

Chapter 2

Chapter-2

"What the hell do you think you were doing sitting there like a fool? Do you have no self-esteem?" Jake growled, his growl attracting the attention of everyone in the pack as they stopped their work to look towards the forest.

Jake was the beta's son and was about to take the position of the beta after his father. Not to mention how his mother was an alpha. Thus, the power in his voice was no joke.

"Have you gone deaf? Answer me! What were you waiting for? For Cole to finish up so he could give you an explanation of what was going on? Do you think it was the situation that has some explanation in the first place?" Jake seethed with anger, and Athena looked at him with torn eyes.

"There has to be. Cole can't do something like that to me. He didn't say he found his mate, either. Why would he think of hiding something like this from me? I always supported him with every decision. Maybe Bianca seduced him." Athena's mind was going in denial, and Jake could sense it.

"Come to think of it, don't you think it's strange? The girl who had never talked to me was acting so friendly. I am sure it's because she wanted to get close to my Cole," Athena repeated, and Jake seethed with anger at her choice of words.

"Athena Matthew! Come to your senses, will you? Do you

think what you saw in that house was some script? Cole, your best friend, was -" Jake stopped mid-sentence when he saw her glassy eyes.

It was clear. No matter what Athena told herself to cooperate with the truth, her mind and heart already knew what had happened. Her trembling form was proof of it.

"Tell your wolf to take over and help you, Athena. Please, I know I haven't been the best support for you, but listen to me just this once. This is the only way you can get over your emotions right now, or I am afraid -" Jake didn't complete his words.

He held her arms tightly, gritting his teeth when her body didn't stop shaking.

"It hurts so much," For the first time, Athena whimpered since her father's death, and Jake hugged her from behind.

"It will be over. Shhh... Let go of it. Nothing severe happened. It was good he wasn't your mate, and you didn't consummate your love and affection by marking each other, no?" Jake tried to pacify Athena.

Honestly, this was the first time she was letting him hug her like this after their childhood, and if it had been any other opportunity, he would've rejoiced for getting his friend back, but not today.

Just like her smile, her pain was contagious, and Jake could feel waves of sadness transferring to him. Animals have six

senses, and his wolf was doing a wonderful job of picking at her sadness and helplessness.

"What happened, Jake? Are you bullying her again? Why can't you leave the girl alone? She has already suffered so much. Mustn't you make it hard for her?" The ex-luna of the pack looked at Athena with sympathy, and Jake scoffed.

"Are you sure I am the one bullying her? I hope you can see I am trying to help her through her pain. What happened to her? Why don't you ask that of your son, who is banging her friend?" Jake growled, and though he knew he was disrespecting the ex-luna, he cared little.

After some time, Cole came out, walking towards the center of the pack, when he heard the commotion.

"What's going on here?" Cole asked, his gaze shifting and darkening when he saw Jake hugging Athena while she looked weak and sad.

"Son, what is happening? Why is Jake saying you hurt Athena?" Cole's mother asked, and Cole paused.

There is no way she saw everything just now, did she? But if that was the case, why did they not hear anything? Was he so lost in his moment of pleasure?

"I am sure she is sad because she visited her father's grave. Leave her alone, Jake," Cole said coldly, but Jake didn't back down.

"You are trying to say you weren't in that farmhouse having

sex with Bianca a few moments ago? Because that's exactly what she saw," Jake said, and Cole's eyes widened ever so slightly.

"Is Bianca your mate, Cole?" Athena whispered, finally finding the courage to address the elephant in the room.

If Bianca was his mate, she was ready to forgive him for having sex with that girl. She knows a mate bond is sacred and can't be fought, but she won't forgive him for keeping things from her and making her look like a fool in front of everyone.

"She isn't," Cole sighed before he looked at everyone, clenching his jaws.

"If she isn't your mate, then -" Athena didn't complete her sentence, her heart aching again. There was no pressure of mate bond. It was all his doing. It hurt even more.

"I indeed found my mate on my birthday,"

"You are my mate," Cole confessed after a dragging silence, and it felt like another bucket of ice was poured over her head.

It didn't make sense to her. She was Cole's mate? Then what the hell was he doing banging some other girl? What was going on inside his head? Why didn't he tell her?

Cole's words not only shocked Jake and Athena but everyone in the pack.

"What did you say?" Jake was the one to ask.

"She is my mate, but I don't - it's complicated, okay?" Cole tried to reason as he walked towards her.

Raising his hand, he was about to cup her cheeks to pacify her when Athena gave him a tight slap, making his head whip to the side as he stood there in shock while everyone gasped.

Her wolf was howling in pain inside her. She was howling so loud that Athena was scared if she continued this, she might lose her voice.

'It is painful. How could he do this to us? Why did his wolf allow it in the first place? It was our place. We were supposed to be there with him. How could he -' Celine wailed and howled, and Athena's heart broke even more.

"I was sad and angry because I thought my best friend betrayed me and didn't tell me something so important. I thought the person I loved my whole life couldn't find it in him to tell me the truth about his feelings, but you were my mate?

All this love I felt for you, this unending attraction, was because you were my mate, and you knew all about it but chose to stay quiet. How dare you, Cole?!" Athena growled, and Cole massaged his jaws before sighing.

"We will talk about this at home, okay? Let's not create a useless ruckus here. Let go of her, Jake," Cole said the last sentence authoritatively.

"Why at home? I want everyone to know the truth. Why were you having sex with her? If it was just about this physical part, you knew I was just waiting for us to recognize each other as mates, and nothing would've stopped us from mating, so what -" Athena paused before looking at Cole in disbelief.

If it had been anyone else, it would've become hard to believe. But Athena knew Cole all too well.

Bianca moved into the pack five months ago. Who was Bianca? She was the other pack's alpha's illegitimate third daughter. She had alpha blood running in her veins. And despite her legitimacy, she would still be called an Alpha's daughter.

When it comes to comparing the two of them, Athena was no match for her. Is this why Cole chose her? It might've looked like normal sex to control the desires, but why her out of all the people? She wasn't even the prettiest and sexiest.

It was Shanaya.

"It's because of power," Athena answered her own question, and Cole stopped pretending like the good guy.

"You are right. It's because of power. I want her to be my Luna, and she is equally interested. So I don't see why I should be paired with a Gama, who does nothing but cry on her sadness," Cole scoffed before turning around.

"When Jake bullies you, someone said something to you, you remember your father, or you broke something, all you do is

cry, and it gets on my nerves. I can't have a weakling like you as my Luna. But I respected our friendship, and that's why I didn't tell you all this keeping your situation in mind," Cole said, and even though Jake didn't particularly like this guy because of his behavior, he couldn't believe his Alpha was saying something like this.

"When the moon goddess pairs two people, she doesn't do it so that they could become the most powerful couple of all time. She does that because those two people are supposed to complete each other," Jake reasoned, and Cole chuckled.

"Well, I am sorry, but I can't take such a wuss as my mate. I am not banishing her from the pack, and she can live here for free, even enjoy my affection from time to time, but that's the most I can do for her," Cole's attitude was dripping from his words.

It was clear to everyone. He was pitying Athena.

"I have already chosen my Luna. It's Bianca Howl," Cole smiled at Bianca, who came over to him and kissed him in front of everyone, and if that was the last string of thread that needed to break, it did.

Wiping her eyes and cheeks furiously to stop the tears that were becoming the reason for her miseries, Athena looked at Cole before taking a deep breath.

"You made your decision about choosing your Luna. I will decide whether to stay and see this dirt. You not only shamed the scared mate bond, our pure friendship, my love

towards you, but also the moon goddess," Athena's eyes turned a shade darker, and her tears started looking like they were tears of blood dripping down her cheeks.

"You want to leave the pack? You don't like my pity and sympathy? It's okay. You can leave whenever you want. This pack doesn't need ungrateful bitches like you anyway," Cole smirked.

"I, Cole Trickster, reject Athena Matthews as my duly mate, the future Luna of the pack, and strip her of all the Luna responsibilities. I, Cole Trickster, also reject Athena as a member of the White moon pack, hereby declaring her as a rogue," Cole looked at Athena bloodshot, and she, who never expected him to do something like this fell to her knees before an ear-piercing scream left her mouth.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa" she screamed, throwing her head back when her body felt like it was lit on fire.

Jake looked at the scene in front of him in horror as Athena curled in a cocoon shape while ear-piercing screams left her mouth, making his heart tremble for her.

It was as if rejecting the mate bond wasn't enough, he had to strip her of the pack bond too.

Jake knew Cole was an ungrateful brat, but he had never imagined that he would be this bad.

He took away her only link to her parents. Now that she is a rogue, she won't be allowed in the pack. How can he be so

cruel to her? How will she visit her parents' graves like this? Athena's tears flew out of her eyes uncontrollably.

Everyone who saw her felt bad for her at the moment. Though they understood their Alpha's decision and were okay with it, maybe he was a bit too much in taking away her home too.

The ex-luna of the pack stood there in shock as she never thought her son would do something like this to someone. It was as if he was a whole new person right now.

"Cole -" She started, but Cole glared at her, and she bowed her head, not saying anything.

The pain would continue to last for around 24 hours till the bond breaks slowly, and she becomes a rogue. And with that pain, she will have to pack whatever belongings she wants before leaving the pack.

"Athena, stand up. These people don't deserve to see you like this," Jake helped her up before he supported her and started walking her back to her house.

Cole, who saw this scene, gritted his teeth in annoyance. He had known all about Jake's care and affection for Athena all this while she used to get bullied. As a man, he could read what was going on in another man's heart, and he knew Jake bullied her because he wanted her attention on himself.

And seeing how Jake was jumping on the opportunity, Cole clenched his fist.

"Leave her alone, Jake. She is a rogue now. I am sure you wouldn't want to lose your place in the pack for helping a rogue, would you?" Cole scoffed, and he thought Jake would leave Athena's hands, but to his shock, he tightened his grip on her hands even more.

"That won't be a problem. I don't want to live in a pack run by a power-hungry, backstabbing bastard, either. I am sure our previous Alpha Samuel would be ashamed of his son right now, just like your mother, who can't even look at you," Jake scoffed before looking at everyone, shaking his head at the people who were just standing and enjoying the show.

"What did you threaten me with? Leave the pack, right? I, Jake Hunter, reject the pack bond of White moon pack, and hereby declare myself as a rogue," Jake said, and Athena, who was barely controlling her pain, widened her eyes as she turned to look at the guy.

"Have you lost your mind!" Athena growled at him in pain, and he smiled.

"What? Do you think you are getting rid of this bully? Not a chance," Jake smiled forcefully as he clenched his teeth to bear his pain.

This was the difference between rejecting the bond and being rejected.

Since Jake was the one who rejected the bond, his pain would be less than half of what Athena would go through since Cole rejected her.

Chapter 2

Taking a deep breath, he bent before picking her up bridal style, ready to venture into the woods and start their new life.



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