

## Chapter 24

"What did you do!" Andrew growled and was about to pounce on Cole when Athena held his hand.

"No! Stop!" Athena said, and Andrew's pupils dilated as her closeness

affected him.

When a she-wolf goes in heat, her body scent is no joke, and it allures all

the unmated wolves in the area. It didn't help that Athena was an alpha too, which would attract wolves on a larger scale.

"Why are you trying to save him? It's his fault. Even if you found your mate, you would never go into heat until your mate kissed you and initiated the

bond,"Andrew grumbled frustratingly. Simon stood there, remembering

how he had kissed Athena before she left for Andrew's place.

"Well, believe it or not, I never touched a strand of her. I respected her that much, okay? In fact, in my desperation to get her back, my first plan was to kiss her, which would lead to her heart, and she would need me,"Cole

leaned on the wall, trying his best to control his wolf's urges.

"You jerk! Even after doing all this, you are lying -

"Simon, take me away," Athena's words shocked everyone, and Simon didn't need to be told twice before he bent and picked her bridal style. [www.noveltorM.com](#)

"Athena, what are you - Keep her down, Simon. She isn't in her right mind. I know she needs to be isolated, but I will do that in my pack. I don't trust you around her," Andrew said, and Simon sighed.

"Trust me, Andrew. I would never take advantage of my mate,"Simon's

words shocked the three men standing.

"Does that mean-"

"Yes, I am that jerk who kissed her. Now, will you let me go before all the

wolves in the area and the university get attracted to her scent and come

here?"Simon said before taking her away, and Andrew and Jake didn't

know what to feel about it.

"Why did she hide that Simon was her mate?"

"I am sure she must've found it recently. She can't find it herself because of her age, remember? Poor Athena. First, her mate was someone who didn't want her for her lower class, and now she has found a second-chance [www.noveltorM.com](#)

mate, who won't accept her for her identity," Jake sighed, and Andrew

looked at him with mixed emotions.

"Why do you say he won't accept her?"

"Well, if he wanted, he had done so already,"

"But they kissed already,"

"Which can also be a forced angry kiss. Do we not know about Alpha

Simon? He loves to harass Athena,"

"That's right. You don't know Alpha Simon, Jake. He is the best guy for her, and you will realize it soon. I am just angry that I am not her second chance mate. I didn't even get to show her what my care feels like," Andrew raked his hand through his hair as he went inside with Jake, not bothering with

Cole, who was seething with hatred and anger.

Athena's second chance mate was Simon? Is that why every time he was

around her, Simon used to intervene? For how long did she know about

this? From what Jake said, alpha Simon didn't like her because she was a rogue, so why did he kiss and start the mating bond? Cole racked his brains helplessly.

That was his plan. He wanted to start the mating bond, but it would've been useless since Athena found her second chance mate. Does that mean he would never get her back?

Does that mean he lost her? Cole felt his heart aching, and he placed his

hand on the chest.

Everyone has been characterizing him as a jerk, and maybe he was,but

only after Athena left did he understand how important she was to him.

He has been constantly thinking about her. That's why when someone said Athena was here, he had prepared for the alpha meet.

"It's not a good feeling, no? Losing to someone without even trying. He got her just because he was available even when you both are her mates,Cole heard a voice behind him, and he turned around, his gaze meeting two

men.

"Who are you? And what are you doing here?"Cole asked, shocked,not

because they were rogues, but because Cole couldn't even sense their

presence until they spoke. What kind of magic were they using to hide their scent and presence?

"Rather than asking who we are or why we are here, shouldn't you be

asking, how can we help you?"The rogues asked.

"What do you mean?"Cole raised his brows.

"There are still chances to get your woman back. You love her, don't you?"

That Athena girl. You have no idea how badly she was treated in this area by the Alpha's ex-girlfriend," The rogue paused.

"If you want to see her happy, you need to take her away. I am sure the kiss was forced by Alpha Simon on her," one of the rogues said before throwing a phone toward Cole.

Cole watched the video of Athena begging Savannah to give her the photo frame of her parents and couldn't help but clench his fist in shame because he knew it was all because of him.

"But Simon has been protecting her from me all the time when I tried to

harass-"

"Do you believe that? You are her ex-mate. Of course, Alpha Simon won't

want you to get her. He wants to be the only one to torment her, and you

can see how badly she is affected. A person can fight anything but the

mate bond. I heard Alpha Simon doesn't let her reject him. He threatened

that he would kill Jake," The rogues said, and Cole contemplated what was right and wrong.

"And why are you guys telling me all this? What is your benefit?"Cole

scrunched his brows.

"Well, let's say our lady boss wants half of the deal. You want Athena, and we want alpha Simon," the rogue said, shocking Cole.

Meanwhile, Athena crossed her arms over her chest, the heat in her body increasing with each passing second.

"Tell me. Did you know about it? That if you kissed me, things like these

would happen? Is that your new way of torturing me?"Athena asked.

"I knew about it, but when I was kissing you, I had forgotten about it. At that time, I was just angry that you were leaving, and I had to do something to

calm my wolf," Simon sighed.

"Now, what am I supposed to do? I don't even have a mom to help me, and asking Jake and Andrew about it would be a lost cause. Will I have to stay hidden in the dungeons for three days?" Athena asked, shocked, and Simon bit his lips.

"I can help you,"

"Do you think I am joking? How would you help -"Athena widened her eyes at his reference before she threw the pillow at him.

"Don't you think about it, you jerk!"

Currently, they were sitting in the bedroom of Simon's personal cottage,

where no one was allowed to come. It was the safest place for her,

according to Simon. He even asked the females to guard the 2 km

parameter of the cottage to make sure no un-mated wolf entered.

"I am serious, Athena. Let me help you. I promise I won't force myself on

you. This is my responsibility as your mate," Simon's words made Athena

clench her fingers.

"Do you even know why a she-wolf goes in heat? So that she can complete the mating bond. It's nature's way of forcing things. How can you be so

insensitive? First, you kissed me even after knowing all this, and now you

are pretending to help when eventually you will reject me. How cruel can

you be?"Athena shook her head.

"It was a mistake. Asking you to take me away was a mistake. It would've been better if I had asked Andrew too -"Athena couldn't even complete her words when Simon caged her between his arms and released a

thunderous growl.

"You are mine! My mate!"Simon's possessive growl shocked Athena.

"Are you Simon's wolf?" Athena asked, and seeing her curious expression, Simon took a deep breath to calm himself.

"No, it's still me. You have no idea how hard it has been to avoid this mate bond. I am falling for you, Athena. I know my hatred of rogues has nothing to do with you, but I couldn't bring myself to terms. I feel like I am in a battle all the time," Simon said before holding her shoulders, making her step

closer involuntarily to seek his comfort.

"I won't reject you, Athena. I know I have been mean in the past, but I have started to realize how much this mate bond means to me. Your smell is

killing me from the inside. I have to taste you. or I will go insane."Simon's words were no bluff as Athena saw his nails elongating.

"I am falling for you, Athena, Simon said, and Athena saw the sincerity in his eyes before sighing as she gave in and let him hug her.

"But you can not force yourself on me. I don't know how you will do it, but control yourself," Athena said, and as if it was all the signal he needed,

Simon didn't waste a second in placing his lips over hers.

Kissing her passionately, Simon hoisted her up and wrapped her legs

around his torso as he went towards the bed and laid her gently on top of it.

"Mmmm,"Athena moaned sensually when his tongue entered her mouth. "Allow me, princess," Simon's wolf took over, and Athena widened her eyes when she saw his amber eyes.

"Simon's wolf?"

"Call me Onyx, sweetheart. I am at your service and your mercy,"Onyx

bowed like a proud king, bowing in front of his queen, and Athena's heart skipped a beat.

"You have no idea how long I have waited for you to be in my arms,"Onyx caressed her skin before peppering her with soft kisses. [www.noveltorM.com](#)

"I love you, my mate," Onyx said, and Athena widened her eyes when Celine howled in pleasure inside her.

Cupping her face, Simon took the control back before nuzzling his face in her neck.

"Don't mark me," Athena squealed, and Simon sighed dejectedly.

"I know, princess. I won't without your permission," Simon bit her neck

slightly before opening her shirt gently, her heaving chest making Onyx

howl inside him. [www.noveltorM.com](#)

"Simon,"Athena looked at him unsure, and he smiled.

"I got you," he said before switching off the lights to make her more

comfortable.

"Be at ease, princess," He gently took off her pants before inhaling her wet core, nuzzling his nose in her panties and growling in approval.

"Damn it!"He said before he took off his pants. Right now, all he wanted was to take her then and there. But he knewthis

wasn't the time to act on impulse. This was the time to gain her trust.

Though this was torturous to him, maybe this heat phase was an

opportunity sent by the moon goddess to amend things and start afresh,

and he wasn't going to lose it. Simon thought before he crawled over her

and took off his shirt, hugging her tightly.

"We will move forward as the heat increases. I will only touch you there if it becomes unbearable because only an orgasm will be able to help through it after that. Is that okay?" Simon asked, and Athena mumbled distracted, her focus on his muscular chest that was holding her tight, making her

want to bite him.