

## Chapter 16

Luna Estelle is the first to congratulate us, and after her, the few Alphas who could make it and all others of high standing congratulate us. A few pack members congratulate him only, ignoring my existence entirely. 1

Kingston and I are standing where his mother asked us to while she fetches her favourite photographer. And his girlfriend is right here at the altar, just the three of us as we shall be in this marriage.

"I'm here," the photographer declares. "Ready whenever you are. Just the couple, please."

"Babe," Audrey tags at Kingston's arm, the sight making me squirm inside. "You should smile a little." She tells him, kissing his cheek before stepping aside.

"No fucking shame," I groan

"And you?" Kingston scoffs, "Have you not any shame returning to this place after everything you've done?"

"None of your business, Alpha Mary Magdalena," I say with an eyeroll.

Kingston pauses, an eyebrow raised at me. "Are you trying to bully me?"

I match his stare, if he is brave enough to stick up for her around me why can't I stick up for myself? "Oh, no. I wouldn't try, I'd succeed."


"Of course," he snarls. "You're so good at it. Making others feel small and unimportant."

"What's that supposed to mean?" I snap.

"You know," he swiftly counters.

"Okay, over here loves birds!" The photographer calls out. "Less grumpy."

My gaze shifts, and I smile. She motions for us to get closer and we do, closing the space between us. "That's it, more.."

"You look stunning sweetie," Luna Estelle praises, watching us with a wide smile. She and my mom are probably the happiest people here today, their smiles and laughter are genuine and contagious but not even to make me crack a smile. "Aww, my babies." 

"Mom," Damien grumbles.

Luna Estelle laughs, "I was happy on your wedding day too."

"Not this happy," he shoots back.

In response, she shrugs, "You didn't marry her, did you?"

Damien looks at me and shakes his head. "Thank God I didn't, I like my head on my shoulders."

I frown.

What does he mean by that?

"I am so happy to have a new daughter, you know I love my girls." Luna Estelle smiles, hugging Damien's wife.

"Big smiles," the photographer tells us. "This one is for the papers, come on."

"Aeliana smile more," Mom says with a heavy sigh. "Your smile looks rather.."

"Fake?" Damien finishes for her, smiling big when she nods.

"Give me something to smile about," I tell her.

Father growls, "Aeliana."

"Don't waste your breath, Mr Hartley." Kingston says, "She's my problem now and I ignore trivial ones."

"Don't talk about your wife like that," Luna Estelle gasps.

"It's fine, Luna." I smile at her. "I don't care for his opinion or ranting."

Her smile widens, "You'll have a long-lasting marriage then."

"Almost done, but I didn't get one with you kissing."

"I'm sure the photographers did," Kingston retorts.

"I need one for my phone," Luna Estelle counters, waving it at us. "Come on, don't be shy."

Kingston slides a hand around my waist and dips me, "Bite me again, and I'll kill you."

"Don't make me tempting offers that you won't make good—" the rest of my words get swallowed into his mouth.

This time, he's gentle with it, and for a moment I have my Kingston back. Mine, the one who only exists in my memories.

"Now a video..." someone says. I can't tell who. I'm trying so hard not to enjoy the taste of his lips on mine. "almost got it... Another picture."

King pulls away, steadying me on my feet again. He wipes his lips with the back of his hand. "That's enough pictures."

"Wait," Audrey says. "I'd like to take one with you. Can I?" She asks, not waiting for an answer before she joins us.

Luna Estelle winces at something, "Hey Audrey dearest, you're a bit too close to the groom."