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Venus POV

After I had remarked about the poison in Aaron's blood report at the hospital, the doctor took it seriously. He insisted we stay back and get more blood tests done. Though Aaron wanted to go back, I pressed him to get his tests done saying that there was no harm in it.

"It would delay our wedding preparations," he said in a soft voice which melted my heart.

"Wedding will take place, Aaron," I replied with a smile. "Please, just get these tests done for my satisfaction."

He sighed and nodded to the doctor. Once all the tests were done, Aaron took me to a restaurant where we both went to a private booth and had a meal. It was so refreshing to see him dining with me. It was like old times had returned. Secretly, I just hoped that Vicky didn't ruin whatever bond was developing between us. Seriously, I thought I could handle her, but now I can't her shenanigans. We talked about the times when we used to spend time in each other's houses playing hide and seek or building castles in mud, how our moms would scold us and then give us a harsh bath. Eric used to be our favorite object of bullying.

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Oh god! I hadn't laughed so much in a long time.

When we returned to the cabin, we were both shocked to see it blown to the pieces with limbs of warriors strewn across. It was such a gory sight. My father was on his knees, crying as Gaia stood beside him. Alpha Martin and Luna Marie were standing right behind him, and then there was Vicky.

And then she murmured, "Poor Venus, I wish she wasn't this stubborn."

I couldn't believe that she was seeing the cabin burning and still all she could think of was that I was stubborn. And why? After giving her a befitting reply, I rushed to my daddy. Though I couldn't understand why she was pale when she saw me. It was like she had seen a ghost. I mean, I didn't expect her to be happy, but her reaction was unusual. Shoving the thought out of my mind, I rushed to my father. When he saw me, he simply couldn't believe his eyes.

"Chickee? Venus!" He got up and pulled me into his tight embrace. "You're alive!"

"Yes, daddy," I said, curling my arms around him. He was the only person in this world who loved me from the moon to back. "What happened here?" I asked, bewildered.

Alpha Martin and Luna Marie embraced Aaron. It

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was like they were also extremely worked up and seeing Aaron alive relaxed them. Aaron told them something in a low voice and they both looked at me with gratitude in their eyes, which I just couldn't understand.

Luna Marie wiped her tears. She came to me and hugged me tightly. "Had you not insisted Aaron on having his blood test, you would have—" she choked and hugged me again. "From now on, you will live with us."

"But, I can't. The wedding—"

Luna Marie placed a finger on my lips as Aaron, daddy and Alpha Martin watched us with warm eyes. "I won't listen to you at all. You are living with us, and that's an order."

I gasped. When Luna gave you an order, there was no way you could go against it. I bit my lip, blushing and nodding. "Okay..."

"But Luna Marie," Gaia came to me finally. "The bride shouldn't see the groom before marriage. I know I am out of my place to talk to you like this, but please can I take Venus back home? After this incident, we are all so shocked that her presence in the house will reassure all of us." She looked at daddy for support.

Luna Marie glanced at Aaron, who had narrowed

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his eyes with gritted teeth. She shook her head.
"Thank you for your concern, Gaia," she said. "But I will take Venus with me, and that is final."

Gaia's mouth dropped to the floor as she looked at Vicky. I didn't know why, but Vicky was acting strangely. Like she was shaken. Was it because she thought I had died? I returned my attention to my father, who was just too happy to see me alive. I looked at the cabin and I couldn't help thinking about how it got burned down.

"Did you leave the gas pipe open?" Daddy asked as firefighters arrived at the sight.

"No, I didn't," I said. "Aaron ordered food from outside and asked me not to prepare any."

"It looks like sabotage," Alpha Martin said, staring at the razed cabin one more time.

We all came to Alpha's house. Daddy was so shaken that he refused to go anywhere. Obviously, Vicky and Gaia also stayed back with us.

Alpha Martin poured wine for daddy as Luna Marie rushed to the kitchen to order the servants to make dinner. Aaron took me to the guest room and said, "You must be tired, Venus. Take a bath. If you need anything, just let me know."

"Sure," I replied, tucking a strand of my hair behind

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my ear. I waited for him to leave my hand, but he wasn't leaving it. Instead, he held it longer even as we both became quiet, as if he wanted to keep touching me. It was a small thing, but my heart missed a beat.

"The wedding is in two days. I am so sorry that everything that mom bought was razed to the ground, including the wedding gown, but don't worry, I'll buy a new one for you," he said in a melodious voice, stroking my knuckles lightly.

My cheeks heated. "Thanks Aaron, but you don't have to."

He leaned over and I craned my neck up to meet his gaze. "I want to, Venus." He kissed me on my cheek. I blushed heavily. His lips curled into a smile and before I could react, he turned and left. Just as I was about to enter the room, I heard someone clapping. I turned to see that it was Vicky.

"Aren't you smart?" she snickered as she sauntered towards me. "You kept the date of your marriage hidden from me?" She chuckled darkly. "Such a bloody weakling, ugly little duck. You're so afraid of me that you are using the fire incident to gain pity? I hope people see through your act."

"What?" I snapped.

"Don't 'what' me," she scoffed. "Who knows that it

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was you who burned the cabin down to gain sympathy? But don't dream of marrying Aaron because I will show him your real face. I have two days with me."

I was so annoyed by her stupid accusation that I stepped into my room and slammed the door shut on her face. But I realized one thing—Vicky was pure evil. And she threatened me that she would sabotage my marriage.

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