

Taming The Alpha's Daughter

Chapter 14

Stepping closer to Casen, I grab his arm, shoving him toward the door. Her eyes watch me, calculatingly, tracking my every movement.

“You aren't going back down into the basement. No one will hurt you ever again.” her eyes flick to the hall then back at me. Her rate spiking.

“Do you recognize me?” I repeat, needing to hear her say it despite knowing the answer.

“Should I? You are like the rest of them!” She snaps. I shake my head, holding my hands out to her.

“No, I want to help you. Help Temperance. I'm

”

your mate, Shadow

“Lies!” she hisses, taking a step on the old springed couch as she shifts her weight. “You may fool Nova but I won't be fooled. I won't let you have them!” she screams before she lunges at me.

She lands on top of me, her teeth sharp as razors tear through my neck. She gasps, ripping them out, and tingles rush over my entire body. I gasp feeling the toxins of her venom course through me when she sits on me thinking she has killed me, not realizing she just marked me. Turning her gaze to Casen, she gets up, staring at Casen while I choke on her bite my own blood fighting it and healing me painfully slowly. She snarls, taking a step toward Casen.

“Woah, calm down. I'm not here to hurt you!” he says backing up as she steps over my body, stalking him.

“Temperance... [mean Shadow... Whatever your bloody name is. I'm Casen, Casen is a friend!” She nods her head slowly.

“See.. friend...” Casen points at himself then points at me as I slowly get to my feet.

“And Eziah, he is your mate!”

She snarls and he holds his hand out jumping back. “Woah, woah, woah,” he screeches when she tries to slash him with her claws.

“Friend, Casen is friend!” He tells her.

“No, Casen is dead!” she snarls and lunges at him but I grab her around the middle, hauling her back. She thrashes, knocking us both to the ground. She lands on top of me and twists in my grip, she snarls and tries to bite me, only to stop.

“You're alive..” she mumbles and her eyes flicker oddly and she twitches in my grip, fur grows up her arms, changing like a chameleon from black to white and I know Nova is trying to fight her for control. I watch horrified as her skin ripples and twists, teeth lengthening and shortening, claws piercing my arms and retracting. When she screams in frustration and clutches her hair.

“No, no, I won't go back, I won't go back, Nova! You can't make me!” she screams, ripping handfuls of hair from her scalp. My heart races watching her carve herself up with her claws, blood streaks down her face when she suddenly bites herself.

I stare at her watching the venom streak through her veins, shooting up her arm, and panic slivers through me when her face falls slack, her entire body becomes immobilized, stiff as if she is paralyzed and frozen in time. “No!” I choke and my hands latch onto her hips just as she falls on top of me, and my power burns hot in my palms as it shoots through her, takes it, absorbing it. Just as her tiny body crashes against mine and I see Casen coming up behind her, a frypan in his hand when she suddenly gasps and sits up in alarm.

“No.” I mouth to him sensing something is changed within her when she inhales deeply like she was taking a breath of fresh air for the very first time. Her head turns in one direction then the next, her breathing becoming harsher and her chest rises and falls heavily as panic sets in.

“Nova?” she whispers when Casen exhales behind her and she twists to look at him. Casen's eyes go to me and he puts down the frypan he was clutching. Her hands on my chest tremble and I feel her fear loud and clear when I grip her

hands, see it in her body language. Her head snaps down to me, her eyes widening in horror.

“It's okay, Temperance, we won't hurt you.” I try to tell her and I could feel her pulling on her wolf through the bond, feeling her as if we are the same person, connected in ways I can't explain.

“Do you know who I am?” I ask her and she blinks, her eyes darting to my neck where her wolf Shadow bit me.

She touches her own neck, where my wolf, Malachi's mark is pulling her fingers back to look at them, she shakes her head.

“No, no. You lie! You lie. Nova, she told me. She told me not to believe you all, that you all claim to be my mate.” she yells at me. “You hurt her. You hurt her!” she screams but I shake my head, trying to get her to understand I am not one of Satsish's pack members. “You hurt me!” she says, shoving off me and running for the door.

I snatch her ankle, growling in frustration and she trips, falling face down on the ground with a thud. She grunts and I move, crawling up her body and pinning her thrashing frame as she screams for Nova to save her. And she pleads for me to not hurt her. She presses her knees against my chest trying to shove me off but she is much too weak, much too small against my crushing weight and large frame.

“I'm not here to hurt you!” I scream in her face, letting my command rush over her. She freezes in place and whimpers under the pressure of it before staring past me at the ceiling, her eyes turn glassy and she hiccups a shaky breath. “Temperance?” I whisper but it's like she switched off. She mutters to herself, speaking so softly I can't understand what she is saying. Leaning down, I try to hear what she is muttering yet her lips are barely twitching when she whimpers as I lean closer, the sound crushing my very soul and splintering it into a million pieces.

When I find she is reciting some mantra, I listen harder but it's Malachi that picks it up before me. “He can have my body but not my mind. He can have my body but my mind's confined,” my heart beats faster at her words as I pull away looking down at her horrified when I notice the way she is splayed on the floor.

Her legs that were kicking have dropped to the floor, looking down she has given up, yet her entire body shakes beneath me like a leaf as she hiccups between muttering to herself, her eyes unblinking, and unfocused when I climb off her. My hands shake knowing that she sees me as the monster they were to her.

“No, no, no!” I shake my head, backing away from her and I look for something to cover her body, something, anything! I peel the wrinkled shirt I had on yesterday off. Hearing the door shut, I see Casen walk out of the house. Temperance is completely immobile as I yank my shirt over her head, her body completely limp, I can hear she is there but her eyes are vacant, somewhere else hiding away with her mind.

Gathering her up, I pull her into my lap and stand up, then walk outside. Casen is standing looking at the house, yet while I was down in the basement he must have found something before she woke up because he has a book in his hand. I don't ask knowing if he took it, it has the information we came here for.

Casen's eyes are bright red and puffy as he stares at the packhouse. “I shouldn't have stopped you, they deserved worse,” he whispers as I clutch her body against mine. Temperance's muttering can no longer be heard, her words carried away with the breeze when I fall on my ass on the ash and scorched earth.

“See Temperance, you never have to go back?” I whisper to her but she does not respond, her lips moving ever so slightly and I grit my teeth. “He

can have my body but not my mind. He can have

my body but my mind's confined,” Her little song reaches my ears.

“I don't want your body, Temperance, just you,” I tell her, pressing my lips to her head.

“And I'll prove it,” I whisper to her before I burn the place that held her captive for years to the ground while rocking her back and forth in my arms, hoping she sees, hoping she understands she will never be back here, she'll never be in the dark again. I won't allow it.