



Chapter 38

Venus POV

Aaron was touching my body like it was a song I played. I was all hot and needy, and a shudder passed through my body when his hands cupped my sex. I almost came in his hand.

But the phone call from Gaia was as if someone had poured a bucket of ice water on me. Aaron pulled back, leaving me feeling empty, frustrated, and cold. He turned back and went to sit on the bed with his fingers in his hair. With my mouth turned dry, I closed my eyes, stifling an urge to scream to vent my frustration. Every time we both got close, Vicky or Gaia would make sure that we separated. It was annoying as hell, but I knew I had to be patient. And smart.

So I bottled my frustration, shoved it at the back of my mind, and silently prayed to the Moon Goddess.

"I have to go," he murmured. "Vicky fainted..."

I got up from the piano bench, adjusted my dress, and walked to him. I caressed his hair, and he lifted his eyes to see me. "We should go to see her," I said. "Is it okay if I go with you?" I knew I was playing dangerously here, but I had to use every move I had in the game of chess that Vicky started.

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He swallowed thickly. Pulling me into his lap, he wrapped his arms around me and held me tightly against his chest. "That would be great, Venus." He kissed my temple. His heart that was racing earlier calmed. And in that moment, I realized that in order for his ordeal to end, he needed me. He didn't know that he needed me, but I knew it.

When we reached downstairs, we met Luna Marie. "Where are you going?" she asked me. "We have to go to the party I mentioned in the morning."

Aaron tensed beside me. It was a perfect opportunity for me to stop him from visiting Vicky, but if I rattle-tailed on him, I was going to lose his trust. So I lied, "We are going to the beach house to swim."

Luna Marie's eyes widened, but then she grinned. "Sure, by all means!" she said excitedly. "I will postpone the party!"

Aaron relaxed beside me. "We'll be back soon," he said.

"Oh, no!" Luna Marie replied hastily. "Please take your time!"

I lowered my head as a blush crept on my cheeks, actually imagining the scenario. Just then, Alpha Martin walked in, and Luna Marie exclaimed, "They are going to the beach house! I hope you have

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nothing lined up for Aaron for the day!"

Alpha Martin jerked his head back as Aaron and I looked everywhere except at them. He stuttered, "I — No— There's nothing—" Feeling awkward, he hurried out of the main hall.

Aaron caught my hand and took me to the garage. "Thanks," he said, kissing my cheek. "You've saved me."

We reached the hospital and found Vicky sitting propped up on the pillows. Gaia wasn't there. When our gazes met, I knew she was faking. She looked pretty fine to me.

"Oh, Aaron!" she cried, opening her arms for him.

Tears stung my eyes because I knew Aaron would run into her arms, but he curled his fists tightly and didn't go to her. This was an improvement. I blinked my tears away.

"Gaia called, saying you fainted," he breathed.

She shot me a glare and awkwardly wrapped her arms around herself. "Yes," she cried. "You left me. I was so hurt. Can't you see that whenever you are close to her, the mate bond hurts? I just couldn't bear the pain and so I fainted."

Aaron took a deep breath in and shook his head in

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frustration. I placed a hand on his arm, and he seemed to calm down.

"Where is mom?" I asked her. "Why isn't she here tending to you?"

The question seemed to put her on the back foot. "Mom has important work to attend to with dad," she said glibly. "She couldn't meet me."

"Then how did she know you had fainted?" I asked, wondering who informed her. "Mom was pretty emotional. We both thought that she's with you."

"Exactly!" Aaron said through gritted teeth. "Where is Gaia?"

"Aaron, a nurse found me unconscious. She must have informed mom and then mom must have called you," Vicky replied in an exasperated voice. Tears formed in her eyes. "What are you trying to insinuate?"

"I am not insinuating—"

"Then what do you mean?" she said sharply, cutting him off. "I just fainted, and you are investigating!"

I poked my tongue in my cheek. Why was Aaron so blind to see her pretense? But then, how could I blame him? She was his mate.



She placed her arm over her face. "You are hurting me so much. I didn't expect that you would change so fast." A crocodile tear ran down her left cheek. "At least give me a few more days to adjust to this new routine. I was in a boat accident yesterday. I haven't even recovered, and you have moved on?"

I clenched my jaw because it was clear she was trying to guilt-trap Aaron again. But this time, I was better equipped than before. "I see that you have recovered from your injuries, Vicky. There's no visible bruise on your body."

She glared at me. "Of course, there won't be any mark! Duhhh. I am a werewolf and wolves heal fast. Or have you forgotten that?"

"Then how come you have recovered from your boat accident injuries, but your hand is still bruised?" I remarked, pointing at the red bruise on her palm, which she got when she cracked the wineglass in her hand on our engagement.

Aaron's eyes snapped to her palm, and his brows furrowed.

Vicky gasped and closed her palm. "That—that was deep!" Flustered, she immediately changed the topic. "Aaron, please come to me. I can't bear this separation. You're my mate. Venus is taking special joy in hurting me. Don't you see what she is doing?"

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Aaron's chest rumbled. "Please talk about Venus in that manner," he growled, surprising the hell out of me. "She was the one who brought me here to see you."

Her jaw dropped as she gaped at Aaron. "Aaron, how could you fall into her trap?" she started crying. "But if you're defending her so much, at least do one thing - promise me you won't touch her till I recover. Please let me get discharged."

Aaron seemed to battle with his emotions. I touched his arm gently to calm him. "Vicky, I can't promise that," he grumbled. "Venus is my wife. I can't not touch her!"

"What?" she cried. "I am begging you that you abstain from touching her only till I am in the hospital."

Just then, the nurse came in. She bowed to us. Then she said to Vicky, "I'm so sorry, Miss Vicky, the morning nurse didn't come. She informed us last minute that no one attended to you."

"Then who discovered that she fainted?" I asked, bewildered.

The nurse was baffled. "Fainted?" She stammered, "I—I'll get the security footage checked!"