

Fated: The Alpha's Unwanted Luna -

Chapter 351: Sebastian and Wave[1,342 words]

In the days leading up to the ceremony at the Grim pack, Viola had three more ability practice sessions with Sebastian in the pool, working on her swimming until she feared the water noticeably less. The only fear she hadn't fully overcome was being in the pool alone. She could swim, dive deep, and move comfortably through the water in any direction she wanted, but only with the quiet certainty that he was right beside her.

One time, when she dove down and surfaced to find Sebastian had stepped out of the pool, panic seized her so completely she nearly drowned herself in it, and she very likely would have if he hadn't gotten back in immediately.

"I don't know why I can't stand the thought of being alone in the water. There's this nagging fear that something is going to pull me under, and I can't shake it no matter how hard I try." She had told him one night, lying in bed with her head on his chest, his fingers idly threading through strands of her hair.

"Now that you know how to swim, next time we work on the phobia itself. And if we can't make progress on our own, I will find you a therapist who can help. How does that sound?" He had asked, tipping her chin up to look into eyes that were clearly troubled by her inability to shake the fear no matter what she tried.

"It sounds tempting. If I genuinely can't get past it on my own, I think seeing someone might actually help."

As the ceremony drew closer, they decided to pause her practice altogether, since Sebastian's workload had doubled and he needed to oversee several pack matters and wrap them up before their trip.

He spent more time in his office than usual, occasionally sleeping there entirely, but while he was buried in work, Viola occupied herself with research, preparing a gift to present to the couple being honored at the ceremony.

Through her digging, she discovered that the Grim pack's Alpha heir, Kenny, was easygoing in a way that set him apart sharply from his father, and that he had a real passion for music, even harboring quiet dreams of pursuing it as a career, dreams that would likely never see the light of day, since he was the only son and heir and would eventually have to take over from his father regardless.

Daniel, the Grim pack Alpha, wanted more power. He wanted to overtake Silver and seize control, and if it were entirely up to him, he would compel every pack in the region into seeing him as the rightful authority.

But Viola realized that rather than walking into a confrontation that risked tipping into war with Grim pack, it would be far smarter to build a quiet bridge to Kenny, the one who would eventually inherit the seat.

So she focused her efforts there, hoping to act not just as Sebastian's Luna but as the kind of Luna who built alliances and brought peace rather than conflict to her pack. Pack war was the last thing anyone needed now.

She had worried briefly about what to wear, but Sebastian had assured her he had it all handled, and surprisingly, that was one thing she found she truly didn't need to worry about.

On the day they were set to leave Silver, she made absolutely sure Wave understood that it was not to follow her, and was certainly not welcome at the Grim pack.

"What if you are in harm's way?" Wave asked, its watery eyes going downcast and sad.

"I will do my best not to be. But having you there would actually put me in more danger, not less. You should stay here, or go back to the sea." She told it firmly.

Over the past week she had come to realize the creature was as stubborn as anything she had ever encountered. It had nearly gotten her into serious trouble just days earlier, when she was passing through a hallway and overheard a group of she-wolves gossiping about her, and Wave, hiding in the shadows along the wall, had spat water directly at them in retaliation.

The she-wolves had screamed and scattered in horror, convinced water had appeared out of thin air with no explanation. It was best, given all of that, that nothing like Wave came anywhere near a gathering of werewolves with their own dangerous abilities, especially since telling it not to act up never seemed to stop it from acting up in some other unexpected way.

Wave looked openly sad about being left behind, especially knowing that other mermaids carried their Tidekin with them everywhere and spoke with them constantly throughout the day. But apparently its Mermaidia preferred spending her time with that monster werewolf instead.

Sebastian came out of the closet, dragging their packed suitcases behind him.

"Are you ready?" He asked.

His eyes landed on the visibly sulking Tidekin, whose expression, despite being made entirely of water, was somehow always painfully easy to read, especially its eyes, which were currently fixed on him in a glare for reasons he couldn't begin to guess.

"Yes, I'm done, I just need to pack my things and—" She turned and found him already standing there with the suitcase and all ready.

He was dressed in a short-sleeved brown T-shirt and denim jeans, a casual outfit for traveling, and he looked impossibly good in it, with a new slicked-back haircut and faded sides that brought out the silver of his eyes and the sharp bridge of his nose, leaving her momentarily awestruck and unable to look away until he said,

"I packed our things, so you don't have to."

Viola blinked, surprised that he had taken care of her packing along with his own when she had been about to do it herself. She wasn't entirely certain he had remembered everything she would need, but she appreciated the gesture too much to double-check, and simply reached for her purse on the bed instead.

"I'm ready. I already told Wave he's staying here. He won't be coming with us."

"That explains the glaring." Sebastian's sentence cut off abruptly as a spray of water hit him squarely in the face. Before he could do anything about it, the creature had already vanished into the small aquarium tank set up in the corner of the room, leaving him standing there with soaked hair and a dripping shirt.

Viola could feel the irritation rolling off her husband as he glared at the tank with an intensity that suggested it was only a matter of time before he simply broke it. Wave had been getting on Sebastian's nerves more lately, and no matter how much she tried to tell the thing to stop, it was too stubborn to listen.

She stepped forward quickly, placing both hands on his broad shoulders and smoothing them down as she began pulling his wet shirt up to help him out of it.

"We need to get you into something dry before we leave. Stop glaring at the tank, Wave is long gone from there by now." She cupped his face in both hands and made him look at her, and was quietly amazed at how fast his expression shifted from simmering anger to something soft and warm.

"One of these days I am going to boil your little Tidekin in a pot." He muttered, unable to fully hide his irritation toward her companion, who seemed to live to test his patience. "This is the third shirt I'm changing today, because of him."

Despite the complaint and his anger at Wave, his hands had already found her hips and were pulling her in against him as he dipped his head and caught her mouth in a slow, unhurried kiss, catching her lower lip gently between his teeth before sweeping his tongue over it in a way that curled her toes inside her shoes and sent her fingers reaching for the back of his neck.

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Because of all his work and his determination to finish everything before today, Sebastian hadn't had much time with his wife or gotten a moment of intimacy without interruptions, and he took advantage of the fact that she was trying to soothe his anger, which quickly disappeared the moment she stepped into his arms and he was kissing her fully on the mouth without restraint.

Being the Supreme Alpha had always left him with work that was hard to get through, not to mention having to shuffle everything together so he could finish on time to leave for this occasion.

"Wave is not used to being around werewolves. He thinks all werewolves are dangerous, and I appreciate you being patient with him." Viola murmured softly against his lips, and he gathered her in tighter.

"Enough about the little devil. Kiss me properly." He groaned, lifting her clean off her feet so her legs wrapped naturally around his waist.

He opened his mouth and deepened the kiss, savoring her warmth as though he had been starved of it, and heat broke loose somewhere low in his blood, spreading through him until it gathered hard in the erection that nudged her center, drawing a quiet, involuntary shudder of pleasure from him.

The feeling of her pressed so closely against him only made it worse, and for a brief moment he forgot about their travel and began to inch her towards the bed. She felt it immediately and pulled back, pressing her palm flat against his mouth, stopping him.

"If we keep going, we are never leaving this room, and it's getting late. Put me down." She wiggled against the hold he had on her, knowing she had to be the sensible person, even while aroused, or they wouldn't be leaving.

If it were entirely up to Sebastian, they would be tangled in the blankets right now, exploring every position they could possibly find and add to their favorites list. But they had a long trip ahead that required them to leave now, and he knew very well from experience that once he was inside her, walking away within a few minutes simply was not a possibility that either of them had ever managed, especially in this moment when he was feeling starved of her.

Reluctantly, he set her down, smoothed back her messed-up hair into place, and let her peel his wet shirt off him before fetching him a new, dry, light blue one from the section of her closet now dedicated entirely to the bright colors she had collected for him that day they went shopping.

The first time he had worn one of those colors to oversee warrior training, half the pack had stared openly, their eyes following him the entire way across the grounds, until he realized it was simply because no one had ever seen him in anything other than dark shades.

Well, he had been living in her penthouse for the past few days, and here there were none of his dark clothes. He enjoyed wearing all the light-colored ones because they were handpicked by her for him every morning. Sebastian could not begin to describe the pleasure he felt in being cared for that way, when he had once thought he would never allow any woman to control his routine, especially what he wore, but now he thought he would be miserable if she ever stopped caring about little things such as what he wore. He had even gotten a new hairstyle because she thought it would suit him better.

Once he had the shirt on, he took her hand in his and used the other to pull their combined suitcases along behind them. They had omega staff who could have carried something like that easily, but Sebastian never liked anyone touching anything that belonged to his wife, and he genuinely seemed to enjoy the small honor of doing it himself.

Viola had assumed they would simply drive the entire way to the Grim pack, so she was caught off guard when Sebastian drove instead toward where his private jets and helicopters were kept.

The Grim pack territory sat roughly 486 kilometers from Silver, and driving the whole distance would have taken considerably longer, so she felt a wave of relief when she realized they would be flying instead, on his private helicopter. That relief lasted right up until she quickly understood that Sebastian intended to pilot it himself, and there was no actual pilot anywhere in sight.

The wind whipped fiercely across the wide opening where the sleek black AW109 helicopter sat waiting, and she pushed the strands of hair blowing across her face behind her ear as she watched him load their luggage into the compartment before walking back around to take her hand. "Come on."

"Do you actually know how to fly a helicopter?" She asked, doing an admirable job of keeping the horror out of her voice. She trusted him with her life without hesitation, but she had never once heard him mention flying anything, and the thought of a crash was not exactly settling.

"I've only tried it twice, and I think I'm fairly good at it. I didn't want a third person taking up our time getting to the Grim pack, so I'll be flying us myself, and I wanted your first time in the air to be a memorable one." He told her, grinning visibly at the way the color drained from her face as he helped her into the front seat.

Moonwillow's world might have advanced in many ways, but Viola had never once flown in an airplane, having always traveled by car wherever she needed to go. As thrilled as she was at the idea of experiencing it for the first time, she couldn't fully hide the small spike of fear at the fact that her husband was the one piloting. Were Alphas even taught how to fly aircraft, or was this just another thing Sebastian had decided he was capable of on instinct alone?

She sat down and let him buckle her seatbelt from where he leaned over in the pilot's seat beside her. "Are you absolutely sure about this, Seb?" She asked, watching him settle into his own seat again, pull on the headset, and begin tapping at the panel of buttons in front of him with an expression that looked suspiciously like confusion. She sincerely hoped he wasn't about to get them both killed.

"Yep. Just relax and enjoy the ride." He told her, still wearing that unsettling look that did absolutely nothing to convince her he knew what he was doing.

They had originally planned to travel with Matt and Zoe, but since Sebastian's arrival was expected exactly on schedule, two full days ahead of the ceremony, Matt would be following separately later.

Zoe had already told Viola she was going with her date and would meet them at the Grim pack the following day.

When the blades of the helicopter began to spin and the aircraft started to lift, Viola felt a sharp wave of nausea at the sudden unsteadiness beneath them. She grabbed a chocolate bar from her purse, popped it into her mouth, squeezed her eyes shut, and began silently praying to the moon goddess.

Sebastian, who had been grinning the entire time and clearly enjoying himself at her expense, caught sight of the genuine fear on her face and immediately dropped the act of confusion. He steadied the aircraft and lifted them smoothly and properly into the sky. Once they had leveled out, he switched the controls over to autopilot and turned to her.

"You can open your eyes now, sunshine. We're in the air."

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Viola slowly peeled one eye open first, still chewing the chocolate bar nervously, and then the other. The fear on her face gradually melted into stunned wonder.

The world beneath them looked so small.

The roads had become thin ribbons winding through endless stretches of green, the trees looked like tiny dots scattered across the land, and the houses resembled little toy blocks someone had carefully placed on a giant map. Above them, the sky stretched on forever, impossibly blue, while soft white clouds drifted past so close she felt as though she could reach out and touch them.

Golden sunlight spilled through the windshield and danced across the cabin, wrapping everything in a warm glow. She had never imagined the world could look this beautiful from above.

A slow smile spread across her face as she leaned closer to the window, unable to stop looking.

"It's... so pretty," she whispered in disbelief, her eyes roaming from the endless sky to the clouds floating beside them. "It feels like we're flying through heaven."

Sebastian smiled quietly at the awe on her face. Somehow, watching her discover something for the very first time was always far more enjoyable than the thing itself, and he tucked this moment away into the growing collection of memories he hadn't realized he was building with her, one by one, without ever meaning to and without even realizing he was making them.

The flight took a little over an hour, and by the time they landed at the Grim pack, a limousine sat waiting at the landing site, the chauffeur, dressed in a uniform of black and white already standing beside it with the door open the moment he caught sight of the helicopter descending.

There was no landing space within the main pack building itself, so Sebastian had to set down several miles out, and a Supreme Alpha and his Luna were certainly not expected to walk the remaining distance, hence the car waiting in advance.

The chauffeur greeted them with a deep, formal bow, extending the same level of respect to the Luna as he did to the Alpha, even though he and everyone else in the Grim pack was well aware she carried no wolf and came from a background most would consider unworthy of such treatment. But one glance at how the Supreme Alpha looked at and handled his wife was more than enough to make it clear that even the smallest disrespect toward her would not be tolerated.

Once they were settled into the comfortable backseat and the limousine began moving through the pack, Viola watched through the tinted windows as the foreign landscape unfolded, a pack built entirely differently from anything she had seen.

A tarred road ran between rows of pack houses, all built to an identical structure, two stories, painted in green and cream with matching green roofs, clean lawns stretching out front, and blossoming trees planted evenly between each home. Electric poles lined the streets at regular intervals. The whole layout felt more like a tightly organized gated community, and noticeably more old-fashioned compared to Silver.

"Alpha Daniel still lives very much in the past," Sebastian explained. "Rather than modernize the pack and bring it up to current standards, he has let it remain almost exactly as his father built it, apart from basic repairs and maintenance. Nothing has actually been rebuilt." He glanced over at her. "I'm hoping Kenny is more open-minded and willing to make some real changes."

"Maybe you could advise him, give him a few pointers. Coming from you, I think he'd take it seriously enough to actually move the second largest pack in the world forward." Viola said, turning back to find him already watching her.

"I plan to. We need his alliance, if he ends up the way his father is, constantly trying to undermine us, we could be looking at a long, drawn-out conflict with the Grim pack instead." He told her.

Part of the reason for this trip was building a foundation with the incoming Alpha rather than inheriting another enemy. The Grim pack might depend heavily on Silver for resources, but that wouldn't necessarily stop Daniel from rallying the other packs to isolate them anyway.

Viola wanted to tell him she already had a plan for winning Kenny over to their side, but she had been saving it as a surprise, and decided to keep it to herself a little longer. She would let her plan speak for itself once it was already in motion.

As they began approaching the main pack building, Viola was still looking out the window when she heard Sebastian say,

"There's something I want you to know before we get there."

She turned away from the window and looked at him with curiosity.

"What is it?"

"One of Alpha Daniel's daughters, Hailey, was once one of my mates. We had something that lasted around two months in the past." He told her honestly, reasoning it was better she heard it directly from him than from someone else, or worse, from Hailey herself, who might be inclined to romanticize what had only ever been a fling on his end.

Viola noticed the careful way he was watching her, clearly bracing for her reaction, and she gave him a small smile instead. "I'm glad you told me." She said. "Do you still share a mate bond with her?" She asked, wanting to mentally prepare for whatever waited for them inside.

"When I told her to stop coming to Silver, I still felt some kind of connection to her. I can't say for certain whether that's still true until she's standing in front of me again."

"Oh. I see." Viola said with an understanding nod. "I'll prepare myself for it then."

Sebastian reached out, took her hand, unclipped her seatbelt, and pulled her forward until she was straddling his lap, her hands settling against his shoulders and his settling firmly on her hips.

"I'm telling you this because I know Hailey will try to make a point of having once been my mate. I don't want you holding back if you need to put her in her place. She's her father's daughter through and through and believes she can get away with anything because of it. Don't let anyone in there bully you. Your position is higher than every single one of them, and you have every right to put anyone in their place if they forget that." He told her, meaning every word, watching her nod along like a student absorbing a lesson she intended to remember.

Viola hoped, mostly for the sake of avoiding unnecessary drama, that this Hailey, who she had heard mentioned before, the way she had come to know the names of every Alpha's daughter and every arrogant she-wolf by reputation alone, had moved on and found someone else entirely. She also quietly hoped Sebastian's bond with her really had faded, because regardless of how firmly he told her not to hold back, an active bond would only complicate everything and risk pulling him into a conflicted place between two mates.

While she sat there a little lost in thought, she felt the warmth of his mouth against hers, and snapped back to the present feeling his tongue press gently at the seam of her lips.

She opened for him without hesitation, kissing him back in a way that curled her toes against the car seat. Within moments his hands had slipped beneath her shirt, cupping her breast through the fabric of her bra, giving it a slow, deliberate squeeze that pulled a moan straight out of her and into his mouth, and he deepened the kiss until it turned hungry.

The chauffeur, catching exactly what was unfolding in the backseat through the rearview mirror, quietly raised the privacy screen between the front and back without a word, realizing that the terrifying Supreme Alpha everyone in packs whispered about was, at this particular moment, very much wrapped up in his wife.

Heat pooled low in her stomach as he trailed hot, open-mouthed kisses down her neck and along her collarbone, tugging her bra cup down with one hand before closing his mouth over her nipple, and for a moment, her mind went blank, and she forgot everything else as all her thoughts narrowed to where his mouth was.

It was while he was sucking and licking, lost entirely in her, that the car rolled to a stop, and if it hadn't been for the sound of the chauffeur's door opening and closing outside, neither of them would have registered exactly where they were or how quickly things had escalated.

Sebastian pulled his mouth away, breathing hard, miserably hard and aching, the scent of her arousal thick in the air around them and doing nothing whatsoever to help his situation. He belatedly realized they had arrived at their destination, and if he wasn't fast enough, the car door might be opened before he could stop it, and his wife would be exposed.

He swiftly and carefully tugged her bra back into place, smoothed her shirt back down, and pressed one last quick kiss to her lips.

"We're here. Are you ready?"

Still trying to catch her breath and fixing her hair to cover the side of her neck, where she had absolutely no doubt he had left a trail of marks, she slid off his lap and nodded.

"Ready."

Fated: The Alpha's Unwanted Luna - Chapter 354: A quiet affair[1,468 words]

The Grim Pack.

"He's here, Hailey!" Exclaimed Hailey's sister Kimberly, who was peering through the window of their room at the arriving guests, announcing everything she saw to her sister, who was taking her time getting dressed for the welcoming of their guests.

"Oh my god, he is so much more handsome than in the magazines and pictures. That new haircut is everything! I think he came looking clean just to impress you, girl!" Kim cried out like a town crier to her sister, who was beaming at her own reflection in the mirror.

Of course, he would want to impress, especially after the way they had parted years ago.

"I knew he was looking forward to seeing me too. My two days at the spa are not going to go to waste, and I might actually be the one to finally put an end to Daddy's obsession with trying to take his place. If I marry him, just imagine, I would be the Supreme Luna, and Daddy wouldn't need to worry about overtaking my husband because he would be family." Hailey said in a singsong voice, applying mascara to enhance the color of her light brown eyes. But she noticed her sister had gone quiet and turned to her with a frown.

"What's he doing now, Kim?" She asked, knowing her younger sister's tendency to say whatever she thought Hailey wanted to hear.

"Well... you might not actually like this, big sis. He didn't come alone like we thought. He's here with that wolfless girl everyone has been saying is sitting as the Supreme Luna." Kim said, turning in time to watch her sister's excitement dim, though Hailey quickly moved to cover it with a forced smile.

"So what? She's nothing to him from what I've heard. I may not have attended the wedding, but I know his taste in women, and a wolfless is certainly not something Alpha Sebastian would ever take seriously." Hailey said offhandedly, turning back to her mirror. She refused to let some nobody disrupt her plans for the duration of the Supreme Alpha's stay in their pack during her brother's ceremony. She had looked forward to this day and told her Daddy to make sure he was on the top guests lists.

He could bring the wolfless girl if he wanted, Hailey didn't care. He had once been her man, someone who had sent her gifts beyond anyone's imagination, and just because they hadn't been in contact for some time didn't mean she had faded from his memory. She wasn't that easily forgettable. She told herself this and was reaching for her mascara again when Kim spoke up.

"You might want to come and see this. The way he is holding her... it's suggesting a lot more than nobody. It honestly looks like something out of a romantic film, Hailey, and the way he keeps looking at her—"

Hailey slapped the mascara down onto the white vanity and rose from her stool, striding toward the window with a scowl, but by the time she reached it and craned her neck to see past her sister's blonde head, the Supreme Alpha had already walked up the front veranda of the mansion and disappeared from view entirely, the wolfless girl right beside him. Hailey dropped the curtain with barely contained irritation.

"You must be seeing things because you are such a hopeless romantic idiot. Go get yourself washed up, you smell like horseshit from riding around all morning, Kimmy, and don't disturb my evening with your gossip today."

She said irritably to her younger sister, who annoyingly liked to suck up to her all the time because Kim was the baby of their family, having come along years later than the rest of them, and quite unexpectedly too. She could entertain the girl for as long as things were going her way, but they weren't, and he had brought the wolfless girl to their pack. Why would he do that when she had missed him so much?

Hailey stood there glaring at the curtain.

The last time she had seen Sebastian in person, he had been furious with her for showing up unannounced at his office while he was working with some guests betas. He had sent her away in front of everyone, coldly and without apology, and told her never to come to Silver again unless he contacted her himself.

He never had. And Hailey had been too proud to go back after the humiliation of the last time, so she had waited. Instead of a call, she had gotten news of a wedding, to a wolfless girl who had won some competition of all things.

She had been furious, and she had been jealous, but her pride had kept her silent. She had refused to confront him publicly over it. But now he was here, in her pack, on her territory, and she saw absolutely no reason why she couldn't approach him herself and remind him of everything they had once shared.

Perhaps a quiet affair while he was here, and then, with time and the right moves, the idea of marrying her would plant itself. It would solve everything, shut her father's ambitions down cleanly and give Sebastian a proper mate from a powerful bloodline who could give him a worthy heir.

Hailey had it all worked out in her head. The one variable she hadn't accounted for was his wife being present, but then, when had a nobody ever posed a real problem to Hailey? She knew how to get what she wanted, and she already had access to the room arrangements made for his stay.

With that thought settled comfortably in her chest, Hailey returned to her vanity and finished her makeup, humming softly to herself. She might not be particularly fond of her brother's bride-to-be, but she was grateful for this ceremony and everything it was making possible.

Satisfied with her blonde hair and the jewelry, the pieces he had once gifted her, deliberately chosen and deliberately worn, she left her room to go and make arrangements for their most important guests.

Viola was tucked firmly against her husband's side as they stepped into the mansion, which looked as though it had been built sometime in the 1930s, tall columns, heavy stonework, intricate old-fashioned detailing across every surface. It was many stories high, painted a slightly yellowed off-white, with a grand entrance and large French windows overlooking the front. Even without looking up, she could feel eyes watching from behind those windows.

At the entrance they were welcomed by Alpha Daniel himself, his Luna standing beside him, and several of his daughters arranged nearby, and Viola quickly noticed that Hailey was not among them. She let out a quiet, private breath of relief.

"Welcome to the Grim pack, Supreme Alpha." Alpha Daniel said, extending a hand. "I trust you had a smooth journey."

Sebastian reached out and clasped it. "We did. The only unfortunate aspect was the absence of a landing space within your pack grounds, something that really ought to be considered at this point, so that guests don't have to touch down miles away and be driven in." He said it with complete smoothness, landing the subtle observation about how far behind the Grim pack had fallen before Alpha Daniel had even finished greeting them.

Daniel laughed, though it didn't quite reach his eyes. "We have no need for a landing space when even I don't own a private jet. A good Alpha puts his people's needs before personal indulgences like jets and helicopters. I am not a greedy man, Supreme Alpha."

The quiet dig landed clearly, the insinuation that Sebastian was the sort of man who spent pack resources on himself rather than his people, merely because he owned different kinds of jets and

helicopters and had many landing spaces for them within his pack. Sebastian found it funny that the Alpha of Grim Pack thought doing things like that was being greedy.

"Greed isn't buying things that benefit yourself and your pack," Sebastian returned with a mild smile of his own. "Greed is letting your people live with outdated infrastructure and old vehicles when the resources exist to improve their lives. What was that sound I heard on the way in? Old engines from the last generation?" He tilted his head slightly. "Now what should we call that kind of maintenance?"

Viola, standing pressed to his side, quickly noted that Alpha Daniel's expression had shifted, the performance of warmth dropping away from his face, his jaw tightening just slightly. This had never been a friendly exchange. It looked very much like things were about to go badly because of Sebastian's words, and she felt her throat go dry as the atmosphere suddenly changed.

Fated: The Alpha's Unwanted Luna - Chapter 355: Possessive wife[1,304 words]

Viola felt Alpha Daniel's aura beginning to flare, and realized that if someone didn't redirect this conversation soon, it was going to tip into something worse.

Even by human standards Alpha Daniel appeared to be in his middle years, but Viola knew he was far older than he looked, and he was not the kind of man who would let a slight against his honor pass, especially in his own home. She could feel her husband's aura rising beside her in response, like two pressure systems building against each other, and she quickly raked her brain for an interruption, since none of Alpha Daniel's family or his wife seemed the least bit inclined to provide one.

"You have a truly lovely home, Alpha Daniel. It reminds me of a French castle." She said, speaking up before either man could take the next step, and she meant it, she was genuinely looking around and admiring the place as she said it.

It worked. Daniel's gaze pulled away from Sebastian and landed on the small woman standing beside him whom he had barely acknowledged until now. Whatever he was about to say to the Alpha of Silver, it stayed unsaid.

The words of challenge he was about to say died on his tongue. No matter how much he protested against greed, Alpha Daniel was clearly a man who enjoyed having his tastes appreciated; even when it came from a nobody like the wolfless Luna of silver. A smile spread across his face at Viola's words.

"Why, thank you, Luna..." He faltered, having already lost her name as she was unimportant to him, and Viola smoothly extended her hand and supplied it for him.

"Viola." She shook his hand, holding on pleasantly, even by the fact that she was aware that he consider her beneath him.

"Luna Viola." He gave a nod of recognition. "I don't believe we have met in person before. I recall that at your post-wedding event you didn't attend, and my Luna and I were quite disappointed not to have the chance to meet the first-ever wolfless Supreme Luna. We've only ever heard of people being wolfless but have never encountered one in our pack, and it was quite shocking to hear that one had been crowned, no offense, of course."

"None taken," she said tightly.

"You are not only wolfless but look rather fragile too," he added, his gaze moving over her as though assessing just how delicate she truly was.

Viola recognized forced politeness immediately, and she recognized equally well when an insult was carefully folded inside it. What she also noticed was that the handshake was stretching far beyond what any greeting required, his grip tightening in a way that was either a deliberate test of her pain tolerance or a quiet demonstration of how little power he believed she held. Whatever the intention, she held her smile and gave nothing away about the pain in her hand.

Her husband, however, had no interest in maintaining appearances on that front. He reached across without ceremony and separated their hands.

"Enough handshaking, Daniel. If you don't want to get on my bad side while I am here, I hope this will be the first and last time you hold my Luna's hand that long." He said it as a warning, nothing more and nothing less, while he rubbed and massaged her hand in his, having noticed that the man had gripped it too tightly. If it wasn't for the sake of avoiding conflict, Sebastian believed Daniel wouldn't have that hand intact. But this was another pack's territory, and breaking the Alpha's hand would bring war. Hence, he soothed his wife's hand instead.

"Of course, Supreme Alpha. Your Luna has more manners than I could have imagined." Daniel said, stepping back and gesturing welcomingly. "Please feel free to treat this house as your own, especially you, Luna Victoria."

Viola didn't bother correcting him. Someone else did it for her.

"It's Viola, sir," came a voice from among the small crowd gathered nearby, clear and unhesitating. "She introduced herself as Viola, not Victoria." The speaker then turned to Viola. "I'm Tess, by the way, Kenny's girlfriend and wife-to-be."

She was a tall, elegant woman in a sunset-yellow dress that stopped above her knees, with brunette hair falling loosely around tanned shoulders that looked as though they had known a lot of sunlight. She had an alluring face, with freckles dusted across her nose and cheeks. She stood beside Kenny, who was watching the whole exchange with a carefully neutral expression, as though choosing not to involve himself unless absolutely necessary.

Viola shook her hand and smiled, and Tess smiled back with the kind of warmth that felt entirely unperformed like Alpha Daniel and his Luna.

"It's nice to meet you, Tess," Viola said.

Alpha Daniel didn't bother hiding his reaction. His eyes cut to Tess with a flat glare. She hadn't yet learned, apparently, that you didn't correct your Alpha in front of guests, particularly guests of this caliber. She was a girl who had grown up among humans in some part of the U.S. and had met his son, who had gone there for his personal indulgences and returned with the she-wolf who turned out to be his fated mate, a woman who had lived all her life as a human, hiding her wolf and carrying the manners of someone raised without elders.

She acted like humans did, with no regard for the pack hierarchy or the fact that you never spoke when your Alpha was speaking. If it weren't for his son, he wouldn't have accepted such an ill-mannered girl into his pack, but his son had threatened to go and live in the U.S. if Alpha Daniel refused to accept his mate into his life, and Kenny was his only son.

Alpha Daniel wanted to part his lips and give Tess a harsh scolding, but with Kenny's quietly apologetic eyes on him, Daniel let it pass without comment, turning back to his guests instead.

"I'll leave you to the omegas to show you to your rooms." He said pleasantly enough, and then added as though it were a perfectly ordinary thing to say, "My daughter Hailey has been very much looking forward to your arrival, Supreme Alpha. I do hope the two of you get the chance to reconnect the way you used to. It would be beneficial to make a family alliance with you." He left the foyer on that note, his wife and two other daughters trailing behind him after welcoming their guests.

Viola stood very still for a moment. The man had said that with Sebastian's wife standing right beside him, without so much as a flicker of acknowledgment that she was even in the room. What did he mean by a family alliance? Wasn't marriage what he was hinting at?

She had already known this trip would be difficult, but standing here now she understood fully that avoiding drama was simply not going to be an option. She was not about to give any woman in this pack the space to get close to her husband without resistance. And without fully thinking about it, her hand hooked itself firmly and possessively around his elbow.

Sebastian looked down at his wife's head and felt a smile threaten to spread across his face as he understood that she was finally showing her possessiveness in public. For how long had he waited for something like this? He couldn't contain the joy of it, because to him Alpha Daniel had just yelped nonsense and there was no chance of him and Hailey ever getting together. Whatever had been between them was long over and finished in the past, and now he belonged only to the woman standing next to him.

Fated: The Alpha's Unwanted Luna - Chapter 356: Trouble at the doorstep[1,721 words]

With Daniel and his Luna gone, it was just Kenny, Tess, and the omegas moving their suitcase toward the stairs.

Kenny didn't want to say anything in the presence of his father, so after he left, he stepped forward to greet the Supreme Alpha personally.

"We are finally meeting in person, Supreme Alpha." Kenny said, dipping his head respectfully toward Sebastian. "I am genuinely honored that you came and brought your Luna for my ceremony."

"It's no trouble," Sebastian replied curtly, and a brief, slightly awkward silence settled between them, the kind that happens when two people don't quite know how to begin forming any kind of friendship or alliance, which was the purpose of this trip for Sebastian.

Sebastian was the youngest Alpha in the entire werewolf world, both by reputation and by age, and if Kenny took over from his father, he would become the second-youngest. Forming a friendship and alliance between them would do both of them good.

However, Sebastian carried himself with such quiet authority that anyone who wasn't an Alpha often felt as though they were beneath his notice and shouldn't be speaking to him unless spoken to first, and Kenny was clearly not immune to that.

He looked up to Sebastian, that much was obvious, but Sebastian's naturally aloof expression gave him nowhere to start, and so Kenny simply didn't, because he didn't want to force himself into the company of someone who looked completely uninterested.

Little did Kenny know that Sebastian wasn't looking down on him at all. He simply wasn't very good at talking to people unless there was something that needed to be said.

Kenny welcomed them warmly enough and then stepped back, letting the omegas take over, and Tess leaned toward Viola before following him.

"I hope we can find some time to catch up while you're here. I grew up in Arizona, actually, met Kenny at a music festival about a month ago, and this is still all very new to me. I don't really have any girlfriends here yet and wouldn't mind getting to know someone," she said hopefully, and Viola nodded with a genuine smile before the woman turned and hurried to catch up with Kenny at the foot of the stairs, where he was waiting for her, the two of them disappearing up the stairs hand in hand.

"I don't think Kenny likes me much either, same as his father." Sebastian remarked as they followed the omegas through the hall.

"I think you're wrong about that." Viola said, patting his arm. "He's just not the kind of person who pushes through when someone is giving off a 'don't come closer' energy, and you were very much giving that off. Give it a few days. We're here for five, and I think by the end of it you will have your alliance." She paused and added, "I like Tess. She doesn't carry that particular arrogance that most she-wolves in this world seem to arrive wearing."

"Then brace yourself, my love, you are about to meet several of the ones who do." He said, nuzzling his mouth against the side of her neck as they walked, and she felt the smile against her skin and giggled.

"Here is the Supreme Luna's room." The omega leading them said, stopping at a door and gesturing inward.

Sebastian paused, realized what was happening, and said without hesitation, "There's no need for a separate room. She's staying with me."

The omega opened her mouth as if to speak, closed it again, and said nothing. Miss Hailey's specific instructions about the separate room arrangements sat unspoken in her throat, and she couldn't tell him, because the man standing in front of her was the Supreme Alpha, and whatever Miss Hailey had ordered suddenly felt very small indeed. So she led them to the room arranged for the Supreme Alpha, dreading Miss Hailey's reaction if she found out that she hadn't put the guests in separate rooms.

She's going to skin me alive!

Hailey didn't leave her room again after making the arrangements for how the Supreme Alpha would be settled. She had made sure his room was placed as far from his wife's as possible, so that when she visited him, there would be no one nearby to interrupt them. She was certain they had a great deal to talk about before the day was out, and she wanted that time uninterrupted.

She waited a few minutes until she was certain he had been shown to his room and was beginning to settle in, then left her own room and made her way down the corridor, omegas bowing their heads as she passed, with some of them hurrying away to avoid her, especially the one who had been sent to show the guests to their rooms.

If things went the way she intended, Hailey thought as she walked, she would have him announce their renewed relationship right here at Tess and Kenny's ceremony, and who knew, perhaps they could make it a double occasion.

She was well aware of how desperation, particularly under the kind of pressure the elders were applying about an heir, could push an Alpha toward decisions he might not otherwise make. And Hailey had no interest in a war between the Grim pack and Silver regardless of what Daddy said about it.

What was the point of fighting when she could just be the Supreme Alpha's mate and Luna?

She knew she probably should let him rest and come back tomorrow, given that the ceremony was the day after, but wasting tonight when it was right there in front of her felt like a foolish choice she wasn't willing to make.

"I better meet him tonight and straighten things up between us."

Viola and Sebastian were settling into the room that had been given to them, decorated in a way that genuinely matched the interior of a French castle, with a modern king-size bed surrounded by flowing curtains and gauzy drapes. While the omegas arranged their things in the closet, the two of them drifted out onto the balcony together to admire the Grim Pack from above.

Sebastian pulled her back against his front, and they stood there in comfortable silence looking out over the grounds below, where Gammas and warriors were moving in formation, patrolling in dozens as additional security was added ahead of the ceremony. With guests of this importance arriving, the level of protection required had been scaled up considerably.

There had been a case in the past where enemies attacked during an event and planted a bomb filled with silver and wolfsbane that wiped out an entire pack along with their guests. The tragedy had been recorded and preserved in werewolf history, and ever since then, extra care was taken during events and ceremonies, especially in places with no security cameras, like the Grim Pack.

The patrollers moved about in their red and white uniforms, and watching them shift across the grounds alongside the deepening colors of the setting sun, Viola felt something quiet and rare settle into her chest, peace, a real kind of peace.

She relaxed into her husband's arms and let herself simply exist there, forgetting for a moment about all of it; the half-breed blood running through her veins, the constant awareness that if it ever became known, she would become a prize hunted for power and greed, the lack of acceptance from people, and the constant thought of how to win them over, all of it.

Coming to the Grim pack, despite the drama she could already sense building around them, had given her the strange and welcome illusion that she was simply a werewolf, nothing more, nothing less, with nothing to hide and nothing to fear.

She knew she would have to be exceptionally careful while she was here and make absolutely certain she didn't accidentally drain anyone. But for this one moment, she didn't have to think about any of that.

She felt Sebastian's lips find the side of her neck and tilted her head to give him more access as he kissed and nibbled at her skin. Then he brought one hand up to cover her breast from behind, his grip possessive and warm in equal measure, and she bit the inside of her cheek in pleasure.

"Control yourself, husband. I can feel you from behind and we are standing outside." She chided, even as she made absolutely no effort to step away from him.

"And you should stop tempting me constantly, wife. You make me act like a beast who wants to devour you whole all the time." He hummed approvingly against her neck when she pressed her behind back against the hard length of him, and he gave her breast a firm squeeze before sliding his hand beneath her shirt.

They stayed like that, talking softly, moving slowly against each other, her back warm against his front, the sunset spreading out ahead of them, until he suddenly trailed off and went quiet and still.

Viola turned to look at him and saw his face. She recognized it immediately, the particular kind of absence that came over him whenever he was occupied with a mind link.

"Give me a moment," Sebastian said to her as his heart hammered inside his chest upon hearing his twin brother's voice in his head. He hadn't spoken to Alex since he left their private residence, and his brother had kept his mind shut until now.

'You enjoy betraying me time and time again, brother. We need to talk,' came the bitter words of his twin, and Sebastian kept his face neutral because he knew his wife was watching.

Viola slipped gently away from in front of him to give him space, as though sensing he needed it, and made her way back into the bedroom, where the last rays of the sunset was pouring through the windows and balcony doors, painting everything a deep, warm orange.

She was considering whether to use the bathroom when a knock came at the door.

Refreshments, perhaps, she thought, and moved to answer it, but the moment she pulled it open, the person standing on the other side was not an omega with a tray.

It was the daughter of the Grim pack.

Fated: The Alpha's Unwanted Luna - Chapter 357: Hailey and the Luna[1,498 words]

Viola saw the look of confusion settle on the she-wolf before a deep scowl crossed her face, as though she had been expecting the door to be answered by Sebastian. Viola understood immediately that Hailey had come here expecting to meet him alone, and it became clear that she wouldn't even live one day in the Grim Pack before trouble brought itself to their doorstep.

It wasn't that Viola was insecure about her place in Sebastian's life, not after everything he had shown her and given her that no one else ever had. It was simply that the mate bond was unpredictable and made people act unlike themselves around whoever they shared it with.

A part of her feared he might still be connected to this woman, and she had wanted to avoid them coming face to face if she could help it, delaying it for as long as possible before anything could mess with Sebastian's mind and create any bridges between them. Laila had once been his mate until Viola came into the picture, and the mate bond had shifted, causing the attraction to fade and settle on her instead.

Now she feared that if Hailey came into the picture, it might come between them, and she didn't want that.

So the moment she saw it was Hailey at the door, Viola glanced briefly back and confirmed her husband was still occupied on the balcony, and then she stepped out of the room and pulled the door closed quietly behind her, placing herself squarely between Hailey and the door.

"Why are you the one answering his door?" Hailey demanded, staring at the woman who had not only had the audacity to answer but had closed the door behind her without even letting her make her presence known to the person she had come here to see.

Not to mention, what was she even doing in this room when Hailey had specifically instructed the omegas to put her somewhere far away from here?

She was going to deal with them later for not adhering to her instructions and making her come face to face with this pest before she had even met Sebastian!

Viola arched a brow. "What sort of question is that, Miss Hailey? Unless you lack common sense, isn't it a perfectly normal thing for a wife to answer the door of the room she shares with her husband?" she said with a calm expression, keeping her voice level so Sebastian wouldn't hear anything from the balcony.

She took in Hailey in one quiet sweep, noting how completely she had dressed herself up, how deliberately stunning she looked, as though she had come here with a specific purpose in mind.

"I should actually be the one asking what you are doing here. Do you want something?"

"What I want has nothing to do with you. I want to see the Supreme Alpha," Hailey said with narrowed eyes.

"For as long as you are standing on my doorstep, Miss Hailey, it has everything to do with me. And Sebastian is busy. If you want to leave him a message, I will be more than happy to relay it to him on your behalf," Viola said matter-of-factly, not letting the fact that this wasn't her house intimidate her into letting Hailey get her way.

Hailey could not believe she was being spoken to this way by a nobody who clearly had no idea of her place. And did she just address the Supreme Alpha by his name? This wolfless has no idea where she truly belong.

But Hailey had always enjoyed putting women like this in their place.

She arranged her expression into something smugly amused and said, "Oh right, I forgot. You are his pretend Luna and message keeper. I know he only kept you around to silence the elders about marriage, so it's all right. I am here to relieve you of that burden. I am here to see the Supreme Alpha personally, not leave a message through you, so if you don't mind, move out of my way." She said it mockingly, as though the outcome had already been decided and she already belonged in there with the Supreme Alpha.

Viola wanted to laugh. She only smiled instead at what Hailey believed their marriage was, a performance, a convenient arrangement. As much as she wanted to shatter that particular illusion

on the spot, she knew the she-wolf would only believe whatever she had already decided to believe. And Viola would be cold in the ground before she moved out of the way and gave her access to the room behind her.

She crossed her arms over her chest and leaned back against the door, looking at Hailey with the calm expression of someone who had not heard a single word of those instructions to move.

"Are you deaf? Move out of my way, bitch."

"Unless you plan to fly in through the windows, Miss Hailey, there is no way you are getting through this door, because I already told you he is busy," she said. Then she turned her attention idly to her newly painted black nails, clenching and unclenching her fingers as she admired them, genuinely pleased because she had stopped chewing them and they finally looked normal, as though the she-wolf standing in front of her barely warranted a second glance.

Hailey was genuinely taken aback. She had heard the rumors, that the Supreme Alpha didn't give a second thought about this wolfless girl, and yet here she was, being denied entry with an ease that suggested the opposite entirely. No one denied Hailey anything. It was a foreign sensation and she did not like it.

"Are you aware that you are standing in my father's territory?" Hailey said, drawing herself up and staring at Viola in disbelief.

Viola shrugged without concern. "Oh, I am glad you reminded me, I had almost forgotten this isn't home. But then I suppose one tends to forget their place sometimes, just like you seem to be forgetting that the man you are here to see is mine. Married to me." She raised her hand just enough so the wedding ring caught the light between them.

Anger surged through Hailey and she clenched her fingers at her sides. "For your information, bitch, he is my mate. Get out of my path before I move you myself."

And that, Viola thought to herself, is exactly why you will not be seeing him today.

She didn't move an inch from the door.

Hailey reached out to shove Viola out of her way and get through the door, but Viola held her ground and caught Hailey's wrist, stopping the hand before it reached her. She felt the familiar surge of her ability rising the moment she made contact with her skin and forced it back down before she would accidentally drain the she-wolf, like she had Ember.

It seemed her days of practicing to control the draining ability was finally coming to use now.

"You cannot see him. Is that really so hard to understand? I said he is busy. Heavens, don't people understand simple words anymore?" Viola gritted in genuine annoyance, unable to believe this desperate she-wolf.

"Busy with what?" Hailey demanded, yanking at her wrist, but for some reason she couldn't pull free, the wolfless girl's grip far stronger than it had any right to be.

"Busy with his wife. What else? Until you interrupted us."

Hailey scoffed. "Sebastian doesn't take fragile little women like you to bed. I guarantee he is missing having someone like me in his arms, someone who can give him the kind of ecstasy you clearly can't. So if you know what's good for you, you will move out of my way and let me in."

Viola smiled. "You underestimate me so much, Hailey."

"There is nothing to underestimate about you. Weremen don't desire women like you. You're wolfless, unripe, and painfully ordinary. I honestly can't imagine what any werewolf man would find appealing enough to want in your bed, let alone the Supreme Alpha."

Viola smirked at the she-wolf and said, "Oh, I'll show you exactly how this one wants me, and if you know what's good for you, you won't stand here long enough to listen."

With that, she shoved Hailey back with enough force that the she-wolf staggered on her impossibly high heels. Before Hailey could recover her footing, Viola stepped back through the door and swung it shut against Hailey's face, throwing the lock the moment the latch caught.

She could already hear Hailey on the other side knocking, and she knew there was absolutely no way Sebastian wouldn't hear it once the knocking started.

Sure enough, he came in from the balcony. "Who's out there?" he asked, his eyes moving from her face to the door, but before he could wonder who she had been talking to outside, Viola did something completely unexpected that caught him off guard.

Fated: The Alpha's Unwanted Luna - Chapter 358: Taking control_Part 1[1,023 words]

Viola knew she was being petty. She knew she was trying to ward off an unwanted mate from his path in a way that was arguably a little immature, but she couldn't help it.

The deep, irrational possessiveness rising in her chest at the thought of him sharing a bond with another she-wolf, one who could offer him more in terms of pack alliance and bloodline than she ever could, was not something she was willing to sit quietly with today.

So she turned, walked straight into his arms, pulled his head down, and kissed him before whispering against his mouth, "It's no one of importance. I think I'm in heat. Put it out for me, Seb."

She slipped her hand into his trousers and wrapped her fingers around him, and he groaned at the unexpected contact and kissed her back with instant, hungry urgency.

"You're playing unfair, wife." She stroked the head of his tip slowly and the sound he made deep in his throat sent heat flooding through her.

"Yes, I am." She said, kissing him again. "We haven't done this in a while, you were too busy back in Silver and I missed you all night, honey." She said it in a deliberately soft, carrying voice, knowing that if Hailey was still behind the door, she would hear every word with her werewolf senses, and know exactly where she stood.

This man was hers. It had taken her a long time to truly believe she had every right to fight for him, but she believed it now. She loved this man until death and wouldn't stop to think twice about seducing him into bed to ward off the pest outside. Though she didn't even have to work hard at the seduction, for the man himself was already going through his own conflict and wanted a beautiful distraction. He welcomed her willingly without a second thought, losing himself in her and the moment just as she had hoped he would.

Viola kissed him harder, pouring every ounce of her possessiveness into the way her lips moved against his, her tongue slipping in to find his as her hand continued its slow strokes inside his trousers.

Sebastian groaned into her mouth, his hands gripping her waist and pulling her flush against him.

At that moment, Hailey couldn't believe what she was hearing and brought her ear closer to the door to listen more carefully. What was going on in there? she wondered, then began to knock again, but her knocks fell on deaf ears, for the couple had become completely lost in their desire for each other.

"Sunshine..." he rasped, his voice already rough and unraveling. Whatever mind link he had been occupied with on the balcony and what he had been discussing with his twin had been momentarily forgotten the moment her fingers wrapped around him.

She pulled back just enough to look up at him, her eyes dark with a want she knew he couldn't pretend not to see.

"I want you." She whispered, loud enough that her voice would carry through the door if any werewolf was still listening on the other side.

Her hand tightened around his length, stroking him with more confidence as she felt him throb and harden further against her palm. This boldness was new territory for her, this deliberate, unashamed claiming, but the fire running through her veins made her feel completely fearless.

"Take me then, wife." He pecked her lips. "I'm all yours."

"I have a better idea," she whispered, smiling.

Before he could respond, Viola sank to her knees in front of him, her fingers working quickly to free him from his trousers.

His hard erection sprang free, and the sight of it sent heat pooling low and heavy in her belly. She had thought about this before, in the quiet of late nights when her mind wandered to all the ways she wanted to worship him the way he so often worshipped her. But she had never actually done it. Not once. And right now, with Hailey standing on the other side of that door, seemed like exactly the right moment.

"Can I put you in my mouth?" she asked, looking up at him and surprising him with the question.

"You don't have to—" Sebastian started, his hand threading gently through her hair, but the words cut off completely when she leaned forward and pressed a soft, tentative kiss to the tip.

"This is what I want." She murmured, looking up at him through her lashes. Her cheeks were flushed, but she didn't look away.

"I've always wanted to try this with you. I've never done this for you before." The admission made her voice tremble slightly with nerves and excitement both, but the way his eyes darkened with raw hunger and awe, steadied her completely.

"Fuck," Sebastian breathed, his fingers tightening in her hair as she parted her lips and took him into her mouth.

She started slowly, her tongue swirling around the head, tasting the salt of him as she bobbed her head experimentally. It felt strange at first, her jaw stretching, the weight of him heavy and warm on her tongue, but the low, guttural groan that tore from Sebastian's throat made every second of it worth it. He sounded completely wrecked, utterly undone by his wife on her knees for him.

"Gods, Viola..." he growled, his hips twitching as he fought the urge to thrust deeper.

"So good, my love. So fucking perfect." The praise sent a thrill rushing straight through her, and she took him deeper, relaxing her throat as best she could, her hands wrapping around the base of him where her mouth couldn't reach.

She sucked gently at first, then harder, finding a rhythm that had his breathing ragged and his muscles tensing beneath her hands. Tears pricked at the corners of her eyes from the effort, her jaw already beginning to ache, but she didn't stop. This was for him. This was for them. And this was a message to anyone who might still be listening on the other side of that door.

Fated: The Alpha's Unwanted Luna - Chapter 359: Taking control_Part 2[1,035 words]

Sebastian's head fell back, his free hand bracing against the wall as pleasure rolled through him in waves. He had never expected this from her. He had always imagined her going down on him just

like this, her perfect lips wrapped around him, the way her eyes met his and her face flushed a gorgeous red shade that almost careened him to the edge, he had pictured this more times than he would ever admit, but he had never once put her in that position or suggested he wanted her mouth there, never wanted her to feel any pressure to give him something she wasn't ready for.

Having her drop to her knees for him completely unprompted, out of her own want and her own boldness, was double the pleasure of anything he could have asked for directly.

He groaned deeply as her warm, wet mouth moved against him slickly, the suction relentless.

She hummed around him in response, and the vibration made his thighs shake. After a few more moments of her enthusiastic exploration, her tongue teasing along the underside, her cheeks hollowing as she sucked, he gently pulled her up, his eyes blazing with both lust and something that ran far deeper than desire.

"Bed. Now." He commanded, though his voice came out soft with reverence rather than demand. He lifted her effortlessly, carried her to the king-sized bed, and laid her down against the pillows.

Clothes were shed in a frantic, breathless haze, her shirt, his trousers, until there was nothing between them at all. Viola wrapped her legs around him as he settled between her thighs, but she wasn't done taking control. She pushed him onto his back and straddled him with a determined gleam in her eyes.

"I want to be on top." She said breathlessly, positioning herself over his cock.

She sank down onto him in one smooth motion, and they both moaned loudly as he filled her completely. The bed creaked beneath them as she began to move, rolling her hips in deep, purposeful strokes. Her hands pressed flat against his chest for balance, nails digging in as she rode him harder and faster, her breasts bouncing with every thrust.

Sebastian's hands locked onto her hips, guiding her, steadying her, but letting her lead entirely, his groans mixing with her gasps in the warm air of the room.

"Amor, ah, yes, just like that. Take what you want, my wife." He met her movements with powerful upward thrusts, the wet, slapping sounds of their bodies joining filling the room without apology. She didn't hold back, moaning his name loudly and deliberately, her head thrown back, pleasure building inside her like a storm gathering at its peak.

When she finally shattered around him, clenching tight and crying out, Sebastian followed with a deep, possessive growl, spilling into her as he pulled her down hard against his chest. They collapsed together onto the sheets in a tangle of heated limbs, both panting and slick with sweat.

He pulled her closer immediately, one hand coming up to cup her face, his thumb moving in gentle circles against her jaw, soothing the ache she hadn't had to mention for him to notice.

"You were incredible." He murmured, pressing soft kisses to her forehead, her swollen lips, the tender spot just beneath her ear. "My first time feeling that sweet mouth of yours, I thought I was going to lose my mind completely. I didn't know I needed this, but I do. Thank you, love."

Viola nestled into him, her body humming with deep, bone-warm satisfaction. Every ache in her jaw, every slight soreness between her thighs, all of it was worth it. The knocking at the door had long since stopped. Hailey was gone. And Sebastian hadn't even thought to ask who had been out there, too thoroughly lost in his wife to spare it a single thought.

She smiled against his chest.

But even as she lay there, warmth settling over her like a blanket, she couldn't stop the quiet feeling of foolishness creeping in at the edges.

She had behaved like a woman threatened, and the man holding her had promised to love her until forever. But it wasn't that simple here. As much as he had told her about Hailey and the past, it didn't change the fact that a mate bond had once existed between them.

She knew how mate bonds worked in this world, unpredictable, magnetic, capable of pulling even the strongest Alphas against their own will and better judgment. Sebastian said it was finished, buried in the past. But what if being in the same space rekindled something he hadn't expected?

And underneath all of that, if she was being truly honest with herself, she was still a little insecure about the fact that she hadn't yet brought anything meaningful to Silver.

There was so little she could visibly do for their pack given who and what she was, no known background, no wolf, no bloodline anyone could point to with pride. Her insecurities were making her possessive and reactive, which was why, lying here in his arms feeling slightly foolish, she quietly resolved that it was time she changed that. It was time she did something, brought something back for Silver herself, and help Sebastian achieve his goals.

If she could make a real accomplishment here at this ceremony, she would feel more grounded in her own worth, and she wouldn't let she-wolves like Hailey reduce her to locking doors and sinking to her knees out of jealousy. Not that she hadn't enjoyed the moment but she didn't like how her insecurities were the prompt to the moment.

She had a plan, and she couldn't wait to put it into motion on the day of the ceremony. It was time she acted like a Luna and stand up for her pack and Alpha.

"What are you thinking about?" Sebastian's voice came quietly from above her head.

She tightened her arm around him and hooked her leg over his, pressing her face further into his chest. "Nothing." She said softly. "I just can't wait for the ceremony to be over so we can go back home."

Fated: The Alpha's Unwanted Luna -

Chapter 360: Delusional Shewolf[1,656 words]

Hailey, who had been standing outside the Supreme Alpha's room for far longer than she should have, walked back to her own room on unsteady legs and a look of pure disbelief on her face, because she could not process what she had heard coming through that door. The moans, the groans, the unmistakable sounds of what had been happening in that room.

She was still in disbelief when she reached her own room and yanked at her hair. This was impossible. The Sebastian she had known would never take a wolfless to bed, not even one who wore the title of his Luna. And there was absolutely no way he would have made those sounds, those deeply pleasurable sounds she had never once heard from him in all the time they had spent together.

The two times they had had sex, it had felt purely physical on his end, no kissing, no warmth, and certainly nothing like what she had just been forced to listen to through a closed door.

That bitch!

Hailey was about to yank her hair again when something made her stop.

She thought about it more carefully. That couldn't have been him. She hadn't actually seen him with her own eyes inside that room, she had only heard what was happening. And she refused, categorically refused, to believe he had been that consumed by that woman!

Believing it would mean every plan she had carefully built for the two of them would collapse, and there would be no double mating ceremony. So if that wasn't Sebastian in there, and she was prepared to bet her life on it, then it meant that wolfless bitch had snuck another man into the room and was having an affair right under the Supreme Alpha's nose.

Was that why she had been guarding the door so fiercely? Hailey thought, her eyes dropping to her own wrist, which was still red and tender, as though a tight band had been wrenched off it. Where had that grip come from? A wolfless wasn't suppose to have strength like that.

Unable to sit with the feeling of defeat or accept any version of events that didn't fit what she needed to believe, Hailey left her room and went in search of her father. She found him in his study, deep in conversation with Kenny, but she walked straight in without waiting and went directly to him.

"Daddy, you cannot believe what I just discovered."

Alpha Daniel turned to his daughter with a patient expression, despite the fact that she had just walked into an important discussion, one in which he had been telling his son that if the day ever came and he took the Grim pack Alpha position, Kenny was never to openly stand beside Sebastian.

If the other packs turned on Silver, Kenny was to be on the opposing side without hesitation. That cursed boy didn't deserve the seat he occupied, and Alpha Daniel intended to make sure of it one way or another, unless, of course, he took Hailey as a wife first, which was the outcome Daniel had been quietly working toward before this ceremony came to an end, just like any sensible father would.

If Sebastian didn't marry his daughter, he had something large in the works with the North pack and several others, and the timing needed to be right for it to be executed.

"What is it, my dumpling? Did you get into a fight with your sisters again?"

Hailey threw herself into the chair beside her brother and whined, "I wish, Daddy. It's not them, it's that bitch, the so-called Supreme Luna. She's fucking another man. I saw it with my own eyes. She was in there with one of our omega men, and I could hear them moaning disgustingly through the door. She is cheating on the Supreme Alpha right here in our pack."

"Are you certain?" Alpha Daniel asked, his interest sharpening, he had almost begun to worry that the wolfless girl actually meant something to the Supreme Alpha, which would have made Hailey's chances considerably more complicated.

"Have I ever been wrong, Daddy?"

Kenny answered before their father could. "More times than I can count. You were wrong about one of our guests stealing your diamond ring, and wrong about Kimmy seeing a stable boy secretly, and if you would like me to continue listing them I have a very good memory." He said, not at all pleased that his sister was making accusations against their guests, particularly one who had been kind to Tess and whom he had found genuinely interesting himself.

Hailey shot him a glare. "Mind your own business, Ken. I am talking to Daddy and not you. And for the record, I was right about Kimmy, she was seeing someone in the stables and rolling down the horseshit. And I am one hundred percent certain about this. That was not the Supreme Alpha in that room, which means she was in there with someone else, and I will not be told otherwise."

Alpha Daniel looked at his daughter for a long moment and then said, "If what you are saying is true, then your chances with him are stronger than ever. Make yourself irresistible, pumpkin, seduce him if you have to. But by the time he leaves this pack, I want him leaving with you at his side and not that useless thing he brought with him. I am retiring within the year, and before I hand things over to Kenny, I want this alliance secured through family. Don't mess this up, do whatever you need to do."

Hailey was beaming. "I have an even better idea, Daddy. I will tell the Supreme Alpha myself and let him know what his wife has been doing with a common omega right here in our pack. I will make sure he sees her for what she truly is and gets rid of her on his own. Don't worry, I will

handle all of it, as long as I have your permission." She looked up at him with bright, expectant eyes and received his nod with barely contained excitement.

"You have it. But be smart about everything you do. Now go, your brother and I still have things to discuss."

Hailey left the study with a bounce in her step, her mind having fully committed to the version of events she needed to be true, that the man in that room had not been the Supreme Alpha, that his wife was a cheating bitch, and that she was about to expose all of it in a way that couldn't be denied or argued away.

However, she needed a good plan and some evidence that would make everything she would tell him believable.

After Hailey left, Ken turned to his father. "You shouldn't encourage her in things like this, Dad. From everything I have heard, the Supreme Alpha is not someone who is easily played or provoked without consequence. It would serve us far better to build an alliance with him than to keep looking for ways to undermine him. If we just—"

"Your sister will build a familial alliance with him and that will be the end of it." Daniel cut him off. "You don't need to concern yourself with making friends with a Supreme Alpha who won't give an heir like you the time of day, so stop entertaining the thought. And put a leash on that mate of yours before she embarrasses me in front of my guests again."

Ken couldn't argue back, because his father wasn't entirely wrong, a Supreme Alpha had no particular reason to give a young, unproven heir the time of day, let alone guidance or mentorship to be a better Alpha than his father had been. If there was any hope of avoiding the war his father seemed determined to court, it would have to come through Hailey succeeding, even though what she was planning to do was something Ken wanted absolutely no part of.

If it had been up to him, Ken would have been on a stage somewhere with a guitar rather than sitting in this study carrying the weight of all of this, but it wasn't up to him, and it never had been. He left his father and went to find his mate, needing to breathe something that wasn't politics for a little while.

A/N

Hi, guys!

I used to do this quite often, but I guess I've gotten so comfortable with many of you that I forgot some readers deserve a little shout-out every now and then for being such a huge source of support for my book.

To be honest, I was a little traumatized by the comment section on one of my previous books, and it made me stop reading comments most of the time. Looking back now, I realize that wasn't fair to the many readers who genuinely enjoy interacting with the author and sharing their thoughts.

Before I make this too long, I just want to say thank you to everyone who supports me with Power Stones, Golden Tickets, gifts, comments, and even simply by reading my story. No matter how small the support may seem, I truly appreciate every bit of it. It always makes me smile and reminds me that my work is reaching people.

I wish I could release more Chapters every day, but I'm just a struggling writer trying to juggle many things at once while making ends meet. Thank you for being patient with me.

I also want to give a special shout-out to mbmclawhten, Marijayne32, Jany Calypse, Trudy Whyte, Linda1276, Jodie, and so many of my other wonderful readers. You all mean more to me than you know.

I only wish I could give you all a huge mass release as a way of saying thank you. Hopefully, one day I can. ❤️🍻😊