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Phoenix: 1

"She seems dull today," one of the warriors remarked, thinking that I couldn't hear him.

Another one agreed with him, "Yeah. I can see that. I've heard that Luna Tamia called her in her office, but she refused."

"Why bother?" another one remarked, "None of us is called in her office. Then why her? Just because she has different body parts than the rest of us."

I bent my head a little to hide the smile.

"Phoenix," the cafe manager took the seat across from me, "Should I ask the chefs to make you something else?" Concern was written on his face.

I shook my head with a smile, "No. I'm good," I said casually, eating my greens. Otherwise, they all might have thought that I was avoiding it.

I was gulping down the salad with lemon-infused water when the phone in my pocket started ringing.

I pulled it out and wanted to roll my eyes when I saw Luna Tamia's name flashing, "Yes?" I tucked it in the crook of my neck and kept eating my



meal.

"Phoenix," her voice was devoid of any warmth, "I've been waiting for you. Where are you? Didn't you get my message?"

I closed my eyes and started chewing my lower lip, "I'm not well, Luna."

"That excuse isn't acceptable, dear. You're my subordinate, and you need to come right now. Don't make me come and get you in front of your warriors," and then she said something that shook my insides, "Don't you know? It's Luna's order!"

Luna's order, slave! Luna's order! 1

I ran a slow gaze over all the warriors who were busy chatting with each other.

I wanted to say, *Come and get me, bitch* but I couldn't.

"Okay," I exhaled sharply and disconnected the call.

The chair screeched against the floor when I got up, "Phoenix! Are we going to train with swords today?" One of the warriors asked me.

"No. Today you need to transform into your beasts and then practice," I told them, waving my hand carelessly, "I'll be back in a minute."



"We can't change into our beasts, Phoenix," Gavin reminded me, "Today we have got visitors from other packs."

"Other packs?" I frowned, "How can I forget it?"

It was an unsaid rule. Lycans weren't allowed to take their beast form in the presence of werewolves until those werewolves were part of the royal army.

"Fine! Then maybe it's swords today," I gave them a tight-lipped smile and was coming out of the cafe when Gavin's next remark stopped me cold.

"Your pack officials might also be there, Phoenix. I've heard that Blood Stone pack also fought on the southern border that night."

Blood Stone Pack?

I spun around to eye the warrior who was now talking to his companions.

Blood Moon is visiting the palace? Why wasn't I informed?

I went to Luna Tamia's office, but she wasn't there.

"She went to the Luna quarters with Miss Tina," the Lycan guard informed me.

The bitch could have told me this on the phone.



But no.

She wanted to remind me of my status.

The Lycan guard seemed hesitant when he informed me that Luna Tamia wanted me to see me in the Luna quarters.

*Fu*ck her!*

I wouldn't go to Luna quarters. If she gets mad, then let her.

All the Barble furniture was sent back, and Sebastian had ordered to bring the old furniture back. However, its walls were still bright pink, a painful reminder to Tina of what I did to her.

Yeah. I know it was childish. But the two wicked ladies of this palace weren't mature either.

Goddess. I needed some air, and for that I had to step outside the palace. I was walking to the exit gate when I had to stop.

Several cars were standing on the porch, and people were getting out of them.

The guests. I thought.

Was the Blood Stone pack also there? No matter what they did to me, but ...

It still sounded like home.

"Phoenix!" My eyes widened when someone shouted at the top of his lungs.



My eyes searched and found a familiar face waving at me wildly, "Jackie!" I screamed and broke into a run. Until I reached Jack and was lifted off the ground.

I squealed when he twirled me several times.

"Put me down!" I laughed and held his shoulders tightly. He slowed and put me down, "Sorry," he grinned sheepishly, "For a moment I forgot that now you're a royal... This Palace's head warrior."

"Silly!" I slapped his arm, "What are *you* doing here?" My eyes swept over him from head to toe, "You never accompanied on official visits."

With a shrug, he placed his hands in his pockets, "I had to. Now I'm the head warrior of Blood Stone pack," he was blushing!

"What! Wow!" I threw my arms at him for a hug, "You are now head warrior?" 1

He was about to say something when a familiar voice spoke near us, "Hello, Phoenix."

I straightened and looked at Alpha Blake. He had changed a lot.

His face now had a thick beard and serious eyes that lacked their usual sparkle.

The feeling that I was responsible for it sent me on a short guilt trip.



"Alpha Blake," I offered my hand for the handshake, and thankfully he took it without hesitation.

"You can call me Blake now," he stated drily, "Hope you're doing good, Phoenix."

I shook my head, "I ... I don't think I can ever call you that..." A short laugh slipped from my mouth, "And yes, I'm doing well."

They nodded at me. I wanted to ask Alpha Blake about Raya, Klara, Asher, and Ashwin.

But then I didn't. What was the use?

"S...so..." I stuttered, "Is the pack... still without a beta?"

Yes. I needed to ask this.

"No. We do have a Beta now," he turned and called loudly, "Beta Jal?"

My heart skipped a beat when a familiar figure started walking towards me.

"J...Jal?" I whispered to myself.

"Yeah," Alpha Blake nodded at him, "He is our pack beta now."

"Hello!" Jal offered his hand, and I held it without a moment's hesitation

"Hello, Jal," I tried to smile, but seeing his poker

face, I controlled it.

Because now I remember what he said last time.

In the future, if we ever meet each other, we will act like strangers. From now on, we will go our separate ways.

He also remembered it. Because after the handshake, he gave me a formal smile and turned on his heels to join others. 1

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