

Submission is Not My Style – Chapter 7

Banished?

Seriously? She's actually going to listen to this bitch and banish me?

Being banished was as good as a death sentence, but I school my expression into indifference, forcing down the spike of fear clawing at my chest. I can't show weakness—especially not in front of them.

“What? You can't just throw me out like this. I've done nothing to deserve it.”

Luna Diana sneers, her disgust unmistakable. “Oh, I think you've done more than enough. Your defiance, your attitude—you've brought nothing but disrespect to this pack. You refuse to submit to your Alpha, refuse to know your place. It's only fitting you lose your place.”

My mother—what about my mother? I can't just leave her behind. “Where the hell am I supposed to go?” I snap.

Grace snorts, crossing her arms over her chest. “To the dirt where you belong,” she mocks. “Honestly, it's about time. You walk around like you're untouchable, like you're better than everyone else. But without this pack, you're nothing but a worthless rogue.” She smirks. “Let's see how long you survive out there without a pack's protection, Kali.”

Luna Diana lets out a humorless laugh. “She's right. No one will take in a disobedient, unruly wolf like you. You've burned every bridge.” Her voice is sickly sweet, but her eyes are ice. “You'll learn your lesson soon enough. Let's see how long you last before crawling back on your knees.”

A bitter laugh escapes me, though my chest feels like it's caving in. “And what about Grace?” I demand, leveling a glare at her. “She rejected her mate, but she's not getting banished.” My eyes narrow. “Bit of a double standard, don't you think?”

Grace scoffs. “That's different.”

“Oh? How?” I challenge.

“The Moon Goddess made a mistake pairing me with some pathetic warrior,” Grace snaps. “I deserve better—I deserve to be Luna.”

I shake my head in disgust. “The poor bastard you rejected is lucky. Being tied to someone as selfish and cruel as you would be a fate worse than death.”

“Enough,” she hisses, turning to Luna Diana. “Let's get rid of her before the pack finds out the truth.”

Luna Diana nods. “Very well. I'll inform the Alpha. By this evening, she'll be out.”

“Mum, don't you think you're taking this too far?” Travis interrupts, his face hard but conflicted.

Luna Diana's expression turns frigid as she fixes him with a glare. "She's the one who took things too far when she rejected you, my son. The future Alpha."

And with that, she spins on her heel and storms out of the room. Travis groans, rubbing his temples before chasing after her. "Mum, listen to me—" His voice fades as they disappear down the hall.

I move to follow, desperation clawing at my chest. I need to stop this madness. But before I can take a step, a hand grips my arm, nails digging into my skin.

Grace.

She's smiling.

"You really think running after her is going to change anything?" she purrs. "You've tested her patience for long enough, Kali. It's about time someone put you in your place."

I yank my arm free from her grasp, glaring at her. "Is that why you did this? I know you hate me, but convincing her to banish me? That's a new level of pathetic, even for you."

Grace tilts her head, her grin never faltering. "It's the only way to keep you from lingering around my Travis."

I let out a bitter laugh. "Your Travis? He's my mate, Grace. Or did you conveniently forget that part?"

"You rejected him. But the bond still lingers. Stronger than you think. And I'll do everything in my power to make sure you're nowhere near him."

I smirk, stepping closer, watching as her confident facade falters. "You think banishing me will be enough? What if I decide to take back my rejection? I could be your Luna, Grace. And you'd have no choice but to bow to me for the rest of your miserable life."

Her face pales for a second before she quickly recovers, shaking her head. "No, you wouldn't. I am fucking sure you'd rather die than submit to Travis."

I stare at her, unblinking. "You're really this desperate to be Luna? You rejected your own mate for a title?"

Her eyes flash with something unreadable, but then she scoffs. "I would reject that poor bastard a hundred times if I had to. I'm too much of a woman for him."

"That poor guy is really lucky. Imagine being stuck in a forever bond with you."

Her expression twists into something ugly, but before she can speak, she smirks again. "You know, I could convince Luna Diana to let you stay."

I raise an eyebrow. "And what, exactly, would I have to do?"

She steps closer, her voice sickly sweet. "Kneel. In front of me. Admit that I'm the real Luna."

“You want me to kneel?”

Her smirk widens. “Yes. Right here, right now. Submit, and I might show mercy.”

My blood boils at her audacity. I stare at her for a moment before slowly lowering myself—just enough to make her believe. Her grin stretches, triumph lighting up her face.

Then, I slam my foot down on hers. Grace lets out a howl of pain, stumbling backward as she clutches her foot. “You bitch!”

I straighten, rolling my shoulders. “Did you really think I’d grovel for you? That I’d beg to stay in this pathetic excuse for a pack? You think I’m afraid of being banished?” I scoff. “I never liked this damn pack anyway.”

Grace gasps, eyes blazing with rage. “You’ll regret this, Kali!”

I turn on my heel, throwing the door open. “No, Grace,” I say, glancing back with a smirk. “You will.”

Without looking back, I step outside, leaving her cursing behind me. Let them banish me. I’ll survive. And when I return, they’ll wish they had killed me instead.

As I step outside the Alpha’s house, I freeze. A crowd of furious pack members stands waiting. Their faces are twisted with hatred, eyes burning with contempt. Then, the first stone flies. It barely misses my shoulder, but the second one strikes my arm. Pain flares up, but I bite down on my lip, refusing to show weakness.

“How dare you reject our Alpha?” someone shouts, and a chorus of agreement follows.

“Who do you think you are?” another voice yells.

More rocks and debris are hurled my way. My body tenses, preparing for the worst.

Then, Grace’s desperate voice rings out above the chaos. “She isn’t the Alpha’s mate. I am.”

I sigh in irritation. I can’t get a break from her, can I?

A hush spreads through the crowd before murmurs ripple through them.

“She’s lying,” someone mutters.

“What does it matter?” another sneers. “This one is disrespectful and defied our Alpha. She deserves to be thrown out like the dirt she is.”

“I agree,” Grace’s voice cuts through the noise. “That’s why she’ll be gone by evening—never to return until she learns to submit.”

A deafening cheer erupts from the pack. They’re celebrating. Rejoicing in my downfall.

I lift my chin, swallowing the bitterness threatening to consume me. Then, suddenly, warmth envelops me as a jacket is draped over my shoulders. A familiar scent washes over me, and I don't need to look up to know who it belongs to.

Caspian.

He steps beside me, his strong grip closing around my hand, his body acting as a shield against the angry mob. His presence alone silences them for a moment, just enough for him to start leading me away.

I keep my head down, but inside, I curse the Moon Goddess. Why couldn't she have given me someone like Caspian as my mate? Someone who sees me. Someone who stands by me even when the world turns against me.

We walk in silence until we're far enough from the crowd. I stop, taking a step back to put some distance between us. I glance at his hand still holding mine before pulling away.

"Your mate won't like what you just did," I murmur, forcing myself to look anywhere but at him.

"My mate rejected me."

I snap my head up, staring at him. "What?"

He smirks, shaking his head. "Yeah. And honestly? I'm glad she did first. Saved me from being the asshole who had to do it."

Shock ripples through me. "What kind of sane woman would reject someone like you?"

He chuckles, but it's bitter. "Unfortunately, she's not exactly sane. She's just obsessed with becoming Luna."

My eyes widen, and I take a step closer. "Don't tell me..."

He tilts his head, a small smirk playing on his lips as he watches my expression.

"Grace?" I whisper. "She was your mate?"

Caspian nods slowly. "The one and only."

A bitter laugh escapes me. "The Moon Goddess must've been drunk when she paired you two."

"She really must have," he says, his tone mocking, but there's a flicker of pain beneath the sarcasm.

I exhale and shake my head. "Don't worry. The Moon Goddess will give you a second-chance mate."

He raises a brow, curiosity flickering in his eyes. "Isn't that rare?"

"Maybe," I shrug. "But if anyone deserves it, it's you."

His gaze holds mine, intense and unreadable. “I don’t want a second-chance mate, Kali. I just want you. Without guilt.”

My heart stutters, but I manage a sad smile. “That’s not possible, Caspian. I’m about to be banished, remember?”

“I don’t care,” he says without hesitation. “I’ll follow you. Wherever you go.”

I shake my head quickly. “No. You need to stay—for my mother. She’ll need someone to protect her once I’m gone.”

His jaw clenches, but after a pause, he exhales and nods reluctantly. “Fine. But promise me you’ll stay safe. And write to me.”

“I will,” I whisper.

He stares at me for a long moment, then asks a question I never saw coming.

“What about you? What if the Moon Goddess gives you a second-chance mate? Someone powerful... like Alpha Jack.”

I blink. “Jack?”

Caspian nods slowly. “Yeah. People say he’s the most powerful Alpha alive—next in line to be Alpha King. And he’s supposed to marry the Alpha King’s daughter.”

Just hearing that name sends a wave of goosebumps racing across my skin. My wolf suddenly howls within me—loud, restless—pacing back and forth.

I frown, unsettled, and try to brush off the feeling.

Forcing a laugh, I say, “Please. If the Moon Goddess thinks I’d want another mate, she clearly didn’t learn her lesson the first time. If Alpha Jack turns out to be mine, I’ll reject his ass without blinking—just like I did with Travis.”

Before Caspian can respond, an unfamiliar voice cuts in.

“You won’t be able to reject a man like Jack.”

I freeze as a stranger steps out from the shadows, his eyes locked on mine—cold and unreadable.

“Why not?” I ask cautiously.

A cruel smile spreads across his face.

“Because Alpha Jack doesn’t take no for an answer. And the last she-wolf who tried... was found in pieces.”

And just like that, he vanishes.

