

## **Chapter 51 – The Retraction**

*“It’s time to shake things up around here.” – Unknown*

***Kiya***

Darien requested to be left alone for a while, and I happily gave that to him. As I exited his room, I leaned my head against his closed door, riddled with sadness. This man is good at hiding his emotions, and I hated the pain he was in. I wanted to do anything and everything to stop it. Why did this have to happen to him? I love Darien like a brother, and it agonized me to see him like that, holding out for hope that Odessa would realize her mistake and come back into his arms.

What if that never happens? What if her love for Neron was stronger than her bond with Darien? I never pegged Odessa as the type to crave power, but then again, I don’t truly know anyone here. I don’t know what their true intentions are. As much as I hated the woman, I hoped she could prove me wrong.

Darien deserves happiness. With or without her. Goddamnit, if I could take the pain away from all my friends with the wave of my hand, I would without a heartbeat.

After a minute, I went downstairs. I walked into the common room, ready to relax with my friends when a hand wrapped around my wrist and shoved against the wall. My head created a small dent embedded in the spackle. My vision is muddled at the unexpected bout of violence, but soon cleared to an enraged Odessa, red painting the undertone of her face.

“You should have stayed dead, you worthless dog!” She shrieked in my ear. Her nostrils flared as she took a huge whiff of me, her brown eyes growing black. “And you smell like him! Stay away from my mate!”

Was she serious? I look at her incredulously. Was she demanding me to stay away from Darien when she rejected him less than 24 hours ago?

“I bet you went up there to fuck him, you slut.” Odessa accused. “A wretched mateless wolf now trying to steal mates away from each other. Ha! You think just because you came back with some meat on your bones you think you’re the shit?”

I said nothing. I let her have her rant. My friends looked ready to pounce, but I held my hand up, telling them I was okay through our mind link.

“Things were much better when you were dead.” She continued. “You are no warrior and no fighter. You’re still the sniffing slave that cries herself to sleep every night in her dingy cell. You don’t deserve to be on my territory, and I will have you removed! Most importantly, if you decide to cozy up on my mate again, I will personally see to it to have your spine ripped out from your body.”

Her face inched towards mine, our noses barely touching. “You are nothing, Halima. And I’ll make sure you remember that the entire time that you’re here. You wouldn’t take what is mine, not Darien, and not Neron. I will take all you have and leave you with nothing. You belong on your knees! Remember that! Once a slave, always a slave.”

I yawned.

I blinked.

I smacked the shit out of her face.

Her face jerked to the side so fast that I was almost worried her neck might have broken. *Almost*. This pack needs to stop making it a habit to push me against the wall. First Neron, and now Odessa? Who the fuck is next? I won't lie, her words hurt, but I won't give her the satisfaction. I had Artemis to hold back to prevent her from tearing Odessa's face apart.

Odessa held her cheek, glaring at me in shock and disgust. "You hit me!"

"I did."

"You struck this pack's Luna!"

"I don't see a mark on your neck." I shrugged. "Therefore, I don't recognize you as a true Luna."

She hurdled a fist towards my face, which I caught. The force she delivered was comparable to that of a beginner fighter, weak and untrained. "Touch me again and it'll be the last thing you ever do." For emphasis, I squeezed. Odessa whimpered and squealed in agony, jerking her fist away from my grasp. After a few attempts, I let her go, watching as she clutched her hurt hand.

"And as for Neron, I don't give a shit about him. You can keep him. I won't waste my time fighting you over a man I don't want." I neglected to talk about Darien, for Odessa had no clue I knew that she rejected him. But she slipped out that Darien was her mate, so I'll let her deal with the repercussions. "So, stay the fuck out of my way."

"Liar! I know you did something to him!" She pointed an accusatory finger at me. "Why else would he take back his rejection?"

I paused, turning my heated, angry gaze at the woman who flinched. "Excuse me?"

“You heard me!” She shrieked, irritating my ears. “Neron broke up with me this morning! He is throwing away his one true Luna for a pathetic excuse of a wolf like you, and I’ll be damned if I let you have what is mine!”

I’m going to **strangle** that fucking Alpha. Marching past Odessa, I made my way to his office, skipping three stairs at a time. In no time, I was at the front doors, throwing them open in fury. The man looked up; his sapphire blue eyes squared on me.

“That was rude.”

“You took back your rejection?” I roared, marching up to his desk. “Are you fucking insane? I accepted your rejection, there is nothing between us! You have your mate, so I suggest you comfort her before I tear her a new asshole!”

He didn’t seem fazed by the shrill volume of my voice. He leaned back in his chair as if the threat of my fists wasn’t a problem. “Yes, I took back my rejection. Odessa is not my true mate, you are.”

“You and I both know I was never your mate,” I growled back. “You made your decision; you chose her over me.”

“And that is a mistake that I will rectify.” He folded his hands in his lap, continuously staring me down. “The Moon Goddess destined us together, Kiya. Whether or not you like it, you are mine as I am yours.”

I slammed my hands on his desk, fury frothing in my mouth. “I will never be yours, Neron! You made your choice long ago, so deal with it. This,” I pointed between us. “Will never happen!”

“It will.” He leaned in close to my face. “And I will not stop until I earn back your heart again, Kiya. I hurt you in unimaginable ways, and I will pay for everything I’ve done to you. But you cannot deny that you

belong to me as I belong to you. The Moon Goddess paired our souls for a reason, and I'll honor the decision she made."

I scoffed. "You're insane."

"I know I am." He smirked at me, that very action urging me to crack his teeth "I won't stop until you are in your rightful place, in my arms and by my side as my true and rightful Luna."

"I'll never be your Luna." I growled. "You will never have me, Neron. I'll make sure of it."

Neron chuckled deeply, sending chills down my spine. Not the good chills, but the chills of fear. My mission here in Zircon Moon just got that much harder. His eyes glint with anticipation and his smile fearlessly shows off his white teeth. I could hear his wolf, more than prepared to honor his and his human desires. Both were on the same page, prepared for the fight ahead. They were after Artemis and me, the fortitude in their eyes palpable.

This spelled trouble for both of us.

"That's the fighting spirit." He grinned like a maniac. His fingers twitched, wanting to reach out to me, but a flash of remembrance in his eyes prevented him from going further. "I think this would be interesting for the both of us, Kiya."

"Alphas love to chase their little mates, and they won't stop until they win."