



## 224 224- Before Lucien Does

Sebastian: 1

"The conference with the Northern packs is confirmed," Hunter tapped his pen against the armrest, "They want to meet you next week... here... instead of another pack's territory. I'll send the notice to the council."

He stood near the desk with a stack of documents in his hand, while I flipped through the reports from the western border.

I nodded, barely glancing up, "Fine. Make sure the guests' quarters are prepared. And I know you are not my Luna, still you'll be a darling if you notify the kitchen staff. Right now, I don't want to invite gossip."

Hunter smirked, "Yeah. Make me your Luna and I'm ready to serve you in bed too."

I shot him a look over the papers as the last night flashed in my mind. He chuckled when he saw my face.

"Wanna share?" He asked me with a wink, and I ignored the jab, leaning back in my chair, "How's the southern patrol coming along?"

"All set," He replied, setting the reports aside, "The wiring and sensors are already in place..."



just like you wanted," He placed his fist under his chin, "They're doubling the guards near the main gates."

"Good," I stretched my neck, "Once these conferences are done, we'll be tightening the trade routes too. Ugh..." I stretched, "I need a break... with my wife."

Hunter gave a small nod, watching me for a moment before asking, "How is she doing?"

I lifted my gaze at him and then couldn't help the smile tugging my lips, "She is taking everything so well. No anger. No arguments. I was scared for no reason."

Her face from last night popped up in my mind when she wanted to go and meet her friend. And then the way she hugged me and let me make love to her.

Goddess. My body wanted her again.

I blinked when Hunter started waving his hand, "Back to earth, my king. Your face is a telltale sign of what happened last night!"

"Shut up!" I leaned back in my chair, drumming my fingers lightly on the armrest, "Everything is going so smoothly... she isn't resisting my decisions..."

A flicker of surprise passed over Hunter's face



before he gave me an odd grin, "Don't you think she is being too obedient. Or are you too blind to see that, Sebastian?"

I tilted my head, studying him, "What do you mean by that?"

Hunter rested his arm on the desk and looked into my eyes, "That doesn't sound like her."

I raised an eyebrow questioningly but didn't say anything.

He shrugged casually, "Your wife never accepts anything quietly. I've seen her questioning, fighting, and breaking the rules when it suits her. And now suddenly she is doing *everything right?*"

Uncertainty crept into my heart. He was right. Aurora never accepted anything without a fight. And now she didn't even talk about it when her head warrior position was taken without informing her.

Hunter tilted his head slightly, "Where is she right now?"

I blinked and gave my head a little shake, "With her friend. In the quarter. She took my permission..."

Hunter's eyes were already rolling back for a mindlink.



224 224- Before Lucien Does



I waited until he got done with it.

"The Lycan guard who was responsible for keeping an eye on her... he is saying she is still inside those quarters. Do you think that's normal, Sebastian?"

He was getting worried for nothing. Aurora just needed a little distraction to kill some time.

However, I didn't know why my heart was sinking.

"Send the mindlink. Ask him to bring her," I told Hunter and got to my feet. Of course. I was just panicking.

Aurora was safe. She would never do anything foolish with so much security around.

"Sebastian," Hunter's voice made me turn to him, "We need to go to the quarters. Something isn't right."

"What do you mean?"

"My king. Your wife never cared about the security. She is a smart woman who once escaped this palace, declaring herself dead. She is not a fool," Hunter was already walking to the door, and now I could feel my blood running cold.

\*\*\*



When we reached the boundary of the quarters, the Lycan guards were standing there.

"Where is she?" I demanded.

"She is inside, your majesty," One of them replied, "Ma'am hasn't stepped out since last night... no one left the quarter, except a pregnant woman who said she wanted to take a short stroll."

Hunter and I exchanged a glance.

"Pregnant woman?" I repeated in a whisper, "And you didn't think to question her?"

"She was one of the maids, sire. Plus, we had clear instructions to only focus on her," The guard seemed a little panicked and was now stammering.

Before I could reply, a guard came rushing towards us, his face was pale.

"My king," He bowed quickly, and was a little breathless, "I found these a short distance from the palace wall."

I frowned and looked at what he was holding. A cushion and a maternity robe.

It didn't belong to her, but the faint scent of familiar flowers was clinging to the fabric. I reached out to hold it and tightened my fingers as dread crawled through me.



I raised my face when I saw Hunter coming out of that quarter where Aurora was supposed to be, "She's not inside."

I turned sharply towards the guards, "Search every room!" I roared, "Now!"

The guards scattered in all directions. Hunter sent a mind link to the security department, "She must not have reached too far. Why did she do that?"

She fooled me.

Aurora fooled me into thinking that she was happy. She escaped the palace because she was mad at me.

And all this time I thought...

Sigh.

I felt a hand on my shoulder, "We will find her, Sebastian," Hunter stated, "I've notified all the departments and all the nearby packs."

"We need to find her!" I muttered, looking into his eyes, "I need to find her before Lucien does."