

89 89- I Beat Them First

Phoenix: 1

I rolled my eyes when I heard the familiar tapping on my window. Tonight, he was in his human form.

The face across the window glass had a childlike excitement. Was I the reason for this excitement?

*No, Phoenix. Don't go there. He is here because he hasn't fu*cked you yet.* 1

Oh, come on. Why can't I think something positive?

I opened the window but didn't move aside.

"Are you planning to stare at me, keeping me standing here?" He poked his finger in my shoulder, which I held, and pushed it out.

"You should go," I said with a smile to lessen the blow, but he didn't seem to take it to his heart.

"Why?" Just a simple question. No ego drama.

"Because," I placed my finger on his forehead, "I need to sleep tonight.

"Huh," now there was concern on his face, "So what were you doing when I was staying with you?" he then leaned in with a suspicious look,

"Were you self-pleasuring yourself, thinking of me?" 1

I slapped his shoulder, "Get lost."

He started laughing and held my hand, "Sorry. Just kidding." He looked down at the ground and then his eyes darted to me, "Do you realize we are standing here just like Romeo and Juliet?"

I couldn't stop the mirth bubbling up in my chest, "How old are you? Sixteen?"

"Yeah," he placed my palm on his chest, right above his heart, "Sixteen by heart. You make me feel young."

"That's because," I freed my hand and dropped it to my side, "You haven't seen my face, Romeo."

He had gotten serious now, "But I've seen your eyes," his hand raised up and reached over to touch my left eye.

My eyes fluttered closed.

"What are you doing?" I tried to force amusement into my tone.

"Feeling you," he murmured, "I can't let go of the parts that you are showing to me."

I swallowed hard and closed my eyes, letting him brush his thumb over my eyelids.

He was making it harder than I expected.

If he kept doing that, how would I focus on my revenge?

After receiving that punch, I was sure Kiara wouldn't sit on her ass, waiting for my next move. By now, they all must be planning something against me.

The moment I opened my eyes, his hand stilled, and he met my gaze.

With a sigh, a shaky smile appeared on his face, "Take rest tonight, sweetheart," his knuckles brushed softly against my ear, then trailed down to my neck, lingering just a second longer than they should have, "I'll see you tomorrow."

"I've heard you have a meeting at noon," I said quietly.

"Yes, I have," his hand dropped to his side.

For a heartbeat, he just stood there, looking at me like he wanted to say more but couldn't find words.

"Seems you'll be busy tomorrow," I just wanted to keep talking to get rid of this uncomfortable silence.

"No matter how busy I am, Phoenix," he pinched my chin, "I'll never be too busy for you. Okay?"

That was unexpected. I nodded with a faint smile, "Sure."

He took a step back.

"I'll try to wrap up this meeting early."

And do what? We can only meet at nights, anyway. Days weren't meant for us. It felt like he heard me.

"Maybe... we can go for a walk after that meeting is over."

At this point, I didn't want to speak, scared that my voice might tremble.

Holding my hand, he raised it to his mouth and planted a kiss, "Good night," he said softly, and before I could say anything, he jumped to the ground floor and jogged off.

I was passing by the garden when I heard excited girlish screams coming from there. There was giggling and chattering going on.

As if a bunch of teenage girls were having a party inside. I halted for a moment and then decided to walk past it.

I needed to go to the forest for my training practice.

"Hey, Phoenix!" I had to stop when I heard the familiar voice and closed my eyes.

Now what?

Did Kiara want me to practice on the ground? Or was she interested in sending me to the borders again?

"Phoenix! Come over!" My eyes moved to the voice of Luna Raya. They were both waving at me wildly.

I looked at them in confusion and then decided to walk into the garden.

There were several female servants, warriors, and even the daughters of a few neighboring pack Alphas.

Kiara, Luna Raya, and Tina were seated on the huge Royal chairs.

Thankfully, Luna Tamia wasn't there.

"What is going on?" My guard was up when I saw the trio that could be more toxic than actual poison.

Right now, they all were smiling at me, but I knew behind these honey-glazed smiles, there was venom.

"We are all playing some girly games and having fun. Want to join?" Luna Raya invited me and gestured towards the fourth royal seat.

Every one of us knew that I wasn't fit for that seat. It could be clickbait.

"Umm. I don't think I should be part of this," I gave them a fake grin, "You people carry on," I gestured with my hand.

"Why? Scared? That you can't compete with us in a simple game?" Kiara said, twirling her hair around her finger. 1

No, Phoenix. It's clickbait. I'm telling you. Don't!

Someone inside me was issuing warnings, but it was too tempting not to participate and see their faces licking the ground.

"Sure!" Internally, I rolled my eyes and face-palmed.

"What do I need to do?" I asked them with a shrug, and their faces lit up due to the upcoming thrill.

"Just watch how we all are playing," Raya said good-naturedly.

Tina was acting as if I were non-existent. She was observing her perfectly manicured nails.

Ignoring her, I took another seat with the warrior of another pack.

I needed to see what this game was. If they were planning to win it, then I wanted to make sure that I beat them first.

