

## Chapter 103 Helplessness

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AMALTHEA'S POV

"Tell me, are you surprised by my surprise? Though I had planned to tell you this after having some more fun and I am not shocked that you found it out so soon given your wittiness, I am still satisfied with your expression," He said to me as he gripped my chin, his cold hands appearing a lot warmer now that I know who he is.

"You indeed left me amazed this time. So are you Antonio, for real?" I asked, and he smiled at me before nodding.

"You are a Siren. Can I know the reason you have been helping me so much from the day I got out of the pack?" I asked, and he shrugged before placing his hand on my shoulder.

"What do you think?" He asked me, and I hummed as I racked my brain for the possibilities when it hit me.

"Well, you already said because I am married to Blake, and you are unsure how it will affect my Siren powers, thus when I got out of the pack after forbidding the consumption of this marriage, you felt happy. So what my guess is, you knew I will get out of this marriage sooner or later, and you wanted to help me because as soon as I find all the answers to my questions and find those culprits, I won't waste a single second in calling off this marriage and taking over my pack," I said, and he hummed.

"Well, why am I not surprised?" He said before pinching my nose.

"These reasons are all valid, but it's more because I wanted to stay close to my superiors' powers as they make me feel at home, and I felt good as helping you felt like I was taking orders from my superior," He said, and I rolled my eyes.

Why is he making it sound like he enjoys being a slave or a pet for his superior?

"You should've done that work for free," I said, and he smirked.

"Aren't we getting too greedy here now?" He asked, and I looked away.





"You still have answered me why my father said to stay away from you and -"

"First, I want you to be clear of the names. The person he must be talking about is Azura and not Azrael," he interrupted me, and I looked at him expressionlessly.

"You got the point, didn't you?" I asked.

"I might answer that, but I am afraid Azura herself will be able to answer this question more efficiently," He said.

"What should I call you? The leader or Antonio," I asked, and he shrugged.

"How about you start with, my love?" He asked, and I pressed my lips into a thin line.

"You had a crush on your superior. You loved her, didn't you? Because judging from how you are acting, it surely feels like you want to try out on your unrequited love," I asked, and he looked away.

"It's not exactly that. I respected my superior a lot. And that's why I had come to you. Taking away your powers or taming them once you are done with Blake was my sole purpose, but it won't be wrong to say I liked your attitude and felt like helping you a lot more than I had planned or intended," he said as he brushed his knuckles on my cheeks, his gray eyes twinkling with honesty, and I looked away, knowing all too well I will never be able to reciprocate his feelings.

"Don't feel awkward about it. It's not a confession. I like you for your never-yielding and sassy attitude, but it's not like I love you. I also know you are in love with Augustus -"

"I am not in love with Augustus,"

"Yeah, and Sirens and witches are not real," he said with a grin.

I, on the other hand, looked at him expressionlessly. - "..."

"What? I thought we were talking about imaginary things," he said, and I sighed.

"I only like Augustus,"

"And that's your defense mechanism kicking in and stopping you from realizing your happiness," he said, and I huffed before looking away.

"You know nothing," I said, and he smirked.

"Well, I know enough," He smiled.

"Are we getting on with work or not? If you had confessed all these





things to me earlier, I wouldn't have been so wary. And you wouldn't have felt the need to abduct me into this forest," I said as I looked at the tree.

"Can we go back to the restaurant and leave like normal people? I am not a big fan of such witchcraft," I said, still feeling a bit panicking.

"Well, that might be because I am not what you think I am. You know the answers to most of the questions, but you don't have any grasp on things. For someone like you who has been living in the woods for so long, I am sure it's easy to understand that just knowing about things is never enough. You have to make use of that knowledge in your favor and read the situation. That's what forests teach us, right? Application of everything we know," He said, confusing me a little.

However, something in my heart was telling me this wasn't as simple as it was sounding all along. I was still a little relaxed when I hadn't known about Antonio's identity, but now that I know what he was capable of, it feels like something was wrong even more.

"I don't want to go right now," I tested the water, and as I had guessed, his gray eyes immediately started turning black as I felt a vein in his forehead bulging.

"Amalthea Jade, I think you are in some sort of confusing situation here. I might like you a bit, but that doesn't mean the hatred I feel for werewolves has dissipated into thin air. Don't test out my feelings, yeah?" He hissed to me, all the warmth in his eyes vanishing in an instant.

"You have to come to me because you don't have any other choice. Look around yourself carefully and tell me, where will you go from here?" He said, and before I could say something, I found myself in a different forest, this time even denser than the earlier one, not to mention how there was no moon in the sky, making it completely dark.

"Is this better than the previous one? If not, I can change it again. And I can keep changing your location without you being able to do anything about it," He threatened me as he gripped my hand in a steel grip.

"Antonio, leave me alone. You want to take my powers, and I respect your decision given how they belong to your superior, and I don't have any idea of what happened all those years ago, but this is no way to do it. You are hurting me," I said when he gripped my hand, his nails dug into my skin.

"Does it look like I really care? I have a plan to tame you, and I am going to do that no matter what," He said, and I felt my heart thumping louder.

The worst thing was, it felt like something was pressuring me in this





forest, and moving as much as a limb felt like a task to me. What is this overbearing aura? If he has that type of control over my body in an area like this, what are the chances these people won't render me paralyzed in their area? I thought, panicking heavily for the first time since I saw him.

"Antonio, I am warning you. Powers or no powers, I am Amalthea Jade. Don't you think you would get away with hurting me -"

"Oh, don't worry about it. I am sure no one will even notice you are gone before morning. Haven't you come here without telling anyone?" He asked me, and it felt like my mind would explode.

Well, here goes nothing. This is a big lesson for life. Never go alone without telling anyone about your whereabouts because you never know what will happen to you in the coming moments.

I was overconfident this time, and as much as I hated to agree to it, he was right. No one would know where I was before morning because I was so arrogant to tell Harry to only look for me if I didn't return before morning.

Till the moment they would realize I was gone and abducted, it might be too late. I hate to break it, but I should've listened to Crystal when she said I shouldn't go alone.

Closing my eyes, I felt this was really it. There was nothing I could do right now. I will just have to find a way to get out of where Antonio is taking me, and that to be if luck is on my side and they don't sedate me or something. I thought before opening my eyes and nodding at Antonio, who smirked victoriously before shrugging.

"You are quite intelligent to know you don't stand a chance. Now follow me like a little lamb without causing any trouble, because I hope you know, a person who can abduct you so smoothly can do other things too," Antonio said, making me nod as I started following him.

I can't believe it. I was really getting kidnapped, and for the first time, without my consent. I thought, tears brimming my eyes as I suddenly missed my dad.

I had walked only a few steps when, as if a ray of sunlight in the dark winter, I felt someone gripping my hand and pulling me towards them, making me widen my eyes as I turned to my left, only to come face to face with Augustus.

"Where do you think you are going, my love?" He asked me, and I raised my eyes, not believing he was here.



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+120 Points at most

"Shhh, don't worry," He said to me before gripping my hand tighter, making me relax a bit.

But wait a second. How did he even reach here? I thought before feeling my heart drop in the pit of my stomach when I realized what was happening.



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## Chapter 104 Bipolar disorder

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AMALTHEA POV

It was true that I had been tricked, but it wasn't what I was thinking. I had thought Antonio tricked me into coming into this restaurant, to the farther corner so that he could abduct me easily. However, that was not the case here.

Rather than abducting me and bringing me into a forest, which a witch can easily do, Antonio had tampered with my thoughts by controlling my consciousness. He let me believe I was in the middle of the forest with no way out, and that's why he didn't let me touch that weird-looking tree, which was actually a statue of Buddha, placed in the middle of the restaurant that humans believe and take as their god.

He had been controlling my mind all along because no matter whose powers were inside me, I was still a werewolf with no knowledge of how to use these Siren powers.

I can't believe he had played me like this. Before we met today, even if I hadn't seen the leader, I had always thought he was someone I could rely on and trust. I don't know if I was living in delusions, but I never got the scary and untrustworthy vibes from him.

And that's where I was wrong. Maybe Alpha Ace was right. I really have a terrible sense of judging character, and no matter how strong I appear from the outside, I trust people too easily. I can't see past their outer appearance and believe whatever they feed me. That's my biggest shortcoming, which I was ashamed of. I am too easy to trick, and these are nothing but signs of weak mental strength.

'Don't beat yourself so much about it, Amalthea. How could you possibly know that someone who hasn't even seen you were plotting so much against you?' Crystal said, and I hummed.

Feeling dejected, as a sudden emotion of betrayal, regret, and helplessness filled my heart, I felt my lips quivering as I took a deep breath to control them.

"Augustus," I whimpered, feeling vulnerable after a long time, and he

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looked at me with his lips pressed into a thin line.

"I am here for you. No matter what happens, I will always be there," he said, and I noticed Antonio turning towards us.

"King Augustus, what a pleasant surprise. I think I made sure I meant no harm and didn't even mess with lycans. Can I know why you are still interrupting my matters?" Antonio asked, and Augustus looked at him before pulling me behind him, his hand holding mine assuringly, and I couldn't help but lean onto him.

"You had indeed said you are not here to mess with Lycans, but I can't forgive how you killed one of our Lycan guards for no reason. Do you think their lives don't matter to me? And who told you to take Amalthea away from here? You might be the head Siren, but I hope you know there are rules and regulations for everything. We know your species hates werewolves after what happened 50 years ago, but are you going to take it on the future generations like this?" Augustus asked in his deep voice, and I sighed.

"I am taking my future wife with me," Augustus announced, and I saw Jake and Charles raising their brows as they looked at Augustus in shock, though they said nothing nonetheless.

"I don't think you get the situation here, Augustus. Why are you protecting her? What do you even know about her?" He asked Augustus, and I bit my lips, not sure if I was ready for Augustus to find out about me.

"I know more than enough, and it's sufficient for me to keep her by my side for the rest of my life. If there is something I should know, I am sure she will tell me about it when she is ready. Don't you think you are intruding too much on our business? What is it? Why are you so concerned about me? Do you want to marry off your dead sister with me?" Augustus asked Antonio, and Antonio's eyes turned black before he looked at me, making me look away.

"Amalthea, I thought we were friends. Are you seriously going to stake our friendship on this?" Antonio asked me, and I held Augustus's hand before walking forward.

"I always considered you my friend, Antonio, even when I didn't know you were probably my biggest enemy. Friends don't hide things from each other. They don't confuse you and manipulate your mind to get what they want. More than that, they don't think of hurting each other. I am not a friend to you, Antonio. I am just an asset to you," I said, and he looked at me for a few seconds before nodding.





"Very well. If you think so, I can't help it. I know it was rude of me to talk to you like that, and I didn't want to do that either, but it's not like you left me any choice. I am sorry if I hurt you in any way. However, I must mention you need to do something about the gift you were given by her, or they are going to overpower you. They might even kill your wolf for once and all. I am saying this because I liked you once. Don't get killed, okay?" Antonio said, and no matter what he did to me earlier, I could see the honesty in his eyes this time.

"What are you talking about? What gift would kill her?" Augustus asked, and Antonio looked at me before nodding.

"Please take care of yourself, and I know you won't be needing me from now on, but you can still ask me anything you want help. Also, the last thing you asked me to do, I have already sent the email to you. Greenville forests are your answer," Antonio said before winking at me, the animosity in his eyes vanishing in a second, and I couldn't help but squint my brows.

What is this? Does he suffer from some kind of bipolar disorder? He was seething with darkness just a few moments ago, and now he is acting like he is my biggest well-wisher again?

'If I were you, I would still be wary of him,' Crystal said, and I hummed.

I wasn't planning on going all friendly, either.

"Jake, Charles, you leave too. I and Amalthea have some catching up to do," Augustus said with a meaningful look in his eyes, and I hummed before sighing and sitting back on the table.

"Shall we start, my love?" Augustus asked me, and I hummed helplessly.

