

Chapter 102

Miranda POV

The next few hours of getting ready for the ceremony and the ball that would follow was nothing but a big blur. The only thing that went slow was the hot shower I took. It was like I could feel every drop of water against my skin. It was weird because, regardless of how hot or cold the water was, it felt the same. When I mentioned it to Brent and he checked it, he said it was scalding hot or ice cold. It was weird. It had to happen because of my magic.

I found myself distracted by thoughts of the temperature of the water while my hair was being fixed. Time seemed to fly by and when my chair turned around I looked up at the group of stylists, slightly confused as to why I was facing the other half of the room. Was I done? I don't remember anything being applied to my face, then again I was lost in my thoughts. It was like they could see the confusion and read my mind.

"It is easier for the make-up artists to do your make-up. They don't have to squeeze between you and the mirror." Allison, the woman who fixed my hair, told me.

"Oh." I smiled with a slight nod to my head. So I haven't had any make-up applied yet. Well, that's good then, I thought to myself.

"Did you not like your hair?" Allison frowned.

"Honestly, I wasn't looking. How do you think that it looks?" I watched as her face lit up.

"Honestly, I believe it is my best work yet!" Allison smiled at me.

"Well, then I am sure when everything is all finished, and this chair turns around, I will be ecstatic about everyone's work they have done on me." I smiled back at her.

She seemed satisfied with my answer and excused herself. I heard her behind me and cleaning her station up. I was leaned back in the chair and told to close my eyes and relax. I did that and felt different products being applied to my face. When I sat up and turned around to look at myself, I was stunned. I looked beautiful. I had a soft smokey look that made my silver eyes pop but wasn't too dark to look like I was going out on the town. My lips had a beautiful shade of pink, not too bright but a few shades darker than my natural lip color.

"Great work, I am impressed!" I looked at the two of them. "Thank you so much. I hope that in our future endeavors, you will be the ones who will be working on my make-up team. Allison, I will be asking you for all of my hair looks and needs as well." I watched as all three of them smiled excitedly. "Now I must go get ready. It is almost time." They left my room and I heard a soft knock on the door.

"Come in." I called as I stood up. I heard the door open and shut and the swishing sound of a dress as Avalynn entered the room.

"Hey, how's it coming? Oh my goddess, your hair and make-up are perfection!" Avalynn smiled.

"Thanks! Would you mind helping me into my dress?" I asked her.

"No, I don't mind at all. Is it hanging up in your closet?" She motioned across the room and I nodded. I watched her leave the room and I began to strip down. I placed all the correct under garments on as I waited for Avalynn to return. I looked at myself in the mirror and I smiled. I looked hot. If Brent popped his head in right now, I feared we would miss the crowning ceremony. Avalynn walked in with my gown and helped me into it. She then helped with my shoes and my jewelry.

"Okay, you look fantastic. Hot, sexy, and delicious. Just breathtakingly beautiful, truly! Brent is on his way up and, I believe, he is right down the hall. I will see you down there. You look perfect! Deep breath and don't be too nervous. You are going to make a fantastic Queen!" Avalynn gave me a quick hug and she was out the door. She looked beautiful too. That dress was simply made for her.

I was walking to the door when it swung open. Brent walked in and he looked amazing. His suit was cut and fit his body flawlessly. It hugged his muscular curves of his shoulders and arms perfectly. I bit my bottom lip as my eyes trailed over his body.

"Careful there, I might take that bottom lip into my own mouth." He was standing infront of me now, his finger under my chin, tilting my head up to look at him.

"I might like that." I said softly and breathless. I felt my heart skip when his eyes darkened. I could tell a storm of lust was brewing deep within him. I moved so our bodies were now touching. His fingers traced my cheek and jaw line. His thumb softly traced along my bottom lip. I pressed my lips against it, kissing him. He paused his thumb and I took it into my mouth, softly sucking it. He made a groaning sound and pulled his hand away from my mouth and stepped back.

"Miranda." Was all he said and I grinned. He seemed like he was out of breath and I knew that was impossible. Maybe the sight of me took his breath away? I felt my cheeks start to blush as he looked at me. His eyes were traveling up and down my body several times.

I stood up on my toes and got close to his ear and whispered "I am yours forever. Tonight you are mine." My lips lightly pressed against his ear and I moved away from him. As I began to walk away from him, he took hold of my hand and pulled me back to him. My body slammed into his as his mouth was on mine suddenly with a bruising kiss of passion. He released me and I felt like I had drunk so much alcohol, my legs felt weak and shaky as well as my heart was racing. I could have sworn it was beating crazily overdramaticized like the cartoons display.

He smiled at me and placed his hand over my beating heart. His other hand took mine into his own and placed it on his chest. I couldn't hear it over the beating of my own, but his was beating at the same erotic pace as mine. "Wow, you too?" I breathed.

"Come, we had best get going. Before it's too late," he whispered in a playful tone.

His hand never left mine as he led me into the hall. I walked down the hall to the elevator with him. We stepped into the elevator together. I concentrated on the humming sound of the elevator and the dinging sounds as we passed through the levels of the castle. Strangely enough, it calmed me down. By calming down, I mean that I was in a better position to control myself around him. I smiled to myself as I looked at my reflection in the sliding doors. I felt wonderful, almost like I was walking on a cloud.

My heels clicked on the marble floor as we walked across the lobby, making our way into the side entrance to wait. I could hear the voices on the other side of the door. Brent opened the door for me, allowing me to walk ahead of him. We made our way inside and waited as King Everest called attention to the room. I could hear his deep voice boom across the room. Everything went silent as we moved from our position to now stand behind the doors at the main entrance to the room.

The royal guards opened the door as our names were being called. My hand rested on the top of his, his arm was up, bent at the elbow in an elegant fashion. As we walked together, everyone who was standing was bowing their heads and kneeling down on one knee to us. They only stood once we had walked past them. The only people who did not kneel were Avalynn and Everest, but they bowed their heads out of respect.

The words that were spoken washed over me and I seemed to drown in them. I felt like the words flooded the room. I tried to concentrate on my breathing as I tried to listen to what was being said. Then it was time for me to speak. I took a deep breath to settle my nerves and when my lips parted nothing came out. I wet my lips, cleared my throat, and opened my lips once more to speak. "I solemnly swear that I will do my best as your Queen to protect the innocent and fight for what is right. To never place my people in harms way or in any kind of danger to further the Kingdom. To lead by example and grace. To be understanding during disputes and to support our people in their times of need. To rule beside King Brent and come together on our decisions for the better of our lands. I swear to be the best Queen I know how to be and that I swear to devote my life to you, King Brent, and to our peoples. No matter if this life is long or short, I am fully committed from this day forward to our Kingdom and our family. Until my last dying breath."

I kneeled and a crown was placed on the top of my head. The Alpha from our largest pack spoke then "Announcing Your Majesty, Queen Miranda. May your reign be long and strong!"

Cheers erupted throughout the hall. Whistling was heard and trumpets blared. Our flags were released behind us as Brent took my hand in his. We turned to face our people, together for the first time as King and Queen. My eyes made their way through the crowd of people that stood before us. When it landed on Avalynn she was wearing a huge smile and mouthed "You did great!" to me. I simply nodded my head in her direction.

Brent took a step forward and spoke to the crowd. When his hand was raised in the air, the room silenced quickly. "Ladies and gentle people, please join the Queen and myself for dinner in the next room and dancing as we celebrate a new start to our Kingdom!" We walked out of the room first, King Everest and Queen Avalynn directly behind us. They will be sitting up at our table as honored guests this evening.

We ate our dinner and enjoyed the festivities that were arranged as entertainment while we ate. When the time came to dance, Brent and I took to the floor first. This reminded me of a human wedding almost. I smiled up to Brent as he pulled my body close to his. We danced the first few minutes together before Everest and Avalynn joined in. Soon the floor was full of people. We danced for a little before heading back to our table to watch the others.

When we sat down, I could feel the mood shift, almost instantly. I looked over at Brent, who mumbled "f**k" under his breath. Everest and Avalynn were beside us and I felt that irritating pull, as if someone was trying to reach my link. I, of course, opened the link and allowed them in. It was Avalynn.

"Hello. So, we just got news from one of our guards that the siblings were spotted about ten miles east of the Kingdom walls with an entire army of witches. All of our warriors who are on patrol are pulling back at this time. Brent was going to tell you, but he is reaching out to give these orders. Leave your link open to us and your top warriors."

I nodded my head to her and I felt Seraphine push forward. She was watching behind my eyes.

"I am nervous," I admitted to Seraphine. Apparently, Brent heard me or felt my nerves and turned to me.

"Try not to be nervous on the outside. We will end it early and call a meeting immediately after." Brent's thought traveled through my mind.

"I am trying not to." I glanced over to look at Avalynn to copy her face. I studied her for a moment, she appeared blank but somewhat interested in what was going on, on the dance floor. She seemed relaxed and laid back. So I did exactly what she did, but in my own way. I sat forward in my seat and took a sip of my glass of tea as I smiled and seemed to enjoy myself.

Seraphine seemed to pace in my mind. I am glad she could do that, I needed to put on a brave face. I was nowhere near ready or even felt as if I could trust my magic. It was too wild, too strong.

Maybe they knew that. Maybe the siblings were planning on this. I frowned as I thought about it until Avalynn's throat cleared. I glanced over at her as she smiled at me. I realized I was frowning and quickly smiled. This was going to be difficult to master.

"Come," Brent told me and we stood, his hand sliding into mine. The music stopped playing as we left the room together, him leading me out. Everest and Avalynn followed right behind us. We walked into Brent's office where our head warriors were already waiting for us.

"They have attacked a wolf pack. A small one, with a few survivors, maybe ten out of one hundred. Our warriors stumbled across it heading back in." The tall, built, long-haired warrior said to us all.

"What do we do?" I asked them and they all turned to look at me.

"We get ready to fight," Brent told me.

"Let's get our people ready," I responded.

"You need more practice. You're doing fantastic but you need more, I feel." Avalynn suggested to me.

"Let's get to work, then." I looked over at her and she nodded her head. "Meet me here in about twenty minutes or so?"

"Sounds good. Will you arrange a few warriors to accompany us?" Avalynn had turned to Everest and he nodded his head.