

Rejecting My Lycan Mate: The Throne

CHAPTER SIXTEEN – Our Queen

Madeline's POV

I was a bit nervous as Dimitri and I walked into the throne room.

Meeting with all nine Alphas and their Betas was the first thing on our to-do list today. After the meeting, we had to go to the celebratory dinner where I would meet all the Lunas and the rest of Alphas' families and staff that arrived with them.

I was both nervous and excited. This event was my first official event as a Luna and a Queen and I didn't want to disappoint Dimitri.

'You won't disappoint him,' Skye said softly. 'You were born to do this. He is already incredibly proud of you.'

I ignored her. I didn't want to talk to her. Not yet.

'You will have to talk to me eventually, Maddie,' Skye sighed. 'You can't ignore me forever.'

'I can ignore you tonight,' I told her as I pushed her back.

I took a deep breath as I finally got a clear view of the table where 18 men were waiting for me, Dimitri, and Will. All of them stood up and bowed.

I tried to get a good look at each and every one of them, but I was a bit nervous and it was hard for me to focus. I knew their names, but it was the first time I saw them in person so I couldn't put names and faces together.

My eyes fell on the only Alpha I knew. Alpha Jack.

He was smiling brightly and I couldn't help but smile back at him.

Dimitri led me to my seat and pulled out the chair for me.

"Thank you," I told him quietly.

"Anything for my Queen," he said, winking at me.

He sat down next to me and took my hand in his. Will sat on the other side of me.

Stay close to me at all times. Will mind-linked me sternly.

I glanced at him and furrowed my brows a little.

Dimitri told you that some of these Alphas don't care about their mates. Will explained, tightening his jaw. You probably didn't notice the looks you got the second you walked into the room.

My eyes widened a little and I shifted in my seat a little. I was a bit uncomfortable.

Are you sure? I asked Will.

Yes, Maddie. He said, clenching his fists. Just stay with us, okay? Don't move away from me or Dimitri.

Okay. I said, forcing a small smile on my face.

I didn't want the Alphas to know I was uncomfortable.

Why would they want me anyway? I was just a regular girl. There was nothing special about me.

"It is nice to see you all again," Dimitri said, tightening his hold on my hand. "I hope you are rested and ready."

"We are, my King," one of the Alphas said. "We are excited to continue our conversation from yesterday."

"We are also very excited to meet our Queen," another Alpha said. "We are very happy you finally found her, my King."

Dimitri looked at me and he smiled.

"I am very excited to introduce her," he said, looking back at our guests. "This is Madeline Clark, your Queen."

Every one of our guests bowed to me. I felt a bit weird, but I kept a smile on my face the entire time.

"It's an honor to meet you, my Queen," one of the Alphas said. "I am excited to work with you and get to know you better."

That is Alpha Theodore. Dimitri mind-linked me.

"Thank you, Alpha Theodore," I said politely. "I am just as excited."

“You are even more beautiful than we were told,” another Alpha said, making both Dimitri and Will tense up.

I smiled politely. I wanted to say thank you, but I didn’t know his name.

I glanced at Dimitri and squeezed his hand. I needed to know who it was.

Lucius. He mind-linked me and I could hear the anger in his voice.

“Thank you, Alpha Lucius,” I said politely.

“Oh, there is no need to thank me,” he said, smiling brightly. “Our King is a very lucky man.”

Dimitri let my hand go and grabbed my thigh in a tight grip. I placed my hand over his and forced myself to keep smiling.

I am yours, Dimitri. I mind-linked him. No one can take me from you.

Dimitri’s jaw clenched. He took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“You are right, Alpha Lucius,” he said, trying to sound polite. “I am a very, very lucky man.”

Mine. Dimitri mind-linked me. Only fucking mine.

I rubbed his hand gently.

Yours. I said softly. Breathe, my love. I am yours.

Dimitri glanced at me and I could see him relaxing a little.

“It is so lovely to see you again, Maddie,” Alpha Jack said happily, making me look back at him. “I am so happy for you.”

I smiled at him.

“Thank you, Alpha,” I said. “It is lovely to see you again too.”

“Ali is here,” Alpha Jack said, making my heart race. “She asked to come so she could see you. We weren’t sure if you were still in this pack, though. You said you would leave as soon as you turned 18. I am happy that’s not the case.”

Dimitri flinched a little.

I am not leaving you. I mind-linked him. I will never leave you.

I know, princess. He mind-linked me back.

I focused back on Alpha Jack.

“Ali is here?” I asked and he nodded.

“She is very excited to see you,” he said, making me smile brightly.

I was excited to see her too. I missed her so much.

“I am excited to see her too,” I said, making Alpha Jack’s smile widen.

“She has no idea that you are a Queen,” Alpha Jack said. “I can’t wait to see the look on her face when she figures it out.”

I chuckled and shook my head a little. Ali was always very expressive. I could already imagine her gasping loudly and shouting. I would have to calm her down so she wouldn’t draw too much attention to us.

“That should be fun,” I said, making Alpha Jack laugh and nod.

I looked at Dimitri and he smiled at me. He lifted my hand and kissed my knuckles.

“Should we continue the conversation from last night?” he asked as he turned back toward our guests.

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

It was time to work.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN – What Do They Want?

Dimitri’s POV

I was pissed as fuck.

Every fucking man in the room was looking at my mate. I wanted to elongate my claws and pick their eyes out one by one.

I hated the way they looked at her. I hated the way they smiled at her. I hated the fact I knew exactly what they were thinking. I hated the fact that I knew exactly what they wanted.

I also didn’t like the idea of this Ali spending time with my mate. I didn’t know her. I didn’t know what she wanted. I didn’t know if Maddie would be safe with her.

I was angry and I wanted to get Maddie out of there. I wanted to hide her from their prying eyes. I wanted her all to myself.

I knew how irrational and selfish that was, but I didn't care.

Are you okay? She mind-linked me.

No. I said angrily. I want to take you out of here. I don't like the way they are looking at you. I know what they want and it's making me so fucking angry.

Maddie reached out and placed a hand on my thigh. She squeezed it lightly and my whole body shivered.

None of it matters, Dimitri. She said softly. I am yours. Every part of me belongs to you. They can look at me and they can think whatever they want. You will be the one sleeping in my arms tonight, not them.

My whole body tingled. My heart started racing. The need to be alone with her and show her just how fucking much I loved her exploded inside me.

I love you. Maddie added. Only you, Dimitri. No one else.

I placed my hand on top of hers and squeezed it. It was a good thing that we were mind-linking and not talking because there was a huge lump in my throat and I wouldn't be able to speak.

Fuck, Maddie, I love you too. I responded. I can't wait to fall asleep in your arms tonight.

She glanced at me and smiled. I was lucky I was sitting down because my knees buckled.

"We need to join forces and protect our borders!" someone exclaimed and I shifted my focus to the discussion. "We can't let them destroy our packs and our lands!"

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

I needed to focus on the meeting. I needed to stop imagining all the ways I would end the Alphas' lives.

"Did you manage to capture any rogues?" I asked, making the Alphas look at me. "Did any of them talk?"

"No, my King," Alpha Theodore said. "Every rogue we captured refused to talk. Some of them died during torture."

Maddie flinched a little. I squeezed her hand tighter.

I am sorry, princess. I mind-linked her. I know it's not something you want to hear, but it's the truth. Rogues and enemies are being tortured for information.

Maddie sighed quietly.

I know. She said softly. I wish there was another way, though.

I lifted her hand and kissed her knuckles. I almost smirked when I saw the jealousy in Alpha Lucius' eyes.

"We need to find out who is behind the attacks," I said. "The rogues aren't organized enough to pull off something like this. Someone is behind it. Someone sent them to do this."

"What do they want?" Alpha Rhys asked. "What is their ultimate goal?"

He looked around the room, but everyone was silent.

"The throne," I said. "Someone is after my throne."

There really was no other explanation.

"But who, my King?" Alpha Alistair asked. "Who would want to go against you? Who would want to go against the Kingdom?"

"We are finally at peace after years of endless wars and battles," Alpha Jack added. "Is there really someone out there who would want to go through that again?"

I sighed and shook my head.

"I don't know," I said. "People would do a lot to gain power. They would sacrifice anything and everything."

Alpha Alistair furrowed his brows and looked at Maddie.

"When did you find your mate, my King?" he asked and my entire body tensed up.

I resisted the urge to growl at him.

"Why?" I asked, trying to remain calm.

Alpha Alistair looked back at me and took a deep breath.

"I am just wondering if the attacks started before or after you found her," he said. "There is a chance that this could be about her. Maybe they don't want your throne. Maybe they want your mate."

I saw fucking red. My hold on Maddie's hand tightened. My heart was trying to break through my ribcage.

No. Fuck no.

"It's not about me," Maddie said, making all of them look at her. "Rogues were attacking our borders before I turned 18."

I could feel my heartbeat in my eyes and ears. I could feel my blood rushing through my veins.

Alpha Alistair nodded.

"You could still be used as a way to the throne, my Queen," he said. "We need to protect you."

I forced myself to breathe. I needed to focus. I had to stop thinking about someone taking Maddie from me.

If they knew who she was...

"She is safe, Alpha Alistair," I said, trying to sound calm. "She is protected. Nothing and no one can get to her. Nothing and no one can hurt her."

Alpha Alistair looked at me. An unknown emotion flashed in his eyes. He gave me a small smile and nodded.

"I am sure you are taking great care of your mate, my King," he said. "I am just offering support and my knowledge. I would hate it if something happened to our Queen."

My stomach twisted. Nothing would happen to her. She was safe and protected. They would have to kill me to get to her and that would never fucking happen.

"Thank you, Alpha Alistair," Maddie said. "We would love to hear your opinion on the subject. Your knowledge and experience will surely be of great help."

Alpha Alistair looked at her and smiled.

"It is my privilege, my Queen," he said, bowing his head a little.

Maddie caressed my thigh with her thumb and I relaxed immediately. Her touch was like a cure. She took my pain and my fear away.

She was my everything and I would go to hell and back to keep her safe.

No one was going to hurt her. No one was going to take her.

I wasn't going to let it happen.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN – Ali

Madeline's POV

"Maddie!" I heard Ali scream and she threw herself at me a second later.

I stumbled back a little, but Dimitri caught me. I could feel the anger exploding inside him. He growled and he started pulling me away from Ali. I could feel his fear. I could feel his need to protect me.

It's okay. I mind-linked him. I am okay. She didn't hurt me.

"Oh, Maddie, I missed you so much!" Ali said excitedly, tightening her arms around me.

She didn't even realize that Dimitri was behind me. She didn't even realize that he tried to pull me away from her. She didn't even hear him growl.

His fear and nervousness grew by the second.

It's okay, my love. I mind-linked him, trying to sound as calm as possible. She is my friend. She means well. She isn't a threat.

His hands on my waist tightened.

"I missed you too, Ali," I said as I hugged her back tightly. "I am so happy that you are here."

She let me go and grinned widely. Her eyes fell on my dress and she gasped.

"Fuck, Mads, you look amazing," she said. "That is one hell of a dress. What are you..."

She stopped talking when her eyes finally landed on, what I presumed was, a very angry-looking Dimitri. I smiled even wider, trying to make her feel just a little bit more comfortable.

"My King," she mumbled, her eyes widening. "I am sorry, I didn't..."

She looked back at me and gulped.

"It's okay, Ali," I said, reaching out and taking her hand in mine. "This is..."

She gasped and I realized that she was staring at Dimitri's hands on my waist. She looked back up at me wide-eyed.

“Are you...,” she spoke, but she couldn't finish her question.

“My mate?” Dimitri said angrily. “Your Queen? Yes, yes she is.”

I slammed my elbow into his ribs. He didn't have to be so rude. He just growled quietly and tightened his hold on me.

“Oh, I am so sorry!” Ali exclaimed, looking back at me. “I was just so excited to see you and I didn't...”

“It's okay, Ali,” I said, pulling her into another hug. “I am so excited to see you too.”

She hugged me back, but I could tell that she was very careful this time. I chuckled and looked at her.

“I am still the same Maddie,” I said. “You don't have to treat me like a Queen, you know? We ate dirt together.”

Ali snorted quietly and shook her head at me.

“What?” Dimitri asked and I looked up at him.

“It was a dare,” I said, shrugging a little. “I don't like to lose so I did it. Ali was kind enough to do it with me.”

Dimitri sighed and shook his head.

“Let's not spread that story around,” he said. “It's not very royal.”

Neither is building a treehouse and getting knocked out by a board. I mind-linked him, smirking a little.

He narrowed his eyes at me.

You just earned yourself a punishment, my Queen. He responded and my lower belly started tingling immediately. You should know better than to mock your King.

Oh, I can't wait, Alpha. I said, trying to sound seductive. I am not wearing any underwear, did you know that? I am completely naked under this dress and I am ready to be...

He stopped me from finishing what I wanted to say by growling.

Don't you finish that sentence. He said sternly. I will rip that fucking dress off your body and fuck you right now.

I bit the inside of my cheek to stop myself from laughing. He wasn't going to do that. He would never let anyone see that. I wasn't going to finish that sentence, though. He wouldn't fuck me here, but he could drag me somewhere else and we didn't really have time for that.

"Maddie?" Ali called me, making me look back at her.

She was looking at me with a confused expression on her face.

"I am sorry, Ali," I said, giving her a small smile. "What did you ask me?"

"I asked if maybe we could catch up a bit while I am here?" she said. "I know that you will be busy tonight, but maybe tomorrow?"

"Yes, Ali, of course," I said, smiling brightly. "I would love to."

Ali smiled and opened her mouth to speak, but she was interrupted by Alpha Alistair. He approached us with a small smile. He glanced at Ali and looked back at me.

"I am sorry to interrupt, my Queen, but I was wondering if I could borrow our King for just a minute?" Alpha Alistair asked, bowing his head at me.

"I am not leaving my Queen," Dimitri said sternly.

Alpha Alistair looked at him and smiled a little.

"It will only be a minute, my King, I promise," he said.

I looked up at Dimitri and nodded.

"It's okay," I said softly. "I will be here with Ali."

No. He mind-linked me. Will is not here yet and I won't leave you alone.

I am not alone. I responded. I will be okay. Go talk to him.

Dimitri tightened his jaw.

"We don't even have to leave the room, my King," Alpha Alistair said. "Let's just step away so we can exchange a few important words."

Dimitri looked around and pointed at the fairly empty spot by the door. He could still see me from there.

"I will be right back, princess," he said quietly as he kissed the top of my head.

I gave him a small smile. He reluctantly let me go and walked a bit further away to speak to Alpha Alistair.

“Wow, Mads,” Ali said as soon as they walked away. “You are a Queen?! I am so proud of you!”

I looked at her and smiled.

“It’s kind of insane,” I said quietly. “I feel like I don’t really belong here.”

Ali widened her eyes and shook her head.

“You do, Mads!” she exclaimed. “You should see yourself! You look amazing and so confident! I am so freaking proud of you!”

I grinned and shook my head at her.

“Enough about me,” I said. “What about you? Did you find your mate?”

Ali sighed and shook her head. “Not yet. I hope I will soon. I would love to have someone who would look at me the way Alpha Dimitri looks at you.”

“With a frown?” I asked teasingly.

Ali chuckled and shook her head.

“Like you are his whole world,” she said and I felt my entire body tingle.

I looked at him and my heart skipped a beat. He was talking to Alpha Alistair, but he kept glancing at me.

“I am his whole world,” I said. “Just like he is mine.”

Ali was silent for a moment, but then she asked something I didn’t expect her to.

“What’s that smell?”

CHAPTER NINETEEN – Among Us

Dimitri's POV

I didn’t like being away from her.

I was able to see her. I deliberately chose this spot because it wasn’t as crowded and I was still able to see her. But she was still too far away from me. She wasn’t within my

reach and that was driving me crazy. I wanted her next to me. I wanted to be able to touch her and hold her close.

“I won’t take up too much of your time, my King,” Alpha Alistair said. “I can see that you don’t like being away from your Queen.”

I looked at him and nodded.

“I don’t like being away from her, Alpha,” I said. “We are newly mated.”

Alpha Alistair nodded and gave me a small smile.

“It’s understandable, my King,” he said. “It’s been almost 40 years since I met my incredible mate and I am still nervous when I have to leave her alone even for a few minutes.”

He chuckled and shook his head.

“I sometimes still can’t believe how much I love that woman,” he added quietly. “Mate bond really is incredible.”

I looked at my princess and my heart skipped a beat. She was smiling and I just couldn’t believe how beautiful she was. I loved her more with each second that passed. Being away from her was torture. I wanted to feel her. Seeing her just wasn’t enough.

“I asked to talk to you alone because I didn’t want your mate to worry,” Alpha Alistair said, making me look back at him.

My entire body tensed up. I had to hold back a growl.

“Worry about what?” I asked, clenching my fists.

Did he know something? Was my princess in danger? I was on the verge of running back to her. Why would he ask me to leave her alone if there was something to worry about?!

Alpha Alistair took a step closer to me and looked around. He took a deep breath and looked back at me

“I think that there is a traitor among your Alphas, my King,” Alpha Alistair said quietly.

My eyes widened.

“You shouldn’t trust them, my King,” he continued. “You need to protect your Queen.”

My heart raced and I immediately looked at the crowd. Alpha Theodore was the closest to my princess. He was just a few steps away from her. I looked at Alpha Lucius. He was a bit further away, but he could still reach her. Alpha Rhys was...

"My King," Alpha Alistair called me, drawing my attention back to him. "She is safe here. Whoever he is, he isn't insane to try to hurt her in a room full of witnesses."

I gulped and clenched my fists. I could feel the fear burning my insides.

I glanced toward the entrance to the throne room and saw that Will just entered.

I am talking to Alpha Alistair. I mind-linked him. I need you here. It's important.

I looked back at Alpha Alistair and took a deep breath.

"Why would one of my Alphas betray me?" I asked. "Everyone wants peace."

Alpha Alistair sighed.

"No, my King," he said. "Everyone wants power. Everyone wants what you have."

He looked to his left and took a deep breath.

"They want your throne," he continued. "They want your mate. They don't want peace."

I gritted my teeth.

"They will never take her from me," I said angrily. "They will have to kill me to get to her and I will never let that happen. I live and breathe for her and that will never change."

Alpha Alistair looked back at me.

"I know, my King," he said. "But that doesn't mean they won't try. Your mate is the most direct way to your throne and that means that she is in grave danger."

My stomach twisted. I knew that even before he said it, but knowing that the threat was even closer than I expected terrified me.

"Alpha Theodore and Alpha Lucius are surely on your side, my King," Alpha Alistair continued. "I talked to them and they both agree that the traitor is among us."

I narrowed my eyes slightly.

"Alpha Lucius?" I asked, my voice laced with anger.

I didn't like the way he looked at Maddie. I wanted him as far away from her as possible.

Alpha Alistair chuckled and shook his head.

“He lets his eyes wander a lot, but he would never do anything, my King,” Alpha Alistair said, giving me a knowing look. “He is harmless.”

I seriously doubted that.

I tightened my jaw and looked around the room.

Where the fuck was Will? I needed him here. We needed to start discussing the possibility of a traitor being one of the Alphas immediately.

Where the fuck are you? I mind-linked him. We have important...

I stopped mind-linking him when I saw him standing next to Maddie and her friend. He was staring at Ali wide-eyed and I wasn't even sure if he was breathing.

What the...

They are mates! Maddie mind-linked me excitedly. Will and Ali are mates!

My eyes widened. Mates?!

“Oh, wonderful!” Alpha Alistair exclaimed. “I am so happy for your Beta.”

I watched as Will cupped Ali's cheeks and kissed her.

I was both shocked and happy for him.

“Go enjoy your evening with your friends and your mate, my King,” Alpha Alistair said and I forced myself to look back at him. “We can continue this tomorrow.”

Well, I didn't want to do that. I wanted to continue this immediately.

“Your mate is safe,” Alpha Alistair assured me and gave me a small smile. “We will talk tomorrow.”

Alpha Alistair walked away before I could protest. I clenched my jaw and tried to take a deep breath. I didn't like this. I wanted to investigate immediately. I wanted to know who the fucker was immediately. If something happened to Maddie...

“Dimitri!” My mate's excited voice interrupted my thoughts.

I turned to my right and saw her approaching me.

“Will and Ali are mates!” she repeated excitedly.

I forced a smile on my face and grabbed her as soon as she was close enough. I buried my nose into her hair and took a deep breath.

“I can’t believe this!” she exclaimed. “I am so excited for them!”

I gulped and tried to force myself to feel the excitement she felt.

It was so fucking hard, though. Someone wanted to hurt her and all I could feel was blinding rage and paralyzing fear.

I ran my hands down her body, letting myself feel her. I needed reassurance that she was really here. I needed to remind myself that she was okay. I needed to know that my princess was in my arms.

Nothing and no one would take her from me.

I would kill them before they even tried.

CHAPTER TWENTY – Happy For You

Dimitri’s POV

Maddie dragged me back toward Will and Ali.

“What is your name, beautiful?” Will asked quietly as he caressed her cheek.

He was completely entranced with her and he didn’t even look at Maddie and me.

Ali was silent. She was staring at Will with a mixture of shock and excitement on her face.

I pulled Maddie to my chest and wrapped my arms around her. I looked around, trying to see if anyone looked like a threat. I could only see the excitement on peoples’ faces. Some closest to us noticed that my Beta found his mate. They were looking at them and smiling brightly. Some were looking at Maddie and me. Their looks weren’t threatening, though. They were looking at us with admiration in their eyes. I could see both men and women looking at Maddie and smiling. I noticed a hint of jealousy in some of them, but nothing that concerned me.

“Her name is Alison,” I heard Maddie say, chuckling a little.

“Alison,” Will said, his voice laced with so much love and adoration. “I am William and I already adore you, beautiful.”

I shifted my focus to the Alphas. None of them were looking at us. None of them were looking at Maddie. They were talking, eating, and having fun with the members of their

packs. None of them look threatening and it was driving me insane. I wanted him to show me that he was a threat. I wanted him to show himself immediately so I could kill the fucker.

“Dimitri?” My mate's soft voice made me look back at her. “Is everything okay?”

She was looking at me with a mixture of confusion and worry on her beautiful face.

I lifted my hand and caressed her soft cheek. Goddess, I loved her with every piece of my body and soul.

“Of course, my love,” I said quietly.

I bent down and placed a kiss on her forehead. I grabbed her hips and pressed her closer.

She was here. She was okay.

“Oh, my Goddess!” I heard Ellie’s excited voice.

I glanced behind me and saw her approaching us with a wide smile on her face. She looked so excited and I wished I could feel the same way she felt.

I was so happy for Will, but the anger and the fear I felt clouded every other emotion. I wanted to be excited, but I couldn’t stay in that emotion. It sparked inside me for a second, but then it was gone when I remembered what Alastair had said.

Maddie turned around in my arms and wrapped her arms around me. I relaxed immediately. I placed a hand on her head and pressed her to my chest.

I can feel that something isn’t okay, my love. She mind-linked me.

I gulped and buried my nose into her hair. I was getting more and more relaxed by the second. Her touch, once again, took all my fear and anger away.

I will tell you everything later, princess. I responded. I promise.

She turned her head a little and placed a soft kiss on my chest. My entire body trembled.

“Hi!” Ellie’s excited voice turned my attention back to Will and Ali.

I felt that spark of excitement again and this time it lasted longer. I even managed to smile a little.

“My name is Ellie and I am so excited to meet you!” Ellie exclaimed as she pulled Ali into a hug.

Will growled quietly.

“Oh, relax,” Ellie said as she let Ali go. “I need to properly greet my sister-in-law.”

Ali’s eyes widened a little, but she managed to smile.

“Hi,” she said quietly. “It’s nice to meet you. I am Ali.”

Will pulled Ali back into his arms. He buried his nose into her hair and took a deep breath. He smiled and I could see his body relax.

Congratulations, man. I mind-linked him. I am so happy for you.

He looked at me and smiled.

Thank you. He responded. I can’t believe it. I am in shock. I found her!

I saw him tightening his arms around her and I smiled.

“Oh, I am so happy for you, Will!” Ellie exclaimed as she gave him a side hug.

Will smiled and placed a kiss on her temple.

“Thank you, Ellie,” he said softly.

Maddie turned back around and reached out to take Ali’s hand in hers.

“I am so happy for you,” Maddie said softly. “Will is an amazing man, Ali. You deserve someone like him. He will love you and cherish you with everything he has. I am sure of it.”

“He will also annoy you with everything he has,” Ellie added teasingly.

I snorted and Maddie chuckled. Ali bit her lower lip to stop herself from grinning.

Will growled and narrowed his eyes at Ellie.

“Oh, don’t worry, Ellie,” he said. “I leave that part for annoying little sisters.”

Ellie raised her brows. “Sisters? You have more than one? How come I didn’t know about that? I am hurt, William.”

Will rolled his eyes at her and looked at me.

“Would it be okay if I took Ali...,” he spoke, but I interrupted him before he even got to finish his question.

“Go,” I said, giving him a small smile.

He glanced at Maddie and a hint of worry flashed in his eyes.

Do you need me here?He asked.I can stay...

Go.I interrupted him again.I am here. Maddie will be okay.

He gave me a small nod and bent down to whisper something into Ali’s ear. She looked at him and nodded. He smiled and kissed her forehead. I watch him take her hand in his and lead her out of the throne room.

“Oh, I am so excited for him,” Ellie said softly.

“Me too,” Maddie said. “Ali is an amazing girl.”

Our guests started approaching us now that Will and Ali had left. They wanted to talk to Maddie and me. The fear I felt earlier returned and I pressed Maddie as close to me as possible. I could feel my muscles clenching and I could feel my Alpha aura creating a protective circle around Maddie and me. I didn’t want anyone to come too close. I didn’t want anyone to touch her.

Ellie furrowed her brows a little.

Is everything okay, Dimitri?She mind-linked me.

I gulped and shook my head a little.

No.I said.We have a problem.

Ellie widened her eyes and I saw her stance change from carefree and relaxed to careful and protective.

What’s wrong?She asked.Is Maddie in danger?

My heart raced.

Not right now.I said, trying to remain calm.But we need to meet tomorrow morning. We have some important work to do.