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Kiara: 1

I was sitting on the edge of the bed, fidgeting with my fingers, when the door opened and Phoenix came inside.

A table was placed before me that I used for having snacks.

Her eyes were scanning the room when, without saying a word, she pulled out a chair across from me and sat down.

I stared at her with my clenched jaw. She looked so relaxed, wearing a t-shirt with a matching mask.

I wanted to bully her again, pointing to that mask, but controlled myself.

*Later, Kiara. Later.*

That girl had been my subordinate once. She never would've dared to sit before I gave her permission. And now? She just flopped down like I was nothing.

"Phoenix..." I cleared my throat. Thank Goddess she didn't have a wolf, or she could have guessed that I was up for something. I leaned forward, gripping the edge of the table, "I ... I called you here because I need your help."



She seemed to pout and raised a brow questioningly, but stayed quiet.

I nodded at her, "Y... you know it... right? You know it wasn't me with you on April fourteenth... please... tell them... tell everyone..."

She kept looking at me as if I were talking to the walls.

"Listen!" I raised my hands up, "I know we have been unfair to you. And I'm sorry for that... But... don't you think you've taken it too far?"

A faint smirk seemed to appear on her face as she moved ahead and rested her elbows on the armrest, and propped up her chin with her hand.

There was just one word written on her face.  
Boring!

She was bored, like I was reciting some bedtime story she had heard a thousand times.

"I'm begging you," I pressed on, ignoring the knot in my throat, "Please. Clear my name. I've been locked up here like some criminal, letting you play a saint."

She tilted her head slowly, still watching me like I was nothing more than a crying toddler. She blinked and clicked her tongue softly, "And why should I say that, Kiara?"

I raised my shoulders in hesitation, "B... because... It's the truth."

"Truth?" Her eyes widened as if she was hearing the word for the first time, "You're asking me to tell this bullshit to everyone because it's the truth? Why, Kiara?"

Her words hit me harder than a slap. I felt my stomach drop, but then I forced myself to stay calm.

Alpha Blake hadn't sent me a mind link. Maybe because he didn't want me to panic.

This bitch was trying to break me, and I knew it.

I didn't want to cry in front of her, but... she was making it harder for me.

"Listen, Phoenix. I ... I know... what you want... You want the royal position, the title, that respect... don't you? Keep it, Phoenix. Have it. I won't fight you on that."

She didn't move a bit, and now I was scared that she might decide to walk out of here.

"I know... I know you hate me," now there was desperation in my voice, "P...please..." I then suddenly leaned forward to whisper, "Phoenix... Jai... your friend. You know nothing about him..."

Her body seemed to tense for a moment, but then she calmed down, "No need to take his

name. This has nothing to do with him. Talk about yourself, Kiara," she hissed, and I shook my head,

"Jai isn't someone who you think..."

*Kiara. This is out of line!* I heard Alpha Blake's warning through the mind link, but I ignored it. This was my only chance at freedom, and I didn't want to waste it.

"I'll tell you everything about him. Please, Phoenix..." her brows knitted as she watched me in disgust.

"Kiara. If this is all you want to talk about, then I think I'll leave," she got on her feet, and I was on my toes at once.

I rounded the table and rushed to her, "Phoenix. I'm sorry... please, I'm sorry... just listen to me. Jai isn't really your friend. He is no one's friend."

*Kiara!* Alpha Blake screamed through the mind link.

"Oh, stop it, Kiara," Phoenix jerked away her arm from my grip, "I know why you are saying that. You planned this game to keep your friend safe. Raya might be a Luna, but stop using excuses on her behalf."

I went still when I heard that.

"What do you mean?" I could feel Alpha Blake



holding his breath through the mind link when I asked her this question.

I tried to prepare myself mentally. Even if she tried to pin the forest incident on Raya, then I could always ask the council to reopen the case because she couldn't keep on blaming different people for one incident.

**First, she accepted that it was me, and now she was about to put the blame on the Luna.**

**That would make her position weak. I didn't let my excitement show on my face.**

**"Don't act innocent," she shook her head, "You're the one who took me to that lake. So that... you can keep your Luna safe."**

**Urgh. We were back to square one. I didn't understand what she was getting at.**

**I couldn't take it anymore and raised my voice in annoyance, "and why would I keep her safe?" I asked her, placing my hands on my hips, "What did she do to be kept safe?" I demanded her.**

**She slowly came closer and I saw a wicked smile behind that mask, "Because she stayed hidden in my room and attacked Jai."**

**Silence.**

**Everything seemed to go still in the room.**



What was she saying? Raya never tried to kill Jai. It was I who hid there to attack her. Poor Jai was just collateral damage.

"D... don't... be a fool... wh...why would Raya do such a thing?"

She blew a long breath and shook her head as if I were a mere kid, "You're her best friend, Kiara, and she didn't tell you this?"

Phoenix Black. Right now, she was playing some dangerous game with me... with all of us, and I didn't know what it was.

"She didn't tell me what?" I demanded, slapping my hand on the nearby wall, "Why would she attack Jai, and what do you mean she is hiding something? I'm getting sick and tired of your games, Phoenix."

Phoenix seemed taken aback by my outbursts, and then she cracked up, clapping her hands. I was standing there like a fool while she was in fits.

"You.. you're so funny, Kiara..." she wiped the tears off her face that were getting absorbed in her mask, "Your Luna... she tried to attack Jai because... because she was jealous of our friendship. Don't you know?" she adjusted her mask on her face, "She was Jai's fated mate but Jai rejected her at the spot. She married Alpha

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Blake to make him jealous. It was never about love... it was revenge, and that's the reason she attacked Jai," she finished it while batting her lashes with that fake innocent look plastered on her face.

I could sense Alpha Blake's silence through the mind link.

The scarred faced, fuc\*ker!

She had been playing all along. She knew that she was being recorded.

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