

Chapter 20

Eight hours later, I stand by the staircase, listening to Danielle and Rowan try to talk me into attending the very unnecessary, huge wedding party that Mrs Hartley and my Mom planned against both mine and Aeliana's interests.

I was in no mood to party earlier, and I'm in no mood to do so tonight. My head is already spinning with tomorrow's hangover. "Come on, Alpha Kingston." Danielle sighs, "I know you don't need to, but you have to. Where's Luna Aeliana? You both should at least show your faces for a while."

"Dani is right," Rowan nods, and even if she weren't, he would still stand by his wife. "You need to show up, even for a few minutes. It will show the pack you're united despite that crap you both pulled at the wedding."

"We are not united, she is—"

"I know," Rowan says with a heavy sigh. "Everybody knows, but get her."

"She's not here." I swallow. I've been standing here for over three hours waiting for her but she hasn't arrived yet.

Danielle drowns, "What do you mean? Did she leave already?"

"No," I tell, slightly shaking my head. "She refused to get in my car after the wedding."

Rowan pauses, "So where is she?"

"Finding her way." I hope. Choosing to walk in a place where more than half the population currently despises her wasn't a smart choice, and I



did give her a chance to get in the car.

"Babe, babe," Danielle whispers, repeatedly slapping Rowan's shoulder.

"Look... look!" She says, motioning towards the door.

My gaze shifts, and I see Aeliana.

She made it here, heels in hand and her dress dirty but she doesn't look tired.

"Aeliana," I almost whisper, my voice filled with a staggering relief. "You made it."

She doesn't answer. Her gaze sweeps over me, and she rolls her eyes. "No thanks to you," she scoffs.

"You refused to get in my car," I remind her.

That only seems to get her even more upset, her breath hitches. "No," she snaps. "You commanded me to get in your cheap car, and if I had? Then you'd have been for the idea that I'm under your control. I'm not. You should get another dog if you're looking to train one."

"Are you okay?" Danielle steps forward, taking her heels from her. "I'm Danielle, we met at the wedding."

"We did." Aeliana nods, showing no interest in Danielle's kindness.

"Come on, I'll show you to your room. You must be tired."

I had someone prepare a room just for Aeliana when her stuff arrived this morning, I asked for the best and biggest room on the east wing. Sharing a room with her would complicate things. That's why I had them put her room far away from me, far from my impulse actions. "Don't take her to my room," I tell her. "Ask the house manager where her room is?"



"Ouu, I get my own room?" Aeliana loudly gasps, feigning excitement. "Best thing that's happened to me tonight. The moon goddess must finally be apologising to me."

"Come on," Danielle laughs, guiding Aeliana up the stairs.

I step aside, and Aeliana walks up the stairs, struggling with her dress. I wonder how long she walked in it. I notice her walk with a slight limp, but I shy away from looking before I feel sorry for her.

However, the tight clenching feeling in my chest says the ship has sailed. I find Rowan staring at me with confusion. "What?" I frown.

"Are you fucking kidding me, King? You let her walk home alone?"

"She wanted to," I simply say.

"In a wedding dress?" He hisses, still in disbelief. "Do you know how heavy that thing is? I dropped it off this morning and it weighs a ton."

I feel terrible.

I feel like an asshole, but I did send someone to find her. They didn't find her until a few hours ago and she refused to take the ride and asked for directions instead. So I had them trail her. She's stubborn.

"Not my problem," I shrug.

"I get that you're upset with her, she's not exactly the best person but neither are you." He says with a disappointed stare. "Not after making your new bride walk nine hours to get home when you could have gotten her here in two hours tops."

"I didn't make her do anything, she wanted this."



"And you let her?" He scoffs in disbelief, "You really fucked up King, if uncle Dante hears about this you're dead."

I cork an eyebrow.

Rowan really does run to my father when he thinks he can't handle me or my choices. "And I'll know just who to haunt."

"The whole freaking pack probably saw her," he sighs. "You are not on good terms but she's your responsibility and you'll protect her regardless of how she acts or speaks to you, Audrey, me or whomever."

"Are you serious right now?"

"Yes. Something could have gone terribly wrong out there, and you just sat here sipping Gin and kissing your girlfriend's ass."

"She's not feeling well." I quietly say, hearing how stupid the words are the moment they leave my mouth.

Rowan nods, "And your Luna must be feeling so great huh?" he pauses, waiting for my response but I give him none. "You were wrong."

"I know," I swallow.

"This isn't like you, King," he scolds, "Why did you let her go?"

I shrug, "As I said, she wanted to be stubborn. She would rather walk hours than get in the car because I asked her to. What was I to do? Force her?"

"Yes," Rowan says, like that option was obvious and on the table all along. "You should have. That's your wife now. Your responsibility. You're accountable for her well-being, and if anything happened to her, the pack would forget their hatred and pin it on you. You know how



starved some people always are for a scandal, someone new to exile or hate.”

“I hear you.”

“Good,” he nods. “Now make like a good husband and apologise to her.”

 **Athena Enchanted** author

“Do you think Alpha Kingston will take Rowan’s advice?”

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