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Aurora's POV 1

It's been a couple of weeks since Alpha Wolfgang had been to the alpha summit.?

For a moment I thought I'd be free of his constant ordering and torment, but his fiancé was even worse. One morning while I was arranging the bed, she came up to me.

"Aurora, right?" She said while she leaned against the door frame. Why does she always play this game of asking me my name?

"Yes ma'am. Did you need anything?" I asked her not bothering to look at her while I tucked the sheet over the mattress.

"As a matter of fact, I do." She said as she crossed her arms over her prominent chest.

"I want you to stay away from my mate."

"Um. You mean alpha Wolfgang ma'am?" I asked a bit confused as I looked at her.

"Of course! Who else would I be talking about, you dimwitted fool." She rolled her eyes.

"Um, I don't understand what you mean by staying away from him ma'am." I said to her. If



she knew it was all I ever wanted but I'm practically held hostage by Wolfgang.

"Stop with the act you lil' wench. I know your plan and what you're up to." She said as she walked up to me and poked me on the chest. "I know you have a thing for him."

Shock covered my face, but I quickly masked it. "I don't know what you're talking about miss Wilhelm. I am only his maid. Nothing more." I said to her giving her a brief smile as I proceeded to pick up the dirty sheets and laundry.

I made way to the door, but she grabbed me by my arm and forced me to face her.

"Look you bitch. Stay away from him or else!" She said nudging me before whipping her hair and walking out the room.

'How dare she! Let's bite her head off Aurora!' Rhea shouted in my mind as I sighed.

Great. Now I have to deal with Tallulah also, all thanks to Wolfgang and his hesitancy to let me leave this village.

That night when it was dinner time, I was surprised with an invite from the soon to be Luna herself to join her, the gamma and the elders at the grand dining hall.



'I wanted to apologize for my outburst this morning. I got a little carried away with jealousy.?

I understand that you are the alphas maid and nothing more.

Please join me for dinner in the grand hall at 7:00pm sharp.

Sincerely,

Luna Tallulah Wilhelm.'

I didn't want to go but Kala and the other maids said it'd look bad if I declined an invite from the future Luna to have dinner.

So here I was, sitting in the grand dining hall with the Luna, gamma, Aspen and the elders feeling completely out of place.

"So Miss..." One of the elders started talking addressing me.

"Aurora, sir." I said to him giving him a weak smile.

"Aurora. How old are you child?" He asked.

"I just recently turned eighteen, sir." I answered hating the fact of being the center of attention.

"Oh, and have you found your mate yet?" Tallulah asked.



"No ma'am. Not yet." I lied. I couldn't tell the truth. Wolfgang warned me about mentioning us being mates.

"There will be time for that. What's your role here in the pack again? Are you a warrior? A seeker?" Elder Leto asked.

"Um. No sir." I said.

"She is a maid here at the pack house elder Leto." Tallulah said to him.

"A maid?! And what is she doing dining with us tonight?" Elder Aldo exclaimed.

"I invited her sir. As a token of my appreciation for all her hard work." Tallulah said as she looked at me and cast me a smile that didn't seem to reach her eyes.

"If I may say sir." Gamma Bowman intervened. "She isn't just any maid here at the packs house. Miss Craton happen to be the alphas personal maid." He said to the elders.

"The alphas personal maid? Now that you mention it, I have seen her around. But wait. Did you say 'Craton'? As in, the late gamma Rodrick Craton?" Elder Radolf name said.

"Yes sir." Gamma Bowman said.



"My, my, child! What an honor to meet the late gamma Craton's daughter!" Elder Radolf said.

They all started talking about my father and the late alpha. I sneaked a glance at Tallulah and saw her fuming!

'Shit.'

After dinner was over. I helped Mrs. Kala clear the table and wash the dishes, but I started feeling unwell all of a sudden.

"To think the Luna would at least be more diligent in the kitchen when using it. She dirtied almost everything in here, but what would you expect from a spoiled brat. I was surprised she asked to use the kitchen to prepare the meal for everyone." Said the older woman as she scrubbed the remains of a pot. She suddenly turned and looked at me. "Are you all right my child?" Mrs. Kala asked.

"Huh? No. I'm okay." I told her.

"You're sure dearie? You're looking a bit pale. You know what? Let me finish here and you head on to bed."

"Oh no, no. I'm okay Mrs. Kala. They're still dishes to clean and leftovers to dispose of." I told her but she wouldn't budge.



"No, no, no! Go on now. I'll finish up here. Get some rest sweetheart." She said as she took over the dish washing.

"Fine. Good night Mrs. Kala." I told her and I headed straight to bed.

"Thank goddess Mrs. Kala let us off early huh Rhea? How about we go for a run before bed?" I asked my wolf.

'Um. I don't feel to good Aurora. Maybe tomorrow.' She said sounding weak.

'Are you okay?' I asked her.

'I don't know. I've been feeling off ever since dinner.' She said.

'So have I. Maybe it's cause I'm tired. Let's hit the sack for tonight and tomorrow we'll see about that run, okay?' I told her

'Sounds good to me.' She replied with a weak smile as she laid down and curled herself.

It's been a couple of days since the dinner invitation. Tallulah has been more demanding on housework than ever. To top it off, I haven't been feeling well.

It was as if something was draining my strength.



Rhea, my wolf have been absent lately as well. I tried to contact her, but she was nowhere in sight. I guess the announcement of Wolfgang and Tallulah's engagement took a toll on her as well. She didn't seem to bright the night of the dinner either.

"You know you don't have to put up with it. You are the alphas personal maid. Not hers." Aspen said as she helped me with the dishes I just brought down from Wolfgang and Tallulah's room.

"It's alright Aspen. I don't mind." I said to her. It's not like I'll be here much longer either. I decided that I'd escape the village tonight. I'd run east and head to the village my mother grew up in. I feel like I'm meant to go there. 2

"But you should! She doesn't give you a moment to rest. All day she's calling out for you to do work even the alpha wouldn't tell you to do."

She was right. So far Wolfgang only ordered me to get his meals and his laundry. The most I've done is arrange his bed in the morning.

Tallulah on the other hand had me polish all the silverware, clean bathrooms, vacuum every rug in the house and other exhausting housework.



"Aurora. Why are you so nice?" Aspen asked as she sat on a stool while I washed the dishes.

"Um, I don't know?" I giggled as I placed the dishes to drain and wiped away the sweat from my forehead. I've been feeling extremely hot and sweating a lot. I hope Aspen doesn't notice this.

"Well I think you should stop it! People take advantage of you because your too nice to say no." She said as she smacked her hand on the counter top.

"Oh, come on Aspen. You're exaggerating." I said as I dunk my hands in the foam.

"Aurora! The bathroom is clogged again! I need you to do something about it!" Boomed Tallulah's voice from the intercom in the kitchen. I quickly dried my hands in a towel before answering.

"On my way, ma'am." I said to her.

"I rest my case!" Said Aspen as she threw her hands in the air while she stood up and walked out the kitchen. "Chat with ya' later. Gonna go check what Remus is doing. He has been so busy since the alpha and beta had to go that summit. We hardly ever have time for each other." She said as he walked to the door while



he waved his hand.

"Okay. Bye." I said.

I finished with the dishes and headed up to the bathroom. While there someone knocked on the door.

"Miss. Aurora Craton?" Someone called my name.

"Yes?" I answered out as I stood and took my gloves off.

"Miss. Aurora Craton. You are being summoned into the elders office for questioning about a robbery." Said a man who I recognized as a guard of the house.

"What?" I asked confused.

"Please follow me miss." He said and I obliged still confused.

We headed down to the second floor and into the elders office where all three elders, gamma Remus and Tallulah stood.

"Miss Craton. Please have a seat." Said one of the elders.

I did as I was told but couldn't help to feel anxious. What was this about?



"Do you recognize these, miss Craton?" Asked elder Aldo as he showed me a couple of spoons, a knife and a fork.

"Those are part of the silver ware from the house sir." I answered.

"You recently was appointed the job of polishing them, weren't you?" He asked.

"Yes sir." I answered.

"And could you care to explain why we found them hidden in your closet?" He asked me shocking me.

"What?" I asked confused.

"The maids noticed that some of the silverware were missing and we were notified that the last person to touch it was you miss Craton. So, we inspected your room and found them hidden in one of your drawers in your closet along with a bag pack filled with clothes. Were you planning on going on a trip soon?" Elder Leto said.

"I'm sorry sir, but there must be a mistake." I started but got cut off.

"Isn't there a record already of you stealing before?" Elder Aldo Asked.

"That was looked into sir and was cleared by the alpha and me sir." Gamma Remus said.

"But wasn't she left with a warning, Remus?"
Asked Tallulah.

"... Yes. She was..." Remus said glaring at the woman. "But I'm sure there must be an explanation. Miss Craton has been working for the past few months here and so far we have no complaint." He said.

"Well. This is her second time being accused of robbery, gamma Bowman." Tallulah said crossing her arms over her chest. "Who knows how many times she had done it before."

"I agree. I'm sorry miss Craton but we pronounce you guilty of charge and you shall be severely punished." Elder Leto said.

"What?! No!" I stood but was grabbed by the arm by the guard who escorted me.

"Thieving is not tolerated in this pack miss Craton. You shall be whipped thirty times and placed in a cellar in the dungeon for a month. Your father must be turning in his grave for the shame of a daughter who couldn't honor the Craton name. Take her away!" Elder Aldo said as the guard dragged me out of the office.

I looked around the people in the room, begging them to allow me to explain, that's when my eyes landed on Tallulah and she wore

a sinister smirk on her face.?

She did this to me. She warned me and told me she'd do anything to get me out of the way and she did this.

"Noo! Wait! I didn't do anything!" I tried to fight back but was rendered weak to the guard. Why was my body so weak? 1

I passed several other maids who were whispering and gossiping about what happened.

"Rory? Rory! What's the meaning of this?!" I heard Aspen's voice as she tried to run after us, but I saw gamma Remus hold her back.

"Remus, why are they taking Aurora away?! Do something!" She said to Remus, but he lowered his head and said Nothing.

Of course he wouldn't do anything. I was nothing to all of them. Just a simple girl the alpha forced into working as a maid.

I was dragged to the dungeons where I was forced to my knees and my hands were bound by silver restraints to a bolder, the silver burning my wrists.

The guard who brought me down tore the back part of my shirt, exposing the skin on my back.

Right then all three elders and Tallulah came in sight.

"Commence the punishment. Thirty whipping should be casted on the accused." Elder Leto said.

"Please... I didn't do it..." I said in between sobs before I screamed at the sudden sting I felt in my back.

"One." Counted elder Leto.

I cried harder. Sobbing at the throbbing pain I felt in my back. Why was they doing this to me? Another sting came right after.

"Two." The elder Radolf counted.

I'm sure my shouting could be heard all the way up to the fourth floor, but no one would come for me. No one cared about what happened to me.

Another sting burned my back. "Three."

They went on for what felt an hour when the whipping was finally over. Somewhere in the process I lost all strength and fell limp over the boulder my hands were tied to, my vision blurry from all the crying I had been doing.

"Take her to one of the cellars and lock her up.



She will complete a month locked in there."
One of the elders said.

I felt my hands being freed and someone pulled me up by an arm, forcing me to my feet.

My blouse was hanging loose around me so I had to hold on to it, so it wouldn't fall leaving me naked before everyone.?

The guard pushed me into the cellar, he threw a flimsy blanket over me and locked the door.

I tried my best to sit up and looked around. It was a stoned wall room, with a little cot for bed in a corner and a toilet in the other. No windows were in sight that would allow at least a small Ray of light into the place.

Only a dim light bulb shined a bit of light in the passageway. It reeked of death.

I laid down on the cot hoping my wolf powers will kick in soon and heal the slashes I had on my back.

I couldn't stop crying. Why did I have to go through all this?

Moon goddess, what sin have I done in the pass that I must pay it so harshly.

