Chapter 17

I couldn't sleep that night, my mind consumed with worry for both Alexander and Rebecca. Dragging my tired body out of bed, I got up, got dressed, and put on my mask before heading out to see Victor to make sure both Rebecca and Alexander had left.

But as I descended the staircase, my heart skipped a beat when I saw Alexander standing in the foyer, deep in conversation with Lidia. My steps faltered as I tried to make sense of what I was seeing. Why was he still here? And why was he talking to Lidia of all people?

Stepping behind the wall, I peered around it, trying to watch them to see what was happening. As I strained to hear their conversation, my heart raced with anxiety. But just as I was about to make out their words, a sudden touch on my shoulder made me jump in fright. Whirling around, my eyes widened in shock as I came face to face with Allen.

"Olivia," he whispered. "What are you doing here?"

Clearing my throat, I looked around nervously, trying to think of something to tell him. But my mind was blank. Allen gave me a knowing smile as if he could see right through me.

"I was on my way to find you," Allen said softly. "Victor has something important to tell you."

I followed Allen down the corridor to Victor's office. As we approached the door, I hesitated for a moment before pushing it open and stepping inside.

Victor was seated behind his desk, his expression grave. Before he could say anything, I blurted out, "Why is Alexander still here?"

Victor motioned for me to take a seat, and I could sense the weight of his words even before he spoke. Slowly sinking into the chair, I held my breath, waiting for him to speak.

"Alexander is still here because he has shown interest in becoming Lidia's mate. He went to the elders first this morning and asked for their promotion to court her," Victor said slowly, never once taking his eyes off me as he spoke. The elders have agreed, and he will be staying here." 1

My heart sank as Victor's words echoed in my ears. All the air seemed to have been sucked out of the room, leaving me gasping for breath. I shook my head in disbelief, unable to comprehend what I was hearing.

"No," I whispered, my voice barely a whisper. "No, this can't be happening. You have to do something, Victor. Stop this."

But Victor just shook his head, his expression pained. "I'm sorry, Olivia. It's out of my hands now. The elders have made their decision, and I can't go against it."

I felt a surge of anger rising within me as I looked at him with pleading eyes. "But you're the Alpha, Victor. This is your pack. You have the final say."

Victor sighed and leaned back in his chair, running a hand through his hair. "I wish it were that simple, Olivia. But you must understand

that the rules of our pack are clear. Without a father to go to for permission to court Lidia, anyone can approach the elders and offer something in exchange for her hand. And once the elders have made their decision, even I cannot overturn it."

I clenched my fists in frustration, feeling helpless and trapped. "But what does this mean for me now? How am I supposed to keep him from finding out who I am if he's going to be living here in the castle? " My voice trembled with fear and uncertainty.

Victor looked at me sympathetically, his gaze softening. "I know this is difficult for you, Olivia. But you know that I will do whatever I have to keep you safe, and besides, Lidia will send him on his way soon enough," he joked, trying to make light of everything.

But his attempt at humour fell flat as I sat there, feeling the weight of everything bearing down on me. Alexander being in the castle was a threat to everything I had worked so hard to keep hidden. My mind raced with thoughts of how I would have to navigate this new reality, all while keeping my true identity concealed from him.

As I left Victor's office, lost in my thoughts, I didn't notice the figure approaching me until it was too late. Suddenly, I felt a strong arm wrap around me, pulling me into a tight hug. My heart skipped a beat as I tried to push away from the unexpected touch. My nostrils soon filled with the intoxicating scent of Alexander, and a mix of rage and embarrassment overtook me.

"Alexander, what are you doing?" I gasped, as I struggled against his hold. But he didn't let go, his grip tightening even more. "Let me go,"

With all my strength, I managed to break free from his tight hold.

Stepping away from him in a hurry, I stood there staring into his icy blue eyes. I could feel my cheeks starting to burn red with a mix of embarrassment and rage from what had just happened.

"I'm sorry, Miss Fay," he said softly. "I don't know what came over me. "

I quickly looked away, unable to hold his gaze for long. "You have no right to touch me," I mumbled, trying to brush past him and continue on my way.

But as I tried to walk past him, he reached out and grabbed my arm, stopping me in my tracks. My heart raced with fear as I looked up at him, pulling my arm away from his grasp.

"I would appreciate it if you kept your hands to yourself," I said firmly, trying to sound strong despite the tremble in my voice. "And stay away from me. You're here for my sister, not me."

Alexander's expression softened slightly, but there was a flicker of confusion in his eyes. "I apologise if I made you feel uncomfortable, Miss Fay. I assure you, I have no intention of causing any harm."

I took a deep breath, trying to steady myself before responding. "Just stay away from me," I repeated, my tone more forceful this time. With that, I turned on my heel and walked away, leaving Alexander standing there with a puzzled look on his face.