

Chapter 18

Athena looked up at Cole with the calmest expression, and Andrew stood behind her, helping her up.

"Still as clutz as ever, aren't you? I see one month of rogue life has done

nothing to put some maturity in you. Well, at least you didn't start crying

right after seeing me," Cole smirked, and Athena smiled before standing. "You are not with Bianca? You must be here for the Alpha meet. Have a

good time staying here," Athena pretended to look behind him before

turning around and was about to leave when Cole held her hand, making her pause.

"Leave her hand Alpha Cole," Andrew scowled, and Cole chuckled.

"So you have found another alpha friend to spoil you? You have not

changed even a bit. Always trying to find boys to help you out with measly things and make you feel like a princess," Cole smiled helplessly, and

Athena nodded.

"I guess that's how I am. At least when I am asking to be spoiled, I don't

offer my body to them, unlike a few people I know who can't keep it in their pants. Then again, not everyone is strong in every area. Some have loose characters," Athena's words were like a slap to Cole's face, and he barely maintained his smile.

"Alpha Cole, what are you doing here?" Athena heard Simon's voice before he walked over, and pulled her hand away from Cole's grip, making

everyone raise their brows when he stood in front of her as if protecting

her.

Only if they could know how jealous Simon was when he saw Cole talking to Athena. However, their interaction made him realize there wasn't

anything between them anymore.

"I was here early for the meeting and wanted to look around when Timothy told me I can find you here at the University's party," Cole answered, his

gaze lingering at Athena as his eyes raked up and down her body, and it

didn't go unnoticed by Simon, who barely controlled Onyx. "I see. Let's go to the party area then. What are you doing talking to your

ex-mate? Don't tell me your feelings are resurfacing," Simon chuckled, and though he was pretending to joke about the matter, Athena could feel the edginess in his voice.

"What resurfacing feelings? It's not like I hated her. She was my best friend, for god's sake. The only reason I couldn't accept her was that I found a

better breeding Luna, an Alpha's daughter. Athena left because she didn't want to be a kept woman," Cole shrugged like all these were the most

normal things, and Simon could sense some longing in his voice that made him clench his fist.

"Andrew, can you take me to your place? I don't think Jake will be returning soon, and I don't feel like being alone, Athena disregarded the two men in front of her and asked Andrew, who

immediately smiled before holding her hand. *w.w.w.nov6(1)Worm.COM*

"Let's go," Andrew didn't waste a second, but before they could move,

Simon held her other hand.

"You can always use the quarters here, Simon didn't want her to sleep at another man's house.

"I want to be with someone I can be comfortable with. Thank you for the concern, Alpha Simon, Athena bowed before leaving, and Cole followed her back before sighing.

"Damn she has become sexier if anything. Why didn't she agree to stay by my side? I haven't gotten her out of my head since then. It looks like she will only return after being a Luna," Cole chuckled, and Simon couldn't help but hate the mockery in Cole's voice.

What was his problem? Why did he reject her if he wanted her again?

Doesn't he know his rejection and banning her from the pack was so

miserable for her? Does he think she had an easy life? How can he talk

about getting her back just because she has become sexier? Simon gritted his teeth.

"Well, are you any better? You might not be using her for her body, but aren't you making her miserable too? You won't accept and reject her but tease her about it. Do you think she is fine with this? All of you are acting like she is some cursed piece of art that you want to keep by your side but don't

want to own. Onyx scoffed in Simon's head, and the latter huffed. "Don't get me wrong. I am not some jerk. It's just, I have always been in love with her. Only I know how painful it was for me to let her go. I thought if I

banished her from the pack, she would come back running to me, and

when that happens, I would gloat and keep her," Cole pressed his lips into a thin line, and this time Simon could feel the seriousness in his voice.

"I hadn't thought Jake would help and go along with her. It's been more than a month, and I can't stop thinking about her. My life with my chosen mate has become hectic because of that," Cole raked his hand in his hair.

"I understand what you mean. Athena has that kind of effect on people.

She gets you hooked up on her," Simon said dreamily, gaining his

composure before Cole could predict something.

"Anyway, you are here to enjoy, aren't you? Let's go."

Cole followed Simon inside, his gaze immediately catching his ex-beta.

"I see you are enjoying the rogue life, Jake," Cole smiled sarcastically.

"Why are you here, Cole? Did Athena meet you already?" Jake's smile

immediately turned into a scowl.

"Still a sucker for her, I see. I am here for the Alpha's meet, and yes, I met

her. She has gotten even more beautiful, don't you think so? If only she

hadn't been dumb enough to leave the pack, she would have enjoyed it with me. I am sure she is enjoying whoring around with her charms. Have you guys slept-" Cole smirked, letting the sentence hang, and Jake smiled. *W(w).nov6(1)Worm.COM*

"You rejected the mate bond and threw her out of the pack just because

she didn't want to be a second woman. And whether we have slept

together or not, I don't think it's any of your business. She is waiting for her second chance mate, but you won't understand the feeling since you love to unzip your pants and open any legs you can. Regarding sleeping with

her, I would do it in a second if she allows me to. Am I an opportunist? No. I love her," Jake's words made Cole growl lowly at him.

"Don't forget you are still a beta while I am an alpha, Jake," Cole snarled.

"And you shouldn't forget that this isn't your pack. We are living here with a permit. Alpha Simon might be a jerk, but he is not like a self-centered

bastard like you who finds solace in others' miseries. Don't go around

spouting trash. It doesn't look good coming out of a dustbin," Jake scoffed before leaving. Simon, who heard their conversation from some distance, looked at Jake with contemplated emotions. He doesn't know if Jake would have the

same thought after finding out he was her second chance mate and was doing something similar to Cole, except cheating.

Jake loves her. Andrew loves her, and she wouldn't doubt if Fabian said he loves her too. But the people who are supposed to love her, first Cole, and then Simon, don't want to be with her. Savannah sighed before shrugging. Athena's life was becoming a soap opera for her now. She wonders what Simon would do now.

Next day~~~

"Are you sure you don't need any help?"

"Stop it, Jake. It's not like I have too much stuff. We have shifted here

recently. It's good that I am not into buying useless stuff. All I have to take with me is my clothes and accessories," Athena said, and Jake hummed. He wanted to ask her if she was okay after meeting Cole because he was sure that bastard must've spouted some useless things, but he didn't know how to bring up that topic.

Last night Andrew dropped her off at midnight and told him not to ask her anything since she wasn't in a good mood.

He doesn't want her to hide her sadness and pretend to be happy. Jake

sighed before packing his stuff.

Knock! Knock!

Jake and Athena turned to the door, looking at each other confused.

Who would come to their temporary house?

"The smell seems too familiar. It must be the pack members. Have you

informed Alpha Simon we were leaving?" Athena asked Jake, and the latter shook his head, making her sigh as she opened the door. *w.w.w@.nov6(1)Worm.COM*

"Well, hello, ex-mate," Cole smiled sarcastically before entering the house, uninvited, and Jake's gaze hardened.

"Cole, what are you doing here?"

"I was taking a stroll of the pack, and I was informed that the rogues on the permit were living in this region, so like the good alpha I am, I came to

check if Alpha Simon was treating my ex-pack members right or not," Cole grinned.

"Thanks for your thoughts. Please look around and confirm," Athena smiled calmly, and Jake would've snapped for her if he didn't know how good she was at hiding her emotions these days. *W(w).nov6(1)Worm.COM*

"You look like you are packing. Are you guys going somewhere? Running

away from this pack too?" Cole mused.

"That's none of your business, Ex-mate. I thought you wanted to cut ties

after rejecting me. What happened? Your alpha mate can't satisfy you

anymore that you are looking around? It's not even 24 hours, and you have come looking for me twice. Don't tell me you have started to miss my

crying. I mean, I am sure Bianca must be less whiny because she is the

daughter of an alpha," Athena smiled sarcastically.

"I sense some jealousy here, dear Athena," Cold grinned, unaffected by her words.

"Why would I be jealous, Cole? Your relationship with her is just like her

birth. Illegitimate. You can go ahead and produce the strong kids that you were talking about for all I care. For me, you are that mistake of my life that ruined me, and that's why I would never regret my decision of rejecting you. Luckily, the moon goddess gave me people like Jake in my life," Athena's

words hit Cole where it hurt the most.

His eyes brimmed with tears momentarily before he gained control, but

Athena was quick to observe.

"Well, are you leaving? We are leaving this place? If you like these quarters, you can come when we are done packing," Jake asked, and Cole looked at Athena.

"Where are you going?"

"As if it's any of your business," Jake scoffed, but Cole's gaze didn't flinch

from Athena.

"I am moving in with someone who actually gives two damn about my

well-being," Athena smiled before zipping her bag.

Meanwhile, Simon stood near the border to check the patrol.

"Did you guys get it? The alphas have started to arrive. They would come in order of the importance of our allied groups. Alpha Cole has already arrived since we have most meetings with him. This reminds me, I didn't see him at the guest house. Where is he?" Simon looked at Fabian, who didn't have

a good expression.

"From what I have heard, he has gone to meet Athena and Jake in the

name of visiting his ex-pack members," Fabian said, and Simon didn't like the sound of it.

"There were other rogues living in the region, and if something happened there, everyone would blame the Black Scar Pack. Let's go and see what this is all about," Simon's words made Fabian smile.

"Are you sure it's because of that and not something related to the mate bond?" Fabian asked through the mind link so no one could hear him, and Simon rolled his eyes.

"Stop thinking too much and get moving," Simon said, even though he knew

it was exactly what Fabian said.