

## Chapter 44

"Oh," her smile falls, but she smiles again. "I wanted to find out if you wanted me to bring your lunch up here?"

"I'm not hungry."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes."

"Okay, I'll go eat." She says, but she doesn't move yet, she stands staring at me. I can feel her eyes on me even though I'm trying very hard to get into this official document that I currently have no idea what it's about. "And I'm sorry about earlier, you and Aeliana fought because of me."

"It's fine," my gaze lifts. "Water under the bridge." And in this scenario, I'm under the bridge with the water. God knows when I'll come out for air. 1

"Are you sure?" She asks, her voice whiny. It always has that annoying pitch, but it hasn't bothered me this much before. "She seemed pretty upset. Maybe I should go and apologise to her?"

"No," I snap. "Stay away from her, and from hereon out don't seek her out when you're alone."

"I just wanted to—"

"Don't, Audrey." I order her, "Aeliana doesn't want to be friends with you, she doesn't like you, so stop inserting yourself in her space. What the hell were you doing in that wing anyway? I had her placed there for a reason, your room is on the other end of the house."



"Kingston," she blinks. "Are you mad at me? I did nothing wrong."

I take a breath,

I hadn't realised I was yelling. "It's been a long day, Drey." I sigh. "Just... I have to work, please leave."

"Okay," her voice starts breaking. "I am sorry if I was wrong, I just thought it would be better to smooth things over, I did it for you."

"Don't do that for me, I haven't asked it of you." I gently remind her. She has a tendency to overstep and is trying to play mediator but she needs to quit where Aeliana is concerned. "Aeliana doesn't want to be your friend, she's not Sera, and besides, you two have nothing in common."

"I don't want her to be besties with her, I just want us to be civil," she chokes out. "I want us to be able to smile and wave at each other, and I'm sorry if that's annoying, but I can't stop. I want her to stop hating me."

"Not everyone needs to like you, Audrey."

"She does," she counters. "You don't get it, I've always thought she was cool, she got to hang out with you, and Rowan, even Callum, and his crew stood up for her, they always liked her. So what wrong is there in me trying to fix things between us?"

"Audrey," I groan, growing more irritated by the second. I don't know if it's because I slapped Aeliana, but the patience I often have for her is nonexistent today.

"She is my best friend's sister, I don't want us to be defined by our past, I forgave her, I want..."

"Fine," I agree, anything to shut her up. Her voice is grating on my



nerves, I don't understand her obsession with wanting to befriend Aeliana. "Do as you please, but from here on out, trade carefully." 1

"I will." She nods.

"Good, now, go and have your lunch." I wave her off, "And send Marvin up here if you see him."

"Will, do." She salutes.

She did it once, I smiled and ever since I've had to smile at it, the joke died that day but I keep doing it to keep her happy. I feel like I have to compensate for the things Aeliana put her through. I always have the urge to clean up her messes, and before I left for the academy, those messes were easy, harmless, and sometimes funny.

What Danielle said seems to stick with me, not the dismemberment threats but the rest of it, in a public altercation like that, I should have taken no sides as their Alpha but I couldn't resist.

How do I make things right? 1

Even though she too was wrong in the situation, Aeliana won't accept a verbal apology, and neither will my wolf. He is already giving me the silent treatment for letting her slip away once.

About half an hour later, my assistant Marvin walks into my office. "Alpha Kingston, you called for me?"

"Yes, Marvin. Have a seat," I say, motioning to the sofa.

"Did something come up?" He asks, settling uncomfortably in his seat. I don't call on Marvin often and we saw each other this morning. "I thought you said to go home for the day."



"I did, but this is an emergency."

"Oh."

"I need you to find—"

"On it," he says enthusiastically, rising from his seat. "Who do I need to find?"

"Marvin, let me finish."

"Sorry, Alpha." He smiles, sitting back down. "I got excited, it's been a while since you asked me to do some digging."

"This isn't going to be in the least pleasant."

"I will enjoy it nonetheless, Alpha." He says with a smile, "It's always an honour to serve a purpose to you."

"I'm glad you feel that way. I need you to dig into Aeliana's life."

He nods. "Aeliana..Luna Aeilana?" He frowns.

"Yes," I nod. "Find out everything you can about her life in Clinshore. More importantly, I want you to find out who she was closest to. And look into a Noah dude that she is familiar with."

"Okay. How deep do I need to dig?"

"For now, just those closest to her. Friends maybe, neighbours... I want it all."

Marvin pauses, "Alpha?"

"Yes?"



"Do you have the contact for the hunter we put on her a few years back?"

"No," I shake my head. I almost forgot about that, I had eyes on her for a while after she left, but I never did contact the man I hired. It was mainly for her safety. "If I recall, I had asked that you not report to me unless she were in trouble."

"Right. No news equals great news, I recall" He nods, "I will go through my files and see if I have his contact still, he must have all we need."

"Do it, and get back to me as soon as possible."

His face furrows, "How soon, Alpha?"

"Drop everything else until you have what I need."

"Okay. I'll get on it," Marvin rises. "Good day, Alpha."

"Good day." I nod.

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