

You Rejected Me. Remember? Chapter 31

Cassy pov

“I have a huge surprise for you guys!” I exclaimed in my excitement as I rushed to my friend’s side. We were all excited about our graduation. All of us wore our gowns and caps as we gathered in the hall of the academy building.

Ava gave me a knowing smile as Daphne, Maya and Zoe looked at me with curiosity.

“What?” Zoe asked, grinning widely.

“You’ll see,” I giggled. My heart was fluttering in excitement. My parents were invited to the graduation ceremony, and dad had told me that he would be announcing my identity in his speech. I was more than excited. I knew my friends would all be taken by surprise. All except Ava, of course. She had been true to her word when she said that my secret was safe with her. I just hope that they don’t start to act awkward with me and will remain as my friends for life.

I knew I would have to answer their questions, perhaps they would be shocked like Elliot was. All I could do was wait and hope for the best.

The ceremony went smoothly. The graduates were given their certificates and awards and the entire time, my heart was drumming in my chest. I kept wiping my sweaty palms using the handkerchief mom had given me. Never in my life was I this excited at a graduation ceremony.

Finally, it was time for the king’s speech. I inhaled and exhaled deeply, trying to calm my nerves. My stomach churned uneasily when he stood up from his seat and walked casually towards the stage. His royal attire suited him so well. I couldn’t help but admire his demeanour. With the majestic crown placed on his head, he looked indeed like a great king who demanded respect. He had chosen to wear a black coat with a blue belt where his sword was attached.

He stood behind the podium and scanned through the crowd. His face showed no emotions as he looked through the crowd. Nonetheless, when his eyes landed on me, I noticed that he paused for a split second while his lips curved a little in a small smile.

I smiled widely. I knew what he was going to do. I should be ready for him to call me on stage. I glanced at my friends. All of them were eagerly waiting for his speech. I gulped the accumulated saliva as I studied their faces. All of them were going to have a huge surprise.

I kept my fingers crossed, hoping that they wouldn't be too shocked.

When my father cleared his throat before starting his speech, I took a deep breath and sat straight in my seat. It was hard to remain calm when I was overwhelmed with emotions.

“My people. It is always an honour for me to attend the graduation ceremony of this academy each year. First of all, I would like to congratulate all those who have graduated. I know that most of you have already chosen a career. I wish you all success in your future. Whatever you do, always do it for the right reasons. You have all grown up and completed your transformation. Stay loyal to this kingdom. We need young people in every possible industry. We would be honoured to have newcomers show their talents.” He paused and once again looked around.

“Today is a very important day for all of us. Even for me and the whole royal family. Each year, the day the attendees of this academy graduate is a remarkable day. Anyway, this year, it is even more special for another reason.” He smiled.

My heart was now pounding so fast in my chest, I could feel each of its beats.

“Perhaps some of you have heard about my daughter, who is the same age as you. Your parents would surely know.” He said and glanced at the seats occupied by the parents of the graduates.

I glanced at them. Some of them were nodding in affirmation while others simply smiled at his statement. My friends, except for Ava and the other graduates, seemed to be shocked by the news. Looks like they never heard about my birth.

“It is okay if you didn't hear about her. She was kidnapped by an enemy on the night she was born,” he explained, earning gasps from the crowd of graduates.

My father raised a hand, indicating for everyone to remain silent.

“She was kidnapped and the story of her birth was forgotten as it was not spoken about.” He sighed.

“How many of you would be eager to know that she is well and alive?” he asked. Everyone raised their hands. Holding back my tears, I also raised mine, because I wanted to blend with the crowd. However, in reality, I was fighting against the tears of happiness that threatened to fill my eyes. My father grinned and gestured for everyone to lower their hands.

“I have found her. She is perfectly fine and now ready to take over the throne.” He said into the microphone.

I chewed on my lips, as I tried my best to ignore the hysteric beats of my frantic heart.

“Please meet my daughter. Princess Carina of the great Lycantthrop kingdom!!!” he announced with much enthusiasm in his voice, as he gestured towards me to go to the stage.

Heaving a deep breath, I stood up.

“Huh?”

“Cass....”

“What?”

Zoe, Maya and Daphne looked at me open-mouthed and wide-eyed in utter shock, while Ava grinned and clapped her hands in excitement.

It took a while for them to snap out of their shocked state and start clapping along with the crowd who were now standing up from their seats one by one. By the time I reached the stage and stood beside my father, the attendees of the ceremony were giving me a standing ovation.

Teary-eyed, I looked at my mother who was gazing at me with pride written all over her face. I saw the faces of my classmates and the teachers who taught and trained us during the year. I can safely say that all of them were shocked beyond words. However, they were excited.

Their broad grins and non-stop clapping while giggling along with their friends could only mean that they were happy to have me with them.

“Dear, address them,” Father whispered in my ear.

Huh? I wasn’t ready for that!

“You are the crown, Princess. Say a few words, honey.” He added, encouraging me to go to the podium. I gulped. He gave me a nod as if he was telling me that I could do it.

Well, I don’t have much of a choice, do I?

I kept a straight face as I strolled to the podium and smiled at the crowd.

“Hello everyone. This year has been the most wonderful year for me. All my life, I have been thinking that I was a human. But finding out who I am was the best thing that had ever happened to me. I am very excited and extremely eager to be a part of this prestigious kingdom. Thank you.”

I stepped away and looked at my father, who gave me a small nod. He took my hand and led me towards the chairs prepared for the royals. The teachers had hastened to add one more chair there so that I could be seated, which I reluctantly accepted.

I would rather sit with my friends. However, being a royal meant I would have to be under full safety. And this announcement would only mean that I wouldn’t be able to mix with the crowd, just like that. Well, I wouldn’t mind as long as I could see my friends at times.

The rest of the ceremony wasn’t eventful and, finally, it was time for everyone to leave.

“Dad. I want to speak to my friends.” I pleaded when they started to leave.

“Sure. Go and speak. We will wait for you,” he said. The crowd had begun to disperse but some of them stayed back. Ava and the others were gathered in a deep conversation which they desperately wanted to be part of. I knew that I would be the topic of that discussion. I just hope that they were okay with it.

“Hey,” I called, making them look at me.

Daphne stared at me open-mouthed. Maya too seemed to freeze. Zoe offered a nervous smile.

“Hey princess!” it was Ava who giggled and spoke.

“Ugh. Don’t call me that.” I chuckled and frowned at the other three. “Guys! It is still me. Snap out of it!”

“You are the crown, Princess!!!! Oh my God!!!!!!”

It was Zoe who managed to speak first among them. Daphne shook her head as if to bring herself back to reality. Maya continued to gape at me.

“Hey!” I shook her hand a little.

“What....am I supposed to salute you now?”

Maya’s response made me chuckle.

“No silly. You guys are my besties.” I scratched the back of my head and bit my lower lip. “I hope you guys don’t mind. I had to keep my identity a secret for safety reasons.” I offered a nervous chuckle as I spoke.

“No, it is okay. We understand,” Zoe said, and the others nodded in agreement. I sighed in relief and looked at my parents who were patiently waiting for me to go.

“Guys, I’ve got to go. I’ll be very busy during the next couple of weeks since we will be preparing for the coronation ceremony. But do text. I will reply as soon as possible.” I told them.

“Coronation! Oh my God! I can’t believe we are friends with the future queen.” Maya squealed.

I grinned. “You all must attend it,” I winked, making a mental note to make sure I invited all four of my friends.

“No waayyyy!” Daphne squealed as she grabbed my hands and squeezed them in excitement. Maya and Zoe too squealed along with her. Ava remained to grin at their excitement.

“Wait. Did Ava know about this before?” Zoe suddenly asked. “You are way too calm.”

“Yeah..... actually, I’m a hybrid who has the power to foresee. At times I get hints of the future. Not the whole thing but perhaps an important event. That is how I knew.” She shrugged.

“Oh girl, I wish you had told us,” Maya giggled.

“I couldn’t. It was supposed to be a secret, right,” Ava responded.

“Wow. You are good at keeping secrets. And you are a hybrid!” So cool!” Daphne exclaimed.

I looked at my parents. A lot of the attendees had paid their respects and left the building already. We also should leave.

“Guys. I’ve got to go.” I sighed.

“Bye.”

“See ya!”

They bade me goodbye.

“We got to shop for gowns!” I heard Maya exclaim as I walked away. Chuckling, I walked out of the building with my parents. Looks like busy days are ahead. I just hope I do this right.

Although he announced about me at our graduation, he later made an official announcement which was broadcasted to the whole kingdom. Of course, it exposed my presence to everyone, the whole world. Over the next few days, we received several messages congratulating us. To tell the truth, I didn’t know what to feel.

Yes, I was elated to see the overwhelming support. At the same time, I was relatively fearful. I was going to be crowned Queen, and that means I would be carrying a high responsibility on my shoulders.

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Cassy

As expected, the following weeks were the busiest for us. Preparing the palace, getting suitable clothes and gowns wasn’t as easy as it sounds. We also had to send out invitations to all the different kingdoms in the mystical world, including all the werewolf packs in the kingdom. We had to make sure that no kingdoms or werewolf packs were left uninvited.

“Fae, vampires, the dragons, Wizards.....that’s all the kingdoms, right?” Mom frowned as she looked through the envelopes prepared to be sent away.

“Yes.” Replied dad. A silly smile pasted on my face as I watched in awe. It was astounding to hear about the presence of these magical creatures. I had heard about it before, but this was the first time I was in a situation where they would be invited to a ceremony I was at. Which means I would be meeting them in person.

It was exciting.

“Wow.” I gasped. “Dragons and even Fae?” I asked, completely awestruck by it.

“Yes. Dragons can shift like us. The fae and the wizards have magical powers though they differ from each other,” mom explained. “They must have taught you this in the academy.” She added and I nodded in response.

“Yes. Mom. They did, but hearing about them is amazing. I never get bored listening to them,” sighing, I leaned back in my seat.

“So the werewolves are under the Lycan kingdom?” I inquired and they nodded in response.

“Yes. Vampires, dragons and wizards are completely separate kingdoms, but the Fae has elves under them.” Dad muttered as he took a new stack of invitations and started to go through them.

“You are inviting all the alphas? Of all the packs?” I asked, wanting to clear away any doubt.

“Yes! Of course. At least the alpha’s should be there, right? We will invite six from each pack, and most of the time, it would be the alpha, beta and their gamma. If they have their mates with them, they can bring them.” He explained.

Oh, which means if Miles had become the pack’s alpha, he would be the one to be there. I can’t wait to see the look on his face when he discovers that he had royally f****d up.

A set of knocks interrupted us.

“Come in,” Dad answered. A maid timidly stepped inside.

“Your majesty. We need the princess’s presence to check her gowns for the royal ceremony, your highness,” she humbly asked, bowing down a little.

“Sure,” I fidgeted in my seat, still finding it hard to adjust to them bowing down to us each time they saw us.

“Mom, Dad, may I leave?” I asked.

“Sure honey. Have fun.” Mom smiled sweetly.

I walked out of the office after the maids who had come to escort me to the place where the royal tailors were working. Just then, Sir Harold, Elliot’s father, came to enter the office, with Elliot right behind him.

An involuntary smile spread across my face when I saw him. Both of us had been so busy during the last couple of weeks that it had been a long time since we last met. His lips curved upwards when our gazes met, however, he was quick to follow his father inside.

Sighing, I went on my way to where the royal dressmakers were busy doing their work. As soon as I entered, they started their work. It was a fun experience. I got to try on several gowns that were well made. However, my heart kept itching to see Elliot.

It had been way too long since we last met. Things had been so hectic that we were not able to sneak out for a long time. Perhaps I should call him and suggest that we arrange a meeting. I missed him so much.

I went back to my room, wanting to call him. However, what surprised me was a message that was waiting for me to check. He must have texted me when I was in the changing room.

I miss you, babe.

It said. Grinning wide, and my heart fluttering, I hastened to reply.

I miss you too.

My fingers were quick to hit send. I expected a message in response, but to my surprise, my phone started to ring.

“Heeeeyyyy!” I answered the call with a lot of enthusiasm.

“Babe....” he replied. I slumped onto the bed. I was so glad that I was alone in the room at that moment. I wouldn’t be able to hide the excitement that was so obvious in my face.

I sighed. His voice sounded like music to my ears. He could make my heart flutter and shivers of excitement run down my spine, just like that.

“I miss you so much. I miss having you in my arms and tasting your lips. I can’t wait to have you again.” His husky confession made me want to melt into a puddle. How could anyone do that with a few words?

“Hmmm.....”

I shivered, and all I could do was mumble a hmm in response. Oh, good lord.....this guy will be the end of me. He was making me feel so stupid.

“Will you go on a date with me?” he asked, making my eyes go wide. Date? With him? Oh hell yes! But how?

“Oh, Elliot! I would love to! But how do we....?”

“I asked the king and the queen to let me take you out tonight.” He told me.

Really? I thought silenced to some extent that he didn’t say anything about us getting married. He promised that he would do that once I graduate.

I was excited about going out with him, however, a little disappointed that he hadn’t asked them for my hand in marriage yet.

My smile faltered a little, but I agreed to go out with him anyway.

“I would love to go with you, Elliot. When?” I had missed him too much to let go of this opportunity.

“I’ll go to get you at eight. Wear a dress... Okay,” he proposed. It was weird for him to say that but I shrugged it off. Perhaps he wanted to make it special since we were meeting after such a long time.

“Okay. If you say so.” I smiled as I spoke.

“Girl!” Izzy purred. “You better get ready on time!”

Well, I'm not the only one who was excited about this meeting. I snickered.

"Why are you so excited?" I asked.

"Just get your a*s to the bathroom and take a bath, woman. You're getting late anyway!"

I chuckled. I could feel her rolling her eyes as she retorted.

When I checked the time, I saw that I had enough time to get ready for my first official date with him. Wondering what got into mom and dad suddenly allowed me to go on a date with him, I ran the shower. To be honest, I didn't care. All that mattered to me was that I was finally allowed to do so and there was no way that I would miss that.

I took a much-needed bath, and brushed my hair. After letting it flow down my back in loose curls and applying makeup, I chose a black cocktail dress that had been sitting in my wardrobe ever since mom got it for me because I wasn't used to getting dressed up. But tonight was special and I believe it deserved a night out.

I smirked at my reflection. "You rock," I whispered.

"What do you think, Izzy?" I asked.

"You look hot!!!" she responded excitedly. "I can't wait for the date!!" She added, joyously.

I chuckled, wondering why she was so excited. It wasn't like she had not met Rex just yesterday.

"Rex said today was special. He just wouldn't tell me why? I am so eager to know!" she answered my unasked question.

Oh. Okay. Now I was also getting curious. "Or maybe it is special because this is our first real date," I guessed. She simply shrugged.

I checked the time. Just five minutes left. He must be coming soon. A set of knocks and the scent of lemongrass was all that I needed. My heart skipped a beat as I hurried to answer the door.

"Babe...you looked stunning." He gasped, handing me a bouquet of roses.

Grinning, I accepted it, thanking him for the flowers. After keeping it in water, we walked away.

“Where are we going?” I asked when he took me to his car which was waiting for us at the gate.

“It is a surprise.” He winked.

He drove around the kingdom and stopped by the academy building. Wrinkling my nose in confusion, I frowned at him. Why did he make me get dressed to bring me here? Smirking, he took a piece of cloth and started to blindfold me. At first, I jumped back.

“What are you doing?” I asked in confusion.

“Trust me, babe,” he whispered. Gulping, I nodded. After trying it, he once again started to drive. Okay, so we went elsewhere. He simply drove around until I was completely confused. I have my face contorted, bewildered.

“We are here,” he finally said.

I went wherever he led me to. There were times I hesitated, but I trusted him.

“Elliot. I’m getting confused now!” I frowned.

Silence.....

“Elliot?” I called. But he didn’t answer me. I inhaled and my nose told me that he was around. But why wasn’t he saying anything?

“Elliot!!!” I tried again. He wouldn’t take me somewhere to leave me alone. That was for sure.

“Izzy?” I called. “Why isn’t he responding?”

“I don’t know,” she paused.

Wrinkling my eyebrows, I tried to feel my surroundings. I focused on my sense of hearing and smell. The sound of the soft breeze, and the smell of the freshly cut grass. Perhaps we were in open grassland. The cool wind blew against me, making me shiver. It was cold.

Yup, we were most certainly in an open field. Smiling, I inhaled. The scent of the grass was mixed with the mesmerising lavender scent. Did he bring me to a lavender field? I marveled.

“Remove the blindfold. I want to see where we are,” Izzy mumbled.

He was surely trying to surprise me, but my patience isn’t that great. Especially when I was eager to find out what he was up to. So I slowly removed the blindfold.

“Elliot?” I called as I slowly removed the cloth from my eyes. As expected, he was hiding somewhere. I snickered under my breath. I was certain that he was behind the huge tree in front of me. I wasn’t in a lavender field, so where was that beautiful scent coming from?

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Cassy pov

“I can still smell him,” I told Izzy.

Chuckling, “he is still around,” she mumbled.

Smiling to myself, I tiptoed around the tree, wanting to peek at what he was up to.

However, it was me who was surprised. Tiny candles were flickering on the ground and there were rose petals scattered on the green grass. I squinted at the tiny candles and realised that the lavender scent was coming from them. Although the place was dimly lit, it was enough for us to see the beautiful set-up. When my eyes landed on the banner put on the tree trunk, I gasped.

Will you marry me?

It was written in large, red letters on a white background. He had tied heart-shaped balloons onto it and I thought that it was the most romantic gesture I had ever experienced.

Tears gathered in my eyes. I still haven’t seen Elliot. He was damn good at hiding.

“Oh my God!” Izzy shrieked. “He wants to propose!!!!” She shrieked.

I looked around frantically. Where is that i***t? I need to say yes! I thought. I turned around only to find Elliot kneeling on one leg in front of me, grinning wide. His eyes twinkled in the moonlight. The orange flame of the candles was reflected on his face. My heart skipped a beat.

I felt as though my heart might explode with emotions. Taking deep breaths, as I tried my best to keep calm, I focused on him.

“My love,” he said. I stared at him stupefied. My parted lips slowly stretched into a broad grin. He had indeed surprised me. I guess I never expected that he would propose to me like this.

“Ever since I laid my eyes on you, I knew that you were the one for me. I knew that you were the one I wanted to spend my life with. You are the one I want to make the partner of my life. The mother of my pups. And the time I spent with you only confirmed that. Every single moment only strengthened my desire for you. I am firm on my decision. It was just our destiny that we met when we did. Honestly, I don’t regret flirting with you the first time I saw you. Or the time I became your friend when you needed me to be one. Or falling for you deeper and deeper every day. And I certainly am proud of finally breaking through the friend zone, though I honestly don’t know how that happened.” He exhaled.

Beads of sweat glistened on his forehead. Perhaps he was nervous. Honestly, none of that mattered to me. I was exhilarated.

“I want to spend my entire life with you beside me. I want you to be my life partner.” He paused and opened a little velvet casket, revealing a beautiful diamond ring.

My focus was on the man who was still on one knee in front of me. He could have offered me nothing and I would still say yes.

It was only then did I realise that I was covering my mouth with both hands. I nodded when I couldn’t find my voice to speak. I offered a trembling hand for him to put the ring on, while trying to blink the tears of joy away. He slipped it on, grinning from ear to ear and stood up to stand beside me.

“Elliot.....” I gasped, looking at the beautiful gift he had given me.

However, that was all that I could utter. Tears of happiness had gathered in my eyes. I was at a loss for words. For the first time in my life, I didn’t know

what to say. My tongue stopped forming words. My throat was tight and my breathing was uneven.

“Babe....” he whispered, tracing his thumb on my cheeks.

I looked at him and threw my hands around his neck, while locking my lips with his, still trembling and shivering, as I was exhilarated. I let our lips move together. I let our breaths mix. We have taken a step closer to being one. I felt that I was now more significant in his life and vice versa. For me, this was a dream come true.

We broke a kiss and gasped for breath. No words were needed for both of us to understand how much we desired for each other. Giggling, I buried my face in his chest and inhaled his scent.

“I love you, babe.” He whispered, kissing my hair.

“I love you too.” I sniffled, tears still flowing out of my eyes. “I can’t believe that I’m crying,” I giggled, still holding on to him. He chuckled with me and held me close.

I sighed, smiling in content, listening to the beats of his heart. But he had said that he would ask my parents for my hand in marriage. What had happened to that?

“Elliot,” I called. “You still have to ask mom and dad

“I already did.” He cut me in, in a hushed whisper.

“Really?” my smile changed into a broad grin as I looked up to look into his eyes. He nodded.

“Why else do you think they allowed me to take you out tonight? I told them that I wanted to ask you to marry me.” He smirked.

“You didn’t tell me.” I chuckled.

I wanted to be upset because he didn’t tell me about it, but I couldn’t. I was too elated for that.

“Yeah. And I think they would want to hasten the wedding. Since the coronation ceremony is nearby. They said something like having a wedding

that same day. You know, I think the wedding and the coronation will be the same ceremony.” He informed me.

“What? This means I will be wearing my wedding dress at the coronation ceremony?” I exclaimed, frowning. Suddenly, I thought about the possibility of Miles being there at the coronation ceremony.

Oh hell no! I won't let him ruin my special day. Not that he would ruin it, but I didn't want to take any chances.

“Oh...no! I would rather marry you with close family and friends. I don't think I want all the alphas to be at my wedding.” I told him honestly. “We can still have the coronation that day, right?” my forehead creased as I thought about it.

“Oh, I don't know Cass. It was the king's suggestion. Perhaps we should discuss it with them?” he suggested.

I nodded. “Let's go?”

After pecking on my lips one last time, he nodded. Our ride home was completely silent.

We walked hand in hand to my father's study, where they normally would be at that hour. My parents were laughing at something about Elliot's father.

“Oh look, they are back!” he exclaimed.

“Well, we didn't expect you to come back this soon,” Mom stated.

“Yeah. On the nights you two sneak out, you will come home later than this,” dad smirked as he added.

Smiling sheepishly, Elliot scratched the back of his neck while I tried my best not to blush. However, my face was already flushed. I just hoped that they didn't notice.

“So did she say yes?” dad asked Elliot.

“Yes, your highness.” He replied meekly.

“Ugh. Cut that crap. You are family now.” Dad waved his hand.

“Yeah. No need for formalities. You are like our son.” Mom agreed.

Elliot’s eyes widened and his mouth opened agape. He had never met the laid back and fun side of my parents. They had been super formal with each other the whole time. He looked at me in utter shock. I giggled. I knew he would be surprised.

“Show me the ring!” suddenly mom demanded, rushing towards me like an excited teenager. I showed her and she squealed in excitement.

“Oh this is so pretty!” she exclaimed, hugging me and placing a kiss on my forehead. “My baby has grown up.” She said, her eyes glossing with tears.

It only added to Elliot’s amazement.

“Mom, dad? Elliot said that you had decided to have the wedding during the coronation?” I asked.

“Oh yes. That would be better. We don’t have enough time to hold a wedding before the coronation ceremony. So it would be best to have it together.” Dad stated.

“We could crown both of you then,” Mom added.

“Oh..” paused my lips.

“Why?” Mom asked, frowning.

“I think the one who rejected me would be there that day,” I told them. I felt Elliot go stiff beside me.

“He is an alpha?” Father asked, his face drastically changing. His jaws clenched.

“It is okay dad. I have moved on.” I told them quickly. I didn’t care what he did. He could go on with his miserable life. I just didn’t care.

“If that is so, it would be okay to hold the wedding that day.” Mom stated, gazing into my eyes meaningfully.

I gulped and nodded.

I guess...

You Rejected Me. Remember? Chapter 34

Narrator

Days passed. The invitations were sent and the preparations for the wedding and the coronation began. When the invitations arrived at the dark howl pack, the former alpha and luna were ecstatic. It was always an honour to be invited to a royal ceremony in the Lycan kingdom. However, their excitement involved a hidden hope that their son might find his mate there. He had already travelled to almost all the packs on the continent.

It was extremely rare to be paired with a Lycan. However, if they were, it would be a privilege. The three leaders prepared themselves to leave for the grand ceremony. Castor, his mate, Nolan and Miles. There were still two more slots, so the high alpha and luna decided to go with the young group of leaders.

Miles wasn't very enthusiastic about attending the coronation ceremony. For him, it was a waste of time. However, he didn't protest against his parents.

And since the coronation ceremony was the wedding of the crown princess as well, the high alpha and luna were extremely eager to attend it.

They arrived at the Lycan kingdom on that day and were escorted to their table. They realised that all the alphas of the werewolf packs were put in groups, while each of the separate kingdoms had their tables a little distance away from them.

Amazed by the presence of different mystical creatures, Miles and his friends looked around. They studied the vampire king's remarkably pale face while his bright red lips stood out. The dragon king screamed power as he sat on his seat as if he owned the entire place. The Fae king looked rather slim and graceful with huge wings protruding from his back. Despite his slim build, everyone knew it would be better if they stayed out of their way. He was the king of a great kingdom for a reason. And then, lastly, the wizard king. He looked just like a normal human. Yet, he was the perfect example of deceitful sight. His aura was extremely dangerous and influential.

It was beautiful that all the kingdoms lived in the mystical world in harmony. Although occasional disputes rose, they managed to settle them without going into a huge war. The biggest problems the werewolves faced were from their

kind, the rogues. The disobedient and rebellious wolves, who refused to accept their leaders.

Miles inhaled, smiling to himself, finding himself admiring the kings and queens of different kingdoms. He knew that being the alpha of a werewolf pack also meant a lot of authority. Frowning, he looked around. He had not seen the Lycan king and queen yet.

Perhaps they were waiting to make a grand entrance. He thought.

Nolan felt the excitement of his wolf. It had been a while since he was enthusiastic. He had never been this thrilled about an event, ever since he was announced as the beta of his pack. But this time, things were different. Though he couldn't lay his finger on the real reason, his gut feeling told him so.

Perhaps his excitement was because this was a historical event. He told himself. He sat back and tried his best to relax and tried his best to swallow the passion rising in his heart.

Cassy pov.

I stood in front of the mirror, studying my reflection. The delicate lace of the white wedding dress I wore flowed down gracefully. It hugged my figure perfectly. Its full-length sleeves made it modest enough, although it had a deep cut neckline.

I traced my fingers on the glimmering white stone of the necklace mom gave me to wear. This was supposed to be the happiest day of my life. I was elated beyond words. After all, I was about to be married to the man of my dreams.

However, I simply couldn't stop thinking about Nolan and my adoptive parents. My besties had always stood by my side in the pack.

I had always imagined that they would always be beside me. But alas, fate had taken an unexpected turn.

If I had the power, I would have taken this ceremony to the pack, where they also could be a part of it. However, I couldn't.

Being the crown Princess may look very appealing to others. In reality, it means that you must give up a lot of things you want to do. It simply means

you cannot live a normal life. Your entire life will be full of expectations, rules and regulations.

I sighed. I had no complaints. Just that I missed the family I had grown up in.

“Are you ready my dear?” Mom peeked in the room. I looked at her through the mirror. Her face instantly fell as she clicked her tongue.

“Carina, you are still staring at your reflection! You must be wearing your veil now! It is time already!” She furrowed her eyebrows as she picked up the white lace veil.

“All the girls left because you said you would do it. But here you are, just like how we left you.” She complained as she started to place it on my head.

“Is it time to go already?” I asked, gulping anxiously. I was nervous for more than one reason.

It was my wedding and I was bound to be nervous anyway.

Mom chuckled and continued to make sure that the veil was fixed well to my hair.

“Honey, I think you are feeling the wedding jitters. We all do. Relax. You will be fine.” She stated.

I sighed. “I miss Nolan and the others,” I admitted.

“Nolan?”

“My brother. In the family I grew up in. I wish I could see them again,” I told her.

She pursed her lips as her forehead wrinkled with concern through the reflection in the mirror.

“Maybe.....you could go and meet them back in the pack?” She mumbled. “Now don’t think about that, Carina. Everyone is waiting for you.” She smiled and turned me around so that I could face her.

“You look stunning, my dear. Now go in there and just relax. Your father is already waiting for you. You don’t want to make Elliot think that you changed your mind, do you?” She checked as she spoke.

I took a deep breath. My erratic heart didn't calm down. Regardless of how I felt, I knew I had to stay relaxed. I would be walking down the aisle in front of all the leaders of the mystical world. I certainly didn't want to mess things up.

When I walked outside, my father was already waiting for me.

"My beautiful daughter." He smiled, kissing the back of my hand. As I walked forward, my eyes focused on the person who had captured my heart. Standing beside his father, his eyes shining as his lips stretched into a broad grin, he was the one who was meant for me. And that was all that mattered to me.

The crowd that was gathered, nor the stares I received mattered. I knew everyone was watching as Elliot took my hand and we stood in front of the minister. I knew every ear was attentively listening to our vows. And I knew the entire crowd was bearing witness to me, the crown princess marrying the love of my life.

I was simply glad that no one tried to object or create problems.

Everything went smoothly and we were announced, husband and wife.

As I turned around, I noticed my friends grinning from ear to ear as they cheered silently.

At first, they were shocked to know that I was engaged to Elliot. However, their excitement surpassed their amazement and soon, they were all preparing for the wedding and the coronation.

The minister then led us towards the thrones that were prepared on the stage. When I sat on the throne, I had a full view of all the attendees. I saw the kings of the different kingdoms, the alphas of various packs. My friends were seated beside the royal family since they were my special guests.

My eyes zeroed on the group of alphas present at the ceremony. The hall was vast and well-spaced, however, being a Lycan helped me see each of them well enough.

When my eyes landed on the specific alpha I was hoping that would witness this, I smirked internally.

"Izzy, do you see that?" I asked.

“Oh yes! Oh God, he looks so royally confused.” She laughed.

I couldn't even laugh out loud. Seeing him stare at me as though he had seen a ghost was hilarious! This was priceless, yet I had to keep a straight face. Izzy went silent for some time, I suppose because the minister started to speak. He kept blabbering about things that sounded alien to me. I was lost in my thoughts.

“Hey....is that Nolan?” Suddenly Izzy blurted out.

Huh?

I almost jumped up from the throne. Still keeping my face void of emotions, I scanned through the crowd.

My heart skipped a beat when my eyes landed on the frowning face of the brown-haired, blue-eyed young man who I called my brother. He was here! He was here!

I gripped the handle of my throne. I wanted to run down the stage and hug him tight. I wanted to cry for all the days I had missed them. But then, I couldn't. I would have to be patient.

I saw the minister pick up the crown and come towards me.

“Hereby, I crown thee, Queen Carina, of the great lycanthrope kingdom!” He announced and the whole crowd broke into a round of applause.

I felt good bumps and a cold shiver ran down my spine at the moment I was crowned as the queen.

“And hereby, I crown thee, Sir Elliot, as the royal Prince of the great Lycan kingdom.”

He announced, placing his crown on his head. Since he was not a blood relative to my father, he couldn't be crowned as the king.

The place boomed with the sound of their applause. I held my head up high and smiled at the people in front of me.

My parents were smiling, with tears in their eyes, while my friends too looked as though they had won the lottery.

I smiled inwardly. I was the Queen now, which meant I now had a huge responsibility on my shoulders.

I watched as the food caterers started to serve delicacies to the guests. My eyes kept darting at the table where Nolan sat. I realised that the high alpha and luna, Castor and another girl who I guessed was Castor's mate were all murmuring among themselves. Miles also sat beside them. However, he seemed to be too perplexed to join in their discussions.

I smirked. Things were going my way now. I just couldn't wait to meet them separately. I knew I had to.

Perhaps I could invite them to meet me after this ceremony is over. I need to speak to Nolan and the others. They need to know the truth.

You Rejected Me. Remember? Chapter 35

Elliot pov

As usual, she simply took my breath away. I couldn't take my eyes off her. She looked like an angel in white as she sauntered towards me. With each step she took, my heart skipped a beat. Rex's excitement and constant jumping and chattering weren't helping me in any way.

I saw how her eyes twinkled as the king escorted her down the aisle.

It took every ounce of determination in me not to let my tears roll down as she approached me. However, despite trying my utmost to keep a straight face, I couldn't hold back the silly smile that had curved my lips.

I was immensely grateful to my father, who continued to offer his support. I suppose he knew that I would be emotional at that moment.

"Take good care of her," the king asked, looking straight at me.

"Of course. I will, your highness," I replied.

My smile didn't falter, as I gaped at her the entire time. She was perfect and now, she was about to be mine. All I could do was admire her ethereal beauty.

Her being the crown Princess was destiny. Flirting with her was my choice. However, falling in love was something out of my control. I love her with all my heart, and now there is no going back.

When it was time for my vows, I spoke from the bottom of my heart and while I did, it was as though it was just me and her. Nothing else mattered. Not even the fact that the entire mystical world would be bearing witness to me declaring my undying love for her.

It was a huge relief that the whole ceremony went smoothly. The wedding and the coronation. Being part of the royal family was something I never thought I would be. Yet, here I am now.

When the invitees started to disperse, it was already almost sunset.

“You looked stunning honey,” her mother whispered through her tears, as she dabbed a tissue at the corner of her eye.

“Thank you, mom,” she hugged her mother.

“Mom. I would like to meet those who attended the ceremony from the Dark Howl pack,” Cass muttered.

“Oh, you’re the Queen now dear,” her mother whispered. “Just send an order and they will attend to you,” She added.

“Uh. Yes...” Cass gestured at one of the guards who hastened to carry out her orders. She looked at her friends who were waiting to have a word with her.

“Hey.”

“Your majesty.” Ava bowed down, followed by the others. Cass rolled her eyes.

“Oh come on.” She whispered. “Not you guys.”

And then she grinned.

“At least not when we are alone,” she winked, earning giggles from everyone.

“You must be the coolest Queen who ever lived.” Giggled Maya.

We stayed until all the attendees left except the leaders of the Dark Howl pack. When she gestured to them to come closer, everyone else stepped aside, so that she could communicate with them. I had a hunch that they were from the pack that she had grown up in. My gaze shifted towards their young alpha. Was this the one who rejected her? Narrowing my eyes at him, I scrutinised his face. How I wish I could know what was going on in his mind.

I then looked at the faces one by one. One emotion was common in all of their faces- confusion.

“Your majesty.”

The older couple were the first to bow down and pay their respects. The others were quick to follow. Their alpha seemed to be in a state of shock when he forced himself to bow.

“Raise,” Cass said, rather humbly.

Her eyes were on the brown-haired, blue-eyed beta.

“Nolan.....” she gasped, and it looked as though she was suddenly overwhelmed with emotions.

The beta’s eyes widened in utter shock and disbelief.

“It is you!” He exclaimed, his mouth wide open.

“Cass.... Cassandra?” The old Luna gasped.

“We were right.... We had thought..... how.....” she looked lost as she stuttered.

“Do you know how much pain your disappearance has caused?” Nolan stated, rather sternly. I could understand that he was overwhelmed with emotions. Nonetheless, speaking in a harsh tone to the Queen wasn’t something I would tolerate.

I frowned.

“She is the Queen. You may address her with respect.” I mentioned, in a solemn voice.

“I am sorry, your highness,” Nolan was quick to respond.

“No. It is okay, Elliot. Meet Nolan, my adoptive brother. He is family,” she told me, fighting against her tears.

“Mom, Dad, this is my brother.” She told everyone.

She then stood up and walked right up to him and hugged him tightly.

He slowly wrapped his arms around her and closed his eyes. I saw how silent tears rolled down his cheeks.

“I am still angry with you. I cried so much. I have missed you every minute ever since that night, Cassy. Why in the world did you jump off that cliff? And why are you here?” He gasped.

“I need a lot of explanation, Cassy. And I can’t believe that. You are the Queen? Wow!” He chuckled, loosening his grip on her to look in her face.

“And you are married now!!!?” He added, glancing in my direction, grinning widely.

I smiled inwardly. I like this guy. He sounds like a great wolf.

“Yeah. And she is my mate!” The young alpha practically growled. The high alpha and luna seemed to be dumbstruck when he declared it out loud. Nolan’s expression suddenly changed and I heard gasps from the girls standing beside us.

I felt my throat run dry. What in the world..... Had he the nerve to say that? I saw how my wife’s countenance changed. She squinted at him with a critical glare. Oh, this alpha had asked for trouble.

“Oh really, Miles?” She mocked.

“When? Oh...yes. It has been a long time since we last met, Miles, I needed to jog my memory. Perhaps you meant to say that we were mates, but you didn’t want me.”

She sauntered over to him so that she was standing a respectful distance away from him, but was facing him completely.

“I thought I wouldn’t talk about it, but since you brought it up, let’s recall that night, shall we? Remember, Miles? Wait...what are the words you shouted

that night....” She tapped her chin, as though she was trying to remember something.

“Oh yes..... you ordered me to accept your ‘damned rejection’ so that you could live your life. Because you wanted a strong luna, not a weak human like me,” She smirked. “Remember, Miles?”

Her eyes darkened with fury.

“You even told me that it would have been better if I died,” she hissed through her gritted teeth.

“Well, guess what, Miles? I had accepted that ‘damned rejection’ that night and now, our bond is broken. There is nothing left between us, Miles. And I am awfully thankful for that.”

Her chest was heaving by this time. She was overwhelmed.

“Nolan, you wanted to know why I jumped off that cliff? He is the reason! I believed him and I wanted to end my life so that you all would be stronger without me. The thing was that fall didn’t kill me. Instead, I was found by my birth father and your king.” She explained and looked at her brother.

“Mom and dad must have found me when I was left in the woods by a kidnapper back then.” She added.

There was a long pause where everyone stared at Miles, shocked, disappointed and in fury.

“Our daughter was kidnapped the night she was born. I had searched for her every day ever since and fate had made us cross paths that fateful night.” Her father, the former king, was the one who broke the silence.

I looked at the old alpha and luna, who were now, staring wide-eyed at their son. I scoffed internally. Miles now had his eyebrows furrowed, and his gaze lowered. His sight wandered with uncertainty. He should have kept his mouth shut. I thought.

“Serves that a*****e right,” Rex murmured.

“I know,” I replied.

“Well, now she is ours. I don’t have any complaints,” he responded, and I couldn’t agree more.

I looked at my wife, who seemed to have controlled her anger to some extent. She turned around and climbed up the stairs and sat on her throne beside me.

“Since someone needs confirmation of our severed bond, let me make it easy for you.” She smirked as she relaxed in her seat.

“I, Queen Carina of the lycanthrope kingdom, reject you, alpha Miles Walter, as my mate,” she declared, her eyes burnt on him as she did.

“Now accept that rejection and that is a royal order!” She stated.

She was having fun doing that.

“I... I accept,” he meekly replied.

“Good!” She whispered and leaned against her throne. A smile of triumph spread across her face.

“Your majesty.” The old alpha and luna fell on their knees.

“We are extremely sorry about what our son has done in the past. Please don’t hold it against us or our pack.” They begged, holding their hands together.

Cass raised her hand and shook her head.

“I have nothing against you and the pack. Your pack is close to my heart. It was my first home. My adoptive parents are still there and I plan to meet them. Perhaps we could visit soon. Would that be okay, Nolan?” She replied.

Nolan, who had been speechless for the last couple of minutes, heaved a deep breath and looked up. It was obvious that he was still flabbergasted by the new information. However, I would say that he did an excellent job at controlling himself.

“Of course. They are completely shattered thinking that you are gone.” He sighed.

I was certain that he was trying his best not to look at Miles, who was now utterly ashamed. He looked around. His eyes landed on the four girls who

were just as stupefied as the members of the Dark Howl pack. The girls continued to glare at Miles angrily, for he deserved to be hated.

Nolan, on the other hand, went stiff. His eyes turned to a darker shade of blue. I was certain that he was looking at Ava, who seemed to be staring back at him.

“Mate!” He growled.

Miles pov

I was dumbstruck. I felt as though my eyes were playing tricks on me. What shocked me the most was that she was still alive, even after jumping off a cliff. And she didn't even bother to come back to the pack the whole time.

I couldn't take my eyes off her. I caught a glimpse of her glimmering emerald eyes as she continued to grin at her husband to be. She looked gorgeous in that lacy white wedding dress. But was it her? I didn't want to believe that she could still be alive. How could a weak human live after that fall?

When she entered the venue, I felt my wolf shift uncomfortably. I ran my tongue over my chapped lips. A constant frown was on my forehead. I knew everyone at our table was shocked to see the resemblance of this girl to the human who lived among us. However, I couldn't join in their discussions. I was too indulged in my dilemma.

I kept looking at her as she was being escorted by the king. I thought this was the wedding of the Crown Princess. What was she doing here? And why was the king escorting her? Does this mean.....

Waitso many unanswered questions. My head started to pound with a headache. It was so confusing. It couldn't be her. Cassandra was a simple human. She had jumped off the cliff. She had died. Whereas this was the Lycan princess, so this couldn't be her.

I kept telling myself during the entire ceremony. How could it be her? If she was, I would have felt the pull. Besides, how could a human suddenly change into a lycan? That isn't possible.

I knew my face was contorted in utter confusion. I heard murmurs around me. Hushed whispers were exchanged until the ceremony began.

I continued to stare as they were married and were announced, husband and wife. I occasionally wiped away the sweat on my face. Despite the cool environment, I was feeling uncomfortably hot.

This girl must be her doppelganger. I told myself. Not the human. How cool would it be if I had mated with the Crown Princess herself! I smiled internally, trying to keep my mind off of Cassandra.

Well, that can only be a dream now. She is now married to her chosen mate. Superior creatures like lycans have the power and authority to choose their mates. Once they mark each other, they will share the bond similar to our mate bond. It would be the same and they would be mates for life.

The wedding and the coronation ceremony went on smoothly. Everyone was watching the young couple who seemed to be deeply in love. When she sat on the throne, I had a full view of her face. I could have sworn that she glanced at me for a split second when she smirked slightly. However, her face remained emotionless throughout the ceremony.

My heart skipped a beat when I thought she looked in my direction.

No! It must have been my eyes playing tricks on me. The Queen wouldn't look in my direction. Why would she?

When the minister announced her name, I let out a rough breath.

Queen Carina. She was Queen Carina. I was worrying over nothing. When the food was served, I tried to eat it. Still, I found it hard to swallow. Our table seemed to be eerily silent compared to those surrounding us.

I just couldn't bring myself to enjoy it. The Queen looked exactly like her and it was hard for me to digest. I felt as though Cassandra's ghost had come back to haunt me. I had better suggest leaving as soon as possible. Perhaps I could avoid meeting the Queen. Then Cassandra's ghost cannot haunt me.

When the royal guard informed us that the Queen was requesting our presence in front of her, I felt my heart plummet. Why would she want to see us separately?

We all went to see her feet nonetheless. Everyone was silent, confused and uncertain of what to expect. I knew Nolan was especially anxious. Though he

didn't say anything, it was obvious on his face that he had a lot of questions he wanted to ask.

When she called Nolan and approached him, I felt as though the ground shook underneath my feet. It was her! But does this mean I have lost the chance to share the throne with her?

I started to feel remorseful and possessive. She was my first mate. She should be mine even now. Even though she was married, they had not married nor mated yet. So I still had a chance.

However, opening my mouth was the biggest mistake of my life. I should have stayed silent, then perhaps, what I had done in the past would have remained a secret.

But I learnt the hard way.

"Mate!" Nolan's growl made me snap my head at him.

He was rigid, staring wide-eyed at a dark-haired girl who was staring back at him.

Oh great! Now my beta has found his mate and she is a Lycan. I stole a glance at my parents.

I saw how my father's fist was balled so tightly that his knuckles were getting white. The nerve on his temple was bulging and throbbing while he clenched his jaws from time to time. Although he didn't look in my direction, I knew what that could mean.

I gulped. He was furious at what I had done. Oh, I am screwed.

"Congratulations Nolan." My mother murmured.

The girl slowly inhaled and exhaled, perhaps trying her best to control her emotions.

Cassandra grinned at the girl and stood up. She took her hand and led her towards Nolan.

Seeing that everyone seemed to be distracted, I slowly stepped back.

“Ava. This is my brother Nolan. Looks like you are his mate. Do you accept it?”

I heard her sweet melodious voice speak softly, unlike the stern tone she used to address me. I couldn't care less what Nolan's mate said in response. I looked at her face one last time before I walked away.

She was indeed beautiful. Blond hair and sparkling green eyes. Why didn't I see that before? I was stupid. But is there a way I could still make her mine?

My jaws clenched. I had rushed out of the palace and decided to wait outside. At least here, I could be alone and think.

I punched the pillar. It only hurt my fist. The royal palace was made in such a way that it wouldn't be damaged by an alpha like me. After all, lycanthropes are stronger than us.

Damn! I was mated to the strongest. And that, too, the Queen! I shouldn't have rejected her as I did. But how was I supposed to know? She was so human be fore.

Gah! My cursed fate!

Maybe I could try to do something. Maybe...but what? I chewed on my lower lip and continued to think of a way to break the newlyweds apart. Maybe if the so-called 'Prince' cheats on her she will leave him.

My lips slowly curved into a sly smirk. I could think of a way to do that. That does sound like a good idea.

I was about to think about the different ways of carrying out my plan when I was suddenly slammed against the hard wall of the palace.

“It was you the whole time! You traitor!”

Nolan growled. His wolf had taken control partially.

He held me by my neck and pressed me tight against the wall, making it hard for me to breathe.

“I swear I will kill you!” His growl was menacing. I tried to shift, or at least say something. However, Nolan pressuring my neck made it impossible. How could I do anything if I couldn't breathe?

I struggled against his tight grip. Suddenly, his mate ran out of the palace, followed by my parents.

“Nolan. Control yourself.” His mate pleaded.

“No! This insolent wolf was posing as my best friend the entire time! How dare he!” He growled again. “He is nothing but a disgrace to all kinds of bonds. The sacred mate bond, the brotherly love between friends! I hate you, Miles. I f*****g hate you!”

“Nolan! Let him go. Don’t dirty your hands with his blood.”

It was Cassandra’s voice that made him loosen his grip around my neck.

“I am fine, as you can see, and you have found your mate. It is time for you to enjoy rather than hold grudges.” She stated with authority. I took huge gasps of breath when Nolan finally let me go.

However, he was still glaring at me angrily, apparently seething in anger.

“She is right, Nolan,” my father stated.

“Besides, I want to go back to the pack as soon as possible. I have a lot of ‘things to deal with.’” my father glared at me as he spoke and then looked at Nolan and Castor.

“Nolan, the pack needs you right now. I am suspending Miles from his duties. I want him to realise what he has done. He must know better than lusting after wealth and power. And meanwhile, you and Castor will be the heads of the pack. I will be there, of course. But for now, Miles, you are suspended until further notice!” His stern voice and tone were enough to make me want to disappear.

He then faced Nolan.

“I know you might be disgusted at Miles. But the pack members are innocent. I will punish my idiotic son. But I need your help. Sadly, I had passed on the title to him without realising that he was nothing but a power-hungry wolf!”

I flinched. Ouch. That hurt.

“Yes. Alpha. But I would like to take my mate with me. I would have to meet her parents for that so it might take some time,” Nolan replied. My father nodded in agreement.

“Of course. Take your time. I and Castor will handle everything until then. Isn't it Castor?”

Castor nodded. He also seemed to avoid making eye contact with me. Was Castor also disgusted with me?

My father then stood right in front of me and made me look into his eyes, which were burning with rage. I could swear that I saw the fire in his deep brown eyes. If looks could kill, I would be dead by now.

“I hope you finally understand that it is not about power and rank, Miles. You have embarrassed me to no end.” He growled in between his gritted teeth and walked away from me.

My mom then narrowed her eyes and gave me a stare.

“I thought I had taught you better. Looks like I still have a long way to go. You better correct your ways before you end up going rogue, young man!” She hissed and walked after my father.

I continued to lean against the wall, still trying to catch my breath when she turned around and once again widened her eyes at me.

“Are you coming or do I need to bring the guards to drag you back to the pack?” She demanded.

“I am coming, mom...” I managed to utter a reply.

She pointed a finger at me.

“If you think I am your mother, you wouldn't have treated an innocent girl like you did, just because you thought that she was human. These are not the values I have instilled in you!”

She huffed and turned around to take angry steps towards the gate. I gulped. Looks like I am in huge trouble.

I kept my head lowered the entire way. Never in my life had I felt like this. I have always been lauded for my skills and excellence.

I was glad that they didn't say anything during the whole car ride. And that I was travelling with my parents separately. Castor and his mate had come in another car and it was a huge relief for me. I most certainly didn't dare to face them right now.

After the four-hour ride, we reached our destination and when we arrived, night had fallen.

However, instead of allowing me to retreat to my room in the alpha quarters, my father ordered that I sleep in a normal room, designed for the workers.

I would have objected. However, I knew they wouldn't give in to me just like that. Looks like I would have to sleep on the hard mattress. Oh, I am going to miss my bed.

Not uttering even a single groan of resistance, I quietly went into the room they had prepared for me.

"Your clothes will be sent to this room in the morning. Don't even bother going back to the alpha quarters. You are no longer the alpha until you realise the importance of these humble people. And perhaps, hanging out with them will teach you a thing or two that we weren't able to teach you." My father said angrily.

"From now on, you will take part in their work, you will eat with them. And you will learn to live a humble life. We have loved you too much and you are spoiled rotten. Sadly, we didn't realise this earlier." Mom added.

Without waiting for an answer, they walked away and slammed the door shut behind him.

So does this mean I will have to hang around the omegas now?

No f*****g way!

I found it hard to sleep the whole night. The uncomfortable mattress was trouble to sleep on. However, despite the lack of sleep, I had to get up early in the morning to join the omegas to help with their duties. Cleaning, cooking, repairing the broken furniture and other household things.

It was tiring. I looked with great desire at the warriors who were training on the training ground while I worked in the garden in the afternoon. I saw Castor

handle them with ease and all of them seemed to be enjoying the session, unlike when I was in charge. They worked as they laughed and with great enthusiasm. They rushed to complete the tasks. They high-fived and had fun the entire time.

I felt a pang of pain in my chest. Does this mean my men liked my gamma better than me?

I looked around, hoping to see Nolan around. Perhaps he was still not back. Or maybe he was in the packhouse showing his mate the place.

I sighed and continued to dig the black earth. It hurt when my parents and my best friends ignored me. The omegas were super nice. But still.... I wanted to be with my friends.

Cassy pov

It had been an eventful day. The day I had my wedding and coronation. And not to mention, I got to expose Miles. I wouldn't lie, it felt good. At first, I tried to ignore him, but he had to open his mouth and say something stupid.

He must have felt so embarrassed. I couldn't care less. He deserved it.

"Cassy?" Nolan called me. "Oh...um I mean your highness..." he stuttered, scratching the back of his head.

Rolling my eyes, I waved my hand at him.

"Oh shut up Nolan," I grumbled.

"What? You're the Queen." He chuckled nervously.

"And you are my brother," I stated and narrowed my eyes at him.

"Or maybe you no longer believe that I am your sister," I said, pouting a little.

"No! No no." He went stiff as he denied my accusation. "Never. You...you will always be my little munchkin." He quickly stated.

"I missed you so much...." His eyes quickly welled with his tears.

"Nolan...." I paused my lips. "I was just kidding. And you have become over the past year. You are not that jokester I knew back then."

My statement made him go speechless. He froze in his spot before he started to laugh anxiously.

"I... I guess....." he stammered.

"He had changed ever since that night. He is always serious. At times I've seen him shed a tear or two when he is alone. Yet he had been putting up a brave face for all of us. His parents and the pack." Castor told me, smiling at Nolan, who was now gaping at Castor in shock.

"You....."

"Yeah, I knew, I just didn't point out the obvious. I knew you were hurt deep inside." He shrugged.

I smiled. At least Castor had been a great friend.

"Thank God for Castor!" Izzy muttered in my mind, and I couldn't agree more.

"He was the reason his parents didn't succumb to depression," Castor explained.

Frowning I gulped.

"I must see them soon," my forehead creased as worry engulfed me.

"Yes. You must." Nolan agreed.

My father cleared his throat, gaining our attention.

"Your mom and I will leave. You can use the study or the meeting room if you want to discuss anything. Or maybe you want to have some fun together. This is a night worth rejoicing about. Use the game room in the palace. I don't know what you all like to do for funI don't know.... Just enjoy," he said, smiling at us and walked away. Mom followed him and we were left alone.

"So? Want to come?" I asked, grinning at them. Ava started to nod hysterically and so did Daphne, Maya and Zoe. Castor and his mate too looked extremely excited to come with us. But Nolan looked uncertain.

"Uh....but I am feeling real..." he sighed. "I am overwhelmed," he admitted. "So much has happened today."

“You need to have fun dude,” Castor said, poking his tummy.

“Ava, your mate has forgotten how to have fun with us. You have to teach him that in addition to having fun with you in private.” Castor smirked mischievously.

“What the hell!” Nolan gasped, widening his eyes at Castor, who was now hiding behind his mate.

“Whyyyy...you!” Nolan groaned, face-palming himself.

I giggled. Ava’s face was now bright red. Maya, Zoe and Daphne were trying their best not to laugh out loud and I heard Elliot chuckle in amusement.

“Castor. You haven’t introduced your mate to me.” I said, changing the topic.

“Oh. This is Amara, my mate. Amara, meet Cassy. Our Cassy.” He said and paused. “Now she is our Queen.”

I smiled at the petite girl who was smiling shyly at me. She looked cute and joyous.

“Hello. We are friends. Don’t call me Queen when we are alone.” I told them, winking in Amara’s direction.

We ended up spending a fun night together. The boys bonded over a game of billiards in the game room while the girls insisted that they give me a makeover in our room.

They hunted in my closet for something suitable and finally came out with the skimpiest lingerie they found.

I felt as though my eyes might pop out of my sockets.

“What the hell! No way! I am not wearing that!!!!” I protested.

“Oh yes, you are. Not for us silly. For him.” Maya grinned mischievously, wiggling her eyebrows at me.

I felt my cheeks heat up in embarrassment.

“Ooh. I’m sure you would look hot in that”, Izzy smirked.

“Not you too, Izzy,” I groaned.

“Oh yes! I need you to mate and mark with him tonight. I want my bond with Rex.” She stated.

Looks like I would have to do whatever they tell me to.

They made me sit on the bed as they undid my hair and removed the makeup. They were about to force me to remove my wedding gown and wear the lingerie they had fished out of my closet. I couldn't believe that they found it. I was so embarrassed at the thought of wearing it when mom bought it for me, that I had kept it well hidden in one of the drawers.

“You are not waiting for him in that heavy gown!” Zoe exclaimed, throwing her hands in the air.

“Yes, surprise him!” Amara chimed in, surprising me. She had been so shy at first. However, it looks like she was warming up to us.

“Oh yes!” Ava cheered, high fiving with Amara.

“Fine!” I groaned. “But I am not changing in front of you,” I grumbled as I grabbed the lacy material and stomped over to the bathroom.

“Whatever. We are interested in seeing your boobs, anyway,” Daphne muttered, and all the girls giggled together.

“Yeah, save that for Sir Elliot,” Zoe agreed.

“What the hell!” I chuckled as I entered the bathroom to change.

I changed and checked my reflection out in the bathroom mirror and groaned. This is harder than I thought! Even the thought of stripping in front of him was making me embarrassed.

However, I sighed and wore a cardigan that hung in the bathroom to cover myself up before going out.

“Well? Is it okay?” Zoe asked.

I rolled my eyes at her before grinning.

“I think so.”

Just then a set of knocks on the door interrupted us.

Ava opened the door to reveal the three men who had returned from the game room.

“Let’s go, babe,” Castor spoke. “It is a four-hour ride. We won’t get there before midnight, he said.

“Oh yeah,” Amara replied and looked at Ava.

“See you soon. I am looking forward to working with you.” She winked and left after offering a friendly smile at each of us.

“And we shouldn’t delay the newlywed couple’s first night together,” Nolan smirked. Castor chuckled at his remark.

My eyes widened and my mouth opened wide.

Elliot grinned from ear to ear as he entered while the girls moved out.

“Yup. And good luck to you too. You are to meet Ava’s parents,” he responded, laughing, and closed the door.

“They are fun.” He murmured, unbuttoning his shirt.

I chose to ignore my desire to gawk at what he was about to reveal and turned around.

“Yeah. I’m glad Nolan is slowly coming back,” I told him honestly.

There was a pause.

“He will be babe,” he whispered in a reply from behind. I wasn’t expecting him to wrap his arms around me from behind.

I bit my lips and frowned. I wanted to stay calm. But it wasn’t possible with him so close to me.

“Relax Carina,” Izzy purred. She was enjoying it.

My breathing slowly laboured. I felt his hands move up and lower the outer garment to reveal my shoulder blade.

I closed my eyes when his warm lips touched my exposed skin. I shivered in his arms when he started to pepper kisses all over my neck and shoulder. My heart started to race and my breathing hitched.

I turned my head to look at him. Our gazes met before he devoured my lips with his. Slowly, yet surely, I was intoxicated with the movements of our hands and lips.

My previous embarrassment was completely forgotten. I let him remove my cardigan. His eyes darkened with lust when he saw what I was wearing underneath.

“Mine!” he whispered. I gulped.

“I can smell your arousal babe.” He added in a hushed whisper.

Huh? I blinked. It was only then I realised that he was right. My eyes darted towards his bare chest and his abdomen and I noticed the bulge in his pants. I smirked. Well, it looks like I’m not the only one.

Suddenly feeling bold, I tugged at his pants. While he removed whatever clothing was remaining on me.

No more words were exchanged. Our hands and mouths did the talking. Our clothes were strewn all over the floor as we became one. There was nothing except love and respect between us when he mated and marked.

It hurt at first when he thrust inside and when he sunk his canines into my marking spot.

However, soon it was replaced with complete bliss.

“You are mine now.” He whispered as we lay covering our nude bodies with the sheets. I giggled.

“Does it hurt?” He asked.

“A little,” I admitted. Sighing, he kissed my forehead. “But I like it,” I added.

He chuckled and I snuggled close to him. He was right. I was his now. His mark made me feel his emotions to some extent. A pure bond was being formed between us. And that bond shall be completed when I mark him.

“I should mark you, love.”

I realised that he wouldn't hear my statement when I heard his snores. Smiling, I also closed my eyes. I was dead tired already and right now, sleep is what I must do.

The next morning, I woke up to him peppering kisses on my face.

“Morning.” I greeted him, yawning and stretching myself.

“I want more.” He grumbled.

What? I frowned at him. His lecherous gaze told me one thing. I shoved him away, giggling.

“Not before we brush our teeth,” I demanded, and walked towards the bathroom to freshen up.

He followed me shortly after.

“I like this a*s,” he murmured, slapping my rear.

“Naughty,” I responded and was about to leave, but he pinned me to the wall. He was smirking and I knew that look meant that I was not leaving anytime soon.

“You may be the Queen outside, but once that door closes behind us, I rule.” His husky whisper made me shiver.

His smile widened when his eyes landed on the place where he had marked me last night. His grey eyes darkened with lust.

“Mine,” he whispered, and we ended up getting intimate in the bathroom. The sound of our moans and groans filled the whole place. My eyes zeroed on his neck as he rammed into me against the wall.

It is my turn. I lowered my head and sunk my canines into his neck. It was his turn to grunt and groan.

“Cass.” He gasped. I made sure that I had sunken my canines deep enough for our bonds to be solidified.

Izzy purred the whole time. She must be ecstatic that now we were spiritually bonded.

Panting and gasping for breath, he slowly put me down.

“That was.....” he gasped.

I chuckled through my deep breaths.

“What? You didn’t expect me to keep up with you?”

Our gazes met once again.

“Uh...we should go. I don’t want mom and dad to remind us that we have duties instead of having s*x all the time.”

My statement made him laugh. But he didn’t object.

“Izzy?” I called as I dressed.

“Yeah?” She answered.

“Ready to be Queen?” I asked.

“Oh hell yes!”

I grinned. We hurried to go out and started my first day as Queen.

Cassy pov

“Cassy, I don’t know how I am going to tell mom and dad about what I have learned. This is a lot to digest. And me just claiming that you are alive would be unbelievable for them.”

Nolan said.

He and Ava were ready to leave and had come to see me before they did. Ava’s parents were more than excited that she had found the one meant for her.

After many tears were shed, her parents finally allowed her to leave with Nolan, after making him promise that he would take good care of her.

“We should visit them.” I glanced at Elliot. “When?” I asked.

He shrugged. “We don’t have much work right now. Besides, I think it is a good idea to travel a little. We have just got married and we should meet them as soon as possible.” He stated.

My eyes lit up.

“So now?” I asked hopefully.

“Yeah. Why not? We can go there with Nolan and then come back, right? If you want, we can stay there for some time too,” he explained.

I squealed in delight. I was going to finally see them after a year.

I wonder what they saw when they saw me. I know that they would have a lot of questions and I would need to answer all of them. They deserve an explanation.

It broke my heart when I learned that they were completely shattered when they thought I had died. The news of my death had broken them. That is not what I thought would happen. Looks like trying to end my life was a bad idea. It didn’t help them. If I had died that day, I would have died thinking that I was helping them and they would be better off without me. However, in reality, they would be mourning my demise every single day.

It was not worth it. I was about to keep the papers aside when mom and dad entered the office.

“So, how is the first day of the new rulers going?” they cheerfully asked.

“Great mom!” I replied. My eyes darted to Nolan and then Elliot.

“Uh... actually mom, dad. I am thinking of going to the pack. I need to see my adoptive parents. It has been a long time. And I don’t think they would believe Nolan when he....”

“Of course you should. Poor wolves must be broken-hearted.” Mom cut me in.

“Yes. Better meet them as soon as possible. And send them our regards too. I am indebted to them for taking good care of my daughter.” Father said.

Grinning, I gave them a quick hug and ran off to get my belongings.

“Come on Elliot!” I urged him to follow me. Nolan and Ava were about to leave, so I didn’t want to keep them waiting. I hurriedly packed a couple of my clothes and rushed out.

“Whoa. Slow down. You are the Queen now, remember?” Elliot held my hand.

I giggled.

“Yeah. I forgot.” I chuckled and took a deep breath before taking firm steps beside Elliot, just like mom and dad used to walk together.

After bidding goodbye to mom and dad, we were on our way to the pack. We had to take the royal car which is used on official trips. Since this was my first trip to a pack ever since I was crowned Queen, I had to.

Throughout our ride, I fidgeted in my seat, excited to be back in the pack after a long time. My heart was soaring at the thought of seeing those who cared for me all the time.

I wondered how my friends, Sarah and Olga were. However, of course, first I would see my parents.

“Remember you are Queen, babe.” Elliot reminded me as we entered the pack premises.

I took in a deep, shaky breath. “Yeah,” I told him.

I will have to be calm in all situations. Regardless of the situation, I was in. At least when I am in public. We arrived at the packhouse where the high alpha, luna, Castor and his mate Amara received us. Nolan had informed the high alpha via mind link that we were going there.

Nolan and Ava went back home. I wished to go with him. Still, I had to settle in the packhouse first, since I was their Queen now.

After dealing with the formalities, I decided to stroll around the pack.

Things had changed drastically. I was now not allowed to stroll on the streets that I once walked on without the presence of guards. At least now, Elliot stood beside me the entire time. It was nostalgic to see the familiar faces and places that I once dwelled in. Some of them looked at me with uncertainty.

Nonetheless, they were quick to pay their respects since they knew that I was the Queen.

I walked right to the house I had grown up in. The place where my heart was. After gulping down the lump in my throat, I rang the bell with trembling hands.

I didn't know what to expect. All I knew was that this meeting would be extremely emotional.

Elliot squeezed my hand while we waited. I smiled anxiously. My heart raced with each passing second. I was nervous beyond imagination.

Soon, the lock clicked, indicating that someone was opening it. Once again, I heaved a breath, hoping that it would calm my erratic heart.

The door opened to reveal a very shocked face of the middle-aged woman, whom I had grown up calling my mother.

She froze. I could see that she went completely stiff on her spot. Her eyes widened and her jaw dropped open.

“Honey?”

Dad's voice came from inside, making my already erratic heart thump like crazy. I couldn't speak. I was stupefied. I knew that meeting them would be emotional and I thought I was preparing myself for this.

However, I couldn't do anything besides stare at them, grinning widely as I heaved deep breaths. Tears started to gather in my eyes, despite my efforts to remain neutral.

“Oh, it is her Royal Highness.” Nolan smiled as he appeared behind them.

Mom and dad frowned and looked at Nolan, as though asking him what he was talking about.

“Please come in.” He invited us in.

The guards waited outside, guarding the entrance as we entered the house.

Being addressed as a royal Highness was something that reminded me once again that I was no longer the same person I used to be when I lived here. However, to me, this humble house would remain as a home. My first home.

The place I grew up in. And this middle-aged couple will be the ones who showered me with the love that I wouldn't have received if it wasn't for them. They would be the ones who taught me to walk and everything else I needed to know.

"Nolan....don't call me that." I sighed as soon as I sat down. He chuckled.

"What is happening?" Dad asked. He was so confused. "Royal Highness? For sure, you are our Cassandra. I don't understand..." he trailed off.

Mom looked from me to him, furrowing her eyebrows all the time.

"What kind of a day is this? First, Nolan brings his mate from the Lycan kingdom and I still have not gotten over her yet. And now....." mom frowned at me.

"Royal....h..h... Highness?" She stuttered.

The tears that I had been preventing from streaming down from my eyes, the whole time, got too heavy for me to hold them in anymore.

"Mom, dad. I missed you so much." I suddenly broke into tears. I started to sob and sniffle as I stood up and rushed towards them to hug them and cry in their arms.

They hugged me back. I heard mom crying with me. They didn't say or ask me anything while they held me and poured out their emotions. However, their confusion still had not cleared away.

"I am so confused. I need an explanation." Dad muttered after a long pause as he continued to fight against his tears and caress my hair.

The next half an hour was spent with me and Nolan explaining what had happened the previous day. I saw how their expression went from clear confusion to immense rage.

"He deserves to be exiled!" Dad exclaimed. He was furious.

"I can't believe that he did that to you," Mom whispered.

I shrugged and pursed my lips.

"I am fine now. I met my birth parents, who turned out to be the king and Queen of the Lycanthrop kingdom and now I am Queen." I told them.

Mom and dad exchanged glances. The new information was a lot to handle.

"Does this mean we were taking care of the crown Princess the whole time?" Mom gasped.

I smiled in reply. By this time, we had controlled the waterworks and we were all sitting in the living room.

"Ohhhh." She covered her mouth as her eyes glistened with tears. It would be overwhelming for them to know that.

"So the rumours about Miles working with the omegas must be true," Dad suddenly stated after being silent for a moment.

"Huh?" I frowned.

"Yeah. Today, while we went to the early morning training, I heard that he was in the omega section. I didn't believe it, thinking that it was just another rumour." He told us.

I scoffed. Well, serves him right.

"Yes. He was denounced from the alpha position temporarily." Nolan said through gritted teeth. His fists clenched. "I almost killed him yesterday." He growled.

Ava, who was silently sitting beside him, leaned forward and intertwined her fingers with his. Nolan inhaled deeply and closed his eyes. It was obvious that he relaxed a bit.

I smiled. It was so sweet to have the one meant for you with you. I looked at Elliot.

"Uhh... mom, dad. This is Elliot, my chosen mate and husband." I introduced him to them.

He stood up and bowed.

"It is an honour to meet you. The former king and queen have sent their regards to you," he said.

Mom gulped. Dad stared at him wide-eyed. Once again, they were dumbfounded.

Nolan chuckled.

“The girl we thought was human was a royal Lycan,” he stated.

Mom took a deep breath and started to fan herself with her hands.

“Oh my....this is so..... overwhelming.” She giggled.

“So much has happened.....I..... we don’t even have anything suitable to give to a royal....” Dad stuttered.

I giggled. “Oh come on. I’m still me. And you are all still family. We will spend the day together. How does that sound?” I suggested.

“That would be lovely.” Mom replied, wiping her tears away.

I loved every moment I spent with them. It was like the old days when I used to learn to cook and do the regular household chores.

Elliot and Nolan went out together, while Ava and I stayed inside.

“You should meet your friends. Sarah and Olga. Don’t you think so?” Mom said as she stirred what she was cooking.

“Why don’t we surprise them? I will invite them for tea in the evening. Is that okay?” She asked.

“Of course!” I gasped. I couldn’t wait to meet my friends.

This is going to be fun! I can’t wait to see their faces.

Cassy pov

“Shhh.” Ava hushed. We were hiding in the kitchen while mom would lead them to the living room. We had planned to surprise them when they gave me the signal.

Sarah and Olga had rung the bell. According to mom, they wouldn’t suspect anything since it was normal for them to come over occasionally.

And since it had been quite a few days since they last visited. So she had told them that she wanted to see them and that she was prepared tea because Nolan had found his mate. And they had happily agreed to come over.

“Ava! Come here, I would like to introduce you to someone.” Mom called.

I covered my mouth in an attempt to stifle my giggles.

“Coming!” Ava called. Grinning, she put her index finger on her lips, indicating to me to remain silent.

“This is interesting,” Izzy murmured in my head. I hushed her because I wanted to hear what they said.

“This is Ava, Nolan’s mate.” I heard mom introduce her to my besties.

“Oh my God. You look so beautiful.” I heard Sarah squeal.

“Yes!” Olga agreed. “How did you get those streaks?” She asked eagerly.

“Uh... they are natural,” Ava told them.

“Huh?” All three of them exclaimed in unison, making Ava giggle in amusement.

“Yes. I am a hybrid, a lycan-sorceress. All sorcerers and sorceresses have weird hair colours. I got this from my father. He also has hair like mine.” She explained. I heard awws and wows of amazement.

“That is so cool!” Sarah gasped. “Can you do magic?” She asked.

“Yes,” Ava replied. She sounded amused by their excitement.

“So awesome!” they exclaimed.

“Wow. I didn’t know that,” mom said.

I was having a hard time trying to stay silent.

“That is amazing,” Olga said, but this time she sounded a little sad.

There was a pause when no one spoke.

“Cassy would have loved to meet you,” Sarah murmured. “She would have been overjoyed.” She said. I bit my lips. I didn’t want to make even a single sound.

“Yes. She used to say how wonderful it would be to meet her sister-in-law. And you being a lycan-sorceress hybrid, she would have been ecstatic.” Olga agreed.

“Cassy?” I heard Ava and I almost snorted out loud.

Ava must have acted curious enough. They started to tell Ava about me. My heart fluttered when I heard what they had to say about me. They had nothing but good things to say. I was teary-eyed by the time they were done.

I didn’t want to cry. I wanted to reveal myself to them and give them the surprise of their lives.

However, just as I was about to get out of the kitchen, I had to bang my head on the side of a shelf. The bang was loud enough for them to hear it.

“Ouch!” I cried unintentionally and glared at the corner of the kitchen cabinet that I had always hated with a passion.

“Clumsy” Izzy muttered. I rolled my eyes.

That stupid corner had to be placed in the wrong place and hit my head each time. Even after a year of absence.

“Why does that sound like Cassy?” Olga wondered.

“You heard that? I thought I was hearing things!” Sarah gasped.

“We had been talking about her.... And I thought.....” Olga paused. “What if her ghost is back to haunt us?” She whispered.

What the.....

“But why would she haunt us? We didn’t do anything wrong.” Sarah asked worriedly.

“Maybe she is here to scare those who bullied her,” Sarah responded.

That was it! I couldn't hold in my laughter. Laughing uncontrollably, I walked out of the kitchen and into the living room.

"Oh, this is priceless!" Izzy giggled with me.

Mom and Ava were looking at me with wide grins on their faces while Sarah and Olga looked scared shitless.

"Guys...." I called them, still laughing.

"Oh my God. She is here." Olga sounded terrified.

"Oh no! Mrs Williams....you didn't tell us this house was haunted...." Sarah was close to tears as she stammered.

Their faces and reactions only made me laugh harder. I could swear that my face would be bright red as I doubled over in laughter.

"Girls, calm down. It is her." Mom was the one who spoke.

"Huh?"

"It is your friend," Mom explained.

"But....she....isn't she.....how?" Sarah stammered.

I was still giggling when I went over to my friends who were too shocked to move.

"Guys. It is me." I snorted while I attempted to control my laughter.

Both of them were staring at me wide-eyed and their mouths wide open.

"I am not a ghost, silly." I grinned. "See?" I said and held out my hand so that they could touch me. They looked at each other and reluctantly poked my arm.

"She looks solid to me," Olga murmured.

I bit my lower lips, holding in my laughter and glanced at Ava. She, too, was trying her best not to laugh out loud.

"Oh come on. My tummy hurts from laughing now." I chuckled.

“I am not dead. That fall didn’t kill me.” I went straight to the point.

Olga and Sarah stared at me for a long while. They didn’t say anything. Yet, I understood that they had numerous questions. So before they asked me anything, I started to tell them everything that had happened.

The atmosphere quickly changed. After narrating my story a couple of times, I started to find it easy to tell them what had happened to me.

When I was done telling them my story, they heaved a huge breath and leaned against the couch. They looked as though they had suddenly carried a huge load that had exhausted them to no end.

“Guys?” I called.

“Wow.” Olga gasped.

“Oh, God!” Sarah grumbled and covered her face with her hands. She then stood up from her seat and suddenly hugged me tightly. It was only after some time did I realise that she was crying on my shoulder. Her tears started to soak my shirt.

Olga was also now wiping away her tears using a tissue. I smiled at them.

“I am fine now,” I whispered.

“You are the Queen?” Olga asked after a long time.

“I’m hugging our Queen?” Sarah giggled through her tears.

I chuckled in response.

“I can’t believe Miles was such a douchebag!” Sarah suddenly exclaimed.

“Yeah! Alpha douchcan!” Olga sneered as she said that.

Suddenly, my senses started to heighten. I saw Ava too go stiff. Our wolf senses wouldn’t lie. It could only mean one thing.

Rogues were attacking!

Just then, the door burst open. Nolan, Elliot and dad rushed inside looking concerned.

“What is going on?” Mom asked.

“Rogues!! At the border,” Nolan wheezed. I looked at Ava and nodded. We knew what to do.

“Babe...stay here?” Elliot suggested.

“What? I am their Queen and do you expect me to chicken out of a fight? Forget it!” I retorted.

“You tell him, babe!” Izzy cheered in my mind.

“Oh yeah!” Sarah punched the air.

“Ava! Hurry!” I called.

“Whoa...wait. my mate?” Nolan raised a brow, looking at Ava sceptically.

I smirked. “Oh just see how she fights. She is better than you.” I taunted him.

“No time for this. Move!” Dad replied and soon all of us were sprinting towards the borders in our wolf forms.

“Izzy? Ready?” I asked her.

“More than ready. Bring it on!” She growled.

Being Lycan, Ava, Elliot and I reached the battlefield earlier than the others. The rogues had already begun their attack. I saw several warriors critically injured. While the remaining warriors were trying their best to hold back the huge army of rogues that were outnumbered.

I growled and let out a ferocious roar. These disobedient wolves had no right to attack my people! I started to claw through the enemies. These flimsy, underfed and untrained wolves were nothing to defeat. Their bodies continued to drop dead, filling the atmosphere with the stench of the metallic scent of their blood.

Ava would fight and use her magic to our advantage.

I saw occasional flares of green light. That could only mean that she was using her spells. The ground was soon soaked with the blood of our injured

warriors and the treacherous rogues. Soon, they started to retreat. And the remaining rogues quickly fled the field.

We had won.

“Here...here is one we managed to capture!” The high alpha of the pack came dragging a scrawny-looking wolf in his human form.

“Izzy, shift back!” I demanded.

“With pleasure!” She replied. And soon I was standing in front of them in my human form and fully clothed.

“Look at me! Rogue! Who sent you!” I growled.

“I will not tell you!” He struggled against the alpha.

“I am your Queen! Obey!” I ordered. I was already angry that they dared to attack. And now this insolent wolf was being disobedient.

“Never!” He laughed. “What made you think I would submit to you? I don’t submit to anyone. I am a free wolf. And besides, your end is near! He will get you!” He cried and before we could react, he extended his claws and clawed into his chest.

The thick, red blood oozed out of his deep wound while he writhed in pain until he finally became completely lifeless.

I stared at his lifeless body as his last words replayed in my mind. He will get me? But who? I haven’t made enemies yet. I just couldn’t think of anyone who might want to hurt me or anyone I love.

I frowned and tried to think hard. I sensed that Elliot was beside me.

“It is okay. Don’t think about it.” He whispered, placing a quick kiss on my cheek.

“We have won,” he added. Offering a forced smile, I nodded.

We went back to the pack. Fortunately, there were no deaths, although some of the injuries were critical. All of the injured warriors were rushed to the infirmary while we went back to the packhouse so that we could freshen up and rest.

As I showered and got dressed, and even while I ate my food, all I could think of was what the rogue had said before he killed himself.

Could there be anyone who wants to hurt me or anyone I love?

Miles pov

It was pure torture. I hated doing the regular household chores. I was not built for this. I was born to rule and be a leader. Not a follower. When I was informed that the queen had arrived and that I needed to clean the grand room for the royal couple, I felt as though I would lose an eye from rolling it.

Why in the world was she coming here? Hadn't she taunted me enough? However, I knew I didn't have a choice except to obey, since the orders came from my father.

I dusted the room and vacuumed the floor with a heavy heart. Yet, I did a relatively good job. It hurt so bad that my parents were avoiding me like the plague and giving out orders through other omegas. Maybe I should beg for forgiveness. Maybe then, they would go easy on me.

Nonetheless, I was not going to go in front of them while she was there. I was not going to belittle myself in front of her and her chosen mate. So I kept peeking at them while they spoke over a cup of coffee in the meeting room. Normally, it would have been me and my beta who met the important visitors. However, ever since I was suspended from my alpha position, I haven't been allowed anywhere near the work I loved doing.

As I peeked into the meeting room, my eyes widened when I noticed the crook of her neck. She was marked! Already!

I gulped and slowly backed off. I didn't want to make another mistake. She was right when she said that our bond was broken. It was as if it never existed.

If even the tiniest bit of connection was still left of it, I would have felt it when they mated and especially when they marked each other.

My mate was now no longer mine. I had lost her entirely and there was no hope of getting her back. All that remained with me was regret and a whole bunch of 'what ifs'.

Sighing, I walked towards the exit of the packhouse. A whole new feeling filled my heart. Dejection. Something I had never felt in my life.

“Where are you going, alpha?”

An omega asked as she vacuumed the carpet. She was so used to addressing me as alpha I that even after being ordered not to call me alpha, she tends to address me as her alpha by habit.

I sighed. I was extremely tired, physically and mentally. I needed to have time to myself.

“I...just...” I paused. “I hope all the work is done for now?” I asked and she nodded in response.

“So I guess it is going to be okay for me to go near the lake? I just need some fresh air,” I told her.

“Oh yes. Alpha. I would mind link you if we need your help. It is really lovely to have you help us around,” she smiled sweetly.

I looked at her. Why was she being so nice to me all the time? I was nothing but a proud wolf who treated my omegas like trash. They would greet me every single day, regardless of how I treated them, yet I ignored them every single time and I did that on purpose.

My dad wouldn't allow me to ignore them completely, so they did have access to good food and other facilities. However, I knew I didn't want to.

Despite my low treatment, they would give me their utmost respect and even now, when I had fallen from my father's favour, they didn't seem to mind.

Especially this young she-wolf, who had lost her mate during a rogue attack.

“Uhh.... don't call me alpha....” I muttered and lowered my gaze.

“I am not your alpha now. My father has ordered you to stop calling me that, hasn't he?” I told her. I saw her lips pause in a grim line.

“But ... he is your father. He will forgive you whatever you have done,” she said.

Chuckling, I shook my head. "He isn't easy to please. Especially if you have fallen out of his favour," I told her and walked away.

Without the companionship of Nolan and Castor, I felt so lonely. And without the love and support of my parents, my life was different. I despised my life. As I walked past the training ground, which at the moment was empty after the morning training session, I paused for a while and sighed.

I have watched Nolan and Castor train them a couple of times. Unlike me, he handled them without yelling at them all the time. Hence, they seemed to enjoy the session. They were right. All of them were right. I was being too hard on my men. I was being pushy and annoyed all the time. I was more like the trainer who they hated. I thought I was doing that for the betterment of the pack. But it looks like they work harder when they like their trainer.

Damn! I was such a sore loser. I was nothing but a permanently irritated wolf who was hard to deal with. No wonder they dragged themselves during the sessions I conducted.

I walked right over to the lake located on the outskirts of the pack. It was deserted, perfect for me to think and breathe. My heart was heavy as I threw pebbles into the water, causing ripples on its surface.

Mom was right. Although I was young by age, I was a grumpy old man on the inside. I chuckled sadly at the thought. Tears gathered in my eyes. I didn't want to cry out loud, because I had trained myself to hold in my emotions. I had always thought that crying was for the weak. And me, being an alpha, should never cry. However, finally realising how wrong I had been, was extremely heavy on my heart.

They were all right and I was wrong. I shouldn't have rejected her. I shouldn't have hurt her like that. And now, regardless of how much I yearn for her, I wouldn't be able to have her. She now belonged to someone else.

For the first time in my life, I swallowed my pride and accepted that I was wrong. I let the tears roll down my cheeks.

Closing my eyes, I inhaled a deep, shaky breath.

I wonder if I could change. I most certainly didn't want to go rogue. I have been wrong my entire life. However, that doesn't mean I can't correct myself,

does it? I could try to be a better person, regardless of what people think about me. I nodded to myself and opened my eyes.

The afternoon sun made the lake water glimmer and shine. The bright blue sky and the greenery of the trees made its beautiful scenery. It has been a while since I last came here. Ever since I had become alpha, I never took a break. I had those working non-stop, thinking it was good for everyone. I was wrong about that too. It only made me a bitter, overworked alpha, who my pack members didn't like to be around.

I guess being suspended from duties was a good thing. The pack members seem to be happier, perhaps I should give up the title forever. Nolan would be a better alpha. Besides, I don't have my mate beside me, and that means I wouldn't be able to produce an heir anyway. So the future of my pack lies with Nolan.

I ended up spending the entire day in solidarity. I didn't receive a mind link informing me that I was needed at the packhouse. I watched the fish swim and the ducks waddle. It gave my lonely heart contentment to some degree. I would rather spend my entire day here, all alone. It was better to be by myself here than to be alone among all the others.

Suddenly, my senses started to heighten. My eyes dilated and my breathing hitched. No! It cannot be!

I thought. Although I was denounced from the alpha position, I was still an alpha wolf and my senses were telling me that we were in trouble.

I sprung up from where I was seated and dashed towards the borderline. When I got there, I saw three lycans were already tearing through the army of rogues showing no mercy.

I gulped. I knew who they were.

I shifted to my midnight black alpha wolf and joined the fight. The battle was easily won. And as soon as I was certain that we had won, I silently left. I didn't dare to face any of them. And I certainly didn't dare to face my ex-mate with her chosen one.

I ran in my wolf form deep into the trees. At least I did something good today. I had joined the battle to help my pack. I was about to go back to the packhouse when I heard a whimper.

I halted. A little boy was surrounded by three rogues. He was trembling in fear. I knitted my eyebrows. What were they still doing in our pack premises?

I guess they were unaware of my presence, they started to shift to their human form one by one.

“We can take this lad and threaten them to give in.” One of them chuckled.

“Yeah. That is a great idea.” The other one agreed.

“You know, pup? You shouldn’t have wandered off into the wild, especially when a battle is going on.” The third one responded.

“Look at what happened now. The big bad wolf got you.” The first one laughed and he high-fived his companion.

The little boy was crying and trembling in fear until his eyes landed on me. His eyes lit up with hope. I knew I had to take these losers by surprise.

After letting out a ferocious growl, I pounced on them, killing one of them instantly and injuring the other. The third one was about to run away but there was no way he would get away from me. I jumped at him, catching him by his throat. His blood tasted sweet to me.

I threw his lifeless body to the side and sauntered over to the injured one, who was now whimpering in pain. The boy who was a few feet away looked eager to watch me kill him off.

I didn’t delay. Using my claws, I slit through his neck and he was gone.

I scanned the area to make sure that no other rogues were hiding in the woods and gestured to the pup to climb on my back so that I could carry him to a safer area faster.

As soon as I arrived at the packhouse, I let him climb down and shifted back to my human form. After that, I hastily covered my nude body using a sheet that was hung on the drying line. Looks like the omegas had washed the sheets. I hope this won’t cause trouble.

“What were you doing out there?” I asked him.

“I...I am sorry alpha...”

I frowned and waited for him to say something.

“I was so eager to see the fight...” he was so agitated as he spoke that he didn’t even look at me.

“Kids your age don’t do that. Do they? They play games and have fun....you shouldn’t be worrying about war.” I sighed.

“But I don’t like games. I want to be a warrior when I grow up.” He puckered his lips, making me laugh.

I crouched down to his level.

“You can start to train when you shift. I am sure you will be a great warrior.” I told him, ruffling his hair.

“Oh, there you are! Where have you been? I was so worried!” The omega who I had spoken to earlier, came rushing out of the packhouse and took the little boy in her hands.

“Oh thank God you are safe. With the war, I was.... Oh my God, don’t do that again Cade,” she gasped through her tears.

“It was so cool sissy! I saw them fight! Mr Alpha even saved me from the big bad wolves!” He told her enthusiastically.

She froze.

“You went there!” She exclaimed. “Oh, Cade, you could have died!”

“I will grow up and become a warrior. Then I can protect you from the big bad wolves. I will fight them and then they won’t be able to kill me as they killed.....”

She quickly covered her brother’s mouth. I suppose he was about to say something about her dead mate.

“That is enough Cade.” She whispered as her eyes glistened with tears.

“I honestly don’t know if omegas could join the army.....” she added solemnly. She was trying to be strong, however, she was fighting a losing battle against her tears.

“Why not?” I shrugged, surprising her.

“I think my dad wouldn’t mind. Besides, Nolan and Castor wouldn’t mind training anyone. I think he could try. I can see that he is enthusiastic enough already.”

“Yay!” Cade punched the air and ran inside. I smiled and started to walk away from her so that I could freshen up. I was feeling better than ever. I guess doing the right thing did help.

“Alpha?”

I halted when I heard her call me.

“Thank you for saving my brother,” her voice was barely above a whisper. Perhaps she was still overwhelmed.

I smiled. “It was an obligation. And uh...don’t call me alpha,” I said and walked away. I knew what I wanted in life. I will remain like this and be where I am needed. I was thankful that I had realised how wrong I was before I caused more trouble.