

The Alpha King'S Second Chance

Chapter 13

Ezra

Trigger Warning- mention of stillbirth

I don't know what I'm doing with Freya. I haven't been this close to any woman since my mate. I rarely get involved in my pack member's issues unless it's going to affect the kingdom. My brother cheating on her and her rejecting him is not going to affect my kingdom. So why am I so invested in her?

I can't answer that question because I feel like if I do, then I may betray my mate. I don't want to betray my mate. I cannot betray my mate.

I watch her and Greta walk around the house she has chosen to live in while in my kingdom. I can't believe I offered to build her a house as if I didn't have any vacant ones. It's a good thing she reminded me I had vacant ones because I was mind-linking my contractor to build another house.

Maybe with her staying in this house, everything can go back to how it was before I saw her. I was tempted to tell her to stay in the packhouse, but I wanted her on my floor. I didn't want her near my brother again. That would be a betrayal to my mate, though. The idea of having her on my floor in my personal area is a betrayal to my mate.

My thoughts are confusing. One second, I want her near me and the next I remember I had a mate and don't want to betray her. She was the love of my life. My everything, my world. She was perfect for me, and I ruined her. I wanted a child, and she didn't, but she agreed because I wanted a child. Now I don't have her or the child.

Dark thoughts cloud my mind as I think of how I killed my mate. I talked her into having a child. I held her hand as she was in labor for hours. I watched her take her last breath after pushing so hard to have our baby. I don't deserve to walk around while she died trying to give me what I thought I needed.

A warm, soft hand touches my arm, bringing me out of my thoughts. "Are you okay," she asks. Freya is a fresh breath of air I didn't know I needed. I could

get lost in her amber eyes. I didn't notice them last night while she was crying. I was only focused on trying to take her pain away.

Her dark brown hair fell down in waves on her back. She was short but curvy in all the right places. She's gorgeous, with an oval-shaped face and those full lips look kissable. Woah no, they do not look kissable. I will not have those thoughts about my brother's mate. '*Your brother's ex-mate,*' Lykos comments.

Even Lykos is attentive to her. That's not like my broody wolf. He has sworn off women just like me. '*You should stop staring at her and answer her question.*' I mentally slap myself because she is probably wondering why am I checking her out. And yes, I have been checking her out.

I clear my throat. "Yes, I'm fine. Do you two like the house?" She gives me a big smile that shows off her dimples. Well, those dimples make her even more beautiful than she already is. "We love it. If it is fine with you, we would like to stay in this house."

"It's yours then," I tell her. She jumps up and down before wrapping her arms around me and hugging me. We both freeze at the contact. Before I can wrap my arms around her to complete the hug, she pulls away with a blush gracing her face. "I'm sorry," she says as she looks down.

I don't want her to fear me or be scared to touch me. "It's okay." She nods her head but still looks down, refusing to look back up at me. I don't want the timid her. I like the courageous her. The one who decides to cook in my kitchen before asking me. The one who instantly rejects my brother instead of listening to his lies.

I walk closer to her and put my hand on her chin, making her lift it and look into my eyes. Her cheeks are slightly pink. She sticks her tongue out and licks her lips, making my attention go to them. My tongue instantly swipes at my lips and her eyes drop to my lips.

There's electricity between us that's sparking something inside of me. Something I hadn't felt in a long time. Our faces are moving closer to each other, and I don't know how to stop it. She is almost on her tippy toes while my head is bending down to accommodate her.

Then the door bursts open and a warrior comes in with some boxes. We both wake up from our trance and jump away from each other. The warrior realizes

he has interrupted something because he stammers as he asks her where the stuff goes.

I had forgotten about mind-linking some warriors and omegas to pack their items and bring them to the house. She makes me do things I know I shouldn't do, especially with her. While she instructs the people in her new house, I slip out the front door.

I can't be near her anymore. I don't deserve happiness and I know it. Returning to my room, I sit down and think about the mistake I was just about to make. Why would she want to kiss me, anyway? She just rejected my brother; we both should know better. No, I can't put that on her. She's in a vulnerable position right now, and I was about to take advantage of that.

I need to make sure I keep my distance from her. She can live on the pack grounds like all the other wolves and I will probably see her once a week at dinner or something. I rarely eat with the pack anyway, so there's no need to start eating with them now. I feel a mind link coming through. 'King Ezra, I have something to give to you.'

I allow my personal guard and beta, who is more like my friend, to bring me what he has. I wanted someone I could trust to help her move, and he is the person I trust the most. He brings me a small piece of paper and watches as I open it.

'King Ezra, sorry for the paper, but I don't know your number. I also cannot mind link you yet. I didn't want anyone to get the wrong idea if I sent word, so I thought a note would be better. I am cooking dinner tonight and wanted to invite you over as a thank you for your help.'

Bryan was already looking over my shoulder, reading the note. "You should go to the dinner. She seems nice." He is always trying to encourage me to move on. I can't though. I don't deserve to move on. "No, I'm not going."

He sighs and before he says anything else, I ask, "What urgent matter do I need to attend to?" He stares at me for a second before shaking his head. "There's no urgent matter that needs your attention. We received word of a pack needing assistance to take down some rogues, but I'm going to send some warriors to them tomorrow."

"Nonsense, I will go and assist them myself." He wants to say something else, but I continue. "Gather up a handful of guards to come with me. We will be

leaving at first light tomorrow. And Bryan, keep an eye on her, make sure my brother doesn't disturb her or her godmother." He nods before leaving me to pack for my journey.