


My Secret, My Bully, My Mates Novel

 +25 BONUS

Chapter 0235

"So the bottom line is you will be attending three meetings today. Albeit, the longest ones." Luna Anne grimaces at me in the vanity mirror while I am getting my hair done. It's just a ponytail, but I guess a royal ponytail requires two types of hairbrushes, a comb, two different types of hairspray and special elastics to hold it in place, permanently.

I just smile and give a noncommittal sound, not wanting the hairdresser to have to start over. I have been primped and prepped for almost forty five minutes. I don't want to have to sit here any longer than necessary. I have to admit, I look better than I thought I would. The make-up artist didn't go overboard with the caked on make-up. She accentuated my gray-blue eyes with a smokey blend of grays and blacks, but it doesn't look like some of the pictures I've seen where girls end up looking like they got punched. She did add lash extensions to the outsides of my eyes since my lashes are blonde. She said she wouldn't have to use as much mascara that way and I tucked that little bit of info into my memory for later. She put a rosy pink color on my cheeks and finished off with a gloss that had a pink tint to it.

When they were both done, I just stared at myself for a minute. I still looked like me, but better, older, definitely more put together.

"You are beautiful Sweet Girl, now, let's get you dressed. I

think for the first meeting we should go in a warmer color, start out strong and bright." My eyebrows raised at her. "There is just as much strategy in what you wear as there is in planning an attack, especially with all of these people." She matches her eyebrow with my own. "You will change after each meeting too."

"Why is that? I'm not trying to argue, this is what you do so I trust you no matter how ridiculous I think it is." I quickly defend my question. Female politics were a whole new world for me, and I am discovering far more ruthless than men with soldiers.

"First, depending on how many people come to these meetings now that we are introducing everyone's kid and using it as training." She rolls her eyes. "You are going to get sweaty and uncomfortable, even in these outfits which are designed to not show any of that. It also gives us an excuse to step away from everyone and just take a break, otherwise you would get none and be grilled by these vultures all day." I nod in understanding, it's all tactical strategy. I can work with it. 1

My first outfit is a bright maroon jumpsuit that is so soft and silky I could probably sleep in it. The pants were wide all the way down with a sharp crease down the front and the back. There was a wide band of the same material going around the torso like a corset, leading up to just above my barely there cleavage where a band of material was threaded through the keyhole at the top of the bodice to create a

halter look. The straps that went over my shoulders were wide and sturdy and comfortable. They wrapped around to attach to the bodice just under my arms, so all my bits were tastefully covered. Luna Anne has a thing for open back outfits on me, the straps from the halter are the only material on my back and the pants tastefully come up to my hips, so at least my butt won't hang out, but it's all skin beyond that. She finishes the outfit off with a pair of matching maroon wedges. I feel like I could exercise in this outfit, it's amazing. I can't help but turn and smile at her. She gives me some bracelets and earrings to finish off the look and then walks me to the mirror so I can see the whole thing. 1

"Oh, wow! I didn't realize I could look like this." I look at her in the mirror.

"You've always looked like this, sweet girl, we've just accentuated a few things. This way Xander will have to do some work too."

"Huh?"

"He's going to have his hands full keeping interested men away from you as much as you are going to keep the gold diggers away from him." My mouth drops at her blunt honesty. "Now, we should head down. We are starting with a brunch and meet and greet before the first meeting. And you are going to want to be fully nourished to put up with some of these guys."

Chapter 0236

As we step out of her suite, Barty, Xander and the Alpha King are waiting for us. I can't wait until they let me have the warrior brand and I can mindlink with everyone here. It's kind of quiet for my wolf and I in my head. I didn't realize I enjoyed the chaos of the dull hum of voices constantly in my head.

"You look wonderful Little One. Maybe some of these Elders will be so mesmerized into silence we will actually get some things accomplished this morning." Alpha Reggie smiles at me. "And you are beautiful as always my dear. I see you are going for a power move early matching Skylar." He chuckles a little, stepping in to give her a kiss on the temple.


Luna Anne's outfit is also maroon, but in a deeper shade. It's a dress that ends in a form fitting pencil skirt and paired with a cropped long sleeved jacket that has some navy threads woven into it. It's a power suit, she looks ready for public speaking and to take on a bunch of old men.

Alpha Reggie holds out his arm for her and Xander does the same for me and we head down the hallway toward the elevators. This feels like a parade and I'm getting more and more nervous as we get closer to the elevator doors.

Barty steps in with another warrior and the rest of us just stand here. We must go down in small groups to make an

entrance. When it comes back a few minutes later, two more warriors step in and Xander leads me with him. I didn't even see these warriors when we came out of Luna Anne's suite, they are very discreet. I want to watch them work, but I have to keep reminding myself I have a job to do and it's bigger than I expected.

As we travel the couple floors, Xander lets my arm go and reaches in his pocket to pull out a small box.

"This is for you, and before you freak out, it's from all of us." He opens the lid and a set of silver bracelets are stacked together. They are all small solid cuff-like bracelets, each with a different gem placed at one end. It's all their colors, my heart clenches at the thought. They are reaching out even this far apart. "They were all intrigued that you were going to be attending this conference with me and wanted to make sure that I, and everyone else, knew that you have a handful of friends out there laying claim to you." 

I couldn't help but laugh. He helped me add them to the bracelets Luna Anne gave me. "These are amazing! I love them. Whose idea was it." I quirked an eyebrow at him.

"Uh, to get you something or the bracelets specifically?"

"Nevermind, based on that answer, I know." I hold my hand up to stop him, the bracelets clinking as they slide up my arm. "The minute you told them I was coming with you and was going to be paraded around, Oliver and Dakota decided that I needed something to imply I was taken. Cameron

probably came up with the idea of the bracelets since I really don't like any other kind of jewelry. Sam probably suggested the colored stones, which is an inside joke so I would know it's from them and my brother trying to make up for lost time, had the inside of his inscribed. How close was I?"

His jaw dropped. "Umm, with the exception of mine, spot on. You know your guys well." He smiled at me.

"Well, you, having slightly more knowledge on my situation than the guys, probably waited until they all had theirs done and then got the bracelet that was slightly wider, but enough to notice, just to piss them off. And you were bringing them to me so they had no say in how I got them."

Xander openly laughs at me, just as the elevator stops. "You have us all pegged. Remind me not to get on your bad side, you can probably detect weaknesses in your sleep." He holds his elbow at me to take. "You ready for the circus?"

"Is anyone ever actually ready for this?"

"Probably not, you just have to get really good at pretending." He says, leaning to whisper in my ear as we walk out. I can already see scowls on many of the faces. I may need to carry a weapon on me for extra protection.