

# Taming The Alpha's Daughter

## Chapter 17

The closer we got to my uncle's pack, the more nervous Casen became. Temperance was still passed out cold, in the backseat. However, I had moved to sit in the front so I could try to work out the puzzle inside the scrapbook of horrors Casen had found.

Pulling over we stop to get fuel and the moment the car stops and Casen climbs out of the car shutting the door Temperance stirs, glancing over my shoulder. Malachi presses forward nervously watching her. She blinks, rubs her eyes, and stretches on the backseat. However the moment she does she jerks wide awake.

"Nova?" she whispers and her heart races, pounding in her chest loudly as she frantically looks around before her eyes fall on me. The seat belt that was left loose wraps awkwardly around her body and she panics, thrashing and yanking on it trying to make it release her. Leaning over the back she freezes, I hold my hands up in a placating gesture, trying to show her I am not hurting her, and press the button on the buckle to unclip her. The moment she is released from its awkward stranglehold on her tiny body; she snatches the blanket tugging it around her body.

Her eyes are wide as she stares at me petrified for a second. "Your mate?" her brows furrow like everything is coming back to her and I can feel her confusion through the bond loud and clear. Almost like she believed she dreamed everything and was expecting to wake back up in the cage.

"I'm right here," I tell her as she presses back against the seat, her knees tucked to her chest when Casen returns, opening the door. She jumps scooting across the seat back toward me to get away from him. "I didn't know what she would like, do you think—" Casen's words cut off when he notices she is awake and he hesitates to climb back in the car.

"It's Casen, my friend. Remember, Temperance?" I ask her. I hate seeing her so confused like she has trouble differentiating between hallucinations and reality. Temperance nods slowly, her eyes wide as Casen waits for me to tell him to get in the car.

"I am going to climb over the seat and into the back with you," I tell her, unclipping my belt. Her pink and blue eyes dart to me and I move between the seats, she watches me warily and it irritates Malachi how skittish she is toward us yet he understands her fear. We lived it for years alongside her, she is untrusting, and since we still can't sense either of her wolves, we know this is not only a new experience for her but one where she knows she is completely vulnerable and on her own. Falling into the seat beside her.

Her nose twitches as she sniffs the air, scenting it like she thinks I am not who I say I am when finally she exhales. I nod to Casen, he climbs in the car and I don't miss the way her eyes track his every move, her heart rate spiking when he shuts the door. "He won't hurt you, we have just stopped to get fuel and food," I tell her.

Casen opens the bag, taking out a sandwich and bottle of water before turning in his seat to hand the bag to me. He gives her a small smile and I take the bag from him and he turns to start the car. Rummaging through the bag, I offer her a bottle of water. Her eyes on it, she hesitantly takes it pressing back against the seat as far as it

will allow.

"T didn't know what she likes so I bought—" "Half the store." I chuckle at him opening the bag to find nearly every pie and sausage, and sandwich you could think of. I set it between us waiting for her to grab something but she is too busy trying to open the cap on the bottle, her hands shaking and knuckles pressed tightly under her skin as she tries to twist the cap off before resorting to bringing it to her mouth. Reaching over she stops looking at me, pinching the cap between two fingers as she clutches the bottle, I twist the cap cracking it.

"T don't like how weak she is, she can't even open a bottle." Malachi growls.

"She'll grow stronger, plus she is used to Nova and Shadow doing everything, I don't think she has spent this long in control of her own body," I remind my wolf. Malachi growls in my head, upset at my words. Temperance drinks her water and I pick up and offer her food holding them

out to her but she declines, yet I can tell she is hungry, feel it through the bond, and hear her stomach gurgling, yet she only holds a death grip on her water bottle.

"Eat Temperance, take what you want," I tell her but she shakes her head.

"Why won't she eat?" Malachi demands and I notice Casen's eyes dart to us in the back, they flit to her worriedly and even he tries to coax her to take something: still, she refuses.

"If you eat, Nova might return faster," I tell her and she looks at me but shakes her head.

"What will you make her do for it?" she asks me and my eyes move Casen's in the mirror his eyes

flicker when her words slowly sink in.

It sickens me that her pack would use food against her. "They made you do things to earn food?"

"I... don't know. I think so," she looks confused, and I can feel it through the bond.

"How do you not know?" I ask her.

"Nova," she glances down at her lap nervously playing with the cap of the water bottle, her shame hits me like a slap in the face. "She used to pretend to be me, I...think they did things to her if we needed food, I don't remember eating except the other day,"

I glance at Casen, my teeth clenching at her words. Grabbing a sandwich from the hoard Casen brought back to the car, I open it, setting it in her lap.

"Eat!" I order. I hated commanding her, but she needs to learn she doesn't have to do anything in return for basic necessities, and until her wolves come back, I know she would have held off on

eating.

Tears stream down her face as she is forced to eat and I reach over to her gripping her hand that has a death grip on the water bottle.

"You don't need to fear us, we won't hurt you,

Nova or Shadow," I tell her and she looks at me. "Shadow..." she breathes out.

"Your other wolf," I tell her. But I can feel confusion once again.

"You said Nova pretended to be you?" she nods, guilt flooding to me and it makes me angry she feels that way when she glances at me.

"Remember she can feel us, it will feel foreign to her, Eziah, keep your emotions in check," Malachi snarls at me. I bite back the urge to reply to him, instead taking a deep breath.

"Nova?" I ask her again.

"My wolf, she answers. But I suppose Shadow is my wolf too?" she looks at me like she needs me to verify that. Malachi presses forward and I feel Casen's eyes on us in the mirror.

"Yes, Shadow is your wolf. Did you not know?" Task her, she shakes her head.

"No, I used to talk to her. Satish used to talk to her, I thought..." she shakes her head. "I saw her cage,"

"There was a mirror in the basement, what you could see was yourself," my mother's words once again return to me from all those years ago and her confusion only proves them right. She

isn't of sound mind, but I don't care. I still want her.

"Did Satish talk to Nova too?" she chews her lip, but shakes her head and I watch her for a second.

"Did Satish know Nova pretended to be you?" she shakes her head.

"No, I... I don't know," she answers.

"That explains why in all our dreams he always called her Temperance or Shadow, he didn't realize she had two wolves," Malachi believes and I think he is right. Yet my mother told me her wolf's name was Nova and until recently I too believed Shadow was another girl trapped down in the dark beside her. Deciding not to question and confuse her too much, I leave her to eat. The moment she finishes I try to offer her more but she refuses anything else, instead huddles under the blanket when I reach over and grip her hand I tug on it gently.

Pulling her closer before tugging her down against me. I force her to lay back down and she rests her head on my lap. I run my fingers through her hair gently and after a few minutes she relaxes and I exhale relieved. Resting my eyes knowing we still have a few hours to drive before we reach my uncle's pack. However, I must admit it will be strange not having Casen by my side. I can never repay him for what he has done over the years, he stuck by me even when my family shunned me.

Hours pass and I drift off to sleep waking to her moving when the car stops. Opening my eyes I see we are parked by the long dirt driveway. Sitting up, Temperance peers out the window and I notice we are at my uncle's pack parked alongside the highway. Glancing at Casen he is frozen in his seat clutching the steering wheel.

"Casen?" I ask and he jumps. Leaning forward I grip his shoulder.

"You alright bro?" he glances at the long driveway and nods. Yet it is evident he is petrified of coming back home after all this time.

"What if she refuses to speak with me?" he murmurs and I exhale.

"Then you ring me and I come back and get you, or I can wait here until we're sure you can stay," he shakes his head, glancing at Temperance. "No, get her home. I will ring you tomorrow," he tells me, opening the door. I open mine and move to the front of the car and pop the trunk. Casen goes to the trunk grabs his duffle bag and tosses it over his shoulder and he stops in front of me.

"You'll be fine," I tell him and he nods once. "Eziah... L..." he runs his fingers through his hair.

"Whatever happened between you and Rose, it can be fixed," but he exhales and shakes his head.

"I'm not so sure about that... What I did..." "Was to protect her," I tell him.

"And if it wasn't?" he asks and I stare at him. "Casen." My brows pinch. I know there is more than he has told me, more than my mother told me about that night. But his words make no sense to me.

Casen glances at the dirt driveway. "You're right, it will be fine," he nods before grabbing me and hugging me.

"And if it's not you have a place in my pack," I hug him back.

"If my fathers hand it down, and decide not to kill me," I add with a laugh.

"I'd be less worried about your fathers and more worried about your mother," he laughs, gripping my shoulder. I smirk knowing my mother is more feared than my fathers and for good reason too. "TI catch you later," Casen says and I nod. He turns heading toward the long driveway and I move to climb in my car. Sitting in the front seat, I see Temperance sitting up in the back.

"Climb over," I tell her, patting the passenger seat. It takes a few moments but reluctantly she climbs over and I reach over clipping her seatbelt in before starting the car.

"Where is he going?" she asks me, watching him walk off.

"Home to his mate," I tell her, pulling onto the road.

"And we are going to visit my sister, niece, and nephew," I tell her.

"Your sister?" she asks her head whipping to the side to look at me. "Your sister as in a girl?" she asks. I laugh glancing at her.

"Lhope she is still a girl, or otherwise she is now my brother," I tell her. Yet hearing that her mood seems to brighten and I glance at her again.

"You seem excited," I tell her and she nods.

"Another girl," she says, and I reach over gripping her hand. She jumps but doesn't pull away as I lift her hand to my lips. Sparks rush

across my palm and up my arm where I grip her tiny one. Pressing my lips to her knuckles I then set it on my thigh, holding it there.

"You'll love Marabella, she is my better half," I chuckle and she peers over at me.

"Better?" "She is my twin," I answer, glancing at her.

"Daddy told me I was a twin," she murmurs, looking out the window.

"Do you know what happened to your twin?" I ask her. She looks out the window.

"Same thing that happened to my mother, I killed her," I peer over at her and slow down for the intersection.

"Your father said that?" she shakes her head.

"No, he said it wasn't my fault, but Satish said it was, he said I killed her and my twin, that my birth killed my mother too," she says sadly.

Letting go of her hand, she looks out her window but doesn't pull her hand away, so I head to the city.