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Aurora: 1

The room was quiet except there was a soft humming sound.

A woman sat on the floor, her long hair spilling forward as she arranged a set of carved dolls in a perfect circle. There was no one else with her in the room, and I didn't know who she was talking to when we were standing in the doorway.

My first impression was that she was a witch and might be preparing for black magic. She looked fragile, lost in her own world.

When she heard the door open, her head snapped up. The moment her eyes found Lucien, her dull eyes brightened. She gasped and leapt to her feet.

Before I could understand, she ran to him while giggling like a child.

"Lucien!"

Once she reached him, she jumped. He caught her mid-run in his strong arms and lifted her so gently as if she were made of glass. Someone too fragile, too precious.

"Giana," he muttered softly, "Easy, love."



She clung to him, pressing her face onto his chest. For a man who was so cruel and so heartless to the world, here he was, handling this woman so softly with so much gentleness.

I stood frozen near the door, my thoughts spinning.

Giana?

Was this Giana?

Jai's sister?

Dear Moon Goddess. What kind of surprises are you planning to give me?

What else do you have in store for me?

This woman... this woman-child wasn't at all matured mentally. She was ... mentally challenged. Was it because...because Lucien ra*ped her?

I looked at Lucien's face, where he was least bothered about my presence, and his entire focus was on the woman in his arms, who was complaining to him like a child making a pout.

My parents don't sleep together.

There is one more child in this palace.

Jia didn't lie

The other child she talked about... was Giana.
Her mom.

Lucien carried her to the bed and placed her down, "You should go to sleep, love," he kissed her forehead.

"Will you take me to the zoo tomorrow?" She asked him innocently, falling back against her pillow. Her long black hair was spread across it like silk.

She looked so beautiful, and her eye area... it was so much like Jai.

"Sure. I'll take you to the zoo," Lucien kissed her cheek and brushed his knuckles gently across her face.

She asked loudly with a pout, "Promise?"

"Promise!" He kissed her again before getting up.

"So... happy to meet Giana?" A sarcastic grin was playing on his lips once we were outside her room, "Are you still interested in taking her back?" he chewed his upper lip.

We were now standing in the corridor.

"So, now what, Phoenix Black?" He laughed but then got serious, "No, wait. You're not Phoenix Black. Then who the fu*ck are you? Because all this time I've been looking for the last survivor of Crimson... someone who never existed. So, I think you are safe now. Tell me. Who are you?"



Meeting Giana had been so exhausting that I didn't realize I was holding my breath.

"That's... that's a long story..." Telling about my real identity wasn't easy. My surname reminded me of my wicked father, who didn't care for me and sold me like a piece of furniture.

"I love stories," He stated, "I'm all ears. Summarize it and just tell me your damn name," he said softly.

But it was a different kind of softness. Not the Giana kind but a bad kind.

Like he was asking me not to trust him in this.

"I... I'm Aurora Stone..." I curved my lips between my teeth, "I was sold to the Lycans two years back and..."

He had straightened, and deep frown lines appeared on his face, "What did you say? Who?"

"Au... Aurora... Aurora Stone,"

His facial features hardened, "Aurora Stone? Daughter of Oliver Stone? The Beta of Red Moon Pack?"

Before I could nod, he was standing closer, his hand tangled in my hair, forcing my head back, taking me by surprise.

One second, he was a few paces away, and the



next, he was pulling my hair. Pain shot through my scalp as I gasped in shock.

"So, here you are, Aurora Stone," He hissed, his breath was hot against my face, "The same girl Jai spent his miserable life trying to save."

His fingers tightened, which made my eyes water. I didn't know what went into him. I thought he had become quite friendly with me.

His face was so close that I could see the muscle in his jaw flexing, "You?" He growled, "Oliver's daughter? What did you think? You could stay hidden from me behind a fu*cking doctor?"

I swallowed hard, refusing to look away, "Let me go..." I winced in pain, "You're hurting me."

Lucien's lips twitched into a cold, humorless smile, "You don't have any idea how much trouble you have caused me," he smirked, "Jai died for you. He was a fool to send you here and now..." he hissed, "Now I'll make sure you don't walk out of this place alive..." He snarled, "I might bury you with your doctor friend, Aurora."

He gave my head a painful jerk, "Just like I burned Crimson Claw pack... I'll burn you... no... I might hang you over a tree or... maybe I should hand you over to the rogues who can feast on your beautiful body..."

Tears had started rolling down my cheeks, and I



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still couldn't understand what had happened to him. What did I ever do to him?

I didn't even know him.

"Who... who are you..." I managed between the painful spasms in my head, "What... what do you want? How do you know me?"

"Yeah... you might not know me... but I know about you... that night Jal didn't show bravery by sparing you. If I'd known that he wouldn't touch you, I would have rap*ed you myself..." He then frowned a little, "Oh... wow!" He laughed hysterically, "What's the best punishment than a ra*pe... Yes! I'll ra*pe you..."

This... none of it made sense...

"Lucien..."

"Shh..." he didn't let me speak, "You don't know me, but we met on the night of your engagement. I was one of those five guys who barged into your room that night." 4