

## Chapter Eleven

She drove him to her house, then got him into her bed. She pulled the bloody clothes from him and used a washrag to clean him up.

“Do you need anything?” she asked.

He shook his head and closed his eyes, lying his head back on her pillow.

She checked on him through the night, sometimes just standing over him to make sure he was still breathing. She finally fell asleep sometime in the middle of the night, curled up on her couch with her phone in her hand, ready to call 911 if he showed any signs of going downhill.

She awoke to the feeling of someone stroking and kissing her forehead. Her eyes fluttered open. “Parker?”

He grinned at her. “You sleep okay?”

She sat up and looked him over. “Are you okay? You’re up! You need to take these. Are you in pain? Are you still bleeding?”

“Shhh.” He brushed back her hair and kissed her again. “I’m okay. Look.”

He peeled away the bandage to show her his wound. It looked days old instead of hours, already scabbed over and pink around the area.

“But...” She reached out and ran a finger gently over the scab.

“We heal about four times faster than humans.”

“So you’re really okay? You’re going to live?”

He chuckled. “It wasn’t that bad.”

“I was so worried.” She put her hand to his cheek and for a moment imagined Jaxon in his place. How would she be feeling right now if he’d been the one to be stabbed and had come close to dying instead of Parker? When she did, she knew she finally had her answer. “Parker. I can’t live without you. I want to be with you and only you.”

He raised an eyebrow at her. “You do?”

“After all that happened, I know it would be painful to lose Jaxon, but to lose you would be unbearable.”

He kissed her fingertips one at a time. “Maybe you should wait a few days. It might just be your reaction to seeing me injured.”

“Parker.” She pressed her lips to his once, twice. “I love you. Only you. You’re the only one for me.”

She called Jaxon later that day. She had been in contact with him and the rest of the Tates once she’d gotten Parker home, but now she was calling for a different sort of update.

“How’s he doing?” Jaxon asked.

“Great. He’s healing nicely.”

“Good. Want me to come get him?”

“No. He’s going to stay here for a little while with me. Jaxon...” She took a deep breath. “I’ve fallen in love with him. I’m sorry.”

“Oh. Okay.” There was a long pause. “I knew it could go either way. I’m glad he has you, I really am. I would rather see you with him than anyone else.”

“Thanks, Jaxon.”

“And hey, if you guys ever want to do a threesome again, you know where my room is.”

She laughed. “Okay. Thanks.”

She hung up with mixed emotions. It’d been so easy for him to say goodbye to her. It stung a little, but at the same time, reassured her that she had chosen correctly.

When she went back to work after taking a few days off to care for Parker, even if most of that time was spent in bed taking care of him in non-medical ways, she put a photo of the two of them on her desk. She wasn’t sure if her bosses or coworkers would say anything about it or not.

When Joshua came out to the reception area, he nodded at the photo. “How is he?”

“He’s good. Healing really well. Will be back to fighting soon.”

“Look, I uh, wanted to apologize for my behavior. And for Caleb’s. Turns out that the man who attacked Parker was Michelle’s husband.”

“He was?”

Joshua nodded. “She’s been fired and while you were out, we had a sensitivity training for the staff. Specist remarks won’t be any more tolerated than racist or sexist remarks.”

She blinked in surprise. Maybe her threats of a lawsuit had affected them more than she knew. “Thank you.”

“We also wanted to offer our legal services to Parker, free of charge. I can’t say that Caleb and I don’t feel at least a little responsible, even if our part was doing nothing to stop the comments going on around the office.”

“I’ll let him know.” She didn’t know what else to say. It was more than she ever could have asked for.

Later that night when she got home and told him the good news, Parker pulled her into a fervent hug and kissed her. “You’re so amazing. I think you and I could really change the world.”

“We already have.”

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THE END