

Chapter Nine: Beta Ceremony Part Two

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Phera POV:

I took a deep breath and kept looking at the front, forcing my body not to give into those mesmerizing scents of my mates and run into their arms. Be strong, P! You got this. I could hear the heels chattering against the sparkling black marble floor towards them; jealousy sprang in my heart at the thought of so many she-wolves throwing themselves at my mates, but I pushed it down. They were my mates by name. I hadn't accepted them, nor was I planning to, more like ever, anytime soon. So those girls could go and have fun; even though those thoughts and words sounded bitter to me, I pushed myself further towards the bar, where I could see Betty and Reese waving at me like mad women, which had me chuckling. If there was something that didn't change over these past few years, it was our friendship.

We had been friends since we were in diapers; apart from leaving my family all those years ago, leaving them was the second hardest thing I did at the time. Growing up, they were like sisters to me, more so than Newmara could be at times. When they heard what had happened earlier yesterday, they had called me, and we face timed for a solid two hours. Laying out everything to why's, what's and all that. Ultimately, they both said to give the triplets a chance

because they believed I still had feelings for them. Humph! As if! I felt nothing for those three pricks; they had given me nothing then heartbreak over the years. I could not love people so selfish. Just as I was about to reach them, they engulfed me in a hug, squeezing the life out of me.

"Damn P. You clean up well." Said Betty

"Yeah yeah! Rich coming from the supermodel of the pack." I said, punching her arm.

She giggled. Betty was an absolute sweetheart. She was everything a guy would want, intelligent, beautiful, and confident.

"You look great, P. From how all the male wolves were sizing you up, I would've said you would be deliciously sore in the morning, but we all know that ain't happening with the alphas around." Said Reese as she hugged me.

I rolled my eyes and shoved her, chuckling. My eyes went around the ballroom to see where the triplets were. Fuck! Don't do that, Phera. You don't want them, remember! A couple of minutes passed, and all three of us were lost in our conversation, laughing and remembering old times when both Resse and Beety sobered up and stood up straight. I didn't need to turn around to know that they were there. Their smell of pine, cedar and grass, mixed with musk, filled my nose, making me clench my thighs. Shit! Please don't smell my arousal! Please, don't smell my arousal. I chanted in my head. I was broken out of my chant

when I felt a hand around my waist, electricity shooting through my body where I felt Zane's hand. It was so fucked up; I didn't even need to turn to know who had touched me, and then Damon was on my left, sliding his finger up and down my arm as Axel kissed the junction between my shoulder and neck. Crap! This felt so good, and they weren't even doing anything.

"Still going to deny that we don't mean anything to you, love." Said Axel as he kissed the other side of my neck where he would've placed his mark if I had accepted them yesterday.

I took in a deep breath as his lips grazed the sensitive area.

"You look stunning, sunflower." Said Damon pecking my other marking spot and making me shiver more than I already was.

"Truly a vision, Luna." Said, Zane.

"Don't call me that. I'm not your Luna, sunflower or love." I gritted out, trying to regain some or any composure.

They chuckled, not a one when you find something funny. No, it was a dark one, as if taunting me.

"That's where you're wrong, love. You were always ours." Said, Axel.

Those words were all it took to regain my composure and step out of their hold. Turning around to face them, I gave them my best scowl.

"You never did and never will have a right to say that to me. I was never yours and never will be. You had your time to claim me, but you didn't. You three rather be balls deep in some random she-wolf than come to your mate. So, no, you have no right." I said.

I could tell people were anxious about what was happening. It wasn't every day that some random pack member, who had been away from the pack for years, talked to the alphas in such a way. But then again, almost everyone knew at this point I was their mate, so fuck it. What would they do anyway? Banish me? Ha! Jokes on them, I was finding every way to get out of here. They did sort of do that all those years ago when they signed my departure without even a goodbye. I could tell the triplets were pissed off at my outburst as their nostrils flared and eyes flickered from grey to black and then grey. They were trying to control their wolves; the thought had me back up a bit.

"I suggest you learn how to talk to us, love. Mate or not, we won't be disrespected." Said, Axel.

"Think whatever it is you want, sunflower. Facts will remain facts, and the fact is that you were ours and will always be." Said, Damon.

"You may not want to accept it right now, Luna. But trust us; the bond will have you putty in our hands in no time." Said, Zane.

I wanted to punch the smug bastard, but that would do more damage than good. Just huffing and giving them another glare, I left them standing at the bar to look for Josh or anyone I could be with because I didn't want to be around those jackasses.

Huffing and puffing, I bumped into a chest, making me stumble but was held steady just as I was about to fall flat on my bum.

"You okay, P. You seem like you're about to go chop up someone's balls." Nate chuckled, patting my back.

I sighed! This was so tiring; all I wanted was to go back to California and forget all this ever happened in the first place. Maybe it was a dream, and I would wake up soon. Nate's chuckles died down when he saw my expression and hugged me. 1

"You okay, P. Did anyone say anything to you?" He asked, pulling me back and looking at me with so much concern.

My eyes automatically went toward the triplets, who were now on stage with Adam. I sighed. Following my gaze, Nate caught eyes with them and looked back at me, cupping my face in his hands.

"I know it's hard, P. They can be overbearing, but they do really adore you, Phera. But if it's really annoying you, I can talk to them if you like." Said, Nate.

I gave my brother a small smile and shook my head. That would be nice, but I didn't want his and the triplets' friendship to become complicated because of me. Plus, it was a matter of a few days, more like a day, and I would be back in school and move on with my life by getting a job in California and keeping my ass there and away from RedMoon. The triplets would eventually stop caring and let me go like they did all those years ago. Even though the plan sounded perfect, the jealousy that came with the fact that triplets would mate with someone else was unwarranted.

"It's okay, Nate. I'll handle it." I said, squeezing his hand.

I could tell he wanted to say something, probably put in a good word for his friends but chose against it and nodded. Zane's voice broke us out of our moments when it boomed across the area.

"Beta Nate, let's get this show on the road." Said, Zane.

Nodding in his direction, Nate smiled at me and led me to the front, where mom and dad were as he climbed the stairs and stood next to the triplets, Newmara and Adam, for the start of the ceremony.

Chapter Ten: Beta Ceremony Part Three

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Phera POV:

Nate's ceremony went by in a blur, and after half an hour, he was announced as the beta of the RedMoon Pack. Everyone hollered and clapped, she-wolves in the back, jumping up and down as he winked at them. I couldn't help but roll my eyes while chuckling. My brother, forever the casanova of the pack, I pity his mate when he finds her. She would be in for a ride taming the famous Nate Evans. All the noise died down instantly when Axel lifted his hand; everyone became quiet as a mouse waiting to see what their alpha had to say.

"As everyone must've heard by now that, our younger brother has found his fated mate..." Axel started, then looked towards Newmara smiling at her. Even though it was small twitch of his lips and couldn't be seen because of their angle, I picked it up instantly. Hurt squeezed my heart, it was just a smile, but still, it was more than I got since I came back. All I was getting was their smugness or protectiveness. Plus, I couldn't help but wonder did the triplets truly not feel anything for Newmara. She was mating someone else. At one point, she had been with them. I was broken out of my thought when Axel spoke up again.

"...Newmara Evans and Adam White come forward and

kneel." He said.

The entire time the ceremony happened, Newmara and Adam couldn't take their eyes off one another. You could see the love sparkling so brightly in their eyes. They only looked away when they had to pledge their allegiance again to the triplets, and they blessed their bond. I always dreamed about a mating ceremony with the triplets when I was younger. How all four of us would kneel in front of the king and queen, and we would have the same look in our eyes just like Newmara and Adam did. Ironic how I wanted no part in it now that it could come true. I could feel the tears building up in my eyes, but I sniffed them back, not wanting to ruin Newmara and Nate's day. I looked up, and my eyes caught with the triplets. You could see the worry in them as if silently asking if I was alright. I looked away, and just as the crowd started cheering for the newly mated couple, I got up and left. I walked so fast, not knowing where to go or where I was going, till I reached a clearing on the other side of the packhouse grounds. The tears I held back fell down my cheeks one by one. I furiously wiped them away. Why was I crying? I had nothing to cry about! However, that thought made them pour out even more furiously until I slumped to the ground. I didn't know how long it had been. It could've been minutes or hours, but I stayed there until I had no tears left to cry.

"I'm not going to ask you if you're okay, P, because I know you're not. But I do know this isn't the Phera Evans I know." Josh's words rang out next to me, making me turn to him as

he sat down next to me.

I didn't say anything, just laid my head on his shoulder as he held me rubbing my back like all those times when I had broken down before about the triplets. 1

"I don't know what to do, Josh. Are they truly not jealous or have any emotions towards Newmara and Adam's bonding? They probably did feel something for her. That's why they were with one another that night, or why would they risk their friendship for a fling? But now, when I look at the four of them, it seems as if there was nothing ever, to begin with, other than friendship. I just don't know anymore." I said, bearing myself to Josh like I always did.

Josh just held me tighter as I leaned into his chest, as he rubbed soothing circles on my back, making a tiny bit of the anxiety fade away, but what my body truly craved was the triplets. For them to hold me and tell me what I saw was a lie, and there was never anything between them and Newmara. I knew even if the first part happened, they couldn't deny the second part. I had seen them with my own eyes, and nothing could justify that.

"I wish I had an answer for you, P. I truly do, but only four people can give you that: your mates and sister. I know you're scared to get your heart broken again, but will you be able to live with yourself if you make a decision not knowing the whole story? If something else was the truth in the first place, could you forgive yourself?" Said, Josh

His words made sense. I knew I was being unreasonable by not giving them a chance, but if they genuinely wanted to be with me, why weren't they explaining their aloof behaviour over the past years? Why now suddenly claim me when they could have almost four years ago when I turned eighteen? I had so many questions and zero answers. Josh was right though. I had to put on my big girl pants and face them, demanding to know the truth from them if they wanted to be part of my life. 1

"You're right..." just as I was about to tell Josh what I was going to do, my mate's scent caught my nose. I didn't need to turn around to know they were mad at what they saw; me wrapped in Josh's arm and clinging to him as if my life depended on it. You could feel their aura rushing to us in tidal waves that even had me whimper, which says a lot since being their mate makes me immune to their aura and commands. I felt Josh stiffen. He was scared I could tell but smiled at me and held me despite the aura rushing over him. Taking a deep breath, he let go and stood up, turning around and bared his neck to the triplets.

"You dare touch what is ours." Zane seethed.

Quickly getting up and turning around, I saw their fists clenched to their sides as they shook, eyes black as night, ready to pounce on Josh. I stood in front of Josh in a protective stance as they walked toward us.

"Stop! you can't hurt him." I said with as much conviction as

I could.

"I suggest you move sunflower. We warned him not to come close to you, but this mutt seems to not understand simple instructions." Said Damon as he stared right at Josh over my head.

All my cowardness left me when I heard him calling Josh a mutt. How fucking dare he! I walked right to him with only a foot of space between us as I poked his chest repeatedly with my finger and gritted out each word.

"Don't you ever call him that! Josh is my friend, my best friend, and you have no right to call him a mutt. When you three have been acting like that..." I had no clue why I had to clarify to them that Josh and I were only friends now. I should've let them twist their brains knowing I had a boyfriend, but I couldn't make myself do that for some reason, well a reason I knew but chose to ignore it.

"Love, I suggest you watch what you're saying and who you are choosing. He may be a so-called friend, but we are your mates." Said, Axel.

I huffed and rolled my eyes! They got to be kidding me right now, right? Just as I was about to give them peace of mind, Josh spoke up, coming around me and standing beside me at a respectable distance.

"I apologize for anything you mistook alphas; that was not my intention. Phera and I have been friends for almost eight

years now, and I hold the utmost respect for her and you three, as well as the bond you share. She was upset and needed a friend, and I was just that at the moment," He said.

Bowing his head and then turning to leave before giving me an encouraging smile. The triplets didn't say anything to his words or acknowledge him leaving as they stared at me.


"You know you three act like I've done something so horrible, but have you seen what you've three been doing over the past years? Do you have any explanation for anything? Please give me one reason why I should be with you. Why should I look past everything you all did with those random she-wolves after your eighteenth birthday, you signing of my departure, and not once calling me despite us being so close to one another and then being with my sister."
" I said.


The last part came out as a whisper, but I knew they heard it. But what hurt more was that they didn't flinch at the accusation; instead, they looked hurt or was that guilt that flashed? What right did they have to be hurt? They sure as hell didn't have a right to be guilty either! They weren't the ones who got their hearts broken.

"Say something! Anything, please." I said, tears filling my eyes.

"Now isn't the time, Love," Axel said


"But trust us. It's not what it looks like, sunflower. You are

 +15 BONUS


our world, our mate, our luna." Said Damon 

Tears fell from my eyes, and I shook my head in denial, taking steps back from them. They knew I was there and still did it, knowing I was their mate back then.

"No, I can't look past this. You hurt me! Not once did you reach out to me. You three have not once cared for me. You have no right! No, right!" I screamed.

I turned around and ran from there, from them, the packhouse, this life. I should've never come back. 

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