I ask, shocked. Eyes and mouth wide open.

"Yes. Right now. He needs it urgently, so you better get going right now." And with that, she leaves the bedroom. I look from the box to Tessa, who seems to be just as confused as I am.

"That's strange." She

"She gets down from her bed and comes to meet me. "I wonder what's in there." Her eyes are hovering all over the box.

"It's sealed. We can't open it." I rush to the vanity table and brush my hair and check myself before returning to the bed to pick up the box. "I better go and deliver it now."

“Alright. Meet me at the cafeteria.”

“I will.” I lift up the medium sized box in my arms and exit the room. It seems to be half filled with items that roll and hit the walls of the box within as I move. I’m tempted to rip it apart and see what’s inside, but when I remember it’s for the Beta, chills run down my spine and I quickly dismiss the idea.

The walk to the Beta’s chambers in the castle takes almost thirty minutes and it’s walks like this that remind me of how huge this castle actually is.

Every high ranking official lives in the castle and each has their own chambers which is nothing short of a mansion.

Damn this pack and their money!

When I arrive, I’m first greeted by guards who ask me to state my mission and when I tell them what I’m there for, one of them escorts me into the house where I’m met with another servant who takes the box and I’m immediately dismissed.

“Be rest assured that Beta Ronald will receive his parcel. You can go now.”

Rude!

She didn’t even ask if she could offer me anything. I am thirsty as hell.

On my way back, as I walk along the sidewalk of the main path, a car halts beside me and honks. I turn to look, only to see Delta Kyle winding his windscreen and playfully winking at me.

“Hello beautiful.” He greets cheerfully. Heat rushes up to my face, making it turn red.

“Delta Kyle.”

“Where are you going? Or where are you from?”

“I... I uh... I just finished running an errand. I’m on my way back to the Harlem quarters.”

“Cool. Let me give you a ride.” He offers so easily and I look left and right to make sure no one is looking at us as we speak. When I see that there’s no one, I turn back to him and shake my head.

“I appreciate your kind gesture, but I’d rather walk.”

“Ashanti, if I count to three and you’re not in the passenger seat of this car, I’ll come down and bundle you over my shoulders like a sack of potatoes and you know how embarrassing that can be. One!” He starts the countdown, staring straight into my eyes. My teeth sink into my bottom lip as I look straight ahead of me, wondering if I should take on my heels or Get into the car.

“Two!”

S**t!

Get into the car it is.

“You are such a bully, you know that right?” I fire at him as I strap on my seatbelt.

“I can’t have you, so I’ll do anything I can to have these little moments with you.” I slightly back away from him, creasing my brows as I give him a confused look.

“What... what’s that supposed to mean?” He gives me a brief glance and a killer smile before looking back at the road ahead of him.

“Nothing important.”

But I know that’s a lie.

“I can’t have you...”

Those were his words.

Why would he say that all of a sudden?

Chapter 57

ASHANTI’S POV.

“I can’t have you...”

That phrase now lives rent free in my head. I’m trying to decode its meaning. I’m trying to understand what made Delta Kyle say that, but nothing makes sense.

I would ask Tessa, but knowing how her mind works, she’ll only try to romanticise the phrase, so I’d rather keep it to myself.

Maybe it was a slip of the tongue. Maybe I heard wrong.

Either way, I should better stop thinking about a phrase which definitely has no meaning and find a way to satisfy this hunger in my stomach and the thirst in my throat. I can only do that by going to the cafeteria to have dinner and that makes my mood turn sour because of the mockery I’m going to be getting from the girls the moment I walk in.

I should have said yes to Delta Kyle when he offered to buy me dinner.

Stupid. Stupid. Stupid Ashanti!

“What the hell is wrong with me?” I mumble in frustration as I make my way to the cafeteria. My intestines are at war with each other. I’m so thirsty, I could dry up a waterfall right now.

As expected, all eyes are on me as I walk in, but their reactions are different. I imagined they’d throw scornful words at me or even try to hit me, but everyone bursts into laughter, some even point at me as I go over to take my food.

“She definitely has no idea what’s going on.” I overhear one of them telling another.

“She’s going to be shocked when they come for her.”

“Serves her right. She deserves to be treated like the whore she is!”

I ignore them as best as I can as I get my food. Tessa is nowhere to be found, meaning she hasn’t come to have dinner yet. The mockery and laughter goes on as I sit down to eat my food.

This is the last time I’ll reject any offer concerning food made to me by Delta Kyle or anyone. Being around these girls during meal time is depressing. I look around at their laughing faces and I can’t help but feel it’s not about the boyfriend issue.

“She’s going to be shocked when they come for her.”

That’s the statement one of them made a while ago.

Was she referring to me? If she was, who’s going to come for me? And why?

I have a bad feeling about this.

“Yo Ashanti!” One girl calls, but I don’t turn to look at her. The next thing I hear is the sound of chairs screeching on the floor and footsteps approaching my table.

They are coming for me.

I take a scoop of my soup and drink half the litre of water in front of me so that even if my dinner ends right now, I must have quenched my thirst.

“Boyfriend snatcher.” A familiar voice calls. The girl pulls the chair across from me and sits on it. I back away when she leans closer to me. “Was it good? I mean sex with your sister’s boyfriend.” My eyes meet hers. I roll them and look back at my plate, completely ignoring her.

“Her guilt makes her beyond speechless.”

“Did he **k you well? Is that why you went back for more?” She sneers. I keep ignoring as I ride on with my meal despite the anger that’s boiling in my heart. I have my left hand planted between my thighs and right hand grabbing my spoon tighter than it should because I’m trying to curb my anger.

If I let it out, I’ll deform this girl’s face with a punch and that will mean more trouble for me.

She’s not worth it.

I meet her gaze again and this time around, I smile..

“No comment.” She bursts into a loud hysterical laughter.

“Of course you have nothing to say. You...”

“Ashanti!” An angry voice calls my name.

Only one person in this entire pack calls me with such anger and indignation and that person is no other than Alina. I turn to look in the direction of the voice, expecting to see Alina marching towards, but to my greatest shock, it's Ma'am Lisa and she's fuming.

"Ma'am Lisa." I call silently, rising to my feet. She's still angrily walking towards me and when she's finally close, she raises her hand in the air and gives me a hard smack on my right cheek. The impact of the smack tilts my head to the left and my hair scatters all over my face, darkening my view, but I quickly push the hair strands away from my face and look at her in bewilderment.

"How dare you!" She sneers. Her chest is rising and falling significantly as she lets out short, fast, heavy breaths. Her eyes turned yellow. She's p**d.

What the hell have I done this time around?

"Ma'am Lisa..."

"How dare you try to downgrade me in the eyes of the Beta!"

"Ma'am Lisa I have no idea what you are talking about."

Immediately, a girl walks over to the table with a medium sized box in her hand. It's the same box I delivered at the Beta's chambers a while ago. She empties the contents of the box on the table and my breath seizes when I see what spills out from it.

D**s of different sizes ranging from small to enormous.

Vibrators of different types and colours.

Packs and packs of condoms.

Lubricants.

Every kinky s**y you can ever imagine.

My soul walks out of my body, leaving my flesh to deal with the problem on its own. My face goes pale as I look back at Lisa who is fuming at me.

"I swear I had no idea these were the contents of the box." I'm shaking my head and my hands. before her. The girls are giggling among each other and I'm not surprised. They are definitely enjoying the show.

"You dare try to lie your way out of this? Did you or did you not deliver this package at the Beta's chambers in my name?"

"I did but... but... Wendy..." My eyes fly around, searching for Wendy but she's nowhere to be found. "Wendy brought it to me this evening and told me you said to deliver it at the Beta's chambers. I swear that's what happened." My lips are trembling as I narrate to her what happened. My nervous system is about to crash like a faulty plane. My heart is beating so fast, I wonder why it's still working.

This is not good.

"Ma'am Lisa you have to believe me." I'm on my feet as I beg her. "Please I had nothing to do with this."

"Quit with the lies telling young lady! Now, not only have you messed with me, but with the Beta too. You are in big trouble. Follow me. You have to explain yourself to the Beta right now!" Hot tears run down my cheeks as she grabs my wrist and starts pulling me out of the cafeteria. The girls erupt in loud laughter as I'm being dragged out and my eyes meet with Rhea's. She's sitting on the same table with Alina and they both high five each. Other and wave goodbye to me.

"She's going to be shocked when they come for her."

Now that statement makes sense to me.

This was their plan.

They set me up.

Chapter 58

"You better get on your knees before the Beta shows up." Lisa threatens and I fall to my knees. My entire body is shaking like I've touched a live wire. I have never been so scared in my life.

S**ys?

Holy goddess. Beta Ronald is going to chew me raw.

"Ma'am Lisa you have to believe me when I say I have nothing to do with this. I've been set up. Please." I plead with a shaky voice, but the look on her face tells me she's not willing to listen to anything I have to say to her.

Is she in on this plan?

Does she know I'm innocent?

Does she hate me that much to get me into this sort of trouble?

"Liar! Now I know you're not only a thief, but a w**e too. The Beta? You tried to make sexual advances at the Beta? What were you even thinking?" She fires at me. I open my mouth to talk but words fail me. My mouth moves, but no sound can be heard. There's a thousand screams caught in my throat and I nervously touch my lips to check if they have succeeded in escaping.

They haven't.

Just then, the door to the office is pushed open and the moment my eyes fall on Beta Ronald, I freeze.

His domineering aura breezes into the room before he follows and with each step he takes towards me, I feel like I'm seconds away from dying. My gaze drops to the floor and I intertwine my sweaty, trembling fingers.

"Is she the girl who sent the atrocious tools?" His familiar deep voice poses quietly. I whimper as a hot tear runs down my cheek.

"Yes Beta. She is. Her name is Ashanti and she keeps denying the fact that she didn't bring the stuff here on purpose." Ma'am Lisa deciphers and all I do is shake my head as more tears spill down my cheeks. A long moment of excruciating silence goes by and I almost sink into the ground when I hear my name.

"Ashanti." He calls with a gruff voice. I shake and look up at him. Eyes watery. Face drenched with tears and turned pink. Lips trembling. Hair completely disheveled.

"Beta Ronald." My voice is a broken whisper. I am one hundred layers of fear and terror forged into being.

"You have committed a serious offense. Making inappropriate sexual advances at a high ranking official is forbidden in this pack and you are putting yourself in a delicate spot by refusing to take responsibility for your actions and insisting you are being set up. If found guilty, your punishment will be grave. You do know that, don't you?" He asks. dangerously. I sniffle tears and nod my head.

"I'm well aware of that, but I swear on my life, I'm not guilty."

"Ashanti say the truth so your punishment will be less difficult. Why are you headstrong?"

"There's no truth to be told because I didn't do it!" I raise my voice at her, wishing I could shoot out bullets from my eyes straight into her chest so she'd drop dead and stop talking being such an old menace.

Goodness, she's annoying!

"You dare to raise your voice in the presence of the Beta?" Her voice has dropped at octave, filled with shock and disbelief. Mortification washes over me and I turn to look back at the Beta who has a blank expression on his face.

"I'm sorry." I apologize with my head bowed down.

"What's going on here?" A voice asks from the door.

That voice.

That tone.

That smell.

Alpha Reagan.

I whip my head in the direction of the door and die in that second when my eyes fall on him. His eyes meet mine and he holds my gaze in place for several seconds with a bewildered look on his face. I panic.

This is the end.

If he finds out the reason why I'm here, he's not going to go easy on me.

Today has been the worse day of my life!

"My Lord..." Lisa steps forward to report. My heart is in my throat. The air I breath in makes my chest burn like a fire had been lit in it. I am fighting my urge to rise to my feet and dash out of that door on my heels and only stop when I'm out of this pack, but I seriously doubt if I'll succeed. Alpha Reagan will capture me before I'm one step close to that door.

I have to stay and meet my end.

"She brought sex items as gifts to Beta Ronald a few hours ago and now she's denying it." Lisa reports. I look at Alpha Reagan with pleading eyes.

The bewildered look on his face has turned into a look of confusion.

"What do you mean by that?" He walks further into the room. His gaze is now plastered on Beta Ronald who doesn't seem to know what to make out of this whole situation. "Ronald, what is she talking about?"

"I was presented with a box a while ago and was told it was delivered by a H**m girl called Ashanti. When I opened it, I couldn't believe my eyes. Condoms, d**s of various sizes, vibrators and every s**y you could ever imagine. They were all in that box. I was confused as to what was going on, that's why I summoned her here to explain but now, she's saying she had no idea those sex items were the contents of the box."

I sniffle tears. I hiccup. I wipe my sweaty palms against the fabric of my dress.

"I really didn't do it, Alpha. I swear I didn't." I beg with all my might.

"You still have the nerve to lie in the presence of the Alpha. You really have a death wish, don't you, Ashanti?" Lisa asks in awe.

"Leave." Alpha Reagan says, looking at Lisa. She immediately understands the command is for her and scampers out of the room. I shiver when his eyes fall on me. "Stand up." I look up at him, confused.

"Hmmm..." I mumble, unsure if I heard him right.

Why is he telling me to stand up?

“Get on your feet, Ashanti.” I obey without any further hesitation. He turns to Beta Ronald who seems confused. “She didn’t do it.” He says.

confidently. The tears in my eyes dry off and I look in his direction.

Even Beta Ronald is confused.

“Huh?”

“She didn’t do it.” He repeats the phrase and I

almost lose my balance.

How does he know?

Chapter 59

ASHANTI’S POV.

I’m standing before the Alpha and Beta with my head bowed down. I still can’t wrap my head around the fact that Alpha Reagan just said I didn’t do what I’m being accused of. I’ve looked back at him several times, thinking he’ll snap any moment and tell me to get back on my knees, but he hasn’t.

Beta Ronald is calm and composed, the look of bewilderment on his face is not something that’s unnoticeable. Just like me, he must be wondering why Alpha Reagan believes I’m innocent.

“Tell me what happened.” Alpha Reagan’s deep voice cuts through the almost eerie silence in the room. I tremble as I look up at him. The tears in my eyes and on my cheek have dried off. I must look like a ghost right now.

“Alpha.” I call, not knowing where to start. My voice is a broken mess and I’m digging my nails into my palms out of nervousness.

“Don’t be scared Ashanti. Tell me the truth.” His eyes are trained on me, urging me to go on. Reassuring me in the mutest way that he’ll believe my words, so I swallow the snake in my throat and carefully narrate to them what happened up to this point. By the time I’m done, the two officials have their eyes glued on me and I’m wishing I could just fall down and die right now.

“How do we know you are not lying?” That’s Beta Ronald. His expression is as hard as granite. I flinch under his gaze. Alpha Reagan averts his gaze from me to him.

“She’s not.” My brows almost touch my hairline as I look at the Alpha with my eyes wide open.

That certainty. That confidence that I’m telling the truth. Where does it come from?

I melt like butter when he looks back at me.

“From what I’ve gathered so far from your narration and the look of things, I have come to the conclusion that you have been set up. Now tell me, Ashanti.” One step forward. “Has that got anything to do with why you were crying at the field earlier today?”

“I... I wasn’t crying at the field.”

“You dare tell me a lie? Are you trying to call me a blind man? Or was what I saw on your face not tears?”
My head drops.

“I’m sorry Alpha. I didn’t mean to lie. Just that the reason for the tears you saw has got nothing to do with this.”

More silence.

My gaze is glued to the tiles beneath me. They are plain white and so is everything else in this room, which happens to be the Beta’s office.

White and plain. Empty.

Being empty is devastating. It brings about depression. They say life needs some spice, but what if the only spice flavour you attract as a human is trouble?

Wouldn’t you rather be plain and empty than be full of troubles that have no root and no end either?

“Ashanti.” My name cuts through the atmosphere, snapping me out of my thoughts. It’s Alpha Reagan. He just called my name.

Calmly, I raise my head. My gaze meets his and electricity zaps between us, making me shiver. His eyes are filled with dark undertones.

“Yes, Alpha Reagan.”

“Are you being bullied by the other girls?”

Ha!

My breath hitches in my throat and my eyes pop open in shock.

How the f**k did he figure that out?

My mind flashes before my eyes all the things the H**m girls have to me, including Alina’s threats. I should nod my head. I should open my mouth and tell him yes. I should fall to my knees and wail, beg him to save me from the claws of those H a r m girls. who have sworn to make my life a living hell.

This is the perfect opportunity for me to beg for his help, but my s u p i d body has refused to do what my brain is asking it to do.

I want to drop to my knees, but my bones feel tight. I want to open my mouth to speak, but it's sealed. and I feel my words being sewn to my tongue. I am completely immobile and speechless.

And pathetic!

"I take your silence as a yes."

"I'm fine." I croak and laugh at myself within when the words finally come out.

Chapter 60

I am an idiot. 1

"That's left for me to decide." He's still looking at me with dark eyes. He seems to see right through my mind. All the things I should say, but won't say, he seems to have read them all in my mind and his expression grows darker with each passing second. "Go back to your quarters."

"I swear I didn't do it."

"And I believe you. Now go and worry not, for you won't be punished for a crime you did not commit."

"Thank you very Alpha. Thank you" I bow six million times before exiting the office, my head swirling because I don't have the least idea what just happened in there. All I know is that I'm happy to have escaped this.

When I get home, I'm greeted with a hug from

Tessa.

"I heard what happened. Are you okay?" She pulls away from the hug and gives me a worried look. I smile weakly and nod my head.

"Yes, I am." My stomach grumbles. That's when I remember how hungry I am.

"Here. I managed to sneak out some food for you." She hands me a take away food package. Tears return to my eyes as I look from her to the food in my hands.

"Tessa, thank you so..."

"It's fine. It's fine. I knew they didn't let you eat so I got this. Just eat and tell me what happened. Please tell me the issue will be properly

investigated. You can't be punished for something you didn't do." A smile tugs a

the corner of my lips

as I lower myself on her bed. She does the same by my side and I look at her.

"You really do trust me, don't you."

"You would never do a thing like that, Ashanti. Apart from the fact that I know you to be a very nice girl, you are not dumb. Presenting s**y s on purpose to the Beta? You would never be too dumb to do a thing like that." I burst into laughter. "It's not funny. Now tell me what happened over there." "If I tell you, you're not going to believe it."

“Says whom?”

“Alpha Reagan believed I was innocent. He was the one who dismissed and he asked me not to worry, because I won’t be punished for a crime I did not commit.” I explain and Tessa goes speechless, but her eyes are still on me.

She’s shocked to the core and I don’t blame her.

Even I would have the same reaction if I were in her shoes.

“Ashanti.” She calls almost in a whisper.

“Yes.”

“You have found favour in the eyes of not only the Delta of this pack, but the Alpha too. Do you want me to advise you as a friend?”

“Hmmm?” I mumble in confusion.

“Are you sick and tired of being bullied by these H r e m girls?” She asks quietly. Very quietly, it’s almost ominous.

I nod anyway.

I nod in agreement.

“Yes, I am.”

“Then use this to your advantage. I understand that you are not interested in being with a man at this point in your life, but Ashanti, opportunities like this only come once and right now you really need it.”

“What are you talking about?”

“I am reading the handwritings on the wall for you since you are obviously too blind to see them. Alpha Reagan seems to be interested in you. It’s not everyday the Alpha gets involved in an ordinary H a r e m girl’s case. It means he has eyes on you and I think you should use that to your advantage. Get closer to him, befriend him and ward these s t u p i d . H a e m girls off your back because they won’t stop anytime soon. They won’t stop until they drive you under, Ashanti, so you have to fight back and you can only do so, by becoming more powerful and influential than they are. Alpha Reagan will give you that power and influence.” I stop chewing the food in my mouth and stare at her, blinking hard.

She quietly nods her head, giving me a reassuring smile. I keep looking at her speechless as her last phrase replays in my mind.

“...Alpha Reagan will give you that power and influence.”

I swallow the food in my mouth.

Should I heed to her advice?

