

## Chapter 22

"Come on, just one little bite," she urges, her tone lower when she says her pathetic nickname for me. "Squeak."

That overstimulates me, it triggers me. I slap the bowl out of her hand and it drops with a shattering sound. "I said no, what is wrong with you?"

A few gasps erupt from behind the counter and near the sinks.

Audrey takes a step back, her smile gone. "I'm just trying to—"

"To kill me?" I frown, rage bubbling inside. "Why are you offering me something with papaya in it?"

I realise a second too late Audrey has me playing into her games again. I've reacted just as she wanted me to, the glint in her eyes confirms it.

"I—"

"Hey Aeliana," someone sneers, one of the maids. Julie, someone we went to high school with, I recognise her instantly. "Just because you're married to the Alpha now doesn't mean you can act this way." She sighs.

"Right," the other maid nods. "Miss Audrey was just trying to offer you food. There's no need to be so mean."

"Tina," Audrey warns.

"What?" Tina scoffs, "She's been an ass, Miss."

"And she's still your Luna." Audrey swallows. "You can't call her out on it."

She's right, I am their Luna.



I might not have Kingston to fight my false battles for me but I have the title he gave me by bonding with me. I look around the room, and everyone is staring at me with the same disdain in their eyes. "You're fired," I snap, glaring at Tina. 1

Her eyes widen, none of that smug demeanour she possessed a second ago visible. "I—I just.."

"You can't fire her, Aeliana." Audrey disputes, "Are you trying to be the Luna who rules with an iron fist? Is she not allowed to have an opinion of her own?"

I roll my eyes at her attempt to be the ever-so-conscious empath, "It's not her opinion but failure to mind her business that I'm firing her for." I counter.

"What's going on here?" Kingston's demands, his voice startling me.

I didn't hear him enter, nor did I smell him. Worse? I couldn't feel him. Is the bond broken or did bonding with him break my own senses?

He stops beside us, more accurately beside his girlfriend. Audrey immediately clings to him, "Babe."

"What's happening?" He asks, already glaring at me.

Audrey's hold on his arm tightens. "Aeliana was just—"

"Firing me, Alpha," Tina says.

Kingston's eyes shift from Tina to mine, colder, irritated. "Why is that?"

Tina responds before I do, not that I was planning on. "I was telling her she didn't have to throw a plate away just because Miss Audrey offered her food and she fired me."



"I did," I confidently say. "But you're not packing yet."

"She's not going anywhere," he snaps at me. "Tina is Audrey's personal maid and you have no power to dismiss any of my staff."

"Why not?"

"Because I said so," he says. His tone leaving no room for argument or conversation and anyone with a functional brain cell wouldn't argue with him after that.

Unfortunately, I kill all my brain cells the second I hear him use that tone with me. "If I remember correctly, painfully..." I trail off, wincing loudly. "I'm your wife, Alpha Kingston, and firing the help should be one of the perks."

"Not over something stupid," he grits through his teeth.

"My life is stupid?" I gasp. "Of course it is. Why am I wasting time asking? I should have starved in my prison cell." I grumble.

Kingston sighs, "Don't fire my staff."

"Too late, I did." I shrug. "And you're going to agree with me because I'm your wife, and maybe I'll ignore the fact that you're holding your mistress in front of me."

"Mistress?" Audrey gasps.