

A New Dawn

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After Kaden had led me out of the forest, he invited me to stay in his house, I wanted to decline because I feel as though we are moving at a fast speed but I didn't, why?, I could not provide a proper answer—maybe I wanted to be close to him in anyway or maybe I just wanted to please him. We have spent so much time apart as mates.

Most mates get marked and mated in the first three days of meeting but there was also the rare cases like Kaden and I.

I feel sad thinking that our mating process had been inspired by obligations but I could not change the past no matter how much I wanted to.

As I rest on Kaden's chest, I listen to his steady heartbeat that was calming to my soul and body, I could not properly sleep in spite of Kaden's warmth,—I was scared that if I closed my eyes and let the sleep consume me, I will wake up and this would all be a dream.

"Sleep" Kaden voice sounded groggily, I look up to see him staring at me

"I can't" I mumbled

"Why?" He asks,

I exhale deeply "I think this will all be a dream when I wake up" I confessed

"It will not" He assured, that only did little to ease my worry, he adjusts himself that he is now above me, he places a soft and tender kiss on my lips and I respond to the softness of the kiss, who knew that this Alpha had a softer side to him.

His hands freely roams my body and I let him, my body feels alive and electrified by his touch, but I kept my hands to myself, I do not know how he would react to my touch, "You can touch me" Kaden says in between kisses, he must have sensed my hesitation through the bond.

I let my hands roam freely also along his bare back and chest, his toned

muscles entices me and I feel the need to pull him closer to my body.

"Do you want me to go on?" He asks in the warmest of voice that I had almost agreed but I didn't when the memories of our first encounter came rushing in, I was scared that it would repeat again and he would mention her name so I said "No!", he was a little taken aback by my response and I immediately felt guilty, I have ruined the moment because of my valid worries and I fear that I have hurt him

"Kaden I—" I began but I could not find my next word.

"I understand" Kaden smiles, and my breath hitched, he looked breathtaking with his smile, and with a final and lengthening kiss, he removes himself from top of me and returned back to the position were he had initially been sleeping.

Now I felt bad for my decision, I had let my fear override what I feel for this man. Kaden surprises me when he pulls my body closer to him that he is cuddling me, he kisses my temples before he says "Don't overthink, we will work through it. Sleep now".

The rays of light piercing into the room and hitting a side of my face was the thing that woke me up, This was a new dawn and I was pleased to find Kaden lying next to me.

"You are awake" Kaden said in a sleep-like voice, I nodded in response, I was completely feeling self conscious before him. "You have to eat then" he added.

I am quite certain we earned a few stares as we walked through the field leading to the dining halls hand in hand, commotion was rises and everyone was simply wondering about the status of our relationship.

Kaden held my hand tightly when he feels the nervousness growing inside of me, one step at a time, it is okay, he mind linked.

His soothing voice brings calmness to my body but I was still plagued with the fear of the pack rejecting me, Freya had been an admired Luna of this pack, she was loved and respected, this was not only about working it out with Kaden, I had to work it out with the pack.

Kaden and I shared a mate bond but I was still a stranger and outcast to these people, even though I know they will follow the will of their alpha, I

don't want them to accept me because Kaden told them to, I wanted them to accept me because they wanted to.

I still think I am unfit to become this pack Luna, maybe in the future I will be and whenever Kaden feels the need to announce me and perform the binding ritual, I will accept it but now I believe I am to first become fit to be a pack member and maybe to some of them their friend.

I wished we were able to have our meal in his house, but Kaden law sticks, he told me that he only made an exception the next day of the mating and marking ritual because he wanted me to rest, funny how I had no rest that day but I was not to be blamed after he dropped a bombshell on me.

We finally get to the hall, James and Serena were already seated, Serena had a wide smile on her face. I was yet to make any proper conversation with my mate's sister but it felt reassuring to know that she was accepting of me.

"I am happy for you" Serena whispers as I sat down beside Kaden, it does not take a genius to know that the pack members focus was on Kaden and I, when the meal is served, Kaden stuns me by feeding me, my mother once said, a male feeding his mate means that he was pleased with her and he accepts her, it was an old tradition and most wolves don't do it anymore, so I feel honored.

"So you are feeding her!" Ciara snaps as she stands in front of the table.

"Enough!" Kaden warns, Ciara glared down at me as if I had taken what belonged to her, I should be the one upset, she was making a claim on my mate and demanded respect for it, I don't say anything, I pity her though, she was power driven and it must be painful to see her lose that power when she had finally gotten so close.

The pack members watched, having abandoned their meals, I wondered if there will ever be a time where I would be able to eat in this dining hall without any form of drama.

Kaden looked frustrated and fed up, I am certain that he was holding himself back from punishing Ciara, he did in fact have a duty to protect every member of his pack and not cause them harm and that included Ciara but what Ciara doesn't know is that an Alpha can only tolerate so little, Alphas are dominant and they always want to stay dominant.

"Ciara, you should leave" this time James spoke, Ciara refocused her glare

at James, it is obvious that Ciara had been given too much privilege, a beta is just as feared as an Alpha only that an Alpha was feared more.

"You can not take what belongs to me!" the declaration was directed at me, Ciara had a scowl on her face as she made her focus back at me she almost appeared to be like a madwoman.

"I do not belong to you!" Kaden growls and the hall shakes, Ciara is immediately shaken, "I am your Alpha and you have disrespected me enough, James is the beta of this pack and you will respect him. Louisiana is your Luna and you will show your respect to her and even kiss the fucking ground she walks on" he spat angrily

My eyes shot at Kaden immediately when his last sentence hit my ears, Kaden had publicly declared me Luna of his pack in front of the pack members.

Ciara was already in tears, she must not have seen Kaden like this before, she must have thought that since she had seen and known his most intimate parts she gets to talk as she feels.

"Kneel!" Kaden growls, he appeared ruthless, I felt the surge of energy he was emitting, I am sure everyone in the hall could feel it. Ciara falls on her feet immediately, "Show your respect to your Luna" he ordered

Ciara turned to my direction and she bows her head to the ground "I apologize for my behavior Luna, forgive me" she cried

I felt uncomfortable in my seat and I did not know what to say so I simply nodded my head in acceptance of her apology that obviously did not come from her heart, it worried me, would Ciara be out to get me now, she no doubtlessly hated my guts.

"You may rise" Kaden commanded but I know he was not through with her, there was a saying if we fail to learn from history, history was bound to repeat itself, Ciara would be punished to make an example to the pack, it was a way of informing the pack members to stay in line but what I don't know is how she would be punished, Alpha Kaden was the most feared Alpha apart from the Alpha King and he surely did not earn that title by running a bike round the block. "Take her to the square whip her and then take her to clinic!" He ordered and there it was, his judgement was passed, he had showed that he was not going to tolerate insubordination and disrespect at the same time he had showed that he cares.

Two pack warriors drag a screaming Ciara out of the dining halls "You may all continue with your meals" he tells the pack members

"Yes Alpha!" They chorused and accompanied with a bow.

Kaden had decided to walk me to the clinic after the meal, we passed the field were Ciara was being flogged and I turned away, I couldn't watch, I know how she must feel for I have once being at the receiving end of the whips.

'I don't want this', I say through the link, her screams are like trumpets and even though I was not watching, I was listening and with every flog it felt like I had been teleported back to that night and I was the one getting flogged.

'She deserves it, my pack know that I don't want to see them in pain but that does not mean I would tolerate disrespect around the pack, Ciara had been pushing for too long', he responded back

'You encouraged her, you gave her false hope and now she is in pain because of you', I tell him, if he had not seek her out when she made advances this would not have happened in the first place.

'I know' he gritted his teeth, 'I was in a rough place when I was dealing with the death of Freya and my pup'.

'You admit you are also at fault but you do not get to be flogged, people without power are treated less than animals , I have felt it and I have seen it for myself'. I remember the days when Seth took advantage of the fact that I was helpless and no one would come to my rescue, two years of molestation. I don't realize I was crying until Kaden spoke

"Who molested you?" He asks angrily, I did not know that I had let that information seep through to him, Freya had been raped before she was killed, I am sure that Kaden would feel triggered by the mention of that word or anything relating to it, besides I was not comfortable enough to open up to him just yet.

"I don't want to talk about it" I say, "please stop the whips", I begged.

Kaden exhaled sharply "No!,I have a pack to run, and I cannot run it if I am weak and easily forgiving "

" Then the scars on my back and my body don't mean anything to you", I

was angry, thankfully we have already gotten to the clinic, I freed my hands from his and without another glance at him, I marched into the clinic.