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Phoenix: 1

Last night I cried myself to sleep. And let me tell you. It was the most peaceful sleep I've had in the last two years. 1

I woke up late and realized that Emily didn't wake me up for breakfast. I didn't have enough willpower to drag myself out of this bed.

My warriors must be thinking that I was still on my period. Lol.

Staring at the ceiling, I thought about last night. Was it real or a dream?

Did Sebastian really know that I was Aurora?

There was a single knock on the door. Just a single heavy tap. Like someone slapped it with a hand.

Emily usually came inside after a small knock. Lycan Guards usually tapped before coming in. This one sounded different.

I got up and stretched in bed, trying to decide if I should go to the bathroom or open the door.

When I got on my feet, I caught my reflection in the mirror. My face was red and swollen from last night's crying. My eyes looked like two



puffed-up balloons.

One look at me and anyone could guess that I had been crying.

I took my time in the bathroom, thinking about what my future status would be. Am I still the head warrior of this palace?

Or Sebastian will send me to those depressing Luna quarters again?

Because if that was the case, I'd better leave this pack and start living in a human town.

"You must be out of your mind," Aria spoke in my head, "Now you're getting a wolf and still thinking to live among humans?"

Hmm. I forgot about that.

I was no longer a wolfless creature.

After taking a cold shower, when I stepped out of the bathroom, I felt fresh. The person outside must have sensed that I was back in my room because there was another heavy tap on the door.

With a towel tied around my head, I opened the door and found Sebastian sitting outside the door. The Lycan guards were standing at some distance, their backs facing my door.

His eyes shot up when he found me standing in



the doorway. He was wearing the same clothes from last night.

Did this mean...

He didn't go to his room at all?

He stayed here all night, sitting outside my door?

"May I come inside?" he asked after he got to his feet, "Please," he requested when he found me standing there with an expressionless face.

Without a word, I left the door open and came back inside, "Aurora..." he started.

"Phoenix!" I corrected him immediately, "Aurora Stone died," I said icily, "You people killed her." 1

Strange. Till yesterday, I wasn't comfortable in showing him my face, and now?

I hadn't tried to cover my face since last night.

I had to give him the credit for not flinching or not making faces, "You aren't even scared of my face, Sebastian," I chuckled. 1

Like mine, his face was also swollen.

He closed his eyes and then opened them after a brief moment, "Can we talk, Aurora..." he stuttered when I glared at him, "I mean, Phoenix."



"Not now, Sebastian," I looked at the wall clock, "I'm getting late for the training. My warriors must be waiting for me."

"I already sent orders to practice. They are grownups, not kids," he at last pulled a chair and motioned me to take a seat on the edge of the bed.

I didn't comply with his orders and stood there stubbornly. For a fleeting second, a flicker of amusement appeared in his eyes, but then it vanished as quickly as it appeared.

"Yeah. You can do that. Suits you."

"Suit what?" I asked him with a scoff, one brow lifted.

"You know? You're basically not a head warrior. You're a queen. The moment I met you... I knew. It's in your blood."

Blood? Is he drunk?

I never had royal blood. I was a Beta's daughter.

"If you remember, you still carry my mark, Aurora," he reminded me gently, and before I could answer, his one hand came up, tilting my chin.

Without warning, he closed the distance and leaned down to kiss me. I wanted to push him, but his soft lips were against mine.



I was feeling them for the first time. For a stunned second, I forgot how to stand.

He didn't prolong it and pulled back. Maybe because he must have reminded himself that he was kissing a scarred-faced girl.

But no. There was another story on that face.

He seemed as shaken as I was. As affected as I was.

My heart was pounding, and I could feel that delicious tingling on my lips.

I was more confused about how to react because it was hard to remember that I was mad at him.

Pressing my palms to my lips, I shook my head, "I don't have time for this," I muttered, and could feel my voice going weaker than I wanted.

I tried to step away, but he didn't let me move. Instead, his arm was around my waist, pulling me to him, "Can you stop running, Aurora?" I winced at the name. How many times do I have to remind him?

I pushed him, but it felt like I was shoving a wall, "I already said I have work to do..."

"What work?" he leaned his forehead against mine, and I was now getting conscious. Couldn't he sense the foul smell emitting from my face?



He seemed least bothered by it.

My throat went dry as I tried another weak shove, "Let me go, Sebastian," this time I almost pleaded.

He must have sensed it, too.

"Never," the single word came like fire from his mouth, "No force in this world can make me let you go, Aurora." He growled, and his eyes turned blazing red.

His Lycan surface in his eyes, "He is right, Aurora. We aren't letting you go anywhere."

I watched them with a frown, "How can a woman with this kind of face not scare you, my king? Why are you stopping me?" I snapped.

"Don't you understand, Aurora Stone?" Sebastian's knuckles brushed near my temple, "I love you."

My chest suddenly felt tight.

He loved me?

No, he is lying.

