

Chapter 8

Venus POV

I waited impatiently for Aaron to come home to soothe Vicky. It was like I was waiting for a disaster to happen. A disgusting feeling settled in the pit of my stomach and I felt like crying. I really didn't want Aaron to come. Why wasn't Vicky understanding of this situation? It would be so embarrassing for me. But more than that, it would be devastating for me. I paced my room anxiously as I waited for the doorbell to ring.

Vicky's loud crying could be heard. Nathan would speak soft words to soothe her. She would stop crying and then again start it. It was getting annoying as hell. What was she trying to prove?

An hour later, I crawled into my bed without realizing that tears were rolling down my cheeks. I just couldn't take this anxiety anymore. Sleep was nowhere near me. So I stayed awake and waited for Aaron. However, he didn't come, which was a colossal relief to me. Nathan stayed with Vicky until 2AM. I heard him leaving and then only I went off to sleep.

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When I met daddy in the morning, he quipped, "Venus, have you used witchcraft? Your eyes look like you were in a haze all night!" He let out a loud laughter as my stepmom stared at him with trepidation. She glanced at me.

I chuckled, tempted to say why I was awake so late, but I focused on my breakfast, which consisted of half-burnt toasts with no butter. "I was doing my homework."

"Oh, that reminds me," father said, slicing the sausage on his plate and putting it on mine. "You have to buy up a ring for Aaron. Aaron will come here to pick you up at 10AM."

I gasped. A ring? My heartbeat thundered in my chest. If Aaron came here, he would rather stay with Vicky than go to buy a ring with me. I couldn't even imagine the humiliation I would be subjected to. Just then, Vicky walked in the kitchen, glaring at me. She sat down opposite me and furiously slammed pancakes on her plate.

My father didn't bother to look at her and continued, "So you won't go to the school today, okay? Don't forget to buy a dress for you as well."

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"Oh, yes!" Vicky cried. "Buy a coffin for me as well! While you enjoy with my mate, I will cry here."

"Vicky!" Daddy growled at her. "Will you stop this nonsense?"

"This isn't nonsense, Patrick!" my mom snapped. "Aren't you aware of how much your decision is affecting Vicky?"

"It is not my decision, Gaia," my father shouted at her. "This is Alpha's and Luna's decision. And I won't go against them. And I won't talk about it again. Deal with it!"

My stepmother and stepsister winced when his eyes flashed amber, as if his wolf were trying to surface, not liking their disobedience. Both of them went quiet, but Vicky shot another glare at me. I lowered my gaze to my breakfast.

"Venus," my father said. "I will drop you at Alpha's house. No need to wait for Aaron to come here!" Saying that, he got up, smacking the napkin on the table. "I'll wait for you in the car in ten minutes." As he rushed out, Gaia chased after him, her apologies pouring out in a torrent.

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Vicky clenched her teeth and looked at him with hate in her eyes. "If you think you will get Aaron, then you are delusional. He is mine, and I will do everything to get him back. I'm going to shame you so much that you'll pray for the fiery depths of hell instead. I will make sure that he rejects you in front of everyone!"

Shock blasted in my chest at her words. "Vicky..."

"Fuck you, bitch!" she said, getting up. "Don't you talk to me ever again!" She stormed out of the kitchen as I watched her, an ominous feeling crawling in my chest.

I grabbed my head in my hands, a dull headache forming. How to deal with this situation? How to get out of it?

Ten minutes later, I was sitting in dad's car going to Aaron's house. Dad seemed furious and so I didn't talk to him.

Luna Marie greeted me as soon as she saw me. "Venus!" She hugged me. "Aaron is still sleeping. You dad told me you will come early, and so I have shifted the jeweler's appointment an hour earlier."

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I nodded dully, flopping on the sofa. Buying a ring was supposed to be such a lovely occasion, but here I was. Pouting and angry and irritated. I picked up a magazine to read it.

"It is upside down," Aaron's voice made me jump. For how long was I brooding?

"What?" I asked him, a crease forming on my forehead.

He walked to me and turned the magazine. "This," he said softly.

Oh. I blushed, feeling stupid.

"Ready?" he asked nonchalantly.

No. I nodded, sighing deeply. "I wanted to talk to you, Aaron. Like serious talk."

"Okay..." he replied. "Let's talk after buying rings."

We arrived at the jeweler's shop, who was absolutely thrilled to see us. "It's not always that our future Alpha marries. It is such an honor to have both the future Alpha and Luna in my shop." He clasped his hands as he guided us to the back of the shop,

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where he had an exquisite collection of rings and bracelets. All the employees of the shop were stealing glances at us. "Please sit," the jeweler said, waving at the two velvet draped chairs. He walked to the other side of the counter and drew out a variety of rings for us.

"Which one do you like?" Aaron asked me.

I surveyed all the couple rings, but I liked one combination in particular. The bride's ring had a solitaire diamond with two leaf shaped emeralds circling it, and the other featured a small row of diamonds in a band with two emeralds at the end. The touch of colors from emerald added vibrancy to the rings.

I picked it up and wore it on my finger. "I liked this one," I said, my lips curling up as I brought it to the eye level. "What do you think?" When he didn't reply, I lifted my eyes to see him. He was staring at my face and finger intensely.

