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Aella's Pov 1

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(Back at the Pack)

The sun had already set by the time we got back to the pack. The two polls that stood majestically at the borders of the pack were lit up with night light.

Lilith coughed violently, retching by the corner, well her reaction to the portal is way worse than mine, "you'll get used to it" I chuckled.

"Thanks for the update" Her voice dripped with sarcasm,

"Anything for you" I chuckled.

"Luna,"

"Alpha"

"Luna"

Cheerful greetings and warm welcome greeted us as we made our to the pack house.

I could see the curious stares and looks they were throwing at Lilith, I inhaled deeply,

"now, this feels right" I entangled my hand with Eros's.

"Silly" he flicked my forehead

"Hey" I rubbed my head, throwing him a glare,

He chuckled, "Adorable."

"Aelsssss" I heard a familiar scream and not long a figure came rushing for me, next I knew I was on back, engulfed in a bone crushing hug—it all happened too fast, for me to process.

"Don't harm my mate Brianne" Eros's voice sounded stern as he pried her away from me, before helping me to my feet.

"Sorry Aels" She said quietly, a nervous laugh slipping through her lips.

"Don't mind Eros" I shot him a look, then with a humph I engulfed Brianne in a hug—not a bone crushing one.

"See you later love" his voice faded in the distance.

"Fuck, I've missed—is that Zareal" her eyes widened, she was looking behind me.

I was instantly abandoned, "You're so prettyyy, hot damnnn," she touched her hair,

"Is this freaking real, it's so...silky, damn"

Lilith looked a bit overwhelmed, unsure of her next step "uhhh....thank you" Lilith replied shyly.

"Awwwnnn," Brianne pouted turning to me, "she's so adorableeee" she gushed.

I face palmed myself, "stop freaking Lilith out" I groaned

Brianne froze, the air around us thickened, "Lilith?" She looked at me questioningly, "As in the same Lilith?" Her eyes turned hostile.

"Damn," I cursed, how could I have forgotten, Brianne had promised to claw out Lilith's and Crux's eyes if she every ran into them.

"Okayyy, that's enough of that, come on Tiger" Celeste swooped in, dragging a now half fuming Brianne back inside, she ground her feet, looking at me for answers

"I'll explain later" I mouthed, she grudgingly nodded, allowing Celeste to pull along.

"Well, that was that" I turned to a dumb stricken Lilith, she was still frozen at her spot, her shoulders stiff

"She already hates me" Lilith says tiredly, "What a great start"

"Don't sweat, you're a changed sweetheart now, Brianne just needs to see that. Come on I'll have one of the omega's set you up in your room, you can have dinner in your room today, okay?"

"Okay" she nodded half-heartedly, her features showing signs of fatigue.

"Let's head in then" I led her into the pack house.

"Ares, show my sister to her room" I called out to the young omega, I had arranged the room when I learned about Zareal.

"What.The.Fuck.Is.She.Doing.Here" Brianne bombarded me immediately I walked in to my room

"Hello to you to" I greeted sarcastically

"Oh please," she rolled her eyes, I could see fumes leaving her body.

"Calm down, incase you haven't caught the memo yet she's Zareal"

"Told you" Celeste shrugged

"Fuck no. Is this some sort joke, y'all better

be playing a fucking prank on me right now."

"You'll get used to it" I shrugged.

"This is one messed up joke" she sat on the couch, "Are you sure you're not mistaken?" She looked at me expectantly

"Nope, confirmed and verified, she's Zareal. So no attacking her, besides she's a changed person and as much as a victim in all this as I am"

"I don't trust her, I don't think she can change so easily"

"I'll have to agree with Brianne, Luna." Lily chirped "People don't change so quickly, especially not one who had treated you so horribly and even if we look past that, she took your mate"

"Which turned out to be a good thing" Celeste added.

Sigh.

"You guys don't need to befriend her, but all I'm trying to say is that she's still my sister, and my only family as it stands, she has made some mistakes...."

"That almost cost you your life by the way" Brianne scoffed, rolling her eyes

"Brianne...." I groaned

"Fine, I'll zip it" she made a gesture

"Good," I nodded then continued, "She has indeed made some mistakes, but that was all in the past, she's as much as a victim in this as I am, besides us fighting and hating each other is exactly what Ursa and her cohorts are want, I'm not going to give them that, I promised my mother that I would protect her and love her, that's exactly what I'm going to do." I finished.

"Fine, I'll try not to claw out her eyes, no matter how much I want to" she mumbled the last past

I chuckled, "well that's not a bad start, also no unnecessary meanness, promise me you'll atleast give her a chance to redeem herself,"

"Urgghh, I promise. But any wrong move from her, even a whiff of it and I'm smoking her"

"Whatever you say captain. Same goes for you to, Lily" I eyed her.

"I'm not the one that threatened to ruin her face" she defended.

"Doesn't mean you like her, just promise me you'll give her a fair chance at the very

least, she's still my sister"

"Anything for you Luna," she smiled softly.

"Enough of all these, how was the journey, full details" Brianne dragged me to seat beside her,

I shook my head at her eagerness, "chill out tigress, let me land,"

"I'm calm enough, just spill already. Come onnn, Aragon has been such a mean lazy oaf since you left, refused to tell us anything about you and spent all day either sleeping or eating" She huffed.

Laughter tore through me, "sounds like what he's capable of, alright, calm your horses. So when we got to the house, guess who came to personally lead us in"

Knock.

Knock.

Two short sounds on the door cut through our conversation, "are you expecting anybody?" I could hear the frustration in Brianne's Voice.

I shook my head "None that I'm aware of"

"Enter."

The door opened, a pair of legs stepped in

and I instantly regretted giving her permission to enter.

Standing at my door with a sickening smile was a face I thought I would never have to see again in a very very long time.

"Karen."

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