

Chapter 21

Nicola's POV

It was around 2:00 pm the next day when Sarah came back. I open the door to see her with a beaming smile and holding up a huge garment bag that looks to be from a high end boutique. She lets out a squeal as she pushes past me and throws the bag on the nearest couch.

"So I brought over 8 dresses for us to choose from. I figured we could get ready together and then Kane is going to pick us up at 5. I know it doesn't start until 7, but all the alphas are required to be there a little early, as well as Kane, since tonight is going to be Zander's big reveal." She's talking a mile a minute and I can tell she's excited about tonight.

She begins to unzip the bag and lays out each dress so they are all on full display. I walk over and look at each one, running my fingers over the different fabrics.

"Wow, Sarah, these are beautiful. Where did you get them at?" I say in awe.

"Some of them I've had for a while and was waiting for the opportunity to wear them and a few I just bought the other day for the occasion. I love getting dressed up but unfortunately we don't have these events very often, or ever, so I'm already overly excited." She shrugs but her smile is still spread widely across her face.

We spend the next few hours talking while we do our hair and makeup, and I'm starting to really enjoy the company of another female for a change. I've never been close friends with any of the others in the pack because it's usually just a bunch of drama, but Sarah is different.

"Okay so which dress should we wear tonight?" She asks as she claps her hands together and gazes longingly at them.

She grabs up two and holds them up next to her body as she turns to me. "I'm stuck between these, which one do you think?"

One dress is a royal blue with a plunging V neck and spaghetti straps. The other other is a gold colored halter top with a crisscross back. Both of them are gorgeous, but I think the blue one best suits her skin and hair color so I point to it. "That one."

She puts it on and walks out, twirling in a circle. She's breathtaking and I know Kane is going to lose his mind when he sees her.

"Kane is going to have a heart attack tonight." I say to her and she laughs at me.

"Well we need the same reaction from your mate so let's pick out a dress!"

I look through the clothes spread out but my eyes keep coming back to the deep red dress. I touch the bottom as I ponder and Sarah squeals... again.

"Omg!! I love that one! I was trying not to persuade your opinion but I really thought that would look the best on you." She is practically jumping up and down with excitement and I grin at her.

I grab the dress and lift it up in the air to get a better look. The mermaid shape gown is made out of a detailed lace material that will hugs my hips and waist. It also has an exposed back with a slit up the side that causes a little leg to show as you walk.

"I'm going to try it on." I say to Sarah and go into the bedroom to see how it fits. I walk out and Sarah yells as she throws her hands in the air. "That's the one!"

I laugh at her as she runs around the room and grabs her phone. She walks over to me and snaps a picture of us together in our dresses and smiles at the picture, like it's a memory she's looking back on.

"Great, Kane should be here any minute!" She says as she throws the phone into her purse.

True to her word, just 10 mins later we get a knock on the door. I open it to let Kane in and followed behind him is Rivers. They both walk in the door and a low growl comes from Kane as he looks at his mate.

"You look stunning." He says as he pulls her in for a kiss and I can see her cheeks redden.

"Are we ready to go?" He says as he pulls back and looks at all of us.

"Rivers is going to be your escort." He nods to me.

I turn around and look at Rivers who has a smile on his face but looks a little nervous. It's extremely cute. "Shall we?" He says as he holds out his arm for me to take.

I grab on and we walk out to the car. Kane opens the passenger door for Sarah while Rivers opens the back seat door for me and we all pile in. Once we begin to take off down the road, Kane and Sarah start a casual conversation with each other as Rivers and I each look out our windows.

When we get to the pack house, the men usher us to the front door and I'm amazed by how nice everything is decorated.

"We are going to have to leave you two alone until the event begins to take care of a few things. We will catch up with you both soon." Kane says to both of us before kissing Sarah on the cheek and leaving.

She immediately leads me to a room on the far right wing of the house that looks like a small library but with a more homey feel. I glance around at some of the pictures on the wall and I notice that they're all of Kane and Sarah. I can hear a liquid being poured behind me and I turn around to see Sarah holding two glasses of wine.

"Where'd that come from?" I ask, taking a glass from her.

"This is where I come to when Kane is busy in his office." She says shrugging her shoulders. "He told me to make it my own, hence the stash of wine."

We each enjoy two glasses before Kane mind links Sarah to come to the ball room, located on the other side of the pack house. We make our way in through the doors and see close to a hundred people already spread about and socializing with each other. Kane approaches us and gives him mate another kiss before whispering in her ear. She blushes and I'm slightly jealous of the relationship they have with each other.

"Rivers will be here in a few seconds." Kane says as he leads them away.

I feel a little awkward as I stand by myself and scan the room, looking for someone familiar. I make eye contact with Alex briefly and internally curse as he makes his way across the crowd towards me. Rivers thankfully appears next to me and I reach out to grab his hand, interlocking our fingers.

"Hey." I say to him with a smile and I reach up to plant a kiss on his cheek. "Please play along." I whisper into his ear and he pulls back a bit shocked and confused.

"So the Gamma, huh?" I hear Alex's deep voice call out and turn to see amusement in his eyes.

I squeeze Rivers' hand tighter and look to him with pleading eyes, hoping he'll play along.

"Hello Alpha Verduce." Rivers sticks out his free hand and Alex shakes it.

"Nice to see you." Alex says to him before turning to me. "Would you like to dance?" He asks as he grabs my hand and places a kiss on the back.

I turn to Rivers and mind link him.

"Please save me."

"Actually Alpha, we were just on our way to grab a drink. What was it you said you wanted baby?"

"Oh, um-, an old fashioned." I reply.

"Right. Well maybe later then." Alex says and I nod my head to him as Rivers guides me away.

"I so owe you one." I sigh once we reach the bar.

"I can think of way worse situations to be stuck in than having to play pretend boyfriend with a pretty lady." He says with a laugh.

I smile at him and realize that Rivers could definitely be a guy I'd be

friends with.

Chapter Comments



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