

Chapter 55

"Erin, this is amazing news. You have no idea how happy I am for you," Amelia says excitedly, grabbing Erin's shoulders and pulling her into a tight hug.

"I'm really happy for you. You deserve it so much," she says again, leaning back and looking at Derrick, whose eyes are on Erin, a teasing smirk making its way to her lips.

"You better treat her right, if not, I'll haunt you in your dreams," she sneers teasingly at them. Derrick grins, wrapping his arms around Erin's waist. She gasps slightly then settles into his hold.

"I give you permission to haunt me if I ever do that," he says. Erin tilts her head upward to look at him, a soft smile on her face. They look at each other like they hung the stars.

Amelia scrunches her face in fake disgust. "Oh, y'all are about to be unbearable as fuck," she fake gags, earning herself a light slap on the arm.

"Who knows, maybe you will toughen up and accept what you deserve," Erin replies, tilting her head more so Derrick can nuzzle his face even more.

Amelia rolls her eyes, not wanting to talk about the elephant in her life. She would rather go about and pretend it doesn't exist.

"Erin, Derrick," Vanessa's voice has all of them looking up to see Alex and Vanessa walking towards them, a wide smile mirroring their faces.

They stop right in front of them, the smile still not fading away. "Congratulations, you guys. This is the best news we could ever receive right now. I'm so happy for both of you," Vanessa says, leaning to hug Erin who accepts it easily.

Alex only bumps Derrick's shoulder slightly. "I'm happy for both of you. Now our pack is stronger than ever," he says, looking at Erin.

"I'm so glad you are this grumpy man's mate," he says, and for a moment she remembers his attitude towards her when she newly arrived at the pack. All things work together for good, don't they?

"Thank you, A-" she doesn't get to complete her words, the cries of a child penetrate the moment they were having. Erin looks towards the direction of the sound, alarmed.

Zach walks in with Ana in his arms, crying her eyes out. "What happened? Is she okay?" Derrick rushes out, grabbing the pup from Zach's hold before Erin can. Her cries slowly die off, and she rests her head on Derrick's shoulder.

"What happened?" Erin asks, also checking on the pup whose eyes have begun to

close.

"She was sleeping but woke up briefly and started to cry. I think it's because she didn't see either of you," he says.

Erin sighs, running her hand on the pup's back. Today has been one hell of a day, and she hasn't had time for her pup. It's normal the child has missed her after not seeing her for three days. She didn't see Erin nor did she see Derrick, who could've easily substituted for a while.

"She's gone back to sleep," Derrick says, caressing her hair. Erin nods, turning to face Zach, who is standing beside Amelia. One can see how uncomfortable Amelia is in that moment.

"Thank you, Zach. I know you're not supposed to look after a pup that's not yours. I'm sorry for the slight inconvenience," Erin apologizes, but the man is quick to wave it off.

"No worries, I'm always happy to help whenever I can. Besides, Ana is such a sweet girl," he replies, his eyes flickering to the girl in Derrick's arms.

"Alpha, we have some pending issues to discuss," Alex speaks up after a few minutes. Derrick nods, his eyes still on the child in his arms. He doesn't look like he wants to let go of her.

"Bring her, I'll carry her so you don't have to worry," Erin says, taking the girl into her arms.

"Alright, I'll see you later, yeah?" Derrick asks, and she nods. Alex and he walk off to attend to their business, leaving Vanessa, Amelia, and Zach alone with her.

Erin looks at Vanessa, who looks at Amelia, who averts her gaze. It's awkward.

"I uh, I'll leave now," Zach says awkwardly, rubbing his palms against his jeans. He looks at Amelia for what would be the seventh time since he arrived. Erin feels a pang in her heart at the forlorn look he wears. He nods at them before walking off in the same direction he came from.

"Amelia..." she starts just as soon as the man is out of earshot. Amelia shakes her head, wrapping her arms around her chest.

"I don't want to hear it."

Erin looks at Vanessa for help, but the other shrugs, rolling her eyes. Something definitely happened while Erin was busy being pounded. She wonders what exactly occurred.

She decides to try again. "Amelia, you shouldn't treat..."

"No, I don't want to hear it. Give me Ana, and I'll take her to bed, but don't bring up this issue anymore. I'd rather just enjoy your mating with my brother," she says, holding her hands out for Ana.

"Fine." Erin hands the child over to Amelia. Amelia doesn't waste time and walks out of the room, leaving Vanessa and Erin alone.

"Did anything happen while I was indisposed?" Erin asks.

Vanessa sighs, lips pressed into a thin line. "Someone came to see Zach," she replies. Erin furrows her eyebrows, confused

"Someone?"

"A woman. Someone of his age who isn't his sibling. Amelia saw her kissing him on the cheek," she replies.

Erin heaves deeply, knowing where this is going. "Do we know who the woman is?"

"No, she left the second day."

"She slept over?" Erin asks, surprised.

"Yeah, she slept over in his room." Okay, this is definitely going in that direction.

"Amelia won't ask him who the woman is, and she's even colder towards him. He looks like a kicked puppy, and it hurts me,"

Vanessa sighs, checking her wristwatch.

"I have to go now. I have some work to deal with," she says, turning to leave but stops at the last minute.

"You know, when you're the Luna of the pack, you will have your responsibilities, and I'll be free from it," she says, giggling. Erin can't help but chuckle at her words.

Luna of the Dark Moon Pack. It does have a nice ring to it.

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"He's not going to take it lightly," Alex says, running his hand through his hair. Of course, he wouldn't, and Derrick doesn't care.

"I know, I'm well aware."

"This could mean going to war, Derrick. War. His alpha pride is injured, and I'm sure he would want to retaliate in any way possible," Alex looks even more alarmed, as if he overheard Liam saying something.

"I know, but let him make the first move. And when he does, I'll erase him from this earth with my bare hands," Derrick grits out, recalling what he saw. If he hadn't felt Erin's panic through the bond, the fear he felt, he knew in an instant it was from Erin, and wasted no time before bolting out of the fields. His alpha had taken over and almost killed Liam if not for Alex's intervention.

"Whatever it is he wants, he'll get a double of it. I'll make sure of it," Derrick grits out, Liam's hand on Erin flashing in his mind again and again.

Alex sighed on seeing the determination in his eyes. "Fine."

"How is the hunt for Dimitri? Still no leads?"

he asks the man. Alex shook his head.

"His pack is in the hands of the female beta, which is weird. I know he is near, but even our spies say he hasn't been in the pack for months now. How can a pack alpha leave his pack unattended for so long?" Alex asks, baffled. A sense of unease settled in Derrick, her narrows his eyes, trying to think of every possibility.

"The council of elders have still not uttered a word about this man's atrocities?" he asks, leaning against the chair.

"Not a word. I sent a message like you said and told them what had happened, but they didn't reply," Derrick hums. He had an inkling something of that sort would happen, and he's not wrong.

"Leave them out of it now. I'll face Dimitri myself."

"Dimitri is a very powerful man, Derrick. I still wonder why he took Erin of all people," Alex wonders out loud. Derrick quirks his eyebrows.

"Why else? Because she's affiliated with me."

"Still, they could've easily taken Amelia since she's your sister. Or even Vanessa, but they went for Erin," Alex tries to reason, his hand stroking his beard as he speaks.

"He probably knows I'm interested in her. I'm pretty sure that's it," Derrick counters him.

"How would he know you're interested in her? It doesn't make sense for Dimitri to know that particular detail," he says again. Derrick opens his mouth to counter him as usual but pauses, Alex's words resonating within him.

"The men that took Erin knew the pack house like the back of their hand. They were familiar with it," he voices out loud.

"We have a mole," they both say at the same time, their eyes widening as it settles in.

"Someone has been selling us out, or he has a spy in our pack, which explains how he knew you're interested in Erin and also how they know the pack house so well."

Derrick nods. "The man in the dungeon. Has he been treated right?" he asks, and Alex nods, confusion clouding his eyes.

"Okay, this is what you're going to do." He leans closer to Alex, about to speak, when the knock on the door jolts him.

He sits back. "Come in."

The door pushes open, and Maxwell steps in, his eyes flicking between Derrick and Alex.

"Uncle?" Derrick calls out as the man steps in, shutting the door behind him.

"Ah, I didn't realize you were busy. I'll excuse you and come back later."

"No, don't worry. I'm free. What is it you want to talk about?" Derrick stops him. The man nods, his eyes flicking back to Alex.

"I, uh, heard you are now mated to Erin. I just wanted to congratulate you two." He smiles widely.

"Thank you, uncle. Alex and I were just discussing it too." Derrick replied. The mere emotion of Erin has him smiling from ear to ear, happiness radiating in him.

Maxwell looks at him for a few more seconds. "I'm glad you're happy, Derrick. You deserve it."

"Thank you, Uncle Maxwell."

"Well, I'll leave you to what you were doing. Please excuse me." He says and walks out of the office.

"That's weird," Alex replies after a beat, his eyes on the now shut door. Derrick quirks an eyebrow up, his smile falling off.

"What's weird?"

Alex seems to catch himself. He looks at Derrick and shakes his head. "Nothing, just my brain being mushed up. Tell me, what do you want me to do to the man in the dungeon?" He asks, and Derrick smiles, leaning close to him to talk.

Alex's eyes widen as he hears what Derrick has in mind. "Are you sure?"

"It will work. Just do it as I said and watch." He grins, leaning back in the chair.

If Dimitri won't show himself willingly, then he'll show himself forcefully.