



CHAPTER 10: Amelia's Debut

All eyes turned to the grand staircase, where Amelia descended with a grace that left everyone in awe. Her gown was a masterpiece of elegance, shimmering with a myriad of moonstone embellishments that caught the light and cast a celestial glow around her. The dress was a mix of pale silver and midnight blue, hugging her figure in all the right places.

The room fell silent as they took in the ethereal beauty before them. Gasps filled the air, and whispers of admiration spread like wildfire. Amelia's radiant smile charmed everyone she passed.

Sophia and Gabriel stood side by side, their faces frozen in disbelief. Sophia was rendered speechless, and Gabriel's heart pounded loudly in his chest. ¹

"But that's... that's Amelia. How is that possible?" Gabriel's voice wavered with astonishment.

Sophia, trying to rationalize the situation, stammered, "Honestly, Gabriel, I know what you're thinking. She does look a LOT like Amelia. But there's NO way. Amelia was a lowly rogue. That princess just looks like her. It's not her, though."

Gabriel let out a nervous laugh, attempting to convince himself that Sophia was right. "Of course. That must be it. It can't be Amelia." ²

Yet, as Amelia drew closer, her eyes seemed to lock onto Gabriel's momentarily, causing a tinge of recognition in her gaze. But she quickly averted her attention.

His heart pounded louder, and he felt an irresistible pull toward her. Unable to resist the urge any longer, Gabriel took a step forward, calling out her name, "Amelia?"

For a fleeting moment, it seemed as if she might acknowledge him. But then, she passed by without sparing him even so much as a glance. The slight felt like a dagger to his heart, and his mind raced to make sense of what was unfolding before him.

Sophia's voice broke through his thoughts, trying to reassure him, "See, Gabriel? It can't be her."

His mind tried to accept her words, but something deep within him resisted. The overwhelming resemblance between the princess and the she-wolf he once knew could not be denied. [2](#)

Amelia continued to mingle with the guests, radiating a charisma that captivated them all. Yes, she had seen Gabriel. Of course she had. He had looked shocked. Of course he had. But she had done exactly as she'd planned – she completely ignored the asshole Alpha. And DAMN it felt good.

Just then, the Alpha King asked that everyone move to their assigned seats. The banquet was about to begin and he had

an announcement to make. Everyone sauntered over to the elegant dining table. Gabriel and Sophia found themselves far down table, far from the front where the royalty sat.

We should be much further up the table, Gabriel thought to himself. I'm far more important than this. But the Alpha King's voice interrupted his thoughts.

"Esteemed pack leaders, lovely Lunas, friends," The Alpha King began. "It is with great pleasure that we gather here tonight and it is with great pride that I introduce to you my beautiful daughter, Amelia."

As the applause filled the room, Gabriel and Sophia exchanged tense glances. They couldn't deny it any longer. It was indeed Amelia standing before them. Gabriel was stunned and Sophia teethered with anger.

Amelia took her seat next to her father, the Alpha King, with poise and grace. This is what I have deserved all along, Amelia thought to herself.

Meanwhile, Gabriel's mind was a whirlwind of emotions. Betrayal, confusion, and regret swirled together, making it hard for him to focus. He kept stealing glances at Amelia, searching for any signs of the rogue she-wolf he once knew, but she seemed like an entirely different person.

Sophia's anger was palpable as she tightened her grip on Gabriel's arm. However, Gabriel reminded her to control her emotions in the presence of the dignified gathering.

The Alpha King, beaming with pride, continued to address the guests. "I have more news, dearest friends. I am pleased to announce that my daughter will also be joining us in the family business. In fact, she will be taking over half of our properties, including the Cascade Hotel where we are all gathered this evening. I have no doubt that Amelia will bring a fresh perspective and immense success to our family business. She is a capable and intelligent young woman who will undoubtedly shine in her new role."

Amelia smiled gratefully at her father, acknowledging the faith he had in her. The banquet hall buzzed with excitement as the waiters began serving the delectable dishes. The aroma of succulent roasted meats, fragrant herbs, and rich sauces wafted through the hall, making everyone's mouths water.

Many of the guests were deep in gossip. Hadn't Gabriel accused a she-wolf named Amelia of stealing a ruby? Surely it wasn't the same she-wolf that sat before them now? People's eyes darted curiously between them, and whispers ensued.

Sophia's determination overpowered her hesitation. She would not sit in the shadow of Amelia. She had come here to claim the title of Luna, and she was damned if anything was going to stop her. Grabbing Gabriel's arm, she marched up to where the King and his daughter were seated.

"Most honorable King," she began, her voice trembling

slightly, "we thank you for having us at this splendid feast. However, we come to you with a request. The ruby, a symbol of our Luna, has been taken, and as such, we seek your guidance in crowning a new Luna."

Before Gabriel could utter a word, the Alpha King interrupted him, his eyes flashing with annoyance. "I am aware of the missing ruby," he said sternly, "just as I am aware that you accused my daughter of taking it."

A hush fell over the crowd. Holy shit – so it was the same she-wolf. People leaned in to hear what was being said. This was the type of drama that not even money could buy.

Gabriel's heart sank at the King's disapproval. However, Sophia couldn't contain her frustration any longer. "Amelia is a cheater and a liar!" she began to retort, but before she could continue, Amelia stood up with poise and authority. She held out her hand, signaling Sophia to stop.

"Enough," Amelia declared, her voice firm and composed. "We will not tarnish this event with baseless accusations and petty grievances."

Gabriel couldn't help but be awestruck by the transformation in Amelia. The once timid and submissive Luna had evolved into a confident and formidable woman. He gazed at her, admiring the strength she now exuded.

"I want to make one thing very clear." Amelia's words echoed through the banquet hall, silencing the crowd. She lifted her long, luscious hair to reveal her bare back. There

was no mate mark and it was clear for all to see.

"I was never the real Luna of Gabriel," Amelia stated firmly, her voice unwavering. "I had no reason to take the ruby. Gabriel and I never partook in the mating process. I never belonged to him."

The truth hit Gabriel like a tidal wave. She was right – they were never truly mated. Despite this realization, her harsh words and demeanor hurt him deeply. As she declared her detachment from him and the Stormfang pack, he felt a sense of loss he hadn't anticipated.

She continued, her voice elegant but her face stoic without a trace of emotion. "It was Sophia, not I, who took care of Gabriel's belongings. I want everyone to know that I have no ties to Gabriel nor to the Stormfang Pack." Sophia tried once more to object, but Olivia stood and delivered a good, hard, swift slap across her face.

"The princess is talking," Olivia seethed. "And NO ONE interrupts the princess." 1

Embarrassed, Sophia slinked back to her seat. Gabriel followed her but he refused to slink. He couldn't let the other pack leaders see any signs of weakness.

Just as they took their seats, the Alpha King tapped his glass to make one more announcement.

"This is my final announcement of the evening," he said. "I would like it known that my beloved and cherished Amelia

is officially single. She is seeking a mate that can match her in status, power, and wealth. Cheers to Amelia and her future mate." Magnus held his glass up high. ¹


"To Amelia and her future mate!" Everyone joined in, except Gabriel. ¹

His eyes remained fixated on Amelia.

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