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Dawn

I slumped on my bed. My body was still buzzing. We just kissed and he proceeded to tell me that meant nothing.

How was I supposed to absorb that information now? I rolled on the bed and groaned. He never should have come closer to me or kissed me twice.

He should have continued pretending that my existence irritated him. I needed to open the door soon and let Princess in. She deserved an explanation. But I didn't want to because I didn't have any explanation to give.

I rolled from one end to the other before I finally stood up. I took a quick shower and then headed to the door. Thankfully they weren't waiting at the door. I found them in the game room engrossed in what happened to be a serious discussion.

"There she is. Our little celebrity Luna." Layla purred.

Kaden nudged at her and then gave me an apologetic look. The triplets had weird smiles. Princess looked pensive.

"Don't tell me you were discussing me."

"Not just about you. But the current situation in the Pack." Kayla said, twirling her hair.

I sat down and braced myself. "Okay. I'm ready, hit me with it."

"Lex gossiped with a few people about you and Rhys's bond today. And it has generated a whole new buzz." Layla added.

I raise my brows. "What buzz?"

"The pack members already admire your fake husband a lot. But now they are taking it out of hand and talking about how your connection with him has bestowed you with more powers. Since they already believe that he doesn't care for you, they now more than ever want to get his attention. Most of them are doing it for the power they think they'll get. The Nobles are going crazy about it, even commons and omegas are very interested

in being elevated." Princess announced.

I smacked my forehead. "I told him that this was a bad idea," I mutter under my breath.

"The good news is that no one thinks you're crazy anymore." Tayla shrugged.

"Great." I mumbled "Just great. I just became a walking target. I should really punch Lex in the face. I'm afraid I'm going to do it sooner than I imagined."

"That brings us to the second matter at hand." Kaden sighed.

"There's another matter?" I whined.

"Yes. It's about your classes." Princess added, "His royal pain in the ass, tasked us with finding a way to tutor you without taking you to those classes."

"Yes!" I said whooping my hands in the air.

"You rejoiced too early," Kaden mumbled. "There's a big problem."

I didn't care. I was just happy to be set free from that horrible place.

"There's an annual test coming up in less than 3 weeks. All Nobles have to take it. If you had been Rhys's mate, you'd be exempted from all these, but unfortunately, you're his wife. And so you must take these tests and pass exceedingly well or have your position ripped away from you." Princess said.

My joy vanished. Anything that caused me to lose my position in the next six weeks meant instant death. Blood drained out of my face.

"To make matters worse, we discovered that they'd been plotting against you from the beginning. For instance, they didn't inform you of the test, secondly, they may have been teaching you unimportant things." Princess added angrily.

"Of course, Rhys personally hunted down the people involved and punished them horribly." She added, "The problem is that you don't have much time to learn."

I gulped.

"We've been racking our brains for a solution," Kaden added.

"Wait." I mumbled, "Didn't you all go through the lessons? Can't you teach me?"

They shook their heads. "We need someone good enough to instill knowledge into you in under 3 weeks. Neither of us remembers much of what those tests were. Besides, everyone's test differs. They are based on your personality and the position you may occupy in the future. Yours will be the most important because the pack is led to believe that you're going to be Luna."

"Oh no." I groaned. "I'm going to die aren't I?"

Kaden shook his head. "We have one option but it isn't likable." He gritted out.

"Do I have an option? What is it?" I begged.

"There's a woman. She was part of the female leaders until her fallout with Marcus and consequently Rhys. She claims to hate Rhys. Plus her methods of teaching are a bit abnormal," Kaden said.

"She's the most terrifying woman I've met," Princess said.

I gulped. "Will she agree?"

"That's the problem," Kaden sighed. "She agreed. She agreed willingly and even volunteered. It's suspicious."

I held my forehead in my hands.

"Rumors have it that she has always been trying to sabotage Rhys," Kaden added.

I swallowed. "What the hell is this?" I groaned. "Can't I have a moment of peace? Why is my life always hanging on a thread?"

"She's not all bad," Kayla said suddenly. "Everything depends on her impression of you, though. She's fiercely loyal when she likes someone. She claims to dislike all of us though."

"That doesn't make me feel any better." I mumbled, "But it's not as if I have a choice. I'll meet her and we'll see where it goes."

"Fine." They mumbled.

The rest of the day, I walked around like a zombie.

My head remained stuck in the cloud of my emotions and fear. Part of me

was certain that I wouldn't be able to impress that woman. I was doomed. I could barely stomach my dinner. Frankly, I was moments from offering myself up for death, because it seemed like every day, I was presented with a brand new challenge.

That night I went to bed terrified. I was bombarded by everyone including Mimi on how to impress her.

Princess who disliked her told me not to waste time trying to impress her. The triplets told me to try to be bolder. Mimi said I should be nicer. All I wanted to do was sleep, maybe forever.

Sleep came easily and so did dreams.

I found myself in a wide and deserted terrain. Everything about it was unfamiliar. The earth seemed to be wobbly.

"Your fear has summoned me again." The old Alpha's voice resounded around me.

I froze in shock. He was the last person I wanted to see.

He chuckled. "Unfortunately, dear Dawn Griffin, you're going to be seeing a lot of me."

"Where are you?" I questioned

"Anywhere you want me to be. Right now you want me nowhere so I'm nowhere."

If I wasn't already thoroughly spooked by the dream, I was now.

Was I ever going to catch a break?

"You're getting a break right now." He said. "It's just that you've tied me to negative emotions."

"Stop talking like I have some sort of power over what is happening! You are the one invading my dreams."

"True, my bad." He replied. "I should have asked for your permission first. But should you be complaining about that or asking why I'm here?"

"I was about to ask that." I retorted. "Plus I'm tired of talking to air. I'm already crazy enough."

"Fine." He chuckled and materialized on a large rock that was a few feet from me. "How are you, dear Dawn?"

"No no no no. You do not get to ask me that." I shot back.

His smile was warm as parted a space for me to sit on. "You're tired, come and rest."

Grudgingly, I obliged and sat on the stone beside him.

Surprisingly, it made me feel a lot better.

"Why do I keep seeing you?" I asked.

"Tsk tsk. So impatient." He teased. "I'm afraid it's too soon to know."

"But you're causing me pain in my wrists." I retorted.

"No no no." He laughed. "That's all you. I am yet to cause you any bodily pain."

"So why do my wrists hurt?" I cut in.

"Do you really want to know what's wrong with your wolf?" He said instead.

I did, but I wanted to know why my wrists hurt first.

He looked into the distance. "Unfortunately, I can only answer one question. I'll tell you about your wrists."

I leaned closer, eager to listen.

"There are two reasons. One of which I cannot tell you yet. The second though is that your wolf is finally fighting back."

"I don't understand." I blurted.

He laughed. "If you had chosen to ask about your wolf, I'd have given you a better explanation that would include your wrists. But you didn't."

"You're not helping."

"Oh, but I am." He laughed. "As a bonus point, I'll tell you this. You're about to experience a lot more pain. They'll come periodically. You'll feel something similar to what you felt on your feet, your spine, your head, and finally your heart."

My eyes grew wide.

"Don't worry. They won't happen at the same time. At least until the cycle is complete."

More questions bubbled in my head. But he looked up and said,

"Unfortunately, my time is up."

And I woke up drenched in cold sweat.

"Remember. Don't tell anyone about this." His voice echoed.

I sat up and held my chest. My eyes scanned my room to find the source of his voice. It was nowhere to be found.

The sun was out and the birds chirped happily. How was it morning already?

I'd barely gotten over my weird dream when my door flung open and Princess hurried in.

"Dawn." She exclaimed. "She's going to be here soon. Rumors have it that she's on her way. Although I don't think she's worth trying to impress, we agreed that she needs to get a glimpse of the type of person you are. Today you'll train with the children, then we'll do some foraging for herbs. You need to look good at all times."

I blinked. My head was still groggy from my dream. I wasn't sure I heard anything she just mentioned.

I opened my mouth to speak, but she was already pulling me off the bed and dragging me to the closet to find something presentable.

The fact that she agreed to me playing dress up and looking compassionate was enough to warn me of how much trouble I was in.