380 THE PROMISE

Jasmine was restless in the room.

She had nothing to do throughout the day.

She tried to sleep, but sleep refused to come.

Was she expected to do this for the rest of her eleven months?

She was going to go insane.

She was now seated by the large French windows of her bedroom and looking down at the pack as everyone went about with their life.

She felt trapped and suffocated.

She sighed to herself as she gently touched her stomach.

A baby.

A little pup of her own.

She smiled at the thought of her baby.

For the first time in her life she had something to truly look to.

There was a knock at the door and then Fiona came in.

She sighed a sigh of relief.

"Thank God you're here." Jasmine said in delight.

It was such a relief to now see another human being.

"I'm sorry I took so long." Fiona apologized and about three maids came in with trays of food.

Jasmine smiled. "As far as you are here, that's all that matters. All these food?"

"Xaden sent down the entire kitchen to see to your needs."

Jasmine felt her tummy flip.

"I don't need this much." Jasmine admitted.

"Well you are pregnant now." Fiona said. "This changes everything and I don't want you being modest about it."

Jasmine looked at the delicacies before her.

Roast pork, chicken, bread, cheese, eggs, lamb even cake, sweetened wine and fruits.

"This is a bit too much." Jasmine said honestly. "I can't finish it."

"That's why I am here." Fiona sat down on the bed. "To eat it with you."

And then Fiona started to get down on the food.

The maids curtseyed and left.

"Come in eat!" Fiona said. "I was sent here by Xaden to make sure you ate. Plus I would get into trouble if he discovers that I ate up the food and you didn't. Here try the roast pork. It tastes like heaven."

Jasmine eventually gave in and true to Fiona's words, it did taste like heaven.

She closed her eyes and savored the taste in her mouth.

"It's really good right?" Fiona asked .

"It is." Jasmine nodded and that was how Fiona offered her all the meals until Jasmine had had a bit of everything.

She ate so much she felt bloated.

"I think I'm okay." Jasmine had to resist when Fiona offered her the chocolate pudding.

"Just one bite." Fiona insisted stubbornly.

Her stomach grumbled terribly.

"You see. Even the baby doesn't want anymore food." Jasmine pointed out laughing .

"Alright fine." Fiona said.

Jasmine sat up in the bed.

"How does it feel to be pregnant?" Fiona asked curiously

"Honestly? My body hurts." Jasmine said. "I feel very nauseous. But I think it's a beautiful experience. Just the thought of me having this baby. It makes me forget how my body feels. It still feels surreal."

"How did he take it?" Fiona asked eagerly.

Jasmine shrugged. "He handled it much better than I had expected. We had an argument earlier. He wanted me to abort it. I declined."

"No." Fiona gasped.

Jasmine nodded. "Yea. I told him I wanted to leave the pack, and he would never hear from either of us again. But he insisted that he still had enemies and they were going to use me against him."

"He isn't wrong about that." Fiona said.

Jasmine shrugged. "I can't abort my baby."

"And I know." Fiona said. "So he accepted it. He didn't say anything else?"

"There is more." Jasmine sighed weakly. "My

pregnancy is complicated. The woman we saw. She said that because I am an unshifted wolf and Xaden is an Alpha. Unshifted wolves are ignored by society so people don't really know much about us. She said I could die giving birth."

"Jasmine." Fiona said sadly.

"I could die aborting the child too." Jasmine said. "She said the pregnancy is going to be difficult and I could lose it even before going into childbirth. Whichever choice I choose, it's going to be risky. I'll rather take the risk of giving birth than losing my baby."

Fiona hugged her once again. "I am so sorry."

"It's fine." Jasmine smiled weakly. "So I chose my baby. And I'm praying to the gods. Nothing will happen. But I want you to promise me Fiona."

"Of course anything." Fiona nodded.

"If I die and I leave my baby I want you to take care of-

"Goddess Jasmine!" Fiona said in horror. "Don't say such a thing."

"Anything could happen." Jasmine said. "I don't want to risk it."

"You are going to have a normal pregnancy and you would give birth and raise your child on your own. You aren't going to die." Fiona expressed.

"But what if I do?" Jasmine said. "There are so much complications involved in this pregnancy. I don't want to take any chances. I know how I was raised in the moonlight pack. My mother died giving birth to me I barely had anyone to protect me from the horrors I witnessed except Urma. I would rather die than let my child be subjected to the fate I faced. I have enemies. People who still hate me. Anna hates me with every fiber of her being. Do you think if left with the opportunity to harm me she wouldn't?"

Fiona sighed. "But Xaden would never let anyone hurt his child. He might be cold and difficult, but he would never let his own flesh and blood suffer."

Jasmine gave a bitter laugh. "My father was my own flesh and blood. And look how I suffered. Look how he treated me. I don't care. My child would never be subjected to such a cruel fate. People change. That is why here and now. I want you to promise me that my child would be safe. That if I die, you will make sure he is

raised it he way he should be."

Fiona smiled. "He? You know already?

"Something tells me it's going to be a boy." Jasmine smiled and then her face went back to business. "So promise me. Swear it on your wolf soul."

Fiona sighed. "I swear on my soul that as long as I live. If anything ever happens to you, I will protect your child like he is yours. Like you gave him life." 1

Jasmine sighed relieved. "Thank you."

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