

Chapter 6

"I heard that from David by chance," I replied. "But I suggest that you make a plan now to deal with the rumors. If you can get ahead of it, then it shouldn't be too bad."

Even if I wasn't 100% sure the fake news came from David, I don't mind Alexander believing so. It would just help me bond with Alexander.

"She's right," Alexander said. "I'll handle it."

I turned and started to walk away, but Alexander grabbed my wrist.

"Hold on. It's fine, but we need to figure out a way to contact one another. We need to be able to exchange information."

I looked down at his hand on my wrist. I reached into my purse and retrieved my eyeliner pencil, then turned his hand so that I could write on his palm.

"Here's my number," I said, returning his smile. Then I turned and walked away.

As I was approaching the exit, my phone buzzed. I pulled it out and looked at the screen, seeing a text from an unknown number. I opened it, and my heart fluttered slightly as I saw the words: Your fiancé.

I felt confident now that Alexander had agreed to work with me. There was no way I was going to lose my pack to David. There was no way I was going to lose my family to him.

I would make sure that he and Amanda paid for everything they had done to me.

The first time I had lived through all of this, I trusted them completely. I

thought they had my best interests at heart, but now I knew the truth. I knew that I had to watch my back when they were around.

I made my way back toward the audience. I could see the crowd was growing. I spotted David and Amanda and reluctantly made my way toward them. It would look strange if I didn't stand with the rest of them during the speech.

Most of the crowd was made up of women, including Lunas and their daughters, which wasn't surprising considering a shopping center like this would likely be more popular with women.

As I approached, I could hear bits of conversation.

I heard a woman complimenting Amanda on her outfit.

"You're so poised and mature," the woman said. "Different from your best friend. It's odd to see the two of you together."

"I agree," another woman said. I recognized her; we had met before, and she seemed nice.

"Ella is so strange," the first woman said. "She's so naive it would almost be cute if she didn't have so much responsibility as the only heir of her pack."

"And she's always wearing such inappropriate clothing," the other woman agreed. "It's like she has no idea that her demeanor and her dress make an impression that reflects on the whole pack."

I felt my face heating with embarrassment. From where I was standing, I could see David's face. He was nodding in agreement with the women, and his gaze was fixed adoringly on Amanda.

Amanda always encouraged me to dress brightly and flamboyantly. She

said it made me stand out, made me unique. I thought she was just supporting my style, but clearly she was just trying to make herself look better in front of all the Alphas.

I learned to dress more like a mature and trustworthy luna later, but at that time, I already left the wrong impression on many people.

Thank goddess, I had the chance to change that impression before many started to know me through public events.

I forced a smile on my face and walked up to them.

David saw me first, and he actually did a double take as if he didn't recognize me at first glance. Then I saw his eyes travel up my body. He was staring so obviously that the others turned to see what he was looking at.

I saw Amanda's eyes land on me, and anger flashed in her eyes. She elbowed David hard in the side.

I couldn't help but smile at her reaction.

I was no longer the naive and trusting girl she had taken advantage of and mocked. She would learn soon enough exactly what I'm capable of.