

Chapter 8

Serena Basco

"Let's go, Serena." Melanie murmured as she and Jane propped me up. I numbly let them lead me towards the pack house. I could smell Christopher and Paolo following a few steps behind us.

I couldn't remember how I managed to climb the stairs into my room, but soon I was stumbling across my carpet and slumped in my bed. Paolo and Christopher made to enter the room but Jane blocked their way.

"The Prince can't smell another male on her this soon after the marking." She pointedly said. Paolo and Christopher looked at each other before nodding.

"We'll go get her some water." Paolo said. They both gave me one lingering, pitying look before leaving.

I sat on my bed silently as Melanie took my suitcase from under my desk. She and Jane started filling it up with my things and I just stared off into the distance. Melanie looked up at me and sighed, walking over and crouching in front of me.

"She's still in shock." Melanie said, sighing as she stroked my cheek with her hand.

"Well, what do we do?" Jane asked as she folded some of my clothes into the bag.

"Serena...sweetie...do you know what just happened?" Melanie slowly asked. I narrowed my eyes at her.

Did she think I was asleep the whole time?

"Prince Jonathon killed Alpha Theodore." I carefully said.

"Yeah, that's right. And?" She pressed gently.

"He marked me. Twice." I whispered, touching the tender skin between my neck and shoulder where the two marks were located. They would be visible to everyone now.

"Uh-huh. Do you know what that means?" Melanie asked, gulping. I frowned, thinking carefully. I suddenly let out a gasp.

"We lost the bet!" I screeched.

Fifteen hundred dollars. Oh no.

Melanie slapped her palm to her forehead, muttering something about someone losing her mind. She and Jane shared a look before Jane walked over to crouch beside Melanie.

"Serena...sweetie..." Jane started. "Forget about the bet and try to calm down."

I took a deep breath and motioned for her to continue. "You are now mated to the crown prince of the werewolf race. Everything is going to change." Jane gently said. Melanie growled at her.

"Don't tell her that, she's one minute away from a nervous breakdown!" Melanie admonished.

"She doesn't have time for a nervous breakdown! There's a dead Alpha outside, and a Prince downstairs waiting to take her to the palace!" Jane retorted. They both sighed.

I shivered.

"It was supposed to be Erica. Erica was supposed to leave, not me." I whispered.

"She's unhinged." Melanie simply said, walking over to my suitcase and continuing to pack. Jane sat down beside me.

"Serena, snap out of it!" Jane growled out, I could feel the impatience coming off her in waves.

"Cut her some slack, Jane." Melanie grumbled.

"You're kidding, right?" Jane fumed. She put her hands on either side of my face and looked me in the eye. "Serena, you've just been marked by a prince. Twice. Your dad's right. You have to put on your big girl shoes right this moment."

I could not speak.

"You still with us?" Melanie asked as she took all my hair stuff and toiletries and put them inside a backpack. I took a deep breath.

"Guys, I can't be a princess. He thinks I'm...I'm..." I didn't know what to say so I raised my arm and flashed my golden bracelet.

"It doesn't matter. He marked you, twice. You're...you're a princess now. There's no undoing this." Jane gently explained.

"Oh my God. This is a mistake. He made a mistake." I sobbed, tears flowing down my cheeks. I sniffled, feeling the snot on my nose.

"Serena..." Jane comfortingly said but I brushed her off.

"This is it. He's gonna send me to fight off the rogues because he thinks I'm this warrior wolf...all because of this stupid fucking bracelet!" I cried, taking off the bracelet and throwing it to the floor.

Melanie sighed and patiently picked it up, placing it on my bedside table. Jane gathered me into her arms.

"It's okay. You're allowed to cry. Come on, let it out." Jane hushed and she stroked my back comfortingly. I sobbed into her pretty silver dress.

"I'm gonna die fighting rogues across the border in his stupid war." I sobbed, feeling totally helpless. "I'm gonna be mated to someone who's gonna send me off to the battlefield!"

"Come on, Serena, you don't know that." Melanie gulped, tears threatening to spill from her eyes as well.

"Oh but I do. Come on, why else would he mate me? And after I die, he's going to choose another mate—a perfect Queen for him. Oh my God...I can't...I have to go...cross the border...you have to help me..." I bumbled as Jane rocked me back and forth.

Melanie pulled me from Jane and forced me to face her.

"Listen here, Serena. No one is crossing any border. You are not going to die. The man killed an alpha and marked you twice...that means you're his. He is not going to just cast you aside." Melanie hissed. I wiped my tears away with the sleeve of my dress.

"He's not?" I sniffled.

"He's not." Melanie firmly said. She took the golden bracelet and pushed it onto my wrist. "Forget about the war and just remember that this was given to you for a reason."

"We know you have this insecurity thing going on, but Serena, you are a Gold Ranked female. You do know that, right?" Jane pressed.

I nodded. I opened my mouth to speak, but Paolo and Christopher entered. Christopher was carrying a glass of water. Melanie stood up and took it from him. She let me drink the water and I drank it all, feeling hydrated again.

"Don't go too near her." Jane warned. They stood awkwardly, glancing at my half packed things. Paolo decided to make himself useful and took my laptop, a scarf, and some other essentials and put it in my backpack.

"Great. I can't even hug my best friends." I gulped, sniffling. Melanie rubbed soothing circles on my back.

"Chris, can you take her suitcase downstairs?" Melanie asked. Christopher nodded and took the big bag, exiting.

"What's going to happen to Alpha Theodore?" I softly asked. Paolo looked at me nervously.

"His pack is going to want retribution. The Prince may be a royal but he's not going to get to walk away from this without any consequences." Paolo said as he continued packing some of my things.

"And me? What's going to happen to me?" I murmured. Paolo sighed.

"You're a princess now." He replied. I sighed. I didn't even know what that meant.

"Can you guys stop saying Princess?" I muttered. They all sighed.

"The Moon Goddess has a plan for everyone, Serena." Jane soothed.

For a moment, I was tempted to believe her.

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