

Chapter 18: The Rescue

Amelia and Olivia arrived at the bar. Amelia looked amazing in a short black Vera Wang sheath dress with red Louis Vuitton heels. Olivia was also dressed in her finest – she was wearing a strapless Calvin Klein top with a tight pencil skirt.

Amelia was a little nervous as they told the bouncer their names. It had been a long time since she'd had a girl's night out.

You'll be fine, she said to herself. You deserve this.

Lily and Laura were waiting for them inside. They waved the girls over and they all embraced, clearly excited at the prospect of a fun night ahead of them. Amelia took notice of the table. There were at least eight different drinks strewn across it.

"Hope you don't mind," Lily winked, waving at the assortment of drinks on the table. "I wasn't sure what you drink these days, so I ordered a few options."

"You used to like cosmos," Laura asked.

"Still do!" Amelia smiled. It was so nice being with people who enjoyed her company. She picked up a cosmo and raised her to her friends. "To good friends and poor decisions!" she exclaimed, reciting their old saying from

college.

"Cheers!" they said, clinking glasses. Amelia surveyed the bar as she sipped her drink. It was an upscale bar; the kind you couldn't get into if your name wasn't on a list. (Obviously, that was never a problem for Amelia). The bar was full of beautiful women and handsome men, all dressed in designer clothing. The girls had arranged VIP seating and table service so they didn't have to wait at the bar. Amelia sunk back into the soft, plush couch.

Yes. She had really missed this.

"Okay ladies. Time for a pic! It's not every day we get together," Laura said enthusiastically. They girls all leaned in together and snapped some pics. Amelia logged onto her old Instagram account. It took her a minute to remember the passcode, since she hadn't used it in over two years. She clicked 'post' with the hashtag "I'm back!"

"What's the big news?" Olivia asked Lily, reaching for another cosmo. "Spill!"

Lily's eyes sparked with excitement. She leaned in over the table and the girls leaned in too. "Okay, you're not going to believe this," she started. "But I'm getting married!" She triumphantly held out her hand. A glittering diamond adorned her ring finger. The girls all squealed with delight. " I'm marrying Sandon. From the Redriver Pack. He's the Alpha's son." The girls all squealed again.

"Congratulations," Amelia exclaimed. "This calls for a true

celebration. Champagne?" The girls all nodded. She ordered a bottle of Dom Perignon from the waiter.

"I want you all to come, of course," Lily said. "But I should let you know. All the pack leaders will be there, which means that..."

"Gabriel will be there," Olivia finished, unable to hide the disdain in her voice.

"You'll still come though?" Lily asked, her eyes hopeful.

"Of course," Amelia nodded, just as the champagne arrived. "I don't care about Gabriel at all anymore. It won't bother me to see him. Not at all."

Amelia began pouring the champagne. Life was good. She was running a successful business, she had great friends, and she was back with her family. She was bound to run into Gabriel from time to time. No big deal.

"Oh! I love this song," Laura said, putting down her drink. "Let's dance!" She held out her hand and Amelia grabbed it. The four women hit the dance floor. They were a sight to behold. All four of them were stunning, and when they danced together, it was next to impossible to not notice them.

Amelia moved her hips along with the music. She was content. That is – until she felt someone grab her from behind. He pulled her off the dance floor and then spun her around.

"Hello beautiful," he smiled at her.

"Rick," Amelia said, rolling her eyes. Great, just what I need, she thought to herself. The Beta of the Redriver Pack, Rick was a real piece of work. His title had gone to his head and he thought that every woman wanted him. They'd met before, through Gabriel. He held onto her arm firmly. His face was too close; his breath reeked of whiskey.

"Look at you," he said with a sleazy smile. He ran his finger along the top of her thigh. She smacked it away.

"Let me go, Rick," Amelia sighed. "I'm here with my girls."

"Oh, I know. I saw you. On the dance floor. Shaking that fine ass of yours."

"Enough," Amelia said, stepping away. What was wrong with him? She clearly wanted to go. But before she could, he stepped forward and grabbed her around the waist.

"Want to know a secret?" he whispered into her ear. She could feel his hot breath on her neck. It made her shiver, and not in a good way. She shook her head but he continued anyway. "I've wanted you since the first time I saw you. Couldn't have you then, though, could I? Because of Gabriel. But I hear he's rejected you."

"Please, just let me go," Amelia said, struggling against him.

"Lucky for you, I'm more than happy to take over where he left off."

He forced his lips on her then. She squirmed. She tried to shove him away but he was too strong. "Come on baby, don't fight it," he slurred. "You know you want it."

Just then, someone appeared behind Rick. Rick spun around to see who was interrupting him and was met with a fist square in the face.

"What the?" Rick yelled, rubbing his jaw.

"Jonathan?" Amelia asked, shocked. What was he doing here? He reached out his hand to her and she took it. He pulled her towards him, away from Rick. Amelia looked at him with wide eyes. He flashed her a smile. He was wearing a deep green shirt that accentuated his eyes. His hair was tousled.


Was he always this tall? She thought to herself. Always this... muscular?

"I went to find you at the hotel but you weren't there. Your driver told me you'd come here. He said you were with your girlfriends. I know you ladies are more than capable of looking after yourselves, but I thought I'd swing by. On the off-chance you need a male escort?"

Amelia was speechless. He came here, for me?

"You bastard," Rick exclaimed. "Who the hell do you think you are?"

"I'm Jonathan," he smiled, as he rolled up his sleeves and

 +20 BONUS

nudged Amelia to get behind him.

He's not seriously going to fight a werewolf, is he? To protect me? But he's just a human...


"There you are!" Lily said. Lily, Laura and Olivia rushed over to her. "What's going on?" Lily eyed the scene in front of them. Rick was still rubbing his jaw. Jonathan was standing protectively in front of Amelia. "Nevermind. I know exactly what's going on here."

"I think it's time for you to go," Laura said to Rick.

"Unless you'd like me to tell Sandon about this?" Lily threatened.

Rick held his hands up defensively and shook his head. "You're not our Luna yet," he seethed at Lily. "And as for you," he said to Amelia. "I look forward to seeing you at the wedding, especially once you've changed your mind."

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