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« Aurora's pov »

I kept my gaze plastered to the floor as the male wolf led me through the packhouse. I can hear snickers and my gut wrenches as I remember what I had endured by these wolves hands.

They were cruel and I should not expect anything less.

"Such an imbecile for thinking she can escape alpha Raphael. Dumb bitch."

The voice belonged to Alice, after years of tormenting, and my brain now can detect her voice instantly.

I can hear the others laugh at my expense but I still kept my gaze down. It would be best to ignore them and not waste my time by staring at their faces.

"What is that stench?" Alice asked with disgust in her voice.

The male wolf's hand around my arm is brutal and I was sure if he added the slightest of pressure he'll manage to break my arm.

He leads me up the staircase just behind the struggling vampire who was also held by a buff cruel looking male wolf. His face was familiar but I couldn't put a name to the face.

"Let go of me you nasty leech!" The vampire woman I still don't know the name of hissed with malice.

The wolf holding her and pulling her along not so gently growls lowly in warning.



"She's mated!" A voice all too familiar gasped behind me. Becka.

Still I kept my gaze lowered.

"Who would mate something like her?!" Alice raged.

"An Alpha!" Livia responded in a voice filled with shock.

"The stench of him is coming off of her strongly. It must be an Alpha. Only an aura like that can be so strong." Becka voiced out in equal disbelief as Livia and Alice.

"No way! No Alpha would mate something like her! Just look at her! Still so fucking ugly -

"The Alpha who mated her is Xavier. Alpha Xavier. Now would you three dumb bitches shut the fuck up in my ears while I'm trying to free myself of this smelly dog!?" The vampire woman roared in frustration. †

The male wolf who had been holding her brutally, roughly pulls her along with him as she continues to struggle. "We don't mention his name here!" The male wolf barked.

"Only alpha Raphael has the privilege to utter that mutts name." The male wolf who held me snarled.

I inwardly rolled my eyes. Compared to my mate, alpha Raphael would be the mutt.

But I held my tongue, knowing it would get me into trouble.

The three female wolves who had tormented me for as long as I can remember gasped in shock. "You're lying!" Alice snarled in disbelief.

"We won't take a blood sucker's word -

"You three shut up." The male wolf who held me grumbles and cuts off Alice's words.

After the three female wolves seem to grow mute both the vampire and I were led to a huge door that I remember was alpha Raphael's study.

We were pushed inside with the door slamming behind us aggressively. The male wolf doesn't let me go, only tugs me forward harshly until we were standing beside the vampire and the other male wolf.

I'm aware of his presence, his anger, his hate. I'm aware those emotions were for me.

"Look at me you whore!" Alpha Raphael snarls. I hear a giggle and knew it belonged to Adrian.

Despite his malice and visible anger, I kept my gaze on the floor.

"Lift your gaze!" He roars angrily with impatience.

I gasp when the male wolf who had been holding me, grips the back of my head, tangled his fingers in my roots and harshly force my head to lift.

I cried, my eyes burning as I was sure he had managed to move some of my hair.

"Now that's much better." Alpha Raphael sneered as our eyes were forced to connect. I shivered inwardly in disgust.

"Isn't that much better baby?" His eyes sweep to the side to flick over Adrian.



I wanted to vomit.

Now it was clear why her loyalty had shifted. She and alpha Raphael were a couple.

He was mated to Luna Lisa yet he was mad enough to fornicate with a female wolf who was not his mate.

Adrian nodded. "It is baby. Very much better to see the fear in her eyes."

Adrian struts over to him until she was nearly glued to his side. Something only a Luna was only allowed to. I waited for him to push her away but when he doesn't, his lack of action only confirms my thoughts.

Alpha Raphael's eyes glared at me as he sneered. "Feeding you and making sure you had a roof over your head for years. And that's how I am being thanked? By you running away and going to my enemy?"

I don't flinch at his words or his tone. Instead I straighten my back as best as I could with the male wolf still having a hold of my hair.

"Why should I thank you when all you and the entire pack had done was torment my life? I would never have willingly let you force me to carry your seed."

Raphael seem to not like my response, not one bit. "A few days with that bastard and you seem to forget your place you whore. I'll show you exactly how tormenting I can be." He snarls and then turns his attention to the vampire woman.

"Are you sure she bleeds wolfsbane?"

The vampire woman stays quiet until the wolf holding her, sharply run his claws into her skin, tearing into flesh so brutally that her blood

dropped on the floor quickly.

She hissed, struggling to move out of his grip. When she sees it was useless, she snarls. "Yes. She bleeds wolfsbane."

Still the wolf does not remove his claws from her skin.

Raphael nods and then his eyes get foggy.

I hissed lowly when the wolf holding me pushes me forward while still holding my hair and arm. I blinked, nearly crying out at the pain in my scalp.

"We will have to check to see if what you say is indeed true Essi." Raphael snorts.

"And what if I'm wrong?" Essi asked after a stilling silence.

"Then you'll die. Simple. It's already concerning that a vampire is seeking for wolfsbane. Did you think me of a fool to trust a vampire much less team up with the likes of you? You and your people murdered my sister, you must've not been so smart up there to come here." Raphael pointed at his head.

I freeze. Essi was the one who murdered Raphael's sister? Then that meant.....Essi was the one looking for me all those years ago.

I visibly shivered. Whatever she wanted me for wasn't anything good I was sure of it.

Then a thought slammed into my head. Wait. She admitted she knew my mother.

Did that mean....she had killed her too? Or perhaps had her trapped



somewhere?

A little flicker of hope that Essi knew something about my biological mother removed some of the weight of knowing Genieve had died because of me.

Because perhaps Genieve was the one who took me from my mother all those years ago and Essi was just trying to get me back for her....

No that can't be right, Ess's voice had visible malice when she mentioned my mother.

I should heed Cass's words, I should keep my guard up and not trust Essi.

But despite my thoughts to not listen to a word the vampire had to say, I still uttered. "You were the one who came for me all those years ago. You killed Genieve. Did you kill my real mother too? "

The room falls silent and I can feel Essi's eyes on the side of my face.

I waited with anxiety for her answer but still had slight hope that she would deny my mother's death. But I should've known to never have hope when a vampire was involved.

It was known that vampires have no humanity left.

"I killed many before, many I took pleasure in killing. But I can tell you Aurora, that killing your mother was the best pleasure I ever had. " I could literally hear the smirk in her voice as she admitted that she killed my mother.

My heart squeezes painfully but I hold back tears knowing she wanted a reaction from me.



"The only thing I regret is not killing her slowly. It's her fault I'm in this predicament now!" She snarls and I can hear her struggle to get out of the grip of the wolf. But she hisses in pain.

Suddenly there's a knock on the door and followed by alpha Raphael's command to come in, the door opens, and in walks Gomery.

I stiffen and grow cold as I see her hold a flower pot with only dirt and a sharp blade.

She walks past me and struts over to alpha Raphael where she places the pot on the desk and passes the blade to Raphael.

When she turns around, the glare in her eyes had my stomach twisting. She seem to be ready to say something but she thought better of it and only sends me a cruel smirk I knew all to well.

She quickly leaves the room.

I groan when the wolf holding me pushes me forward again until my thighs touched the wood of the desk.

"Hold out your hand," Raphael said using his alpha tone. But perhaps he had forgotten I was a luna and I did not listen to any alpha other than my mate.

"No." I sneered, knowing what he would do if I do as he said.

"Hold out your fucking hand!" He snarled impatiently.

The wolf holding my arm forces my hand forward until Raphael grips my wrist brutally. His hold was so rough that I heard the crack of my bone breaking. I cried out as he forced me to hover my hand over the pot and quickly slash my palm with the blade.

I bit my tongue as the blade slash against my skin.

"Now let's see if little Aurora can be useful after all," Raphael mumbled as he looked at my blood that fell into the dirt sharply.

I pinched my eyes tightly, wishing that this was all a dream. But the pain of my wrist kept me in the awful reality I am in.

"Damn the blood sucker was right." Adrian snorted.

I opened my eyes and looked down at the pot.

Wolfsbane.

"This isn't the same one." Essi suddenly voiced out.

Raphael lifted his stunned gaze to her and I pressed my lips in frustration.

"What are you saying?" Raphael snapped.

Essi removed her gaze from the pot to stare at me in shock. "This isn't the same variety of wolfsbane I had given you. She bleeds another. Her mother did the same when she was pregnant. The daises she bled were different." Essi's eyes dropped to my stomach in surprise. 1

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