

Chapter 56

"Come on, it'll be fun, I tell you." Amelia insist, eyes wide, lips pulled in a pout. Erin rolls her eyes, walking towards the mirror.

"I can't leave Ana alone." She replied although she was thinking of it. Amelia had barged into her room while she was busy writing a short report for the pack doctor. She had demanded Erin goes with her to shop which she wouldn't deny, it's very engaging.

"Ana has Vanessa, Alex, and Derrick. Heck! She has the entire pack. Two hours is okay." She insists even more.

"You're pestering way too much about this. Do you have anything in mind?" Erin asks eyebrows quirked up. The other giggles, crossing her legs over.

"No, and hurry up. Let's go. We don't have all day."

"Fine! Two hours and that's it. We are done." Erin says firmly. Amelia resisted the urge to roll her eyes, knowing Erin, it was not going to be two hours.

"I should inform Derrick about it," Erin says, grabbing her purse. She's stopped by Amelia.

"No. don't tell him instead surprise him." She says, winking at Erin who is confused.

"Surprise him? Should I get something for him too?" She asks as they walk out of the room.

"Don't worry your pretty head about that. Just know, you'll thank me for this." She winks again. Erin doesn't need physic to tell her Amelia is up to something. She opens her mouth to counter the other but rethinks it. Maybe going shopping would make Amelia herself feel better and maybe, just maybe she would be able to talk to her about Zach.

"Ready to go?" Vanessa's voice had her jolting out of her reverie." She looks at the woman walking towards them.

"Why aren't you coming with?" Erin asks.

"I'm busy with the details but you guys make sure to buy something for me," Vanessa replied, lips curled downwards.

"We will be sure too. Let's go." Amelia drags her off before she could utter another word to Vanessa.

Derrick shuts the book close, leaning back against the chair, he squeezes his eyes close, his hand massaging the bridge of his nose. He's been cooped up in here for three hours and still isn't done with his work. He had been off for three days and he comes back to meet these pile of work in his office. There is just so much Alex can do as his beta. The rest is up to him and now that he finally has the time, he's being bombarded with it.

'Where are you? I haven't seen you around for a while now.' He sends over the mind link, waiting for her response. He could feel her excitement through the bond, he could feel the slight hesitation, the warmth. Everything she was feeling, he could feel it too.

'I'm out with Amelia but would be back soon. Check on Ana for me. I'll be going off now.' She replied. He scrunched his face in confusion. How does one go off from their head?

'Erin, why did-' It doesn't get through. She's shut off the link which leaves him to wonder just what she is doing.

Alex walks into the office, another pile of papers and files with him. Mind link long forgotten Derrick groans tiredly, almost slamming his head against the table.

"Just how many are there? Doesn't it ever stop?" Alex shrugs, placing the papers and files on the table.

"I did what I could during your absence but now, it's up to you. We just don't care for our pack alone. There are others under our pack." He shrugs.

"Fine, let me have it. I'll be done in five hours." He grumbled, picking up a file, and starts to work on it.

"Please check on Ana for me. Erin is out with Amelia."

"Yeah, They left a while ago. Vanessa would've gone too but she's been a little ill recently. He says this earns Derrick's attention.

"She's been ill recently?" He asks, stopping his work.

"Yeah, a little nausea but she's okay." He says. Derrick opens his mouth to speak but rethinks it. Alex is literally her mate, he would know her better, won't he?

"Alright, take care of her." He replied, going back to work while Alex goes to check on Ana on his behalf.

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"Apparently they're mates. Do you know how crazy this is to me, mother? I have just

been replaced. My entire life just went down the drain all because of her." A whiny voice could be heard through the hallway. Vanessa halts in her steps, looking back and forth in the hallway to see who was speaking.

"If she thinks she is going to get rid of me that easily then she's joking. I don't care if the moon goddess made them mates again. Derrick has always been mine. I've just given him the space to do what he wants and eventually have him come back to me once he realizes no one can love him the way I do." The voice says again, this time less whiny than before.

Vanessa walks as quietly as she could, standing in front of the door, she placed her ear against the door. It's Samantha's room which makes the conversation less weird but still.

"I don't care what they do. I'll have the last laugh, trust me." She says again.

"I can easily break them up again. It's as easy as that. Derrick has always been mine. I've always had him in the palms of my hands. He's infatuated with her but I'll have him back soon. Don't worry about that." Vanessa couldn't hear any more of it. How shameless would Samantha really be?

She pulls the door open and there she was, sitting on the chairs clad in a white lacy robe, her hair tied up, and a glass of juice in her hands, one would think she was on vacation and not her parents.

Her eyes widen as soon as she sees Vanessa in the room, immediately cutting the call and standing up.

"Have you never heard of knocking or are you just uncultured?" She sneered at the other.

Vanessa scoffs, wrapping her arms around her chest. "You really are shameless Samantha. I've tried to understand every point of reasoning for you but this.. this is low, even for you."

Samantha doesn't seem unfazed, she narrows her eyes, tongue poking her cheek. "And what about it, huh? What about it?"

"You know, even when everyone thought of you as annoying and crazy, I still stood up for you. I said you were just distracted but would get on the right track soon. It's been five years since then Samantha. Five years since then! Derrick is your cousin for fucks sake. Have you no shame? Decency? What the hell is wrong with you? Derrick found his mate! He found Erin and you can see him at the happiest he has ever been. Are you programmed to destroy everything he wants and loves?" Vanessa cries out, trying to wrap her head around what she just heard.

"Stop! Do you think you know every goddamn thing? Well, let me tell you. Derrick isn't my cousin. Amelia isn't my cousin." She grits out, eyes filled with anger.

Vanessa stops, "what?" Mouth agape, she assimilates what she just heard. How is that even possible?

"You heard me right. To be my cousin, we would have to share blood but we don't. I do not share blood with them. There, you have it. Now tell me, why in the goddess name can't I have him? I've been here, waiting patiently for years and now one bimbo comes and suddenly they're mates? That would be over my dead body.

Vanessa's eyes burn with a mixture of anger and disbelief as she confronts Samantha. "You think you can just manipulate everyone and everything to get what you want, don't you? Well, I won't stand for it anymore!" She swallows, shaking her head.

"Oh please, what will you do about it then? Life isn't a fairy tale, Vanessa. I'm not going to let some insignificant mate bond destroy everything I've worked for!"

Insignificant mate bond? How sick is Samantha?

Vanessa's fists clench at her sides, her voice trembling with anger. "You call destroying people's lives and happiness 'work'? You're sick, Samantha! You're a sick fuck. You want to ruin their relationship, don't you? Well, I'll do you the favor of telling Derrick about it. Let's see how well you love him now." Vanessa sneered, eyes filled with disgust at the lady before her.

Samantha's eyes blaze with fury, her voice laced with venom. "How dare you judge me? Do you think you know what's best for him? Well, guess what? You're nothing but an outsider, Vanessa. You have no idea what it's like to be a part of this family, to have fought tooth and nail for everything. I won't let Erin take him away from me! She doesn't belong with him, she doesn't belong here either!"

Vanessa scoffs "Derrick has never been yours, to begin with. What you had between you two was an agreement to help your biology. His ruts and yours. It's never more than that." Vanessa steps closer, her voice low and intense. "You're the one who doesn't belong here, Samantha. Your toxic obsession with control and power will only bring destruction to you."

"You disgust me, Samantha. Do you really want to ruin their relationship so badly, well, let me do you the honors and tell Derrick of your sick obsession. Let's see how much your supposed love can withstand." Vanessa grits out. She never felt this irritated with someone in her life till now

"Don't you dare?" Samantha lunges forwards, eyes red and filled with animosity

Vanessa smirks "Try me, Samantha."

She turns to walk, ignoring Samantha's voice yelling her name. Their conversation ringing in her head repeatedly. She has no idea what Samantha plans but she has to inform Derrick about this.

Vanessa ignores Samantha's voice, she walks towards the staircase, trying to mind-link Alex and ask where Derrick is. She doesn't make it that far. Vanessa is suddenly grabbed from behind, Samantha's grip on her wrist tightened, her fingernails digging deep into Vanessa's flesh, she turns, facing a very angry Samantha.

"You can't tell him." She hissed out. Her voice was laced with venom. Something Vanessa has never heard in her voice. Vanessa chuckled, her heart pounding hard in her chest.

"Watch me." She yanks her arm free of her hold, turning to walk down the stair. She doesn't make it though. Samantha lunged forward, hands outstretched and with a violent push, she sends Vanessa tumbling down the stairs.



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