



169 THE DINNER WITH HIS LOST ONES

GENERAL POV 1

Lily's face fell from the impact of Aurora's words, and Xaden's face was thunderous.

Aurora saw that she had crossed a huge line and adjusted.

"I mean." Aurora cleared her throat. "I just had quite a busy day fighting off some rogue packs."

Lily smiled as she bit down on her lamb. "I quite understand you. You are doing quite a good job yourself. I dare say I admire you. I can not fight."

"Oh really," Aurora said, raising a brow. "And yet you remained hidden for a very long time without anyone taking note of you."

Lily managed a smile. "It was not the best time. We had guards, and the rest of us who escaped were well-equipped to handle any future problems. Well, except for me. I barely made any such contributions. I grew up there and had to learn how to do womanly duties. I wish I knew how to fight."

"Lily did more than enough." Uther chipped in as he bit down on his chicken leg. "She took care of us, and it was lovely seeing her grow from a



child into a woman."

"And what of your mother? Have you none?"
Aurora asked in a malicious tone. 1

Xaden's fuming anger could be smelt from afar.

"That is none of your business," Xaden said.
"Forgive her."

Lily tucked her hair behind her ears. "No, it is quite Alright. My mother did not make it. She died on the way of an illness. So I never knew her. I was but a baby when we were taken away."

Then Lily resumed digging through her plates.

Xaden gently reached out his hands to touch and hold her firmly.

She turned to look at him shyly, and then he said.
"You are safe now. And you are here that is all that matters."

She blushed. "I was only a baby when we were young. Forgive me, for I can not remember you. I wish I could have those memories." 1

He gently let his hands massage hers. "You have no need to apologize. I am the one to apologize. I never knew that you and my uncle or others from my original family pack had survived.

She smiled at him knowingly.

Aurora was furious. She held her fork so hard



that it snapped into two.

Lily quickly withdrew her hand from Xaden's, and then she turned to Aurora.

"I see that you work quite hard here. And you are familiar with this place. Perhaps you have a high rank in this pack as a woman heading the other she-wolves?" Lily asked.

Aurora gave a very stiff smile and said, "A woman heading other she-wolves? Oh no, you have that all wrong. I am Alpha Xaden's very own, one and only mistress."

Utter choked on his wine

Lily paused her eating, and Aurora took glee at her work.

Lily gently patted her lips.

"Oh, I had no idea," Lily said. "Well, he is an Alpha and, therefore, a man with needs. He would need a mistress."

"An only one." Aurora declared. "Because all his needs are already being satisfied by *me*."

The side where Xaden, Uther, Aurora, and Lily sat went calm.

Even the other wolves who were seated could sense the energy.

Then Aurora smiled. "Look at me. My bad mood



has thrown you off the high road, has it not? I do not even know you."

But it was a lie. Aurora had heard.

That Xaden's first and only mate was alive and had come to the pack.

It infuriated her.

She had finally gotten rid of Belle; now, she had only told herself she would handle Jasmine.

What she was sure of was Jasmine, who at most had very dark secrets.

So powerful that Alexander had died with his mouth shut to conceal it.

But then here she was again.

With another woman.

This was even worse.

This was a supposed mate of his

And everyone knew what a mate bond could do.

But how had they just upped and come after all these years? After such a long time?

And of all time, why now?

"Do tell me about yourself," Aurora said.

Lily smiled. "There is nothing special. My name is Lily, and I am from the old crescent pack. But



then I grew up in the distant wolf because of my safety."

"She is also Xaden's mate," Uther said from afar.

Aurora felt her throat clog together.

So it was true.

She eyed her.

"His mate, I see," Aurora said. A very stiff smile sprung on her face.

Xaden said nothing as he bit through his meal. 1

It angered her.

It was like whenever she solved one problem; another came tumbling down.

It all started to go bad from the day Jasmine stepped into this pack.

But she did not trust these people.

Or was it that Bale himself had sent them here? 1

"It would be an honor," Uther said, "To go with you on your final battle with Bale. Your parents would be proud of you. The Crescent Moon runs through our blood."

Xaden sighed. "How could I ever deny you such an honor, uncle."

Lily smiled at him as the music around played.



Aurora angrily cut through her meat and forced it into her mouth before chewing aggressively.

Then Xaden picked up his spoon and touched the side of his cup.

It went as a ding ding, getting the attention of everyone present.

The music stopped, and all eyes went on him.

"Dear brothers and sisters. To everyone, great and small. I want to make this toast to my family. Those that I believed I had lost a long time ago."

Then he turned to them, saying, "It pleases me to welcome you back home with open arms, and may the gods forever be in our favor."

He drank, and then everyone cheered before he went back to his seat.

Everyone else drank and resumed their chatter.

Then they heard another ding ding.

This time, it was Uther who stood up.

They all went quiet and turned to look at him.

"It has been years since I have been here." Uther started his wine glass in his hand as he looked around. "So many memories here. I remember when my sister was brought here to marry Orion; you must have all heard about him, but only a few, if perhaps none, actually met him. He



was a great Alpha. Feared and Just. Their union brought my nephew and his niece, who is sadly with us no longer."

Xaden said nothing to that.

"After a calamity, after a great betrayal, to see that this place still stands firm, I have no words." He resumed. "To see that he followed his father's footsteps and rebuilt what we once lost, we are honored."

After that last statement, a few yeses and sounds of praise and agreement from the wolves could be heard.

"Join me in this toast." He lifted his goblet to the air and facing directly at Xaden. "to my Nephew who would be the best wolf of his bloodline there has ever been. And to his mate Lily, who will one day be by his side the way his mother once was beside his father, like Luna!"

And then he drank, and they all drank and cheered for Xaden.

Aurora turned and looked at Xaden, and her eyes lit with fire by the sudden announcement.

She wanted to strangle Lily, who was by her side.

His wife? His Luna?! And what about her, who had been by his side all his life?!

What had happened to his saying that he would



never wed a wolf?!

She wanted to lose her mind.

Then, as if on cue, right after the toast, a jar fell to the floor, and its contents spilled to the ground.

It was none other than Jasmine.

She had heard the entire announcement, and she was shocked at how much effect it had had on her.

She could barely even breathe.

She just stared, holding the jar as her hand shook in fear.

And then it finally dropped.

The entire wine spilled to the ground as the gold jar clattered, making loud noises.

They all turned to look at where the noise was coming from.

Unfortunately, she had been on her way out before Uther's toast, and so she had been forced to pause.

The wine had splashed right on Lily's dress. 1

Jasmine's face was filled with horror.

Aurora was delighted.



It was the first time Jasmine had done something right.

"Forgive me," Jasmine apologized as she went down on her feet to clean Lily's dress with her own tattered dress. "Please forgive me. I was only a fool."

"It is alright," Lily said. "We all make mistakes, and these things happen."

Xaden did not look alright.

His face was a mask of thunder.

She wanted the ground to open up and swallow her whole.

"Filthy blood." Someone on the table said.

There were whispers and then a loud thud.

"Xaden! Is it true that is the blood of Bale?!"

Uther demanded in full-blown rage.