

You Rejected Me. Remember? Chapter 21

Cassy pov.

We went for a movie. However, it was hard to watch the film with him trying to hold my hands the whole time. My mind kept going to places it shouldn't. Being a royal meant we had to be careful about how much affection we display in public. Although the commoners didn't know who I was, I didn't want to cause much trouble, since they would know eventually. Then we went near the lake where we fed the ducks. It was an enjoyable evening. I loved every moment I spent with him. By the time the sun almost set, we felt hungry, so we decided to go to the café nearby.

Elliot's friends and other members of the army had now started to recognise me as the girl who spent time with him. Although I didn't know what they thought about us or what they said behind our backs and honestly, I didn't care what they thought. We didn't hold hands like couples because, being royals, we had to be respectful in front of the civilians. Holding hands, becoming a little bit too close had to be limited, especially since we had decided to keep our relationship a secret.

However, the slutty blond waitress didn't seem to mind when she flashed her plastic smile at Elliot as soon as we sat at a table. I could swear that she deliberately lowered her shirt which was already revealing an uncomfortable amount of her cleavage.

"Two chicken sandwiches," Elliot told her, offering a polite smile.

"What would you like to drink? Anything cool?" she paused. "Or something hot?" she giggled. I felt like twisting her hair in my hand and wiping that fake painted face off her. My jaws clenched at her flirtatious gestures and the annoying voice she used to speak, batting her fake eyelashes at him.

Ugh. It should be made illegal to apply that much makeup.

"Uhh..... No." Elliot stuttered. I narrowed my eyes on him.

"Okay handsome." She winked and swirled around so that her hair flipped as she turned.

"Hey." He gave me a nervous smile. "You know her. She is always like that," he expressed.

Looks like he had sensed my feelings. Gritting my teeth, I rolled my eyes.

“I feel like I want to erase that painted face and knock that fake a*s boobs off her.” I hissed, making him snort as he tried to hold back his laughter.

“I knew it! You are jealous!” he grinned.

“f**k yes I am,” I growled slowly. Amused, he raised an eyebrow, laughing silently.

“Wow. I didn’t know that you cursed.” He said in between his chuckles.

I rolled my eyes. “What? You thought I was a sweet little princess who was naive and unaware of anything?”

He laughed. “Yeah. You are my princess.” He stated and grinned. “Come on. You are the only one for me, anyway.”

I decided to say nothing as I sensed that slut was coming back with our sandwiches. She placed Elliot’s sandwich, and as she placed mine, she smiled at me, a plastic, fake smile, I would say. I tried my best to keep a straight face, albeit it was hard.

“Oh, I f*****g hate her.” I hissed when she left, making him chuckle.

“Babe. I love you and only you.” He replied, but I was not in the mood to reply or acknowledge his confession.

We went back to the car to go home. We had to go back since we didn’t want anyone to be suspicious about us yet.

“Won’t I get a kiss today?” he asked, halting in front of the car. I looked around. The area where the car was parked was deserted at the moment. I looked at his puckered lips and smirked.

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“You don’t,” I stated. “That’s because you made me do push-ups and because you let that slut flirt with you .”

“But I love only you. She doesn’t mean anything to me!” He pouted at my reply, making me look at him. I felt amused at his pouting face. He looked so cute. Holding back my urge to giggle, I landed a soft, quick kiss on his lips, dashed away before he could react. I ran to the car, climbed in and slammed the door shut.

“Very funny babe. I’ll give you a sweaty hug in training tomorrow. Just wait.” He warned me playfully after climbing into the car.

“Oh, that reminds me. We can’t have training tomorrow. I am going to meet my.....uh.....the king and queen’s lycans.” I told him.

“Oh wow. That is such an honour.” There was a long pause. “Do you want to meet mine?” he asked.

“Of course. Why wouldn’t I want to meet my boyfriend?” I stated.

“Hey! I’m your boyfriend! He is just my Lycan,” he protested.

“Well, he is also my boyfriend.” I shrugged.

“But.....I don’t share.” He pouted, making me laugh. “He can have your Lycan when she wakes up. You are mine and only mine.” He added, making me laugh harder.

He didn’t say anything for the rest of the ride. I peeked at him, wondering if I had finally succeeded in annoying him. He was focused on the road, seriousness all over his face. Oh, this is fun. I thought. It is amusing when he gets irritated. He was now saying absolutely nothing. Maybe I did irritate him.

My heart kept fluttering as I stared at him continuously. I smiled. He was cute when he was serious. Maybe that was the reason why he loved to annoy me too. My heart thudded at the sight I saw. Dark hair that complemented his skin and face, a strong, masculine build that I could drool over, coupled with a funny personality in addition to his caring and thoughtful nature. Yeah. He was perfect for me. I felt myself smile at him involuntarily. Maybe this is love.

“Elliot?” I called softly.

“Yeah.”

I sighed. No. I cannot say it yet. Maybe later. He knew that I loved him, though I hadn't admitted my feelings out loud.

"Nothing," I said and relaxed in my seat.

When he parked the car in the garage and climbed out without uttering another word, I started to feel bad. It was fun to annoy him until it wasn't anymore.

"Hey." I was just able to catch his hand, right before he walked away, leaving me alone.

"What?" he asked, still serious.

"Are you angry?" I asked, worried.

He looked at me for some time before smiling. "Not really." There was a little pause. "How can I? I told you already, I love you. And besides, I knew you were trying to get on my nerves." He chuckled, tucking a loose hair strand behind my ear.

Sighing, I held his hand that cupped my face.

"Elliot" I wanted to say that I love him. But I felt so reluctant.

He chuckled and before I knew it, we were indulged in a slow yet passionate kiss. It was sweet, nothing like the hungry ones we shared last night.

"I love you." He repeated his confession, looking deeply into my eyes, and then stepped back.

"I have to go now. We cannot be seen like this. Not yet." He said.

"When are we going to tell them?" I asked.

"We will wait till your Lycan wakes up. Though you can't shift yet, then we will tell. Because I think then it would be OK." He said, making me sigh.

He walked away. "I love you too Elliot," I whispered when he was fully out of sight, knowing that he wouldn't hear me. Pouting to myself, I walked inside. I had to wait for a long time. This is going to be hard.

Just as promised, I went to the woods with my birth parents the next day. I watched in awe when they shifted. I had seen Nolan and the others shift to their werewolves several times back in the pack. So I wasn't too stunned when black and white fur sprouted all over their skin while their limbs elongated. Their jaws elongated and soon, their mouths were filled with razor-sharp teeth. Their eyes were now wider and their bodies more masculine. With long, sharp claws that I knew would be strong enough to rip through a body.

"Wow." I gasped. This was a thousand times better than a werewolf. Was this what I would be shifting into?

"Hello, pup!" My dad's lycan called me in his deep, gruff voice, taking me by surprise.

"What? You can talk?" I just got the shock of my life. None of the werewolves I had seen could talk in their wolf forms. This is simply getting better and better.

"Of course we can!" this time mom spoke. Her voice was lighter. I noticed how her features were softer than my dad's Lycan.

"So cool."

All I could do was grin from ear to ear as I gawked at them in awe.

"We are so honoured to meet our pup finally. When you shift, you will be just like us." Dad said with pride.

"What is your name?" I asked.

"I am Richie and she is Star, my mate." Dad's Lycan answered.

I don't think that it would be possible to be more eager for me to finally meet my Lycan and be able to shift. Meeting my parent's lycans was simply great. My Lycan waking up would mean a lot of things to me. I would be able to tell everyone about the relationship between Elliot and I. And my parents would finally be prepared to announce their real connection with me. I just hope they won't mind me telling Elliot about it before they do.

After spending some time with them, they shifted back. I was wrong to think that I couldn't be more amazed than I already was. To my utter amazement, they had their clothes intact when they shifted back.

“Wha..... How?” I was flabbergasted. That was impressive!

They laughed at my amazement.

“Perks of being Lycan honey. There are lots of other surprises waiting to be discovered.” Mom winked, making me grin from ear to ear.

More to come? Wow! I can’t wait for this year to pass by! Can’t the days and months pass by a little faster? I simply couldn’t wait for my transformation to be completed. Only then will I be announced as their real daughter and hopefully start a new life with Elliot.

You Rejected Me. Remember? Chapter 22

2 months passed by. Nothing much changes in the pack nor the lycanthrope kingdom. Miles had travelled to neighbouring packs, hoping to find a second chance mate. Nonetheless, in vain. Nolan accompanied him during the first few trips because he was pushed by his parents, but after the first three, he stopped. He just couldn’t feel the excitement of finding a mate yet. He just continued to put up a happy face for the sake of his parents and because he was the beta of the pack.

Castor’s mate, Amara, was announced as the gamma female and life went on quite peacefully for them.

Miles continued to travel around for some time, despite the chances of him finding a second chance being slim. After two months of travelling and meeting disappointments, he stopped looking for a mate. He gave up, cursing his fate and Cassandra. He still believed that her mere existence in the pack was the reason that he had to face it.

Miles ended up indulging himself completely in the pack business and training non stop. His parents were worried about him. Regardless of their concerns, they knew they no longer had any power over what fate had in store for their son.

Nolan tried his best to overcome the depression he had to face. He wished that he knew what had happened. Or at least, he wished that he had the chance to say goodbye to her. Each night, after his duties, he prayed for Cassandra. He knew that she couldn’t have survived that fall. However, he couldn’t help but wish that he would see her once again.

Things in the Lycan kingdom also stayed the same. Cassandra and the others continued their training, getting better and stronger while doing so. Elliot and Cassandra's relationship flourished. Their parents didn't mind them spending a lot of time together.

There was a time when the queen had a hunch that their relationship might be more than just friends, but she brushed it off because her daughter had told her earlier that Elliot liked someone already.

As days passed by, the attendees of the academy had their lycans waking up one by one. Cassy and her friends' excitement increased as time passed. They knew they too would be able to converse with their lycans soon enough.

Cassy pov.

I was already seated in my seat when Ava entered the classroom with a broad grin on her face. She looked different. She was practically beaming. A smile formed on my lips, involuntarily. She never showed much emotion. She had always kept her head lowered, most of the time, hidden in her hoody.

However, today everything about her was different. The way she had styled her hair and the clothes she wore. The hoodie she used to wear all the time was gone. Her hair was beautifully combed and straightened and I couldn't help but notice how pretty she was.

"Wow, Ava! You look awesome!" I complimented her as soon as she sat on her chair. The few students who had arrived too were smiling and stealing glances at the new Ava we saw.

"Thanks!" she grinned. My grin widened. She spoke!

"Oh my God! Ava! I'm so glad that you said that out loud instead of writing it down!" I exclaimed, squeezing her hand in my excitement.

"I know! I also have been eagerly waiting for this day. There is a reason why I never uttered a word to anyone." She said, still smiling. I turned towards her, facing her completely. I was ecstatic. Whatever that reason was, I was glad it had finally happened and now she was speaking to me. I didn't even try to hide my excitement as I faced her and grinned from ear to ear.

"What is it? Can you tell me?" I asked, eager to know.

“What is it? Can you tell me?” I asked, eager to know.

“Yeah.... actually. I am not a complete lycan. I mean I am a hybrid. Half lycan half sorceress. My father was a sorcerer and after marrying mom he moved here. And there is a huge, dramatic love story about my parents.” She chuckled.

I was all ears. This was going to be very interesting.

“My dad’s ex-girlfriend, who was a powerful sorceress, was angry about him falling in love with mom and on the day they got married, she appeared at the wedding reception and cursed them. That their firstborn would die if she spoke to anyone other than her immediate family. My father tried all that he could to annul her curse, but the best he could do was, to lighten it. I had to avoid speaking with anyone until my Lycan woke up. And that is if my Lycan wakes up. They didn’t know if I had a lycan in me. And there wasn’t any way we could know for sure. The only way was to wait. And time could tell.” She sighed but kept smiling nonetheless.

“Wow. That is.....a lot to handle.” I whispered, completely amazed by her story. “Let me guess...You are their first?”

Nodding, she replied. “I am their firstborn and they spend an awful lot of effort to keep me hidden. I was homeschooled while my brothers were allowed to go to school and socialise. I was angry at first, but when they explained everything, I understood. I cried, but I’m okay now. They had conditioned me to never speak with anyone before sending me to this academy. It was hard. But I managed. At least I got to meet new people.” She continued and I kept admiring her patience. I was secretly glad that I had been nice and friendly with her from day one.

I was right after all. Everyone does have a reason behind their actions.

“I was over the moon when my Lycan woke up last night. I was jumping with joy.” She giggled. “When I went to sleep, I thought the first person I wanted to talk to besides my parents was you.” She squeezed my hand as she said so. I felt my eyes sting a little. Her words made me emotional.

“Thank you for being my friend when I was invisible,” she whispered.

I held back a sniffle and fought against the tears that were about to gather in my eyes.

“Ava. You are going to make me cry. I’m so happy for you,” I sighed. Just then, my closest friends in the academy, Zoe, Daphne and Maya entered the class. Like everyone else, they too gawked at Ava, who was elated.

“Oh my God! Am I seeing things? Ava! You look hot without your hoodie on!” Maya exclaimed.

“Yeah. Don’t ever wear that again.” Zoe agreed.

“Ava, you look stunning.” Daphne offered a kind smile.

“Thanks!” Ava grinned at them, and it was apparent on their faces that they were surprised beyond words.

“What! She can talk!”

“Yes. This calls for a celebration!”

I laughed along with Ava.

“Alright, everyone! Sit down! Time to start the lesson!” Miss Murphy’s stern voice made us go stiff. Everyone hurried to their seats and we all started to listen to our teacher, who started to teach right away. But my mind was constantly deviating. If Ava was a hybrid and part sorceress, does that mean she would have special powers?

I had to ask. I wrote a quick note on my desk while Miss Murphy wasn’t looking, and passed it to Ava. She smiled and scribbled her reply.

Yes.

She winked at me when I looked at her. Grinning, I pretended that I was interested in what Miss Murphy was teaching albeit I could barely focus.

That was awesome! A Lycan hybrid with special powers!!!! How cool is that!

After classes, all of us gathered around Ava. We realised that she was very friendly and talkative. The kind of person who anyone would love to hang around. We waited outside the building, for our parents or guardians to come and fetch us. Usually, Elliot or the driver would come to fetch me soon. However, today Daphne, Maya and Zoe left before anyone came from the palace.

I didn't have any complaints. Ava was still waiting beside me.

"So your Lycan hasn't woken up yet?" she asked and I nodded.

"I can't wait for her to wake up. What is the name of your lycan?" I asked.

"Nala. Isn't it a pretty name?" she giggled. I nodded in agreement.

"I think mine also will wake up this month or the next," I told her.

"Mom....uh...I mean..."

"Don't worry. Your secrets are safe with me." She smirked. Shocked, I stared at her.

"Huh?"

"I know who you are." She winked. My eyes widened. "Remember? I have powers?"

I heaved a huge breath. Does this mean she can read minds? My mouth was wide open in utter amazement. Giggling, she closed my open mouth by lifting my lower jaw with her forefinger.

"Remember when I gave you a note months ago? I told you that you were blind to what was right in front of you?"

My heart palpitated. She knew how he felt about me the whole time?

"Wait...you mean...you can read minds?" I asked, completely flabbergasted. Does that mean she knew all of our secrets too? Oh no!

She giggled. "Not really. But I have the power of foreseeing. That is my special power in addition to the spells I've learnt from dad."

Oh! Okay.

"What did you see, Ava?" I asked, now curious.

"You were crowned queen but to be with Elliot, you must overcome some hurdles." She told me. Was that all? I thought.

"Hurdles?" my heart thudded in my chest. What hurdles? We were already together!

“Ava!”

Her father called her from a distance and interrupted our conversation. He waved at her, indicating for her to go.

“I cannot tell you for sure. What I know is, everything will depend on your choices. You and Elliot’s.” She said. I was nervous. My hands were cold as my heart poured hysterically. What hurdles? My life was perfect! Don’t tell me this has something to do with that stupid alpha named Miles.

“You got this. I just know it.” She smiled, as she patted my arm and walked away. I bit my lips. Oh, I just hope I make the right choices. I so want to be with Elliot. If I can’t, I’d rather go solo. I thought worriedly.

You Rejected Me. Remember? Chapter 23

Cassy pov

Almost a month has passed ever since Ava told me about what she had seen. Life went on, however, that thought lingered in my mind, disturbing me. Anyway, I didn’t let it interfere with my daily schedule. I kept doing what I must, even though that little detail kept worrying me. My relationship with Elliot was simply perfect. I kept wondering what obstacles could come in front of us.

I’d be damned if it was because of the one who rejected me. He didn’t want me just because he thought I was human. And now, I believe he doesn’t deserve me.

Just like any weekend, I was spending this weekend also with him. It has been three months since we had been in a relationship. It was still a secret between us, though there had been times that I felt like I might tell everything to everyone. I was so eager to announce our relationship, then, we wouldn’t have to be so secretive.

The sun had set and night had fallen. However, we were still in the park, where it was now only dimly lit by the street lights. The people who had been playing and walking around the park had now gone back to their homes. The park was almost deserted. Just a couple of people who were sitting too far away from us to bother with what we were up to. The starry night sky gave us some light. It was perfect for us. He sat on the grass, leaning against a tree, while I sat in between his legs, leaning against him.

He kept playing with my hair while I was lost in my thoughts. Being with him was perfect. There shouldn't be any obstacles. I thought. I couldn't live a happy life if I had to live without him. That was for sure.

"What are you thinking about?" he asked, pulling me closer to him.

"Life," I stated simply.

"Life? What about it?" he chuckled. Of course, he wasn't aware of what Ava had revealed. I don't think he knew that Ava was a hybrid.

"Elliot. What if a lot of problems arise all of a sudden? I mean.....what if it becomes difficult for us to be together?" I asked, distancing myself from him so that I could look into his face.

"Huh? Why are you asking that question? If anything transpires, we will face it and overcome it," shrugging, he stated.

I sighed. Chewing on my lower lip, I once again leaned against him. Was I worrying too much?

"I....."

"Babe. We are in love, aren't we?" he asked, making me look up into his face. I nodded in response.

"So, whatever happens, we will face it together. Like a couple should." He said, tracing my cheek with his thumb. Something in his voice made goosebumps crawl all over my body. My heart started to palpitate. He was right. We will face it. I shouldn't be worrying over it.

"Why are you saying that, my love?" he inquired.

"Last month, Ava's lycan woke up. She is a hybrid, half sorceress. And she had the power of foreseeing. She said that for me to be with you we will have to overcome a lot of hurdles. And that depends on our choices. That has got me worried," I told him. He kept studying my face, his utterance suddenly serious.

Cassy pov

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Anyway, I didn't let it interfere with my daily schedule. I kept doing what I must, even though that little detail kept worrying me. My relationship with Elliot was simply perfect. I kept wondering what obstacles could come in front of us.

"Did she say anything about us not being able to be together?" he asked. I shook my head.

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"No. She didn't."

I saw that he was visibly relaxed. A small smile curved his lips.

"There. You are worrying too much." He chuckled.

Giggling, I nodded. Yeah. Maybe I was. I checked the time and sighed. We will have to go home now. Why can't time stand still in moments like these?

"Ava is a hybrid?" he asked and I nodded.

"Cool! I like her performance. It would be great to have a powerful hybrid in our army." He told me smiling, pleased about what he had learnt.

"You did the final selections?" I asked and he nodded.

"You aren't in it," he smirked, making me roll my eyes.

"Whatever Elliot."

"No. Actually. You are in. But I would prefer you not to be in it," he said, laughing.

"Why not?" I asked.

"Uhh.... actually.....I yell a lot at my recruits just to make them push their limits. I don't think I could do that with you." He said, smiling sheepishly. I giggled. I wasn't really worried about being in the army anyway. I had better things to do. I looked around. It was getting very late.

"Elliot. We should be going." I told him. He sighed heavily.

“I wish your lycan would awake soon. I want to tell dad and everyone else about us. Then, maybe we wouldn’t have to go home so soon,” he smirked.

I raised an eyebrow at him.

“You mean?”

“Then everyone would know that you are my chosen mate and we most probably were having s*x.” His eyes sparkled mischievously as he said so. His blunt statement made the blood rush to my face as I covered it with my hands.

“Elliot!” I gasped, trying to hold back my giggles.

“What? Do you know how hard it is for me to hold back from taking you here?” he asked. Stunned, I looked into his face. He was dead serious. My heart kept racing as both of us wordlessly gaped at each other until he cupped my cheeks to trace my lips with his thumb.

“I love you.” He whispered. The continuous thudding of my heart was making it hard for me to keep calm. His scent and our eye contact started to pull me into a daze.

Oh, I love you too. I thought.

Suddenly he broke into a huge grin. “Do you know how much I wanted to hear you say that?” he asked. My lips parted. Did I say that out loud?

“I love you, Elliot.” This time I had said it for sure.

Still holding me in his firm hold, he lowered his face until it touched mine and started to devour my lips. I didn’t wait to respond. Our lips moved in synchronisation and so did our hearts. Time seemed to be still for me. We didn’t know for how long we sat under that tree, pouring our emotions onto each other. Elliot was right. It was hard to keep myself from allowing him to do more than just a kiss.

“Promise me, Cass. You will tell me as soon as your lycan wakes up. I don’t think I can hold on much longer.” He admitted, holding me against his chest.

“Same here babe,” I whispered in response.

“Elliot.....there is something you should know,” I said.

“What?”

“Elliot.....” I gulped. “I...” I stammered. My heart hammered in my chest, but not in a good way. I was a nervous wreck. I wanted to tell him about my real identity. Three months had passed already and I expected my lycan to wake up soon. If he wants to announce our relationship, he should know who I am.

“What if I am not someone who you think I am?” I asked, my hands suddenly going cold.

“What do you mean?” his eyebrows were knitted in a deep frown.

“I mean....my identity. What if there is more to it? I mean yes, I am a relative to the queen. But there is more.” I told him.

He laughed. “So what? You are my little girlfriend. I love you and you love me. Don’t think too much.” He shrugged. “Let’s go. Otherwise, we might get into trouble,” he said.

Frowning, I stood up. That didn’t go the way I hoped it would. I wish things would go in our favour nonetheless. On our way back, a message from Elliot’s dad told us to meet them in the palace’s meeting room.

“s**t!” he cursed under his breath.

“Are we in trouble?” I asked. We were very late already. Usually, we get home right after sundown. But tonight, it was almost time to go to bed.

“I don’t know.” He answered, his eyes focused on the road.

“What are we going to say if they ask us?” I asked. He glanced at me for a split second.

“The truth.” He stated, making me look at him. Yeah. Maybe we should.

We walked into the meeting room, with sweaty palms and hysteric hearts. But when we entered the room, we saw that someone else was also there in the meeting room with our parents.

“Here they are. Come sit down.”

My father spoke. “This is the duke of the south. He is here with a very important offer. We need your opinion on it,” he said.

Suddenly, I felt light. Oh, so this wasn't about us being late or anything else. That was good. I felt like sighing in relief. But I kept a straight face. With practice, I have now become better at controlling my facial expressions.

"So, Sir Elliot. I have a daughter who is turning twenty years old soon. She wants me to find a good partner for her and my first choice is you. I would like to offer my daughter's hand in marriage to you, Sir Elliot," he spoke casually.

I felt as though my world had just come crashing down. I was sure that my face had drained its colour completely, despite my efforts to remain expressionless. No. This cannot be happening!

I couldn't take my eyes off the duke who had uttered the few sentences that made me feel as if I had lost everything. My hopes and dreams. Elliot wouldn't agree. I knew. But what if his father and my parents urge him to agree and force him to accept it for the sake of their connection? It would be a huge disaster!

Oh, God! We should have told them the truth from the beginning.

You Rejected Me. Remember? Chapter 24

Elliot pov

"So, Sir Elliot. I have a daughter who is turning twenty years old soon. She wants me to find a good partner for her and my first choice is you. I would like to offer my daughter's hand in marriage to you, Sir Elliot."

Just a couple of sentences made me go completely speechless. I stared blankly at him. My breath and my heartbeat were both bizarre. I felt as though the whole environment dissolved and only me and the duke of South were remaining in the room.

I wasn't blinking. How could this happen? I had my life carefully planned and it didn't include a sudden, arranged marriage to someone I had never met. This was so unexpected.

"Son? Say something," my father's voice took me out of my shocked state. I blinked. However, I couldn't move, nor form a single word. I simply sat frozen on my seat like a mannequin, staring blankly at the stranger who sat across the table. I could see how he shifted in his seat, perhaps because I was not showing any reaction.

“Give him time. He most probably wasn’t expecting something like this.” He said, smiling at my father. I kept constantly staring at him. How could he sit so calm as though he had not shaken my entire soul from the core? How strange was it that something that sounded so simple to others meant everything to me? My eyes started to sting, reminding me to blink. I blinked a couple of times. Yet, the reality in front of me didn’t change.

He was right. Never had I thought that I would have to face something like this. Not even in my dreams.

“I...would leave for now. I hope to get an answer by the time I leave. Then I could tell her what I had learnt.” He stated and looked at the king as though he was asking for permission to leave. He stood up from his seat when the king nodded in his direction.

“Think about it, Elliot. His daughter is talented and beautiful. She is not a bad choice.” The king said when he left, closing the door behind him, standing up.

“Cassandra” the queen called. My breathing hitched at the mention of her.

Slowly, I turned to my right, where my love sat. My heartbeat was still uneven with the sudden shock I had received. My gaze met with hers. I could see her confusion, pain and uncertainty. It was just tonight that she had told me about her fears. She feared that we might not be able to be together.

She feared that the obstacles in front of us would cause us to go separate ways. And this incident confirmed how true it was. Her rosy cheeks were now completely pale. It was apparent to me that she was trying her best to keep herself calm and collected.

Nothing besides despair ruled on her innocent face.

“Cassandra?” The queen repeated to herself, making her break eye contact with me to look at her.

“Let’s go. It is very late already.” She said and walked towards the exit with the king.

I looked away from her and stared at my hands which were intertwined on the desk. I was still shaken up. I knew she was leaving with the king and queen and with each step she took, I felt as though she was taking my heart with her.
Elliot pov

“So, Sir Elliot. I have a daughter who is turning twenty years old soon. She wants me to find a good partner for her and my first choice is you. I would like to offer my daughter’s hand in marriage to you, Sir Elliot.”

I cannot live a happy life without her. That was for sure.

“Son?”

My father was now standing behind me, with his hand on my shoulder. It was only then that I was able to breathe. I took a couple of deep breaths before replying.

“Yes, dad.”

“Is everything okay?” he asked.

No! Nothing was okay. I don’t want this. I want to be with my Cass. My love. All my dreams and hopes were connected to her. Not someone else.

“Dad? Do I have to?” I asked, hoping that he would say no.

“Why? I met his daughter. She is witty and shy. Pretty too. You won’t know until you give her a chance, will you?” he said.

Frowning, I sighed and leaned back on the seat, covering my face with my hands.

“But dad..... I already like someone else,” I told him. My heart was weeping and my soul yearned for her. Even my lycan kept protesting in my mind. He had grown very fond of her over the days.

“You do?” he sounded flabbergasted. Well, blame my secret relationship with the queen’s relative.

“But why didn’t you tell me before? I would have said no at once.” He said. “I thought we shared secrets.”

Okay, now that makes me feel bad. But would he be cool with me dating someone who he thought I was supposed to train? And that someone was the one who had specifically told me to look after?

“I am sorry dad. I was going to tell you. I” I trailed off when I saw that he was hurt that I had kept my relationship a secret from him.

"It's okay, son. Maybe I was being a little too strict for you to feel comfortable sharing with me," he let out a humourless chuckle.

"No! No dad." I refused. "It's just..... I wanted to wait until her lycan woke up. I was going to tell you anyway." I told him quickly.

"You've been the best dad ever," I added. It was the truth. Ever since mom died, he has given his all for me. Mom's death had been hard on him. However, he was an amazing dad. He tried his best to make me someone he and mom could be proud of.

He sighed. "Let's go home. Think about what you are going to tell him tomorrow. You should have said that today when he was here. The sooner the better."

"I was stunned," I murmured. "I was so shocked that I forgot to speak," I told him.

"Okay. Just prepare yourself for tomorrow. You have the whole night," he said.

We went back to our place and tried to sleep. But I couldn't. All I could think of was ways to politely decline the offer. I just hope it doesn't become a mess.

I looked at my phone and wondered if it was too late to call Cass. The clock had struck midnight. However, I was itching to speak with her, even for a few minutes. This must have stunned her too. I wonder if she can sleep.

I stared at her number. Should I call? After much hesitation, I dialled her number. It rang for a long time with no answer. I just hope the reason is that she was asleep and not because she was too heartbroken to speak.

The call was disconnected. I felt as though my heart plummeted deep down into the deepest pits.

"We will face this, my love," I whispered, frowning worriedly. I didn't know for how long I lay, staring at the blank screen of my phone until finally, I fell asleep.

The next morning was worse. Cass was still ignoring my calls. Lack of communication was making me lethargic. I didn't feel like doing anything. After

arriving at the palace, I learnt that she had not come out of the room ever since she went to sleep last night. The queen had excused her, saying that she had not been well.

My heart was already shattered into a million pieces. Was she thinking that I would agree to it? There was no way that I would. I was in love with her. How could I live with someone else? All I wanted to do was to break her door open and claim her, announcing her as my chosen mate. However, I couldn't. Belonging to the duke's family was sometimes a curse. You cannot do anything, however you please.

I had to be respectful at all times. Since it was a weekday and I had to attend to my duties, regardless of what situation I was placed in. However, even during my training, and while I attended my duty as a general, I couldn't shake it off of my mind. It was a pity that I had to wait till night fell to meet the duke of the South again.

I knew what I wanted to say. I have already chosen a mate for myself, although I haven't announced it. Whether he liked it or not, I cannot accept his proposal. It was a long day for me. I couldn't wait to go back home and prepare to meet the duke of the southern province.

When night fell, I was informed that the duke had another important meeting to attend, meaning that meeting me had to be delayed.

Damn!!! I needed to end this soon, but it looks like fate is against me.

But...where is my love? I need to see her now! She had been ignoring my calls and texts. At least we could talk, right? After I received the information that the meeting was delayed, I walked right up to her room. My nose told me that she was inside. I knocked on her door. No answer.

"Cass!" I called, loud enough for her to hear me.

Come on. Cass. I need to see you.

However, I couldn't hear even the slightest sound.

"She went in early tonight. She had not been well the whole day. So I told her to sleep early."

I heard the queen from behind. I turned around. Does this mean I cannot see her tonight? I wanted to plead to see her just once. But since the queen had told me that she was unwell, it simply meant that I should leave her alone for now. Glancing one last time at the door, I silently left and didn't stop until I walked out of the palace and to my room.

I slumped onto my bed, heaving deep breaths of despair. This was stupid. We need to talk! Picking my phone, I wrote down one last text to her.

I need to see you, Cass. Stop ignoring me.

I pressed send and closed my eyes as my heart continued to weep, hoping that time would heal this pathetic rift created between us.

You Rejected Me. Remember? Chapter 25

Cassy pov

I was fighting against my tears the entire time I followed mom out of the meeting room. I didn't want to cry in front of anyone. But I simply couldn't prevent my face from wilting. How could I? All the happiness and excitement we enjoyed together vanished into the thin air in a matter of seconds. And all it took was a few sentences that felt like being hit by a bolt of lightning.

"Carina?" Mom addressed me by the name that they had given me when she was certain that we were alone. I looked at her and tried to smile. However, the heaviness in my chest allowed only a little curve of my lips.

"What..... you look sick!" she stated, frowning in concern. I took deep breaths, hoping to stay as calm as possible, despite the storm that was going on in my heart.

I felt nauseous and my head was pounding with a terrible headache. I tried to hold back my gag reflex until I was able to enter my room. As soon as we reached the floor where my room was, I rushed past mom who was walking ahead of me and ran into my room to quickly empty the contents that were forcing their way up my throat into the toilet bowl of the attached bathroom.

"Good gracious!" mom exclaimed when she saw that I was throwing up non stop.

"Lola! Mina!" I heard my mom scream hysterically for the healers to come.

“Your highness!” I heard their voices. However, by the time they arrived, I was slowly recovering. I washed my mouth and face and checked my reflection in the mirror. There was indeed no life in it. I looked like a dead person.

“Princess!” I heard Lola gasp as she rushed to my assistance with Mina right behind her.

“What happened? Is something wrong!” I heard my dad’s deep voice, filled with worry and perturbation.

When I walked out of the bathroom, I saw how frantic both of my parents were. Their eyebrows were wrinkled in deep frowns. And they kept looking at me anxiously.

“I am fine. I just don’t feel too good,” I told them.

“Why? Is it something you had today?” mom was quick to ask.

“What did you eat tonight?” dad asked.

“A sandwich,” I shrugged. “At the Armis café,” I told them. That was the last meal I had with Elliot and I literally had thrown all of it up.

Could it be the last meal I would ever have with him? Once again, I started to feel nauseous. Perhaps the healers realised that I was not feeling fine and they quickly responded. They took a pill that they dropped in a glass of water and it completely dissolved in it.

“Quick princess. Drink this. It will help,” they said urgently.

Without resisting, I gulped it down. They were right, it did make me feel a little better.

“It is best that you don’t eat food outside, Carina. I know weekends are when you get to go out and perhaps drive around and have fun, but come home to have food.” Mom told me as she walked over to me.

“Yes mom.” I murmured monotonously. It wasn’t like that I could go out with him now. Not under these circumstances.

“Yes, better do that. Now rest. You don’t need to attend training or classes until you feel better. So tomorrow you are going to do nothing except rest.” Dad stated sternly.

“Yes dad.” I replied, sighing as mom led me to bed.
Cassy pov

I was fighting against my tears the entire time I followed mom out of the meeting room. I didn't want to cry in front of anyone. But I simply couldn't prevent my face from wilting. How could I? All the happiness and excitement we enjoyed together vanished into the thin air in a matter of seconds. And all it took was a few sentences that felt like being hit by a bolt of lightning.

“Now be a good girl and sleep. Okay? I need you to be strong and healthy. Mom and dad love you so much baby girl,” she stated, kissing my forehead.

I sighed. Being close to her always made me feel like I was home. Still, there was an irremovable pain embedded deep in my chest.

“Prepare a good medicine for her and make sure that she rests.” My mom instructed the royal healers, who bowed down to them as they walked out of the room.

“Princess.....”

I raised my hand.

“You can go right now. I just want to sleep.” I told them.

“Yes. Your majesty.” Both of them bowed before leaving.

I lay on the bed, adamant not to shed a tear in front of them. I asked them to leave so that I could be alone and let out the water work to my heart's content. As soon as I heard the door close, I let my tears out. Trying my best to muffle the sound of my sobs, I cried to my heart's content.

Why does life have to be so cruel to me? Why does my love life have to be a mess? At first, I thought finding a mate would give me all the happiness in the whole world. Yet my mate simply crushed my heart under his feet, leaving me with nothing except depression and trust issues. And this time, when I thought that finally I had got what I wanted- a loving and caring partner, I had to face this. The fear of him being ripped away from me.

I don't know for how long I had been crying when my phone started to ring. When I saw that it was him, my sobs got worse. I couldn't control them so I

placed my pillow on my face so that no one would hear me. I couldn't talk to him like that. I wanted to be strong. Not weak. And I wanted to prove it.

The phone disconnected and after much time passed, I took my phone, put it on silent mode and placed it under my pillow. I knew it was very late already and right now, all I wanted to do was sleep..

I woke up extremely late the next day. I guess they decided to let me rest. It was past noon when I woke up. I had missed breakfast, so mom made sure she excused herself from the royal duties just so she could make sure that I had a good lunch.

I tried to eat it, but I simply couldn't swallow more than a few bites. I had lost my appetite. It was a good thing that mom and dad blamed the sandwich I had eaten yesterday. It saved me from a lot of explaining. However, the bad thing was that I had to take juices and medicines made from weird herbs that they promised would replenish my energy and appetite.

During supper, the duke of the north joined us. His mere existence ruined the whole atmosphere for me. Once again, I found it hard to swallow food and, thankfully, mom excused me, saying that I wasn't feeling well. It was a good thing that Elliot had to heed to his duties at this time today. If he were there, he would understand why I was so sour. Besides, I feared that I wouldn't be able to control myself in his presence.

"Mom. I'd like to go to my room. I think I need to sleep." I told her, wanting to leave as soon as possible.

"Sure honey. But have this before you go." She replied, pushing the glass of green goo, as I call it, towards me.

I held my breath and downed it one go, because it tasted strange. I didn't like it. If I had the energy to resist I would have thrown a whole tantrum just because I didn't want to take it. However, I was just too tired to do anything besides lock myself in my room and spend the entire time alone.

Time passed. All I did was lie on my bed, staring silently at the ceiling. After some time, there was a set of knocks. The scent that I loved hit my nose, telling me that it was him. Once again, my eyes welled with tears. I knew my sobs would gain his attention, so I covered my mouth with my hand and

squeezed my eyes shut. Tears continued to stream out of the corners of my eyes and onto my mattress.

“Cass?” I heard his voice and my heart skipped a beat. I love him so much. I yearn for him. And I wish I could be with him. Yet, I didn’t reply. I was not ready to face him.

A few minutes passed and it seemed like he had left. His scent slowly faded away.

“Oh God. Please help,” I whispered with my eyes still squeezed shut. And tears are soaking my mattress.

“Hey girl.”

My eyes flung open. Huh? Who said that? I lay on the bed, looking around. I shook my head. Perhaps it was my mind playing tricks on me.

“Girl, I thought you were eager to finally meet me!”

There! Again! This time I sprung up on my bed, frantically looking out for an intruder.

“Who is there!” I demanded, going into full defence mode.

“Ugh! I never thought my human would be completely clueless!”

The voice whined. Huh? Human? Does that mean.....

“Bingo slowpoke. Meet your Lycan!”

“What?” I exclaimed. Oh, that voice was in my head. But wait.....did my lycan just call me a slow poke?

“You don’t need to shout out loud. Sheesh! I can hear you woman!”

My tears now dried up , I rolled my eyes and slumped on to the mattress. Sounds like my lycan has a lot of sass in her.

“Yeah, sassy like you girl. Remember, I’m you, just your lycan form.”

She replied, making my eyes go wide. She can hear my thoughts!

“Oh good lord help me! My human is clueless!”

“Where have you been? I am going through a tough time.” I complained through our mind link.

“I am here now honey. Whatever happens is the best for us. Now sleep. I need my beauty sleep to look fresh tomorrow. I don’t want to look like a raccoon like you did today.” Her response made me scoff.

“I did not look like a raccoon!” I retorted.

“Oh you did too! Raccoon!”

“Ugh. Girl! Are you with me or against me?” I asked, frowning.

“Of course I’m with you honey. Now you’re not crying are you?”

She asked, making me realise that she was right. Smiling, I lay on my pillow and took the bolster on the bed, holding it close. After covering myself with the sheets, I closed my eyes. I still wished for him to be mine. Yet, the awakening of my lycan actually made me feel a lot better. As I lay with my eyes closed, I realised that I hadn’t taken my phone today. I was too preoccupied by my worries to bother. Well, that can wait. I’ll take a look at it tomorrow. At least now I have my lycan with me. And I want to believe her. Whatever happens, is for the best.

“Oh wait. What’s your name?” I asked.

“Izzy. Now go to sleep, Carina.”