


My Secret, My Bully, My Mates Novel

 +20 BONUS

Chapter 0247

I was able to eat a snack before she finished with my make-up, thank the Goddess. Then we each slipped into our dresses and I never felt more exposed and covered up at the same time. There was nothing hanging out or scandalous about my dress, but every cut and seam accentuated my fifteen year old body and I felt every bit the woman I was pretending to be tonight. The light ice blue fabric had a little shimmer I didn't see when we tried it on a week ago and it made my eyes shine. The ornate crystal jewels sparked and caught every beam of light and reflected it in every direction possible. The scoop at my neck made me feel very safe and I knew there wouldn't be any wardrobe malfunctions. I could feel the cool clasp inbetween my shoulder blades where the jeweled straps extended over my shoulders and attached, making sure the dress was secure, again leaving my back otherwise uncovered, the theme of the day. The high slit up the front of my leg was hidden unless I took gigantic steps, but gave the feeling of being mature. My hair was pulled to the side in some kind of intricate knot that was full of braids and curls. Most of it was off my back and shoulder, but a few tendrils were loose and curled down, looking effortlessly low key in an elegant way. [3](#)

I just smiled at myself. Luna Anne could dress me anytime. I looked and felt amazing, but I wasn't uncomfortable in any

way. I smiled at her in the mirror again, loving the way she and Luna Ava just took me in and mothered me in a way that I never knew I needed or wanted, but always appreciated. It almost brought me to tears, but I was pulled from my thoughts by a soft knock at the door.

"It's time, Luna Anne whispers behind me. Here we go again." She has a delicate little laugh that is very practiced. It's the same one she used all day today listening to the Elders and other ranked members telling her stories that were supposed to be amusing, but she's probably heard a million times.

I followed Luna Anne out into the hallway not looking up, making sure everything was where it was supposed to be before we made it downstairs.

"Oh hell no!" A shout from in front of Luna Anne has me looking up sharply for something wrong. "You have got to be kidding me. I am so f*cking screwed!"

"Xander! Language!" Luna Anne scolds him while I'm still looking around to figure out what's wrong.

"Seriously! You're going to 'language' me when I am going to die tonight?"

"What's wrong? Why are you being so dramatic." I ask walking over to him.

"I told you that you would have your hands full, did I exaggerate?" She says, a little flippantly.

"I just thought you meant tonight with all the people here, not that the potential for me to be murdered in my sleep was at 99%. I'm going to die, they will kill me if I'm too close, but they will also kill me if anyone else gets too close. I'm so screwed." Xander repeats.

"What are you rambling about? Get a grip!" I look at him like he's lost his mind.

"You are supposed to look pretty, like the beautiful fifteen year old that you are. You are not supposed to look like a supermodel ready for your centerfold." He scrubs his hands over his face.

"Huh?! I don't understand." I'm starting to panic a little. Is something wrong with the way that I look?

"Xander, stop now! Look what you are doing to her." I have never heard Luna Anne's voice that stern before. She looks at me. "You look gorgeous, sweet girl. So beautiful in fact that my son has temporarily lost the use of his full brain capacity." She grabs my shoulders gently. "He's afraid of your brother's and the rest of your friends' reaction to seeing you in pictures looking this amazing. They have been very vocal in how they feel about you being so far away from them. And they will see you in this dress." She gives me that mom look that tells me I need to be ready for whatever stupid they throw at me the next time they see me.

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"Skylar, you know them. Don't pretend like they don't have a very large and unnecessary protective streak when it comes to you. They will come in the middle of the night, Sam will hold me down while your brother and Oliver break my hands and arms for touching you and Dakota will break my jaw and knock my teeth out for talking to you and Cameron will probably dig my eyes out with a rusty spoon for even looking at you." 1

"Oh, stop! First that was graphic, you have spent far too much time thinking about how they could torture you and second, you said it was an unnecessary protective streak. If they really have something to say about it they can come to me first. Although everyone here has the right to make fun of you for the rest of your life for hiding behind me and being a pansy. Now, put on your big boy panties and let's get this over with." I roll my eyes and grab his elbow while the rest of the adults are laughing behind us. "So, dramatic." I whisper to him.

"You do not understand, I'm not kidding when I say they are even more crazy about you now that you're gone. Something changed." He looks at me wide eyed.

"Well, I guess that puts a damper on my plans for us to get caught making out then, that would really get you in trouble wouldn't it?" I laugh.

"Not, funny Midge, not funny at all."

Like earlier we make our way into the elevator before the King and Queen and head down with a set of warriors. This time though, there is no one waiting for us at the bottom.

"Where is everyone?" I ask looking around hoping no one jumps out at us.

"They are all waiting in the ballroom, Miss Skylar." Barty answers for me. "The Royal Family make their entrance together for the ball.

"Ah, I see."

We are just waiting the three minutes it will take the elevator to bring everyone else down and Xander leans in to whisper in my ear. "You are gorgeous tonight, devastatingly gorgeous. If you thought you had a target before, you have no idea what's coming for you. No one will be able to compare." I could feel my cheeks heat at his compliment and my heart is racing for so many reasons. "We shouldn't be separated for any reason tonight, but if I am not with you, stay close to my mother. You have a guard assigned to you as well." I looked at him and I'm sure my face let him know how I felt about that. He took a deep breath and sighed before continuing. "You are the easy one to pick off from something like this. Before you argue, it's not about you not being able to fight, it's about anyone wanting to hurt us, the King, the Queen, me. They will do it by trying to harm you

and it won't be just one or two people. You clearly mean something to our family, it doesn't matter the reason, someone will try to separate you from us tonight just to see if it's possible, I can guarantee it. I don't want you to be alarmed, just on guard, same as my mother always is in these situations. As much as the men in that room think they are the superior ones, it's our females that hold all the power. The power to remain in control, the power to heal and be kind and the power to bring a man to his knees if she is harmed. That is how important you are."

"Okay, so no pressure then." I half joke.

"It's one of the reasons my father chose you. We have other females in the family that could be here, other warriors that could do the job, but for their own reasons, they don't fit the way you do. You not only fill the role of protector, you are also filling the role of my other half, and that is all the public needs to know about our situation. We want those rumors to happen, we want the power hungry Alphas and Elders to step back and you have made them do that, just by being here and being you."