

Rejecting My Lycan Mate: The Throne

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE – Long Time

Madeline's POV

"Come on, Mads!" Mike yelled. "Left, right, left, right, duck!"

I did everything but ducked. Ellie slammed her body against mine and we fell on the mat. She pinned me down and grinned.

"You need to be faster," she said and I groaned.

I wanted to be faster, but I was so tired already. I felt like we'd been doing that for hours.

"That was good, Mads," Mike said. "But Ellie is right. You really need to be faster."

Ellie let me go and stood up. I decided to stay down.

"Come on, Maddie," Ellie said, extending her hand to help me get up. "Let's go again."

I shook my head. "Nope. I am done for today."

I was panting hard and I was sweating out of every pore on my body. I couldn't fight anymore. I wanted to go home, shower, and sleep.

"Maddie, you have to..." Ellie spoke, but Mike interrupted her.

"It's okay, Ellie," Mike said. "We've done enough for today. She shifted yesterday and she is tired."

Ellie looked at Mike and nodded. Mike gave me his hand and I grabbed it.

"You are good, Mads," Mike said as he pulled me up. "Have you practiced with anyone before?"

I shook my head and looked around for my water bottle. Ellie gave it to me.

"Then you are just talented," Mike grinned. "Like your father."

I chuckled and Ellie rolled her eyes at Mike.

"She is good, but she needs to be faster," Ellie said, giving me a stern look.

I sighed and took another big sip of water.

“She will be with practice,” Mike said as he stroked my hair. “She is already amazing.”

He leaned in and kissed my temple. I looked at him and smiled.

“Okay, if we are done then we should go,” Ellie said. “Dimitri mind-linked me like a thousand times to ask me if we were coming back soon.”

She rolled her eyes and I chuckled. She gave me my hoodie and I put it back on.

“He is worrying too much,” Mike sighed, shaking his head. “Maddie is surrounded by people who would do anything for her. She is safe.”

Mike looked at me and pulled me into a hug.

“You are safe with me, honey,” he said softly. “You know that, right?”

I hugged him back and smiled.

“I know, Mike,” I said and he rubbed my back gently.

“I should have noticed that something was going on with Janet,” Mike said quietly. “I should have protected you, honey. I am so sorry I didn’t.”

I let him go and looked up at him.

“It wasn’t your fault, Mike,” I said, shaking my head. “I told you that. You can’t blame yourself.”

Mike gulped and shook his head a little.

“It’s hard not to, honey,” he said quietly. “I’ve been there with you every damn day. How didn’t I see it happening? How didn’t I hear it?”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“She mostly did it while you were gone,” I said. “You couldn’t have known.”

Mike tightened his jaw and I saw fury in his eyes.

“Have you talked to her since she was imprisoned?” Ellie asked quietly.

Mike looked at her and shook his head. “I don’t want to see her or talk to her.”

I sighed and furrowed my brows a little.

“Maybe you should,” I said, making him look back at me. “She is your mate. You need closure.”

Mike shook his head immediately.

“No,” he said with determination in his voice. “I don’t need anything from her. I need to forget that she ever existed.”

I sighed and glanced at Ellie. That was going to be hard. She was his mate. They were together for years. He loved her. He couldn’t just move on and forget about her.

“Go home to Dimitri, honey,” Mike said as he placed another kiss on my temple. “I am sure that he can’t wait to see you. It’s been almost three hours since you left him.”

I smiled and gave Mike a small nod.

I looked at Ellie and I was just about to tell her that we should go when someone called my name.

“Mads?” I heard Seth’s voice and looked behind me.

He smiled and started approaching me.

“Hi, Seth,” I said, smiling back at him.

He was going to hug me, but Ellie stopped him.

“I wouldn’t do that if I were you,” Ellie said warningly. “Alpha is going to be able to smell her on you and that won’t end well, trust me.”

I want him to smell me on her.

Seth’s thought caught me off guard and I had to stop myself from gasping. I was doing such a good job keeping Mike and Ellie’s thoughts away. I kept my focus on the fight and I would force the wall around my brain up every time a small glimpse of their thoughts entered my mind.

Seth’s thoughts felt like he was screaming them. They felt loud and filled with anger and anticipation.

Seth looked at me and I forced myself to keep smiling. I focused on the wall around my mind, trying to imagine it as thicker and taller. I didn’t want to hear his thoughts again.

“You were practicing?” Seth asked and I gave him a small nod.

“Yes, we were,” Ellie said. “We are on our way back to the packhouse.”

Seth glanced at her and I could tell that he was annoyed by her defensiveness.

“I will leave you kids alone,” Mike said as he gave me another short hug. “I have work to do.”

“Bye, Mike,” I said as I gave him a small smile.

He grabbed his stuff and walked away toward his office.

“How about breakfast at the diner?” Seth asked, drawing my attention back at him. “My mom would love to see you.”

I was just about to answer him, but Ellie beat me to it.

“We don’t have time,” she said. “Alpha needs us to come back.”

Seth tightened his jaw and looked at Ellie.

“I was asking Maddie, not you,” he said angrily.

Ellie’s eyes widened and I saw anger flash in them. I needed to take over before they got into a fight.

“Ellie is right, Seth,” I said, keeping a small smile on my face. “I would love to go, but I can’t today. Dimitri wants me to come back. We have a lot to do. The tournament starts tomorrow.”

Seth sighed and I saw sadness in his eyes. My heart clenched. I was a terrible friend. He was so nice to me. He was the only one who accepted me when I first came here.

“Are you sure, Mads?” he asked. “It’s been a long time since we hung out. I miss you.”

I gulped and took a deep breath. The guilt I felt intensified.

“I will talk to Dimitri and ask him if we could have dinner at the diner tonight,” I said. “I would love to hang out with you too.”

Dimitri will never say yes to that, Maddie. Ellie mind-linked me. Seth wants you and Dimitri won’t allow him near you.

I ignored her and kept my focus on Seth. I owed him so much. I couldn’t be rude and forget that he was my friend.

“I am looking forward to that, Mads,” Seth said, smiling brightly. “I will see you tonight.”

I smiled at him and looked at Ellie. I could tell that she wasn’t happy.

“Let’s go, Madeline,” she said, grabbing our stuff and taking my hand in hers.

“Bye, Seth,” I said as she started dragging me away.

“Bye, Mads,” he said. “See you later.”

I smiled at him and looked back at Ellie.

“Madeline?” I asked, raising an eyebrow.

“Yes,” she said as she opened the door. “I am angry at you.”

I sighed and shook my head at her.

“He is my friend, Ellie,” I said. “I owe him a lot.”

Ellie looked at me and rolled her eyes.

“You owe him nothing, Maddie,” she mumbled. “He wants you for himself and you can’t let him have you.”

I furrowed my brows and I felt sadness and worry wash over me.

Did she really think I would do something like that to Dimitri? Did she really think so little of me?

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO – Fight

Madeline’s POV

I was already on the verge of tears and seeing Dimitri’s angry face when we walked into our office didn’t really help.

“Where you going to tell me about that fucker?” he asked angrily, crossing his arms over his chest.

I looked at Ellie and she just raised an eyebrow at me.

“I just walked in, Dimitri,” I said, looking back at him. “When was I supposed to tell you?”

“What fucker?” Will asked, furrowing his brows.

The way Dimitri was looking at me was breaking my heart. He was angry. He was disappointed. He looked at me like I did something horrible.

"I told you to mind-link me if anything happened," he said, tightening his jaw. "You should have mind-linked me the second he approached you."

"Who approached her?" Will asked worriedly.

"Seth," Ellie said, sighing loudly. "He asked her to go to the diner with him."

Will mumbled a curse and looked at Dimitri.

"Who is Seth?" Ali asked quietly.

Everyone ignored her. Dimitri was getting more and more pissed by the second. I wanted him to look away because his eyes were burning my skin.

"Why didn't you mind-link me, Madeline?" he asked angrily.

My chest tightened. It felt like a hand squeezed my lungs.

"Because he isn't a threat," I said quietly. "He's a friend..."

"Who wants to fuck you," Dimitri interrupted me, slamming his fist against the desk. "Please explain to me how he isn't a threat, Madeline."

I tried to take a deep breath, but I couldn't. I was so tired. I just wanted to take a hot shower and go to sleep. I wanted Dimitri to go back to the way he was this morning. Why was he so angry at me? Did I really make such a big mistake? I told him no.

"Calm down, Dimitri," Will sighed.

Dimitri looked at him and I thought he was going to punch him.

"Talk to me when there is a man who would want to fuck your mate," Dimitri said, looking back at me.

Will clenched his fists and took a deep breath.

"Explain, Madeline," Dimitri growled at me.

I could feel my heart cracking.

"Because I would never let him do anything," I said quietly. "I don't want him. I don't love him."

Did Dimitri really think that I would ever let Seth do anything? I talked to him about it. I told him that I loved my mate. Seth knew that nothing could ever happen between us.

My heart shattered and I could feel my stomach twisting. I was going to throw up.

Was Dimitri afraid I would do something? Did he think that I would cheat on him? Did he think that I would leave him? Didn't he trust me?

"Oh, but you want to go to dinner with him?" Dimitri asked mockingly.

I glanced at Ellie and furrowed my brows. Didn't she tell him that I told Seth I would ask Dimitri if we could go, not just me?

"No," I said and it was getting harder and harder for me to hide the pain in my voice. "I told him I would ask you if you and I could go. I would never go alone with him."

Dimitri narrowed his eyes and tightened his jaw.

"You don't trust me, do you?" I asked, my voice trembling. "You think that I would cheat on you?"

I felt tears burning the corners of my eyes.

My own wolf refused to shift and she left me alone. My mate didn't trust me. He thought that I would cheat and leave him. He would probably leave me too. He would leave me just like my wolf left me. He would leave me just like my father left me.

Everyone abandoned me. My father, my mother, my pack, my wolf. I always ended up alone.

He was going to leave me too. He didn't trust me.

"No, Madeline," he said, but I didn't believe him. "I don't trust him."

My head was throbbing and my stomach was in a knot. I felt like I was going to throw up.

He didn't believe me. He didn't trust me. He would leave me just like everyone else did.

I should have left when I had the chance. I should have left when Janet told me to leave.

'Madeline!'Skye screamed at me, but I ignored her.

I pushed her back as far as I could. She left me. I didn't need her.

My heart was going a mile a minute. I felt like I was going to pass out. I needed to leave. I needed to get out of this office. I needed to get away from them.

I was on the verge of crying and I didn't want to do it in front of them.

"You are not allowed to see him, Madeline," Dimitri said, but I could barely hear him. "You are not allowed to talk to him ever again."

My heart was going to jump out of my throat. I could only hear my blood rushing through my veins. My lungs kept getting tighter and tighter. I couldn't get enough air in.

He thought I would cheat. He didn't trust me. He didn't want me. He would leave me.

I felt Skye trying to push through, but I used every bit of strength I had left to keep her away.

I could see Dimitri's lips moving, but I couldn't hear what he was saying. I could hear my own heartbeat in my ears, though. I could hear how fast it was beating.

I had to get out of there. Immediately.

I forced my legs to move and I started running out of there. I couldn't breathe anymore.

"Madeline!" Dimitri screamed. "Where the fuck are you going?!"

I ignored him and just continued running.

"Give her some space," I heard someone saying. "She will come back."

"Some space?!" Dimitri screamed. "Some fucking space?!" I don't..."

I couldn't hear the rest because I covered my ears. I didn't want to hear the rest. I didn't want to hear anything anymore.

I felt warm tears rolling down my cheeks and I broke down sobbing. Thankfully, I was just outside of my room so no one saw me. I got inside and closed the door.

My knees buckled and I fell to the floor. I couldn't stop sobbing and gasping for air.

He didn't trust me. He didn't want me. He would leave me.

Would he go back to Savannah? Would he start a family with her? Would he raise her child? Would he love her?

'Madeline, no!' I heard Skye screaming, but I ignored her.

She didn't want me. She refused to shift. She left me alone. I didn't want to hear her voice. I didn't want to talk to her.

I didn't want to talk to anyone.

I wanted my mom.

I really, really wanted my mom.

I wanted her to hold me. I wanted her to tell me that everything was going to be okay. I wanted to hear her voice. I wanted to see her.

I just wanted my mom.

Another sob broke through my lips and I pulled my knees to my chest.

"Mom," I cried out.

She was the only one who didn't leave me. She was taken from me. She was taken too soon and she was taken when I needed her the most.

Maddie? Will's mind-link made me flinch. Where are you?

I ignored him. I didn't want to talk to him. I wanted my mom.

Skye whined loudly.

Maddie, just tell me where you are, please. Will mind-linked me again.

I didn't want to. He would come here and I didn't want him here. He probably thought I would cheat on Dimitri too. He probably already advised him to leave me.

I felt the shattered pieces of my heart stab my insides. A pain I never felt before made me scream.

He was going to leave me.

I lost him. I lost my mate.

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE – Panic

Dimitri's POV

I was seething with rage.

Did Seth really think I would let him take her from me? Did he really fucking think that I would let him anywhere near her?

I was going to end his miserable life before he could blink.

I wanted to follow Madeline, but Will stopped me. He told me that he wanted me to calm down a little before I went to find her.

The only reason I stayed was because I could feel that she was close. She was probably in our room. If I felt her leave the packhouse, I would have torn it down with my own two hands.

I kept pacing around the office, clenching my fists and growling. The anger was pulsating in my blood and I couldn't fucking see the end of it.

"Did you really have to go off on her like that?" Will sighed, making me look at him.

I narrowed my eyes and clenched my fists.

"She didn't do anything wrong, Dimitri," Will said. "Kendrick pissed you off and you took it out on her. You need to apologize."

Will was right. Kendrick did piss me off. He came to my office earlier and demanded to continue our meeting regarding my mother's punishment. I did my fucking best to explain to him that I wouldn't be holding any meetings until the Alpha's Meeting was over. He kept insisting and I had to order him to leave my office.

He pissed me off so fucking much. I was ready to explode when he left my office. It was actually a bit strange. I never felt anger overwhelming me as much as it did then. If Will hadn't stopped me, I would probably go out and kill the fucker.

But Maddie did do something wrong. She should have mind-linked me the moment he approached her.

"She needs to apologize to me," I said angrily. "She fucked up."

I saw anger flash in Will's eyes.

"She didn't do anything wrong, Dimitri!" he exclaimed. "She talked to him and told him no. She did everything she was supposed to do."

I clenched my fists and narrowed my eyes at him.

"She should have mind-linked me immediately," I said. "I should have gone there and made sure that..."

"What?" Will interrupted me. "That he didn't ask her to breakfast? Oh, come on Dimitri. The kid is in love with her. Is that disrespectful toward you? Yes. Is he fooling himself into thinking that something would happen between them? Probably. But would he hurt her? I don't think so. You are blowing this way out of proportion and you hurt your mate."

“I don’t think he is overreacting,” Ellie said. “Seth really likes her. He could try something.”

Just thinking about him touching her had me growling ferociously.

She was MINE!

‘Dimitri!’ Skol tried to talk to me again, but I pushed him away again.

He’d been trying to talk to me for a while, but I kept pushing him away. I was angry enough and I didn’t need him to add to it. He was probably pissed about Seth.

“And?” Will asked, raising his brows. “Maddie would reject him because she loves Dimitri. Dimitri would punish Seth and we would just go back to normal.”

Was he fucking serious?

“Besides, the kid will back off as soon as he finds his mate,” Will added, sighing and shaking his head.

“Are you fucking kidding me right now?” I asked, narrowing my eyes at him. “If that fucker wanted Ali would you be talking like this? Would you want him to touch her or try something?”

Anger flashed in Will’s eyes.

“Of course not,” he said, grabbing Ali’s hand. “But I would never do what you did, Dimitri. Didn’t you hear Maddie? She thinks that you don’t trust her.”

‘Just listen to him!’ Skol screamed and I could hear panic in his voice. ‘Listen to him!’

I furrowed my brows and focused on Skol.

‘What the fuck are you talking about?’ I asked angrily.

‘Maddie!’ Skol yelled. ‘She thinks that you don’t trust her! She thinks that you are going to leave her! She is having a panic attack and Skye can’t calm her down!’

My heart stopped beating. I could feel the blood leave my face.

‘She pushed Skye away,’ Skol continued, whining. ‘She was thinking about how everyone left her and she thinks that you will leave her too. She was wondering if you would go back to Savannah.’

My stomach twisted.

“Dimitri?” Will called me worriedly.

‘Why didn’t you tell me sooner?’ I asked Skol as I forced my legs to move. ‘You should have told me sooner!’

‘I tried to!’ Skol yelled. ‘You kept ignoring me!’

I started running out of my office.

“Dimitri?” Will called me again.

“I fucked up,” I mumbled as I almost ripped my office door open.

My heart was racing a mile a minute as I ran toward our bedroom.

She thought that I would leave her?! She thought that I would go back to that fucking bitch?

Like I wouldn’t rip my own heart out if I lost her. Like I wouldn’t stop breathing the minute she wouldn’t be in my life.

I couldn’t get to our room fast enough. I had to hold her. I had to apologize. I had to tell her how fucking much I loved her.

I thought that my heart would jump out of my body when I finally reached our room.

“Maddie?!” I exclaimed as I barged inside.

My eyes fell on her and I wanted to rip my own fucking heart out. She was sitting on the floor with her head between her knees. She was rocking back and forth slowly and I could hear her sobbing.

I slammed the door shut and threw myself next to her.

“Maddie, princess, no,” I cried out as I pulled her onto my lap. “I will never leave you. Never, Maddie, never.”

She didn’t let me see her face. She buried it into my neck and continued sobbing. I wrapped my arms around her and placed a hand on her head, holding her close to me.

My heart was breaking. I fucked up so fucking bad.

“I am so fucking sorry, princess,” I continued as I started kissing every part of her I could reach. “I am so sorry. I will never leave you. I love you with my entire heart. You are my life, Maddie. You are my home. You are mine and I am yours.”

My voice was trembling and I felt tears fall down my cheeks. I could feel her pain and I wanted to scream. I was so focused on my anger before that and I couldn't feel how hurt she was.

"Please forgive me, my love," I mumbled, trying to stop my voice from trembling.
"Please forgive me."

I continued kissing her and I tightened my arms around her.

'She was crying out for her mom,' Skol mumbled quietly and I could hear him whine.

Oh, my love. My princess. I wished so fucking much that I could take that pain away from her. I wished I could bring her mom back.

"I love you, Maddie," I said softly. "You are my greatest treasure and I will never leave you. I promise, my love."

Her sobbing quieted down a little. I placed a finger under her chin and I lifted her head a little. The broken look I saw on her face made me want to tear the fucking room down.

"I trust you, princess," I told her softly. "I am so sorry. I let my anger get the better of me, but I was never angry at you. I love you, my beautiful little mate."

She sniffled and buried her head into my neck again. She pressed herself closer to me and I closed my eyes.

"I love you, Maddie," I repeated quietly. "I love you and I am so sorry."

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR – Sick

Dimitri's POV

Waves of pain just kept washing over me. Guilt was tearing me from the inside. I fucked up and I didn't know how to make up for it. I didn't know how to assure her that I would never leave her.

"I love you, princess," I kept repeating it, hoping it would somehow fix what I broke. "I am so sorry."

Her sobbing eventually quieted down and I could feel her calming down a little. I kept kissing every part of her I could reach. I kept running my fingers through her hair. I kept rubbing her back softly. I kept mumbling how fucking much I loved her and that I would never leave her.

I lifted her head a little so I could look at her beautiful face. Her eyes were closed. She was pale and there were red circles around her eyes. Her cheeks were puffy and wet.

“Maddie?” I called her softly as I caressed her cheek, wiping the tears away.

She didn’t respond. She was asleep. I sighed and pressed a soft kiss on her temple.

“Sleep, my love,” I said quietly. “I won’t let go. I won’t leave.”

She unconsciously pressed herself even closer to me and I couldn’t help but smile a little.

“My love,” I said quietly as I kissed her lips softly. “You are mine. You are mine to love and to cherish. I will never leave you. I promise.”

It would kill me if I left her. It would destroy me. I would be an empty shell of a man if I lost her.

A knock on the door made me look up. The door opened and Will peeked inside. His brows furrowed when he saw Maddie.

“Is she okay?” he asked as he walked inside and closed the door.

“She is sleeping,” I said quietly.

Will sighed and approached us.

“I fucked up,” I mumbled, looking down at her. “I fucked up big time.”

Will stood in front of us and took a deep breath.

“You will apologize and everything will be okay,” he said. “She loves you, Dimitri. She loves you so much. She will understand.”

I gulped and buried my nose into her hair.

“She thought that I would leave her,” I muttered. “She thought that I would go back to Savannah.”

Will sighed again and I looked back up at him. He had a worried look on his face.

“You were really angry, Dimitri,” Will said. “I never saw you like that. She definitely never saw you like that. What the hell happened?”

Will furrowed his brows and shook his head.

“I know Kendrick pissed you off, but the anger was just rolling off you in waves,” Will added. “It was strange seeing you like that.”

I took a deep breath and placed a hand on Maddie's head. I pressed her closer, assuring myself that she was safe and in my arms.

"I don't know," I said, shaking my head. "Maybe it was because I hadn't seen Maddie in a few hours. I am really not sure."

Will looked at her and gulped.

"Are you really that dependent on her?" he asked. "I mean, I get it now. I feel amazing when I am with Ali. I feel my best when I am with her, but I don't think that being without her would cause me to react like that. I would miss her. I would want her back as soon as possible. I would be on edge, sure, but I wouldn't react like that."

I tightened my jaw and shook my head.

"I don't know what to tell you, Will," I said. "I can't explain it. I can't..."

I stopped talking and took another deep breath.

"It felt like I had that anger stored somewhere and it all just exploded out of me," I mumbled, trying to explain the best I could. "I just couldn't stop it."

Will looked back up at me and furrowed his brows.

"That sounds weird," he said. "It shouldn't be like that, Dimitri. Maybe you should talk to someone about it. You've been through a lot lately."

I placed another kiss on the top of Maddie's head.

"You can't hurt her like that every time you lose control," Will added. "She doesn't deserve it, Dimitri."

I tightened my hold on her.

She deserved nothing but love and care. She deserved the best. She deserved to be cherished and loved unconditionally.

"She did everything right," Will continued softly. "She handled it like she was supposed to. She wasn't in any danger. Ellie and Mike were there. She told him no. When he asked about dinner she said that she was going to ask you if you could both go. She did amazing, Dimitri."

I knew that. I knew that she did amazing. I knew that she wouldn't do anything to hurt me. I trusted her, of course I did.

But I didn't trust him. And I couldn't control my fucking anger.

I ran my fingers through her hair and tried to ignore a wave of guilt that washed over me again.

“She did amazing,” I repeated. “I fucked up.”

Will nodded. “You have to make sure that you don’t do it again, Dimitri. Talk to someone about it.”

I sighed. “Talk to who?”

“I don’t know,” Will said, shrugging. “Oliver or Mike maybe.”

I sighed again. I didn’t trust Oliver yet, and Mike never really had a true mate. He never marked his fated mate and my mother was his chosen mate. Their bond was never really as strong as mine and Maddie’s was.

Maddie whimpered quietly and I froze.

“Maddie, princess?” I called her quietly.

“Is she okay?” Will asked, his voice laced with worry.

I lifted her head gently and saw that she was still asleep. Her brows were furrowed and there were little beads of sweat on her forehead.

My heart started racing. Was she having a nightmare? Was she dreaming about me leaving her?

“Maddie?” I called her, my voice trembling. “Wake up, princess. I am here.”

I leaned in to place a kiss on her forehead and my heart stopped beating.

She was burning up.

“Fuck,” I cried out as I placed a hand on her forehead.

Fuck, fuck, fuck!

“What’s wrong?” Will asked as he crouched next to us.

“She is burning up,” I mumbled. “Go get the doctor.”

Will jumped up and ran out of the room.

“Maddie?” I called her a bit louder. “Wake up, princess, please.”

She groaned quietly and opened her beautiful eyes. I cupped her cheeks and kissed the tip of her nose.

“Hi, my love,” I said, trying to stop myself from shaking. “What’s wrong, princess? What hurts?”

She looked around and furrowed her brows a little.

“My head,” she mumbled so quietly I barely heard her.

Fear washed over me and I could feel every muscle in my body clenching. She was sick? What the hell was wrong? I was going to fucking lose it.

“It’s okay, my love,” I said, trying to remain as calm as possible. “I am here. I will make it all better.”

“Dimitri,” she mumbled my name quietly.

“Yes, princess,” I said as I kissed her cheek. “I am here.”

“I love you,” she said. “I am sorry for what I did.”

My heart clenched painfully.

“No, no, no, Maddie,” I said, shaking my head furiously. “You’ve done nothing wrong. Nothing, do you hear me? I fucked up. I let my anger get the better of me, but I wasn’t angry at you.”

She gulped and closed her eyes again.

“I love you, my princess,” I added, my voice breaking slightly. “Rest, okay? The doctor will be here soon.”

I placed her head back on my chest and took a deep breath.

What was wrong with my love? I needed to know and I needed to fix it. I hated that she was in pain. I had to stop it. I fucking had to.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE – What To Do?

Madeline’s POV

“Maddie, my love, wake up,” I heard Dimitri’s voice.

He sounded worried and I tensed up immediately. Why was he worried?

“Maddie,” he called me again and I felt his lips on my forehead. “Please, princess.”

I gulped and forced my eyes to open. I saw Dimitri’s handsome face and I smiled. I missed him. I felt like I hadn’t seen him in a while.

“Hi, princess,” he said softly and caressed my cheek. “How are you feeling?”

I sighed and furrowed my brows a little.

“Tired,” I mumbled. “How long was I asleep?”

Dimitri glanced behind him. I tried to see who it was, but he was practically lying on top of me and I couldn’t see anything.

“A few hours,” he said. “Does your head hurt?”

“A bit,” I sighed. “Is everything okay?”

Dimitri placed a hand on my forehead and frowned.

“Let me talk to her, my King,” I heard Oliver’s voice and I tried to look at him over Dimitri’s shoulder.

Why was he here?

Dimitri sighed and moved a little. He sat next to me and pulled me up so my back was pressed against his chest. He kissed my temple and wrapped his arms around me.

“Hi, Maddie,” Oliver said softly. “How are you feeling?”

I furrowed my brows a little. I looked around the room and saw that Will, Ali, and Ellie were also there. What the hell happened?

I tried to remember what I was doing before I fell asleep and...

I froze.

“Maddie?” Dimitri called me worriedly.

I looked at him and my eyes widened.

“I am sorry,” I mumbled, shaking my head. “I am so sorry. I didn’t mean to make you angry. I didn’t mean to...”

Dimitri interrupted me by pressing a soft kiss on my lips.

"I know, princess," he mumbled. "You don't have to apologize, okay? You didn't do anything wrong, I did."

Dimitri studied my face for a second.

"I talked to you about it," he added, his voice laced with worry. "It was right before you fell asleep. You don't remember?"

I bit my lower lip and tried my hardest to remember.

"You were sitting on the floor when I came into the room," Dimitri said softly. "I pulled you onto my lap and I told you how sorry I was."

Oh, I remembered that.

"I fell asleep after that," I added and Dimitri gave me a small nod.

"Do you remember the pack doctor coming here after that?" Oliver asked, making me look back at him.

I was confused. Why was the pack doctor here?

"She was asleep," Dimitri said. "I didn't let him wake her up."

"Why was he here?" I asked, looking back at Dimitri.

"You have a fever, princess," he mumbled softly. "You said that your head hurt."

My eyes widened and I placed a hand on my forehead. I was really warm.

"The doctor didn't find anything wrong, Maddie," Oliver said. "It is probably caused by your powers."

"My powers?"

"How?"

"How could her powers cause this?"

Oliver sighed and looked at Dimitri.

"She is still learning to use them," he said calmly. "Dealing with that kind of power can be overwhelming."

Oliver looked back at me.

“I need you to be honest with me, Maddie,” he said with seriousness in his voice. “Did you experiment with your powers? Did you use them without telling anyone?”

I shook my head immediately.

“No,” I said. “I don’t want to hear what others are thinking. I’ve been trying to find a way to stop myself from hearing those things. Why would I want to experiment?”

“Your powers go beyond reading minds, Maddie,” Oliver said. “You can feel other people’s emotions. You can manipulate them.”

I tensed up and gulped.

“Have you been doing that, Maddie?” Oliver asked, narrowing his eyes slightly.

I remained silent. I wasn’t sure what to say.

“Madeline?” Dimitri called me softly.

I gulped but kept my eyes on Oliver.

“I am not sure,” I said quietly. “If I did, I wasn’t aware of it. I didn’t know it was related to my powers.”

Dimitri tightened his hold on me.

“What did you do, princess?” Dimitri asked softly.

I looked at him and took a deep breath.

“I took your anger away,” I said and his eyes widened.

I looked back at Oliver and furrowed my brows.

“But I thought that mates can do that,” I said, shaking my head. “I didn’t use my powers to do it.”

Oliver sighed and shook his head.

“Mates make it easier on each other, Maddie,” he said. “They can’t take something away. You used your powers to do it.”

Dimitri kissed my temple and took a deep breath.

“You didn’t have to do that, princess,” he said quietly. “I could have handled it.”

I leaned more into him and kept my eyes on Oliver.

“So that’s why I’m sick?” I asked. “I just probably need some rest then.”

Oliver nodded. “You do need to rest, Maddie, but I am still a bit worried.”

“Why?” Dimitri asked, tightening his hold on me. “She will be okay. She has to be okay.”

Oliver took a deep breath and nodded. “She will be just fine. She needs to spend a day in bed and she needs sleep.”

“Why are you worried then?” Will asked, making Oliver look at him.

“Because it is obvious that Maddie is having trouble controlling her powers,” he said. “She needs practice and we can’t do that with everyone here. We are risking exposure. No one can know who she is.”

Dimitri growled quietly and pressed me closer to him.

“No one can know,” Dimitri repeated. “No one will know. No one will touch her. I will kill them.”

He started shaking a little and I instinctively focused on his anger and fear. I was just about to take them away when he stopped me.

“Maddie, no,” he growled. “Don’t take it.”

I looked at him and he caressed my cheek.

“I am sorry,” I mumbled. “It’s instinct. I didn’t do it on purpose.”

Dimitri kissed the tip of my nose and nodded.

“I know, princess,” he said softly.

“This is what I am talking about,” Oliver sighed, drawing our attention back to him. “You react on instinct and it can be dangerous.”

“Do you have any suggestions?” Ellie asked. “What can she do until the Alphas’ Meeting is over and she can start practicing?”

Oliver looked at me and I saw worry on his face. I knew that I wasn’t going to like what he was going to say next.

“There is a plant that could block her powers,” he said. “But there could also be some other side effects if she takes it.”

“What side effects?” Dimitri asked angrily. “She isn’t taking anything dangerous.”

Oliver looked at him and shook his head.

“I would never put her in danger, my King,” he said.

“What are the side effects?” I asked and Oliver looked back at me.

“You wouldn’t be able to use mind-link,” he said. “And you probably wouldn’t be able to talk to your wolf.”

A wave of nervousness washed over me. Skye stirred and whined quietly.

“Fuck no,” Dimitri said. “What if I am not with her? I want to be able to mind-link her.”

Oliver looked at him and nodded.

“Understandable,” he said. “Which is why I will ask you to talk about it. Don’t decide right now.”

“Are you sure that she will have those side effects?” Will asked.

“No,” Oliver responded, shaking his head. “She could have them. It’s not certain.”

Oliver stood up and gave me a small smile.

“Think about it, Maddie,” he said. “Let me know what you decide. I will be ready if you choose to take the plant.”

Oliver bowed to Dimitri and walked out of the room.

I took a deep breath and leaned my head on Dimitri’s shoulder. I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do. Was it really so dangerous for me to practice and learn more about my powers? Would someone really see me if I stayed in my room? How would anyone know what I was doing here?

I took a deep breath and closed my eyes. My head started throbbing again. I couldn’t think about it. I couldn’t make a decision.

CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX – A Tough Decision

Dimitri’s POV

She wasn’t going to take that plant. If something happened and she wasn’t able to mind-link me I would fucking lose my shit.

But on the other hand, her powers made her sick. She was hurt because she was trying to help me. How could I let her be in pain when there was a solution to it all?

“I have that lunch with the Lunas today,” Maddie said as she tried to get up.

I growled and pulled her back to my chest. She was crazy if she thought I would let her get out of this bed.

“It’s way past lunchtime, Mads,” Will said. “It is almost 6 p.m.”

“Shit,” Maddie mumbled. “You should have woken me up.”

“Like I would have let you go,” I said, growling again. “You heard what Oliver said. You need to rest.”

“Don’t worry about it, Mads,” Ellie said. “I talked to the Lunas and I arranged for breakfast tomorrow. I told them you weren’t feeling well and they completely understood.”

Oh, she wouldn’t be going to that either. She was going to spend the day in bed. She was going to rest and I wouldn’t let her do anything or go anywhere until I was completely sure that she was okay.

“She isn’t going,” I said, making both Maddie and Ellie look at me. “She is going to rest.”

“I have to go, Dimitri,” Maddie said. “I made them a promise.”

I growled and wanted to argue, but Ellie interrupted me.

“We will see how she feels in the morning, okay?” she said, giving me a knowing look. “I know you want to make sure that she is okay, but she has obligations, Dimitri. She will go if she is feeling well.”

I raised my brows at Ellie. She really had some nerve telling me what would happen. I could feel anger boiling inside me.

“Don’t start, Dimitri,” Will sighed. “Ellie is right and you know it.”

Maddie turned her head and placed a soft kiss on my chest. I relaxed immediately.

But then I figured out what she did and I growled.

“Maddie!” I exclaimed as I cupped her cheeks and made her look at me. “You have to stop doing that!”

She sighed and closed her eyes.

“I am so sorry,” she mumbled as she opened her eyes again. “I am just used to it.”

I shook my head and placed a soft kiss on her lips.

“My princess,” I said softly. “You need to stop. You are hurting yourself.”

Maddie nodded and buried her face into my neck. She took a deep, slow breath and I could feel her relaxing. I placed my hand on the back of her head and held her close to me.

“Maybe Oliver’s idea isn’t a bad one,” Will mumbled and I looked at him. “She is obviously having trouble controlling it.”

I growled and narrowed my eyes at him.

“I need to be able to mind-link her, Will,” I said. “I need Skye to be able to talk to her.”

What if I wasn’t with her and something happened? What if Skye wouldn’t be able to let Skol know what was going on with her? My princess had a bad habit of not telling me everything I needed to know. She had a bad habit of thinking that she was protecting me by hiding things from me. That was another thing I needed to talk to her about. She had to stop doing it. She had to be completely honest with me. But until she learned how to do that, Skye was my way of making sure that my princess was okay.

But Will was right. She was having trouble and it was only hurting her.

“She is never alone, Dimitri,” Will said. “One of us is always with her. You would always be able to reach her and you would always know where she is.”

I tightened my hold on her. I wasn’t sure. I still wasn’t fucking sure.

“Oliver said that the side effects were only a possibility,” Ellie said. “Maybe she won’t have them. She could try to take it and see. The effect of the plant should wear off after a while.”

“She will probably have the side effects,” Ali said quietly, making Will, Ellie, and me look at her.

Maddie lifted her head and looked at her as well.

Ali looked at me and I could tell that she was very nervous. I tried to soften my gaze. I knew I didn’t make the best first impression on her and I didn’t want her to think that I didn’t like her. She was important to both Maddie and Will and that made her important to me too.

“How do you know that, baby?” Will asked as he ran his fingers through her hair.

She looked at him and took a deep breath.

“Because I believe that I know what plant Oliver was talking about,” she said. “It’s wolfsbane and it would surely block her mind-link and her connection with her wolf.”

My eyes widened and a feral growl escaped me.

“Wolfsbane?!” I screamed. “He wants to give her fucking wolfsbane?!”

I wanted to get up and go find the fucker, but Maddie stopped me.

“Not in the amount that would harm me in any way, Dimitri,” Maddie said calmly. “He is going to use small amounts and mix it with other plants.”

I furrowed my brows and shook my head.

“How do you know that, Maddie?” I asked.

“Because he used it to help my mom,” she said calmly. “Healers use wolfsbane in a lot of their potions. It is not dangerous in small amounts.”

“She is right,” Ali added and I looked back at her. “Oliver will probably make a tea with a mixture of different herbs, one of which will be wolfsbane.”

I clenched my fists and gulped.

“But you are sure she will have those side effects?” I asked and Ali gave me a small nod.

“I am sure that Oliver didn’t say anything because he didn’t want to scare you,” she said. “But even a small amount of wolfsbane would cause her to lose the ability to mind-link and talk to her wolf.”

I tightened my jaw and forced myself to remain calm. I couldn’t let the fear and the anger overwhelm me. I couldn’t give Maddie a reason to use her powers. I was sure that she would do it if she felt me get angry or afraid.

“Are you sure that he would use wolfsbane?” Ellie asked. “Maybe he was talking about another plant.”

Ali furrowed her brows and bit her lower lip.

“Maybe,” she said. “But I doubt it.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“You don’t have to decide right now, Dimitri,” Will said. “Maddie needs rest anyway. Sleep on it and we can talk about it again tomorrow. It’s a tough decision.”

Will was right. We didn’t have to make that decision now.

“You are right,” I said, giving him a small nod. “We will talk about it tomorrow. Do you need me to go back to the office with you?”

Will shook his head and relief washed over me. I didn’t want to leave Maddie.

“Everything is ready for tomorrow,” Will said. “I will just go over some details one more time before going to bed.”

“Mind-link me if you need anything,” I said and he gave me a small nod.

He looked at Maddie and smiled.

“Get some rest, okay Mads?” he said softly. “I will see you tomorrow.”

“Goodnight, Will,” she said, smiling back at him.

Ali and Ellie approached the bed and hugged Maddie.

“I will see you tomorrow, Maddie,” Ellie said, smiling a little. “Get some sleep.”

Maddie nodded and smiled at them. I watched them walk away.

My lips were on Maddie’s even before Will closed the door.

“How about I prepare you a warm bath?” I asked as I lowered my lips to her neck.

“Only if you will be in that bath too,” she said and I chuckled.

“Oh, that is surely going to happen,” I said as I stopped kissing her neck. “I can’t wait to feel your naked body pressed against mine, princess.”

Maddie smiled and I kissed her lips again. I was going to show her how much I loved her. I was going to show her that I wouldn’t leave her. I was going to show her that she was my entire world and that I wouldn’t be able to live and breathe without her in my arms.

CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN – Tell Me

Madeline’s POV

A small smile spread across my lips as soon as I woke up. I felt Dimitri's lips on my neck and my entire body tingled. My back was pressed to his chest and we were both completely naked. I shivered in delight and reached behind me, wrapping my arm around his waist and pulling him closer to me.

"Like I could ever give this up," he mumbled against my neck. "You are insane if you think I would ever be able to live without this."

He ran his nose across my jaw and took a deep breath.

"Like I could live without your scent," he said softly.

He started sucking my mark and I cried out in pleasure.

"Like I could live without the taste of your skin," he added and started kissing my neck again.

My whole body felt like it was on fire. I pressed myself closer to him and moaned when I felt how hard he was.

"Like I could fucking breathe without waking up next to you," he whispered in my ear and I turned my head so I could look at him.

The love and desire I saw in his eyes made me feel like a complete fool for ever thinking that this man would leave me. He loved me just as much as I loved him. He wanted me just as much as I wanted him.

I felt his hand caress my body gently. He never looked away from me.

"Like I could live without feeling your skin under my fingertips," he said quietly and I felt tears burning the corners of my eyes.

He stopped when he reached my thigh. He lifted my leg a little and I felt the tip of his hard dick at my entrance. I gasped quietly as he started pushing into me slowly.

"Like I could live without making love to you," he added softly and leaned in to kiss me.

I thought that I would burst into flames. Everything was Dimitri. The air around me was him. Every feeling inside me was him. Every sensation on my body was him. Everything I ever was and everything I would ever be was completely consumed by him.

"You are mine," he mumbled against my lips as he started pushing into me gently.

I moaned and started moving my hips in circles.

"Tell me that you are mine," he said quietly.

"I am yours," I said immediately. "I am only yours."

His movements quickened a bit and I felt that familiar tingle of my orgasm in my lower belly. A shaky breath escaped me as I arched my back and pressed my butt into him.

"Tell me that you will never leave me," he said, his voice demanding.

"I will never leave you," I said, panting hard.

His movements quickened again. He grabbed one of my breasts and flicked my nipple.

"Tell me that you will never even think about me leaving you," he said, growling quietly.

I wanted to say it, but I couldn't. I couldn't do anything except moan in pleasure.

"Say it, Madeline," he growled as he started rubbing my clit.

"Oh," I cried out, arching my back again.

He started sucking his mark on my neck and my eyes rolled to the back of my head.

"Say it or I will stop," he threatened and I whimpered.

He pinched my clit gently and I thought that I would explode. If he stopped now...

"I won't think about it!" I practically screamed. "Oh, please!"

"Good girl," he growled and licked my mark.

He started fucking me faster and he continued rubbing my clit. I was going to cum. My entire body tensed up as my orgasm started.

"Cum with me," he ordered. "Now, Madeline."

A loud moan escaped my lips as I was finally thrown over the edge. I could feel Dimitri's warm sperm coating my insides. My muscles clenched and my entire body started shivering. Dimitri pressed me closer to him and the sounds that were coming off him only prolonged my orgasm. He was groaning, grunting, and mumbling about how much he loved me. His arms around me tightened and I could feel his dick pulsating inside me.

I pressed myself more into him, forcing his dick deeper inside me. We both moaned.

"Fuck, princess," he mumbled as he wrapped his arm around my waist.

I smiled a little and leaned back into him. He pushed his dick inside me gently a couple of more times before he pulled out and sighed in pleasure. I smiled and took a deep breath. Sex with him was always amazing. It always made my toes curl and my entire body shiver.

"I love you," he said softly. "I am sorry I was such a dick yesterday."

He placed a soft kiss on my shoulder and I turned around to look at him.

"I am sorry for not mind-linking you when he approached me," I said. "I didn't think he was a threat."

Dimitri shook his head and took a deep breath.

"He wasn't a threat, princess," he said softly. "You were safe. I overreacted because I was already so fucking angry at Kendrick."

I furrowed my brows. "Kendrick?"

Dimitri placed another kiss on my shoulder and sighed.

"He came while you were practicing with Ellie," he said, his voice laced with anger. "He insisted on talking with me about Janet."

I sighed and turned around so I could face him. He pulled me closer and I wrapped myself around him. He chuckled as he placed a kiss on my forehead.

"Does he want you to let her go?" I asked and he shook his head immediately.

"I told you that will never happen," he said as he stroked my hair. "He wants to continue our conversation about her punishment."

Dimitri scoffed and rolled his eyes.

"Like I would ever change my mind about that," he added, his voice laced with annoyance.

I sighed and ran my fingers up and down his chest.

"I am sorry I wasn't there," I said and he shook his head immediately.

"I am not," he said. "You would try to contain my anger again and you would end up hurting yourself."

I sighed and he raised an eyebrow at me.

“Or am I wrong?” he asked and I shrugged.

“Probably not,” I mumbled and he pulled me into a hug.

“My silly princess,” he said softly as he placed a kiss on my temple.

I chuckled and tightened my arms around him.

“How is your head today?” he asked.

“Much better,” I said. “I think that morning sex helped.”

“Noted,” Dimitri said, laughing a little. “We should have sex every morning and see if it helps with anything else.”

I snorted and placed a kiss on his neck.

“Deal,” I said, looking at his handsome face.

Maddie?Ellie mind-linked me.Are you feeling better? Will you be able to go to breakfast?

Yes.I responded as I hugged Dimitri again.I will be ready in an hour.

Okay.She said.I will come and get you.

I cut our mind-link and focused on my mate.

“How about we shower together?” I asked him.

Dimitri ran his hand down my body and spanked my butt.

“Only if you let me fuck you in there again,” he said and I almost moaned.

“Yes, please,” I said softly and Dimitri growled.

I had to hold back my laugh when he jumped off the bed and picked me up. He threw me over his shoulder and spanked my butt again.

“Hey,” I complained and it only made him spank me harder.

I moaned and he placed a finger inside me.

“Are you ready for me?” he asked as he used his thumb to put a little pressure on my clit.

“Yes,” I cried out. “Fuck me, please.”

I didn't have to ask him twice. Before I even realized what was happening, he put me down, pressed me against the shower wall, and pushed his dick inside me. I grabbed his shoulders and dug my nails into his skin.

I wished we could stay like that forever.

CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT – Breakfast

Madeline's POV

“I have to admit that I am a little bit surprised to see you here,” Ellie said as I walked into the kitchen.

I furrowed my brows. “Why?”

“Luna,” the cook said, bowing his head at me.

“Good morning, Daniel,” I said, giving him a small smile.

“I thought that Dimitri wouldn't let you go,” Ellie said, making me look back at her.

“Oh, he is still complaining upstairs,” I said, shaking my head and chuckling a little. “But I managed to convince him that I had to do this.”

“How is your head?” Ali asked as she approached me and pulled me into a hug.

“A bit better,” I said, hugging her back. “I don't know what happened yesterday.”

“You got upset, Maddie,” Ellie sighed. “It was a little bit too much for you to handle.”

I sighed and Ali let me go.

“Is everything ready, Daniel?” I asked, looking back at him.

He was cutting strawberries and decorating the plates. He looked up at me and nodded.

“Yes, Luna,” he said, smiling at me. “The girls are setting everything up as we speak.”

I gave him a small nod and smiled. “Thank you so much, Daniel.”

“There is no need to thank me, Luna,” he said, bowing his head again. “It's my pleasure to cook for you and your guests.”

He smiled and went back to decorating the plates. I looked at Ellie.

“Are all four Lunas coming?” I asked as I approached the table and sat down.

Ellie nodded. “Do you know all of their names? Should we go through the list again?”

I raised an eyebrow at her. “Do you think that my memory is that bad? Of course, I know their names. I know everything about them.”

Luna Maria was my former Alpha’s mate. I was happy she came because I always admired her and I missed her insights and her presence in my life. She and my mom were best friends and Luna Maria was a constant presence in my life ever since I was a baby. I was hoping I would get to spend some alone time with her while she was here.

Luna Laura was Alpha Xavier’s mate. She was very quiet, but she seemed very kind. I was looking forward to getting to know her better.

Luna Alice was Alpha Lincoln’s mate and she was the loudest and the most talkative of all the Lunas. She always had a smile on her face and I admired her confidence. I believed that I had a lot to learn from her.

Luna Jennifer was Alpha Lucius’ mate and she was the only one that made me feel a bit uncomfortable. She was very quiet, but she never looked away from me when we were in the same room together. I was curious about her, but I always held back from reading her mind. It just felt like a huge invasion of her privacy and I didn’t want to do that. But maybe I could have a little peek during breakfast. Maybe she knew something about who was threatening Dimitri.

“I don’t think that your memory is bad, but you had a few rough days,” Ellie said, sighing quietly. “I just wanted to make sure you know everything you need to know before we go in there.”

I smiled and nodded.

“I know everything, Ellie,” I said. “Don’t worry.”

She glanced at Daniel before looking back at me.

Don’t read their minds. She mind-linked me. Dimitri forbade it. He doesn’t want you hurting yourself.

But maybe I could find something... I said, but she interrupted me.

It’s not worth it, Maddie. She said, shaking her head a little. Dimitri will find another way. Something will come up. It has to.

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

Promise me that you will keep that wall up. She said.

I bit the inside of my cheek. I had to at least try to find something useful. I had to help my mate.

'Madeline...', Skye spoke, but I pushed her back immediately.

I promise. I mind-linked Ellie.

She gave me a small nod and looked at Ali.

"Stay by her side at all times," Ellie said sternly. "Dimitri will kill us if something happens to her."

I sighed and shook my head.

"That's a bit dramatic, don't you think?" I asked. "You are scaring Ali."

Ellie raised her brows at me. "Am I lying? Dimitri would lose his shit if I bring you back to him and a hair is missing from your head. I don't even want to think about what he would do if you got hurt."

I bit the inside of my cheek to stop myself from smiling. Ellie really knew how to overreact sometimes.

"Come on," Ali said, chuckling. "I think that the Lunas have arrived."

I stood up and started walking toward the dining room. Ellie was on my left and Ali was on my right. I smiled even before I opened the door.

"Luna!"

"Queen!"

They exclaimed as they bowed their heads at me.

"Good morning," I said as I sat down at the head of the table. "I would like to apologize for my absence yesterday. I wasn't feeling well."

Ellie sat on my left and Ali sat on my right. I noticed Ellie watching the Lunas carefully.

"Don't worry about it, my Queen," Luna Alice said, smiling brightly. "I hope you are feeling better today."

I smiled back and nodded.

"I am much better, thank you Luna," I said politely and looked at Maria.

She reached out and took my hand in hers.

"I am so incredibly happy for you, Maddie," she said softly. "You are an amazing Luna and I am so proud of you."

I smiled brightly.

"Thank you, Maria," I said. "That means so much coming from you."

She squeezed my hand tightly before letting it go.

I looked at Luna Laura and Luna Jennifer.

"I am so happy to have you here," I said, smiling at them. "I hope you are enjoying your stay."

Luna Laura smiled at me. "Very much so, my Queen. Everyone is excited about the first tournament tonight."

"I don't know whose idea it was to arrange a tournament and make it a tradition alongside Alpha's Meeting, but it was the best idea ever," Luna Alice said as she poured coffee into her mug. "Can you imagine not having some entertainment while we were here?"

I chuckled and nodded. "I agree. I am very excited for the tournament to start."

Luna Alice smiled at me and took a small sip of her coffee.

I looked at Luna Jennifer and I focused on her thoughts.

What is it about her? Why does Lucius want her so badly? Am I not as pretty as she is? Am I not enough for him?

My breath got caught in my throat and I had to do everything in my power to remain calm. I lifted the wall around my brain again. I imagined it as tall and thick. I didn't want to hear anything else. I couldn't.

Was it Lucius? He wanted me? Why? What did he want to do with me?

I gulped and forced a small smile on my face.

"It's very nice to have you here, Luna," I said, trying to keep the confusion out of my voice.

She remained quiet, but she bowed her head at me.

“Kade wanted me to say hi,” Luna Maria said, drawing my attention back to her. “He was supposed to come with Jack and me, but he got held back at the pack. He will be taking over the pack very soon.”

Kade was Jack and Maria’s son. He was a couple of years older than me and I never really spent any time with him.

“That is so nice to hear,” I said, smiling a little. “I wish him all the best.”

Luna Maria smiled brightly and I looked back at Jennifer. I took a deep breath and focused on her thoughts again.

I couldn’t let her thoughts scare me. I was a Luna and a Queen. I had to know if her mate was a threat to Dimitri and his throne.

CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE – Money Or Power

Dimitri’s POV

“I am telling you, Dimitri,” Will said. “It has to be Lincoln. He has nothing to lose.”

I fixed my tie and glanced at him.

“His pack is falling apart,” Will said, looking at the file in his hand. “He is financially ruined. It makes sense that he would want to go after your throne, Dimitri. He is the one who would gain the most out of it.”

I sighed and shook my head.

“It’s not Lincoln,” I said, shaking my head. “It’s someone else.”

My money was on that fucker Lucius. I didn’t give a fuck what Alistair had said about him. I didn’t trust him.

“You don’t want it to be Lincoln because he was your father’s friend,” Will sighed, placing the file on my desk.

“That’s not the only reason, Will,” I said as I started fixing the cufflinks on my sleeves. “Lincoln is harmless. He doesn’t have the resources to do something like this.”

Will sighed and shook his head at me.

“Who is it then?” he asked. “We went through everything we have about these Alphas and their packs. Nothing stands out. Lincoln is the only one with a motive.”

“A financial one, yes,” I said. “That doesn’t make him the traitor, Will.”

I took a deep breath and released it slowly.

“Besides, I don’t really think that the motive behind this is money,” I said. “I believe it is about something else.”

“Power?” Will asked and I nodded.

“And Madeline,” I said quietly, feeling the anger burning a hole in my stomach.

Will’s eyes widened.

“You really think that this is about her?” he asked quietly. “Why? She could only be a means to an end, though. They could only try to hurt her to get you to give up your throne.”

I gulped and gave him a small nod.

“Yes,” I said, trying to stop my voice from trembling. “But I am scared that it’s not only about that. I think that they know who she is.”

Will’s eyes widened even more.

“No!” he exclaimed, shaking his head. “They don’t know, Dimitri! No one knows!”

I took a deep, slow breath through my nose. I needed to remain calm, but all I really wanted to do was scream and kill every single one of them.

“I am not so sure,” I said, breathing out slowly. “Why do you think I don’t want her using her powers? Why do you think I don’t want her to practice? Why do you think I am even considering letting Oliver give her that fucking concoction that would just stop her powers?”

I tightened my jaw and shook my head.

“I am terrified that they already know,” I said quietly. “And I don’t want to give them proof.”

I gritted my teeth and took a deep breath.

“I know it would be easier to just let Maddie read their minds and tell me which one of those fuckers is after my throne,” I said angrily. “But I would be putting her in so much danger if I did that. I would give them proof. I would show them who she is and what she can do. Every single one of them would be after her if I did that. Every single one of those fuckers would want my mate if I did that.”

Will nodded. "I know, Dimitri. I agree with you. We can't use her for that. She isn't even aware of everything that she can do. Even if we tried, it could go horribly wrong."

I nodded and Will furrowed his brows.

"But you didn't answer my question," he said. "Why do you think that they know?"

I took another deep breath and ran my fingers through my hair.

"I am not sure," I said, tightening my jaw. "Maybe it's my fear talking, but I have this terrible feeling that..."

I stopped talking and closed my eyes.

"Nothing will happen to her, Dimitri," Will said, placing a hand on my shoulder. "She is safe. We won't let them hurt her."

I opened my eyes and nodded.

"They...", Will spoke, but he was interrupted when the door opened.

My beautiful princess walked inside and my heart skipped a beat. She was wearing a beautiful dark green dress that enhanced the color of her eyes perfectly. Her hair was pulled up into a ponytail and I could see my mark on her neck. It made me shiver. It was a clear sign that this perfect woman was mine.

"Princess," I mumbled as I reached out for her.

"Are you ready?" she asked as she approached me.

She looked me up and down and smiled a little. I pulled her to me and breathed in her scent. It calmed me down immediately.

"You are really handsome," she said softly as she ran her hand down my back. "I like this suit."

I smiled and placed a kiss on her forehead. I missed her terribly. She spent the morning at breakfast with the Lunas. I was in meetings all day. I just wanted to be alone with her and keep her body close to mine.

"How did the meeting go?" she asked, looking from me to Will. "Did you find something new? Did the rogues attack again?"

"Thankfully no," Will said. "The meetings went well. We managed to come up with a new plan for border security. The Alphas agreed to most of it."

Maddie nodded and looked at me.

“What about the traitor?” she asked. “Any new information?”

I tightened my jaw and shook my head. “No, princess. We couldn’t bring it up at the meeting. If Alistair is right and it is one of the Alphas, I don’t want him to know that we know.”

“The alphas suggested the possibility of rogues having their own leader,” Will said, shaking his head. “Some sort of an Alpha of the rogues.”

Maddie furrowed her brows and looked at Will.

“Do you think it’s possible?” she asked.

Will shrugged. “It could be, but it’s not likely. We would know if a rogue became that powerful. We would know if he managed to gather a large number of followers. Something like that couldn’t be kept a secret for long.”

Maddie nodded and took a deep breath.

“At least we can make an educated guess about who their inside man is,” Will added, rolling his eyes.

“Kendrick,” Maddie mumbled.

“Do we have eyes and ears on him?” I asked, tightening my hold on Maddie.

Will nodded and smirked a little.

“Since the day Maddie read his mind,” he said. “I can tell you how many times he went to the bathroom last night.”

I shook my head and rolled my eyes. Maddie chuckled a little.

“That doesn’t seem like relevant information,” I said.

“Just letting you know it’s information we do have,” Will said, grinning at me.

“What about other information?” Maddie asked, smiling a little. “Anything relevant?”

Will shook his head. “No. He stays in his office most days. He did try to visit Janet a couple of times, but he was never let inside.”

I growled quietly, making Maddie rub my back gently.

Will glanced at the watch on his wrist and muttered a curse under his breath.

“We are going to be late,” he said as he started walking toward the door. “I am going to go get Ali. We have to leave.”

He rushed out of my office and I immediately pulled Maddie to me. I pressed my lips against hers and cupped her cheeks.

“Stay beside me the entire time,” I said softly. “Am I clear?”

“Yes,” she mumbled and kissed me.

I melted into her embrace, wishing we could just stay here where she was safe. I couldn't wait for the night to be over. I couldn't wait until I was asleep next to her. I couldn't wait until she was safely wrapped in my arms.

CHAPTER FORTY – The First Challenge

Dimitri's POV

Loud cheering and clapping made me look back at the battlefield. The last fight of the night was almost over. Alpha Theodore's warrior was winning. I couldn't care less about the tournament. I kept looking around, trying to see if anyone was acting suspicious.

Kendrick, Landon, and Rayan were sitting close to us. Kendrick kept glancing at Maddie and the urge to gauge his eyes out only grew inside me. I couldn't wait to find evidence about him working with the traitors. I couldn't wait to have a reason to kill the fucker.

“He is really good,” Maddie said quietly.

A wave of jealousy washed over me and Maddie chuckled.

Are you seriously jealous?She mind-linked me.As if I would ever want or need anyone else but you.

I glanced at her and saw her shaking her head at me.

I wasn't jealous until you mentioned how good he was.I mumbled through the mind-link.

Looking back, letting her watch half-naked men fight wasn't one of my best choices.

She took my hand in hers and squeezed it.

He isn't you.She said softly.All I want and all I need is you.

I lifted her hand and kissed her knuckles softly.

I know, princess. I said and looked at her.

My heart skipped a beat. I was sometimes stunned by the amount of love I felt for her. I still couldn't believe that the Goddess gave her to me. I sometimes still couldn't believe that I was lucky enough to stand beside her and call her mine.

"We have a winner!" Landon exclaimed, making me look back at the battlefield.

Alpha Theodore's warrior won.

Maddie and I stood up and started applauding him. People around us cheered and clapped. Alpha Theodore approached his warrior and patted his back. I could see how proud he was.

Some of my warriors rushed to help Alpha Ezekiel's warrior who was lying on the ground and whining quietly.

"Congratulations!" Landon exclaimed, shaking the winner's hand. "It was a well-deserved victory."

Landon was smiling brightly and it annoyed me. I wanted to wipe that stupid smile off his face.

"Thank you, Chancellor," Alpha Theodore's warrior said, smiling a little.

He looked at Maddie and me and bowed.

"My King and my Queen," he said, lifting his head. "Thank you for giving me a chance to participate in the tournament."

"You are welcome," I said, smiling politely. "Congratulations on your victory. My Queen and I are looking forward to seeing you participate in the next challenge."

The warrior smiled and bowed again. Alpha Theodore wrapped an arm around his shoulder and led him away. He never stopped smiling.

Maddie and I stood up and turned around. All of our guests were seated behind us.

"Thank you for coming," I said, smiling politely. "Please enjoy the rest of your evening. Food and drinks will be served in the throne room. I am looking forward to seeing you there."

I took Maddie's hand in mine and started walking away before anyone could try to stop us. I didn't want anyone approaching her. I didn't want anyone close to her. I was wondering if I would be able to convince her to go to our room and wait for me there. She did her part and she really didn't need to stay for the party.

“Maddie, princess, I was wondering if you would be okay with going back to our room and waiting for me there?” I asked as I pulled her closer and wrapped an arm around her shoulders.

She looked up at me and furrowed her brows.

“Why?” she asked. “We still have a party to go to.”

I glanced at Will who was walking behind us. He raised an eyebrow at me.

“I want you to rest, princess,” I said softly. “I am worried this might be too much.”

Maddie shook her head. “I am fine. I can go.”

I tightened my jaw and kissed her temple.

“Please, princess,” I said quietly.

“Ali and I can keep you company until Dimitri returns,” Ellie said, making me look at her.

She and Ali were walking next to Will. She gave me a knowing look and smiled at Maddie.

“But I am the Queen,” Maddie said, looking at me. “I should be there.”

“You should be resting, Mads,” Will said softly.

“Yes,” I nodded. “You already went to that breakfast this morning. I am worried that all of this is too much. You had that fever yesterday.”

I kissed her forehead and rubbed her back gently.

“Please, princess,” I said and she gave me a small nod.

“Okay,” she said. “But I am only sitting this one out. I will be going to every event after this one.”

I smiled and nodded. “Of course, my princess.”

“My King,” I heard Landon’s voice behind us and I had to stop myself from growling.

What the fuck did he want?

I stopped walking and turned around. I pulled Maddie closer to me and tightened my hold on her.

“Landon,” I said, trying to remain calm. “What can I help you with? Is there a problem with the tournament?”

Landon shook his head. “No, my King. Everything is going perfectly.”

He looked at Maddie and smiled.

“You look amazing tonight, my Queen,” he said, bowing his head to her.

I gritted my teeth and tried to stop myself from standing in front of her and shielding her with my body. I didn’t want his eyes on her.

“Thank you, Landon,” she said politely.

“Can I help you with something, Landon?” I asked, wanting to change the subject. “We should really get going. We are expected at the party.”

“I know, my King,” Landon said. “I just wanted to stop you to ask about a meeting regarding the punishment of our former Luna. The council is worried, my King.”

I couldn’t stop the quiet growl that escaped me.

“We will have the meeting after the meeting is done, Landon,” I said, trying to get a hold of my anger. “I already told you that.”

He nodded. “You did, my King. But the Alphas are talking amongst themselves. They noticed her absence, my King. We are worried about appearances and we have a proposal for you.”

I couldn’t give a shit about appearances.

“I don’t care about that,” I said, tightening my jaw. “I am more than happy to tell the Alphas what happened.”

Landon’s eyes widened.

“No, my King!” he exclaimed, shaking his head. “You have to think about the consequences of that action. I strongly advise you to keep it a secret.”

I forced myself to take a deep breath.

“This is not the time or place to talk about this, Landon,” I said sternly. “We will discuss this at a more appropriate time.”

We were in the middle of the forest and I could hear the rest of our guests approaching us.

Landon sighed and glanced behind his shoulder.

“Yes, my King,” he said, but I could hear the disappointment in his voice. “Can we meet tomorrow morning?”

I really didn’t want to. I didn’t fucking care about their proposal. I couldn’t even answer him.

“Of course, Landon,” Maddie said politely. “Please excuse us. We really have to go.”

She took my hand in hers and we started walking away.

“Good job, Mads,” Will whispered.

“You shouldn’t have agreed,” I mumbled. “I don’t give a fuck about their proposal.”

“I know,” Maddie sighed. “But he wasn’t going to give up, Dimitri.”

I knew that. I took another deep breath and pulled Maddie to me.

“Thank you, princess,” I said, placing a soft kiss on her temple.

“It’s my job to support you,” she said, smiling at me. “I will always be here to do that.”

I leaned in and placed a soft kiss on her lips. She was right. She would always be here to support me. She would always be right by my side. No one could take her away from me.