

## 127 127- Blood Moon Ceremony

Phoenix: 1

I fastened my mask in place and took a step back from the mirror. For a moment, I felt sad for hiding my face.

"A few more days, love," my wolf consoled me, "then you can show the world how beautiful you are."

I drew in a long breath and lifted my chin, "I know..." a faint smile tugged at my lips, "I've come a long way, and I can't wait to bridge the little distance to reach my destination."

I smoothed the folds of my beige gown, which was soft and had shimmer that caught the light.

Tonight was the Blood Moon ceremony. Different packs were attending it along with their Alphas, Lunas, and betas.

Most people used to find their fated mates at this ceremony every year. If my wolf was strong, then there was a strong chance that I could find mine too.

"No, you can't find your mate, Aurora," my wolf snubbed me at my thoughts, "You're already married."

I hissed in rage, "Don't ever call me that."

The name sounded like venom to my ears.

"Why not?" my wolf snapped, displeased, "It's who you are!"

I closed the connection and started wearing my sandals.

Urgh. These felt tight, but I didn't have time to get them exchanged. I was trying to fix the stubborn strap when the door opened.

My hands froze when I saw Sebastian stepping in. His tall frame seemed to fill the room. He was about to say something but stopped halfway as if caught off guard.

I gave him a tight-lipped smile, and before I could straighten, he crossed the floor in silence. I felt my breath stuck in my throat when he crouched in front of me, his fingers brushing mine as he gently moved my hand aside.

"Sebastian... I..." 1

"Shh," he didn't utter any other word and took my ankle, fastening the strap expertly.

Heat rushed to my face, "You don't have to do that... I was just going to..."

My voice caught in my throat when those golden orbs glanced up, "You don't have any idea what else I'm planning to do to you."



The meaningful remark must have turned my face beetroot red because he had his eyes glued to my face as if he didn't want to look anywhere else.

His eyes at last dipped down as he finished the buckle, smoothed his hand along my ankle, and then leaned down to press a kiss to the top of my foot.

I wanted to pull back, to scold him, but I couldn't move.

When he finally looked up, there was quiet satisfaction in his smile, "Keep glaring at me, little firefly," he spoke under his breath, "The more you stop me, the more I'll be unstoppable."

What did he even mean by that?

Well! I didn't want to think about its meaning when the most handsome man was standing up before me and was extending his hand so that I could hold it.

"I won't enter the venue with you, Sebastian," My remark seemed to shift the air in the room. Something dark flickered in his eyes as he tightened his jaw.

I reached up and cupped his cheek, "I promise, this is the last one. After tonight, I give you my word, we will attend the events together. Side by side."

That seemed to make him loosen himself a little.

"Okay," he gave me a curt nod and walked away to leave.

I felt bad.

*Sorry, Sebastian. This ceremony is important to me. Tonight, you need to stay away from me and enjoy the show.*

*In the future, I'll be his head warrior anyway. So, I'll be on duty twenty-four-seven to protect him.*

And tonight?

Tonight, it was different. Sigh!

I needed to get out of here if I didn't want to be late for the ceremony.

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The moment I walked inside the hall, the colors and lightning hit me. Everyone seemed happy and in high spirits.

For a heartbeat, I almost forgot to move. So many eyes had turned my way. Some widened with quiet admiration, others narrowed with envy.

At the far end, a long table caught my eye. It was clearly the VIP table, I could see Sebastian seated in the middle with Tina and Tamia on

either side of him.

All three of them had noticed me. Tina must be thinking that she had won.

*No, sweetie. Tonight, you use the chance to stay close to him because I allowed it. This is the last time you'll be seen in public beside him.*

Giving them a polite nod, I turned down another aisle, letting the hem of my gown sweep past as I changed direction.

A server appeared at my side, balancing a tray. "Ma'am, drinks?" he offered me with a polite smile.

"Yes, thank you," I picked a glass of wine from the tray and took a sip, "Umm. Wow," I whispered to myself.

Across the hall, I saw Jai standing in a crisp suit, talking to a group of the pack doctors. His eyes flicked to me and gave me a faint smile, but I couldn't return it.

How could I when Amora had just told me what he did to her sister? And that gave me an uneasy feeling.

The Jai I was seeing now was the real one. And the one who treated my face was someone who was faking it. I needed to know more about him.

Strange that I could never ask him about his

family.

I looked for a suitable place to take my seat. Now, as a Royal head warrior, they would never risk ignoring me. The event planner was nowhere in sight to guide me to my seat. That was when I saw them.

Luna Raya and Alpha Blake. They sat at different tables. Raya was wearing a blazing red gown, and her hair and makeup were flawless. As always.

Yet... her face carried no joy.

On the other hand, Blake's expression was flat... like a man dragged into the room against his will.

Aww. They both looked cute.

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