

Chapter 8

"Your marriage to her is going to be political and nothing else," she sniffs. "I don't mind. I'm willing to wait until you divorce her, I'll wait right by your side."

My head shakes.

She's too attached to me, and I don't want to break her heart, not after she's gotten me through some hard times. But what do I do? Marry Aeliana and make my girlfriend my mistress? No. "You should go to bed."

"I want to sleep here tonight, with you," she says, blinking her tears away. "Can I?"

My excuse comes fast, calculated. "You won't get any sleep in here, I'll be working all night and making calls."

"Okay," she nods. I hardly ever let her sleep in my bedroom and she does not question it. "But what about now?"

"Now?" I frown. It's late.

"Can I stay for a while?" She grins, her hand slowly travelling up my thigh. "Just a little while..."

"I'm tired, Drey." I lie. Sex is the last thing on my mind tonight and it normally takes the edge off.

Audrey doesn't stop, her hand traces my cock through the lining of my pants. "I'll do all the work. You're very tense. Let me take care of you, Alpha Kingston." She pouts, her other hand pausing by my pocket. "What's this?" she freezes.

Before I can respond, she fishes out the little box and pops it open.



"I love it!" She beams, assuming it's for her.

"That's not for you," I say, gently taking it from her. I had forgotten to give it to the intended owner. "My mom wanted me to use it to apologise to Aeliana for rejecting her."

Audrey's smile falls. "Oh. Did she refuse it?"

"She doesn't deserve it," I grumble.

"Can I have it?" She asks, her face lighting up again. "Please? I love gold jewellery."

"I'll get you one."

She pouts, her eyes glued on the shimmering bracelet in my hand. It doesn't look like something that Aeliana would like. "But I like this one, babe."

I pause. Audrey seems taken with the bracelet, and Aeliana will probably pack it up anyway so I give it to her. She immediately breaks into excited squeals, "Thank you, thank you." She giggles, wasting no time wearing it. "I can't wait to show Sera when she gets back. I miss her so much. We should have taken the invite to go along with them."

"They're on their honeymoon, Drey." I snicker, she and her friend are very close.

"You're right," she sighs boredly, rising to her feet only to get in my lap. "And besides, we can have our own honeymoon right here." She teases, trying to touch my cock again.

"Later," I grab her wrist. "I'll take a shower and meet you back in your room."



"You promise?"

"Yes."

She throws her arms around me and kisses me, I don't reckon how she can do that with Aeliana's scent on me. Or is it in my head? "Thanks babe, I love you."

I simply nod as she rises to go, blowing me kisses when she slips past the door.

I throw my head back and sigh, unsure if it's out of relief or tiredness. I haven't loved Audrey for a long time, haven't felt anything close to that. Our relationship has been kept by desire, and I'm sticking to it because I can't break up with her, not after wasting so much of her time.

"Kingston?"

My eyes snap open at that, landing on a very worried Rowan by the door. "What happened now?" I sigh. Nothing seems to be going right ever since Aeliana returned, I wouldn't be surprised if there were a rogue attack going on outside.

Fortunately, Rowan shrugs, "Nothing. I just wanted to check in with you."

"I'm not a child, Rowan." I sneer. He is clearly here for something else, checking in on me usually means shit has gone south and I need to handle it—immediately. "What is it really?"

"How'd it go? With umm, Aeliana."

"Great."

"Really?" he frowns, staring like I grew a second nose. "She spoke to

you?"

"Something like that," I nod. Talking was never going to work, I tried it for three seconds and then claimed her like a fucking animal. I had to leave before I pinned her to the floor and did something we'd both regret. The things a mate bond does are crazy, that and I don't trust myself around her. "The important thing is that I have handled things."

"Alright, and a reminder..." he trails off, lips twitching with a smile. And just like that, I know we aren't done talking about her. "You are having breakfast tomorrow with the Hartley family, I will be coming for moral support, and you should get your dick off Audrey." He smirks, "Your mother's words, not mine."

God.

"For crying out loud," I groan. Those just might have been what my Mother said word for word, she has no filter.

"So, Audrey..." Rowan begins. "What are you going to do about her? You were going to propose later this year."

"She doesn't want to talk about us breaking up."

"Of course she doesn't," he snickers. "The girl is head over heels in love with you. I'm afraid she'd try to kill herself if you ended things," he says, continuing after a pregnant pause. "Remember last time?"

"I do," I swallow. "And I offered her a chance to walk away but she wants to stay."

Rowan tsks, "You can't have them both."

"I don't want them both," I snap.

He corks an eyebrow, "You punched Damien."

"He was getting on my nerves," I smoothly counter. My brother can be very annoying and that was exactly why I punched him last night.

"Okay," Rowan raises his hands in defeat. "But for a second, I thought you did it because he was talking about wanting to fuck your unofficial fiancée."

His words make me twitch, I'm annoyed again. Like I said, Damien is stupid. "Don't be ridiculous, I wasn't sure if I'd choose her then, he annoyed me and that was it. I have no desire to be with her."

"Oh, so you're going celibate when you get married or are you taking Damien's advice?"

"Not exactly," I swallow. "Aeliana is only mine on paper. I feel absolutely nothing for her, there will be no relationship of any sort between us. I'm marrying her for my parents, that's it."

Rowan scratched the back of his head, confused. Just about as much as I am right now. "I'm too married for this shit, and in love," he smirks. "You do you, though. Figure your shit out fast, tomorrow might be the day you set your wedding date."

Commented [Ma1]: