

The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 26

“Be careful with Valens,” Clover said once she pulled into a parking spot.

“Why? What do you mean?” The ride had been silent until she turned up the radio halfway to our destination.

“He is complicated.” As if I didn’t know that already. “He is not someone you question.” I frowned at that. It wasn’t as if I didn’t think or know that even.

“I never questioned him,” I said to which she smiled.

“Not directly but when I told you he wanted to see you this morning, you asked ‘what for?’ Valens isn’t a man you ask to explain himself.”

I’d only asked on reflex. He’d never sought me out for anything before so I didn’t expect him to send his former lover to me out of the blue.

“I didn’t mean it that way.” I was actually questioning her but I didn’t add that part.

“And he’s also not someone you argue with.”

“That’s unavoidable, isn’t it? We can’t live together forever without an argument.”

“Oh, you’re argumentative.” She grinned as she said that. “Valens likes it when people agree with him but I think I agree with you here. You can’t always submit.”

A shiver raced through my spine. I couldn't always submit, I agreed, but I was supposed to. An omega had to submit and Valens told me point blank that he expected me to stand up to everyone but him.

"I'd like to watch you guys together." She got out of the car as I processed her words.

My wolf was naturally suspicious of Clover considering the relationship I was sure she had with my mate. They were too casual for them not to have been intimate at some point.

I got out of her car just as Celeste pulled up in her black car. She slammed the car door shut and took down her shades before I yelled her name.

"Celeste." She turned with a small frown on her face. The frown morphed into a beaming smile as she raced towards me.

"Aysel! I haven't seen you in ages."

"Hello." Clover came to stand beside me right as Celeste got close. "You must be Celeste."

"Clover?" My friend called her name with a slight hitch that went almost unnoticeable but I didn't miss the awe on her face as she stared at Clover.

"In the flesh." She beamed at my best friend. Celeste made a small sound at the back of her throat that made Clover's smile widen. This was the closest we'd ever come to seeing a celebrity face to face so I understood Celeste's excitement.

“What are you doing here?” I asked my friend to stop her from embarrassing herself.

“I was supposed to meet up with Levi but he cancelled last minute. How about you?” She took glimpses at Clover while she spoke to me.

“I came to buy a few things.”

“Few things? We’re here to burn some –“

“Calories.” I cut Clover off before she exposed me. What reason could I give for the alpha to give me his card to buy clothes and lingerie?

“Calories?” Celeste looked me up and down. I didn’t have enough fat in my body to burn so I understood where she was coming from.

“Me. Aysel was nice enough to escort me but I need to be more active these days.” Clover cut in.

“Oh no. You’re perfect like this. You don’t have to burn anything!” Celeste praised Clover’s body and her general person as we walked into the mall. She kept a long, steady string of praises until she suddenly asked a question that made me stumble.

“Are you and the prince together?” She asked but the question wasn’t directed at me. It was directed at Clover.

“Oh, no. That’s all a misunderstanding.” Clover laughed, waving her off.

“No?” My friend sounded disappointed. I followed silently beside them while my wolf growled. “But you’d look so good together!”

“Let’s go here.” I pointed at a random store to save myself the torture of Celeste telling Clover that she’d look good with my mate.

Goodness gracious, when would it end? When would I become worthy of being claimed publicly? When would Valens decide I was worth claiming before the world?

“You want to – you want to go into that store?” My skin turned crimson when I looked at the store I supposedly wanted to go into. I would never be able to live this down!

It was an adult store.

“Let’s go into this one.” Clover intertwined our elbows and pulled me towards the store beside the one I first pointed at. “They sell really nice bracelets.”

“Yeah, really nice and freaking expensive bracelets!” Celeste pulled me back. “We can’t afford them.”

“I have my ways. Trust me.” Clover pulled us into the store. I walked around with the girls, feeling left out as they gushed about this and that when all I saw were simple bracelets worth as much as a thousand. Why in the goddess’ name they were so expensive, I couldn’t say.

“Here, this will look really good on you.” Clover signalled a worker over to put a rose gold bracelet on my wrist. It was

one of the least expensive things in the store but it still cost too much.

“He – I never planned to buy a bracelet,” I said pointedly to Clover. I was supposed to be getting a new wardrobe. I didn’t think that included expensive jewellery. I didn’t want to add gold-digging tendencies to my list of faults in Valens’ sight

“It fits you. You should buy it.” Celeste nodded her head vigorously to show that she agreed with the decision. I had no choice but to buy it.

“Look at this. It’s perfect for a man,” Celeste exclaimed. It was a simple, masculine ring. “You should get this for Valens.” It would be a good idea but I didn’t have the money and I didn’t want to get him gifts using his money.

“Oh wow.” Clover gasped, picking up the ring on display with reverence. “It looks like the perfect size for him too.”
“Va- Alpha Valens isn’t a man that likes jewellery.”

“How would you know?” Celeste asked. “Clover knows what the Alpha likes. They’ve been together for a long time.” I opened my mouth on a snarl but snapped it shut.

“I’m not with Valens.” Clover let out a light laugh.

“Why not? You’re his lucky clover.”

“I’m just Clover. Valens already found someone great for him.”

“You’re the perfect person for him.”

“I am not with Valens.” Her voice lost the light playfulness, becoming stern. Celeste apologized and never mention Valens again.

I didn't miss the fact that the ring Celeste suggested followed Clover to checkout.

“How are things with Levi?” I asked my friend. Her big smile faded off her face in an instant, her mood turning sour.

“This is the second time he's pulled out of a hangout at the last minute for no valid reason.” She pouted. “I no longer believe he is my mate.”

“You feel your mate close?” Clover piped into our conversation. “Maybe he is one of the men from my pack,” she continued when Celeste nodded. My best friend and I burst into laughter.

“Oh –“ I started

“Hell no!” Celeste finished.

“Celeste hates muscled men.” All the men in the Alpha Pack came in varying sizes of thick muscles, Jabari being the king of the thickly muscled men.

“I'm not looking for a mate that can benchpress someone ten times my weight, neither do I want to be with a domineering one.”

“Every woman with her taste then.” Clover laughed. “But the men in my pack are good men. You’d be lucky to have one of them as your mate.

“Yeah, no. I think I’ll pass. I’ll have to leave now, Ay-babe.” Celeste gave me a hug. “I was going to wander aimlessly through the mall until I saw you. You always make my day.” She kissed my cheek and let go with a smile. “I have to get back to the hospital now. See you guys later.” She waved at us before rushing out of the mall.

“Your friend is great,” Clover commented. She didn’t even know the extent of how true that statement was.

We walked through the mall then, picking up piles of shopping bags, putting a huge dent in Valens’ account. The more I tried to stop Clover from reeking my mate, the more she reminded me he was a prince. He inherited a massive fortune and after a hundred years, his acquired assets surpassed his inheritance.

“I think – lingerie – “ my skin burned when I pulled Clover to a lingerie shop.

“Oh, yes! Lingerie! We saved the best for last. Come one, let’s get you some s3xy red lingerie.” My heart slammed with Artemis’ rage.

Whatever Clover did, Artemis found a problem with. Personally, I found her agreeable, a bit authoritative but considering her life experience, it was understandable and she was far better than Astrid. Clover was a nice girl and

she genuinely cared about me but Artemis couldn't see past her jealousy.

"I'm so hungry. I'll go secure a space for us to eat. Wait on this queue while I get us something to eat before I collapse." She left the mall with hunger dragging her feet.

I stayed in the queue for checkout until it got to my turn then I found myself in trouble.

"Thief! How did you get the Prince's card!" The cashier exclaimed when I handed her Valens' card. The minute she took over from the other person that was behind the counter a few minutes ago, I knew there would be a problem.

Sasha the cashier was one of Skylar's minions from high school. Her life lost its relevance when we graduated but it seemed she still felt the need to bully me. In a few minutes, I found myself surrounded. Someone called the police while others rained insults on me and prevented me from leaving the store.

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"I - he gave it to me!" I exclaimed when the store manager came out to see what caused the ruckus in his place.

"What is the matter?" The man was a slim and tall man with a stern face and sterner personality.

"She's trying to make a purchase with a stolen card!" People around exclaimed. The cashier handed him the card and

once he saw the name on it, his brows went up. He looked from me to the card then his countenance turned ugly.

“This is the prince’s card, omega.” The way he snarled my title made my wolf angry. “How did you get a hold of it?”

“He gave it to me!” I snapped, feeling my heart race faster as I spoke. I didn’t want things to escalate further than they already had because I could see some phones coming out of pockets and more people trooping into the store.

“Why would the prince give you his card?” One girl piped from behind.

“He probably told her to buy him something and she’s here to buy clothes for herself.”

“Can you imagine the audacity?”

Voices from everywhere raised against me, accusing me of theft when all I did was follow instructions. Why did things always have to backfire against me!?

“I’ve called the police!” Someone from the crowd shouted and I groaned internally.

“Why call the police? Call Valens.” I inputted. My ears rang after that statement. It took a second for me to realize the manager hit me.

“You don’t call the prince without respect.” My fingers bit into my skin as I clenched my fist. My eyes stung with unshed tears of anger.

“Why would we call the prince to deal with someone as insignificant as you?” Sasha piped up from behind me.

“Why are you doing this? Do you think I could walk into Valens’ –“ I got hit again before I finished my sentence.

“The prince is not your equal!”

“Do you think I could walk into his room and steal his card?” I bellowed when they surrounded me, pushing forward until I was trapped between a mass of people all hankering for me to be dealt with like a criminal.

“You clean his room. Who knows what a traitor like you will do when given such liberties?”

“I didn’t steal from him. You have to believe me.” I sounded desperate even to my ears.

Things had escalated faster than I expected them to. It all started as a joke but now people were shoving me to the ground, shouting atop their voices as if they’d bottled up their anger for too long and finally found someone to pour their frustrations on.

“Why would we believe a traitor?”

“Oh, is it the wench whose parents tried to usurp Alpha Zavier?” Someone from the back who couldn’t see me through the throng of people exclaimed.

“She’s the one. She wants us to believe the prince would have any sentimental feelings towards a traitor. Do you know how much he hates your kind!”

Artemis let out her first whimper since all this started. She'd been so angry up until that point. The only reason I didn't shift for her to lash out was because there were humans around and a shift would be interpreted as a threat and give people reason to really hurt me.

Valens lost his parents because their close friends betrayed them. The same way my parents betrayed Alpha Zavier.

"The police are here!" Someone cheered. The people made a path as the police marched forward. As an unlucky person, the police officer that came happened to be Beta Strauss and his partner. Beta Strauss had been the former Beta, second to Alpha Zavier. Lucien's father.

"What is the matter?" His mass parted the crowd with ease. He was upon me in a second. "You." His eyes had a deadly twinkle in them when he saw I was the culprit he came to arrest.

"We have a thief in our midst, officer." The store manager said to him. "She came here to shop with a stolen card."

"Who does the card belong to?" He was already taking out his handcuffs to apprehend me as he spoke.

"Prince Valens." He stopped in his stride towards me.

"I have to say, you really have Arthur's blood." My skin prickled. He'd insulted me and disrespected my father in one sentence. "You both are foolishly daring."

“He gave me the card. I did nothing wrong.” I maintained my stance.

When the former beta hit me, I crumpled to the ground under the weight of his slap. He was tall and thick, as were all betas. His hand covered my face, leaving an angry palm print on me as he hit me.

“You don’t have a right to speak after your grave sin.” He pulled me off roughly from the floor. My sight was blurry as he picked me up.

“Dad!” I heard an angry voice. “What are you doing?” Lucien pushed to the front of the crowd, rushing at us as if he could stop the beta from doing his duty. As if he could stop his father. Skylar walked forward, following behind him. She stood before the crowd and gave me a small malicious smile.

“Stay out of this, Son.” He snarled at Lucien, making him skid to a halt. “This traitor has decided to continue her father’s legacy by stealing from the Prince and betraying him.”

“I did nothing wrong! He gave me the card himself!” I wrestled with Strauss then, hellbent on getting away from him. People’s phones raised higher, more people piling into the store.

“She got herself bags of clothes worth thousands. None of the other store cashiers noticed she used a stolen card but I recognized her once she got here. No way could she afford all the things she carried with her so I checked the card she

handed over and what do I see?” Sasha yelled from the side. “The Prince’s name!”

“Someone carted away the bags. That’s stealing evidence, isn’t it?” Someone said to Strauss. Indeed, all the shopping Clover and I had done were now missing.

Where was Clover?

“Take your hands off her.” A silent voice said but it sounded above the ruckus of the people and it made everyone silent in a second. The crowd parted to reveal Valens with his shirt sleeve rolled up and a thunderstorm on his face. I couldn’t tell whether to be relieved or more terrified.

The Cursed Alpha’s Mate Chapter 28

I watched as my mate walked out of my office and it took a great deal of control to restrain my beast from keeping her glued to my side. With each day that passed, I grew less and less concerned about her past behaviour.

She seemed too innocent to have tried poisoning me or betraying me. The person she seemed to be was not the same person I’d known her as and I kept trying to remind myself that she was more than met the eyes.

She’d worked her way into my life in a matter of weeks to the point where I couldn’t string two thoughts together without her intruding into one of them. She occupied my mind on a daily basis. I knew it was the mate bond doing all these but no matter how much I tried to separate what was real and what was a projection by the mate bond, it became

harder each day. I didn't know where my true feelings began and where the mate bond ended. It felt like everything blurred together into one.

One thing was certain. Mate bond or not, I would readily tear down anyone who thought to harm her.

I was trying to get back to my work after thoughts of my mate distracted me when Clover called.

“Valens! You have to come here!” Clover sounded desperate as she yelled at me through a loud ruckus in the background.

“What? It's quite noisy where you are.” I skimmed through a particular document while Clover found a quieter place to take the call.

“It's Aysel.” My eyes paused on a word.

“What about her?”

“They've completely humiliated her. They have her surrounded and they're about to arrest her!”

“Where are you?” I was in my car in the blink of an eye. I couldn't even say how I got down from my office so fast.

“The mall. We entered a lingerie shop and – I can't even say but they have her surrounded and I can't do anything because they won't let me pass through.”

“You and everyone else in that mall will feel my wrath if anything happens to my mate.” I clicked to end the call as I almost ran into a woman crossing the road. People around

yelled as I sped by but they wouldn't dare if they knew who I was or what mood I was in.

'No one would dare her if they knew she was the Luna.' Zino sneered at me. 'If anything happens to my mate, I will destroy everything, starting from you.' He vowed.

I knew he wasn't joking. He was far from joking. Zino waited for over a century to find his other half. If she'd been stronger, would she be so easy to back into a corner?

'I don't care what you have to say. If one hair on her head is missing, Redville will see its end today.'

It wasn't hard to find her. Once I stepped into the mall, my body pulled me towards my mate and indeed, everywhere was filled as people stared.

"Arrest her. Throw her into a cell!" Someone in front of me yelled. I was tall enough to see over most people's heads but I couldn't see my mate then. Some people stepped out of the way for me, right in time for me to see Strauss put cuffs on her.

"Take your hands off her." The words were my wolf's and they were quiet. Deadly. Everyone went silent after that. Then people parted like the Red Sea to let me pass through.

"P - prince Valens." A thin man to the side stuttered my name. Strauss gave a defiant bow but he still had a hand on my mate.

"Are you deaf?" I took a step closer to him. He took a step back without letting her go.

“She is a criminal.” He tightened his grip on her. My mate looked at her feet but I could smell the desperation on her.

“What makes her a criminal?”

“P -Prince Valens! She got a hold of your card and spent a ton of your money.” A girl from nowhere appeared at my side, holding up my card to me.

“She is a criminal! Nothing different from her traitorous parents!” Someone in the crowd shouted and everyone picked it up from there.

“I gave her that card.” Everyone went silent again.

“But – but why?” The girl with my card said, her brows furrowing.

“Does it matter? He said he gave it to her. Let her go!” I caught a glimpse of Lucien in the crowd with his hands clenched and his face slowly getting back to its original colour. I told him I never wanted him to be in the same building as my mate.

“Strauss, are you deaf or purposely trying to aggravate me?” I stepped closer to the man. He stepped back, dragging my mate with me. One or two humans stepped in to the store to watch the unfolding drama and I didn’t want them to see my shift. “Let her go.”

“I am bound by my duty to apprehend –“ He would spout nonsense to annoy me and I may or may not sever his head from his shoulder but from that moment, I wanted his

hands off my mate first. Then I could charge at him and dig out his heart without causing harm to my mate by mistake.

“What does your duty say about putting your hands on your Luna?” His brows furrowed.

“What –“

“You have your hands on my mate.” The people about gasped but it didn’t matter. I could already perceive the blood of this bastard who dared to defy me.

“You mean – what is – that – her!?” He still didn’t let her go. I took another step towards him and he backed away, shoving my mate in front of him like he was about to use her as a shield.

“You fvcker!” A bellow so familiar sounded in the room and in a second, we heard a crack, a groan and the sound of someone falling to the ground.

“How dare you put your hands on her?” Jabari looked like he would breathe fire in a second.

“I – we – “ People started to run out of the storeroom when they realized just what they’d done.

“You put your hands on my Luna.” He let her go like she was made of fire and she burned him. “The punishment is death.”

“Alpha!” The thin man at the side exclaimed in horror while Strauss looked like the world was falling around him.

“You never told us. Please –“ They faded to the back of my consciousness as I watched my mate. Her shoulders quivered and her eyes were downcast.

“Look at me.”

“I don’t want to.” Her voice shook as she spoke with her eyes on her shoes.

“Please.” My wolf whined when she refused to look at us. I hadn’t done anything wrong. I reined in my anger so as not to terrify her or hurt her by mistake. My heart clenched when she raised her eyes. They were glassy with unshed tears.

“He’s Celeste’s father.” Her words made no sense until I looked at the man with his head downcast.

“Is that all you care about right now?” So her best friend’s father had no problem disrespecting her in such a manner?

“She’d be heartbroken.” At a time like this, she cared about another’s feeling instead of hers.

“Take him to the dungeons and await further instructions,” I said to Jabari. I took my mate’s hand and led her out of the mall. One or two people had the courage to take pictures of us but I focused on my mate and how she held her head up beside me, held back her tears and followed beside me without fear or fright.

In the car, she let her shoulders fall. She let out a shaky breath before leaning back into the seat. She let her guard

down around me and I wanted to believe she did that because she trusted me.

“Thank you.” I watched her but she refused to turn to look at me. “Thank you for coming to my side and listening.”

“I never assured you I wouldn’t kill him for laying a hand on you.”

“I know but your wolf did.” Her words shocked me. How could she know what my wolf was thinking at this stage of our relationship?

I drove back to the pack house at a slow speed, slower than normal because I wanted to spend a bit of time with her even if it was in silence.

She fell asleep before we got to the pack house and I had the good fortune of watching her face relax in sleep. But it wasn’t relaxed for long. Soon, she started to frown, her lips moved without forming any words and it looked like she was fighting an inner battle.

I would assume she was dreaming of the unfortunate incident at the store but I knew better. I watched her sleep every night and every night, she fought unknown battles in her dream.

“I want to know all about you, Aysel, including what memories haunt your dream.” I carried her to the penthouse suite while people watched in hushed silence.

When we got to the suite, I hit the switch with my elbow to turn off the lights, and laid her in the bed, The minute I

tried to leave, she whimpered, clinging to me. I felt reluctant to leave her so still in my work clothes by late afternoon that day, with a pile of work on my table, I cuddled my mate and fell asleep.

The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 29

I turned in the cocoon of warmth around me, trying to burrow into it. It felt safe and comforting, as if it stood between me and something unpleasant. I pushed closer into the heat as it wrapped around me.

“If you keep moving, I’m going to assume you’re trying to get something in you.” The warmth moved but it felt as if it was pulling away.

“Don’t move.” I grabbed the warmth, stopping its escape.

“You’re giving me orders?” Something tickled my cheeks as it pressed against my face.

“You talk too much. Let me sleep.” I turned around to hug the warmth instead of having it hug me. I heard a deep chuckle as my cocoon vibrated. It was so unfamiliar yet familiar and soothing that it made me open my eyes.

The room was dark and the cocoon around me was Valens.

“You’re awake.” The prince’s words were calm as he pulled away from me. I reached out and grabbed his hands to stop him from leaving.

“Sorry,” I apologized when he paused. I let go of his hand when I remembered the embarrassing situation he caught me in.

He wanted me to be stronger but my weakness had forced him to claim me before I made any progress.

“We have a lot to talk about.” His tone was grave as he spoke. He raised his hand and I didn’t know why. I had no reason to fear him but I flinched, shrinking back from his touch. His hand paused midair, his face contorting into something ugly.

“I’m sorry,” I apologized almost as a reflex when I felt the vibration of his anger.

“Who hurt you? Why do you flinch?” I watched him as he fought to keep his words calm.

“It’s just a misunderstanding. I didn’t mean to flinch.” I winced when his face darkened further.

“You’re telling me that flinching has become a reflex for you?” His words were low and tinged with something dark and deadly. I kept my mouth shut to avoid saying the wrong thing and aggravating the situation.

“When will you learn that when I speak to you, I require a verbal response?” I opened my mouth to speak but he cut me off. “We have a lot to work on but for now, I want to know who hurt you.”

What a question!

It'd be easier to mention who didn't hurt me. The list of those who hurt me went on and on, from my childhood best friend to the random woman in the mall that pushed me out of her way because she was in a bad mood and looking at me somehow made her mood worsen.

"Are you up, Vee?" I heard Clover's voice before I saw her. The beauty queen came into the room wearing cargo shorts with a black, sleeveless body-con top.

"We're in here!" I called, grateful for the distraction from an unpleasant topic.

"Oh, hey, Aysel. How are you now?" She sat on a chair facing the bed.

"What are you doing? Stand up!" Valens snarled at her. She stood at once. I almost did too because his reaction was unexpected. "When I asked you to follow my luna, what did you think I meant? To watch people harass her?"

"Well, it's not my fault your Luna can't defend herself!" She cried out in exasperation.

"Get. Out." She left before he completed the command. The door closed with a slam which I believed happened because she was fleeing the room.

I watched him after she left. His brow creased and his lips pursed. His body stiffened next to mine and I felt his anger radiate around the room.

I hadn't expected Clover to say that to my face but she wasn't wrong. She didn't have to babysit me because I couldn't stand up to a bunch of nameless people. I had to do better. I'd do better. I mustn't disgrace my mate.

Feeling daring, I put my hand on his chest. He shrugged it off almost immediately, making my heart stutter. It didn't feel good to be dismissed like that but I didn't get to dwell on it as he pulled me into his arms, burying his face in my neck.

"I don't like it when you're angry," I admitted to him, putting my hands in his hair. He stiffened when I did that but relaxed after a few seconds. "It scares me," I finished.

"You're the only person in this world who shouldn't fear me." My skin muffled his words. "It'd destroy me to hurt you." When he raised his head, his eyes were a darker shade of their usual colour. "Don't you know that?" He asked.

It wasn't the right time to tell him how many times he'd hurt me. He'd made me feel unworthy of being his mate but I mentioned none of that.

"Ok." He gave me a weird smile when I replied. It wasn't really a smile, just a quick flash of teeth.

"Are you hungry?" My stomach embarrassed me then. It made a loud sound like a starved and dying whale.

I looked down at it, wishing it would stop the horrid noise but it went on for a few more seconds before it calmed.

How embarrassing!

“I have my answer.”

I stuck close to him when we stepped out of the penthouse and walked to the kitchen. I hadn't eaten all day and it was almost eight.

The pack just finished dinner so there were a few people making their way back to their respective rooms. When we entered the kitchen, everyone froze. Some girls were just having their dinner while others put away clean dishes.

“Is there food in this house?” A sense of déjà vu hit me.

“Ah – Alpha –” Some girls stuttered.

Astrid wasn't in the kitchen. Once her 'men' were served, she always left the rest of the work to the girls. I used to be one of the girls.

A number of greetings rang out around the kitchen but no one answered his question.

“I'll fix you something to eat. What would you like.” The girls seemed to be frozen in shock and I'd worked in the kitchen longer than most of them so I felt I picked up for them.

“I don't like being ignored.” He looked at the ladies huddled to one corner of the kitchen.

“A – Alpha. Luna.” Alexa rushed forward, baring her neck in deference. A small shiver wracked through her when she stepped forward. “What would you like to have?” She was the only beta in our group so her sense of responsibility

must have snapped in place at Astrid's absence but she still looked visibly shaken up.

"What would you like?" He directed the question at me.

"Ah – anything." I looked away from him. I didn't want to come off as indecisive to him but the question was so sudden that I couldn't think of anything to say.

"Whatever is your specialty. We will wait at the dining." He took my hand and walked out of the kitchen.

"Your shopping has been returned," he said to me when we sat at the freshly cleaned dining table.

"Did you threaten them?" I asked.

"I did not have to." He brushed off my question. "Did you get the lingerie I asked for?" My skin flamed at his words.

"Can we not talk about that at the table?" I looked around furtively but no one lingered in the dining room once we walked in. We were alone but it felt as if he'd taken a speaker and was announcing to the whole world that I purchased red panties to model for him.

"It's my table and you're my mate. I can talk about whatever I want to see you in at my table." He raised a brow at my frown.

His arrogance took me aback. He had every right to be proud, considering his achievements, but I'd never met anyone this arrogant. The people around me still tried to feign modesty every now and again but not him.

“Okay.” I looked away from his to cover my blush.

“Well?” He questioned with a touch of impatience in his tone. I nodded. “Words,” he reprimanded.

“Yes, I got them,” I answered with a sigh.

“Good. I want to see you in them tonight. Now, to the many things we have to talk about.”

“But –”

Astrid came in with Alexa and two other girls bearing trays.

“Alpha, Luna.” She beamed at both of us as if we were her kids. “Alexa made her best spaghetti stir fry yet.” The girl started to lay down their trays and I remembered Alexa’s famous stir fry included peas which I’d noticed he didn’t like.

“Are you waiting to be invited to my dinner?” He asked when Astrid still lingered around after they laid out the dishes. She walked away with airy laughter.

“I can pick out the peas if you want,” I said once she left. He responded with a blank stare.

“Why would you do that?”

“You don’t like peas?” I answered with a touch of self-consciousness

“I don’t care for peas. What I don’t like is who they remind me of.”

The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 30

“Are you certain she would want to do this?” I asked Skylar while we waited for Clover. She had this master plan and I swore to help her through everything as long as in the end, I had my mate back in my arms.

It felt like someone poured acid in my stomach yesterday when I watched her walk hand in hand with Valens. My wolf clawed at me and fought to get out but I promised Skylar I wouldn't do anything to blow our cover. I had to make it seem like I'd given up on her so Valens would take his eyes off me.

“I saw the look in her eyes when Valens arrived yesterday,” Skylar replied, tucking her hair behind her ears. She looked subdued today. As if it only just dawned on her the hurdle we had to scale to get what we wanted.

They'd gone public with their relationship. The next thing would be to make it official with a ceremony. If they went through that ceremony, they'd be bound together as mates and more.

“What look?” I asked her.

“The same look you have in your eyes. The look fought to get out but I promised Skylar I wouldn't do anything to blow our cover. I had to make it seem like I'd given up on her so Valens would take his eyes off me.

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"What look?" I asked her.

The same look you have in your eyes. The look of someone who feels the goddess dealt them a bad hand." A kindred spirit then.

Why hadn't I noticed it? Oh, right. I'd been too focused on my mate then. I couldn't believe my father had tried arresting Aysel.

It bothered a part of me that I couldn't see past my mate to think of the amount of trouble my father just got himself into. As the Beta of the debased Alpha, they had a critical eye on him, waiting for a small slip up to get rid of him and he just did the worst thing he could have done.

I could only think of him as a walking corpse now.

We'd never really been close as father and son because I chose to side with Aysel but it didn't excuse my lack of empathy for him. Aysel consumed my mind now so much that I couldn't even think of my father's life which was hanging on the line.

“There she is.” I looked at where Skylar indicated as a beautiful girl walked out of a car and took off her shades. She looked left and right before catching sight of us.

She was beautiful in every way of the world. A few weeks ago, I’d be struck by her beauty but these days, I’d become obsessed with Aysel. No one looked as beautiful as she did. No one caught my interest but her.

“You’re Skylar and Lucien?” She asked but she already knew. She had an air of mystery about her that would appeal to most guys and the way she carried herself, it was obvious that she knew her appeal.

“You’re audacious,” she took a seat beside me while addressing Skylar.

“Big gains require big risks or what it is the motivational speakers like to say,” Skylar replied.

“You’re Aysel’s ex, right?” She turned to me with a smile I did not understand. “He hates your guts.” Good, he felt threatened. “A friendly piece of advice; watch your back.”

“I’m not looking for advice.” I wasn’t because I knew that already.

“Fair enough.” To Skylar, she said, “I entertained your request to meet because I wanted to see the fools that dare go against Valens with my own eyes. You’re both foolish if you think you’d ever get between Valens and the woman he has searched for over a century.”

She stood.

“I don’t like liars,” Skylar said in a quiet voice.

She sounded tired. I spared her a glance and saw the dark circles surrounding her eyes. A flare of protectiveness awakened in my chest at her tired look.

“I beg your pardon?” Clover’s voice went cold and deadly.

“I said I hate liars.” Skylar looked her in the eye.

“You’re not here because you want to see some fools. You want to know if we are worth the risk. You want the same things we want but unlike us, you don’t have an ally.” Clover burst into laughter.

“Valens is my best friend. He has been my best friend since I was a child. You don’t understand how long that is, seeing as you are both kids but I won’t betray Valens in this life or the next”

“Who said anything about betrayal?” Skylar gave her a gloating smile. “You want Valens. I’m telling you that you can have him.”

“I have Valens. He is my best friend.” She smiled again.

“No, you don’t. He won’t be your best friend in a year. Heck, in a few months, you’ll be irrelevant to him. You’ll no longer be the only woman in his life.”

“Unlike you fools, I’m not selfish and I know better than to plot nonsense. Whether or not I’m the only woman in his life doesn’t matter.

I value his friendship.”

“And you think Aysel would be comfortable with you still being friends with her mate?”

Skylar scoffed. I fidgeted at the negative way she spoke about my Aysel. “Do you really think she’d want you around her mate considering you’ve been intimate with him? She’s going to get rid of you the same way Valens got rid of Lucien. You’re going to suffer the same fate if you don’t do anything now.” The more Skylar spoke, the redder Clover got. I feared she would snap at her or worse, cry.

To my surprise, she blinked and her expression brightened. No trace of the redness lingered on her face. She smiled at us as if we were children who didn’t understand how the universe worked.

“Do you think a lifetime of friendship can be so easily terminated?”

“If you’re so sure that your relationship with Valens won’t suffer now that he has no use for you, then there’s no need for you to be here.”

When I finally spoke, my voice was cold and my tone rude.

“I hope you know I’m reporting this to Valens the minute I get back.” She sneered.

“That’s your loss. You’d be the one who was hanging out with traitors. We have lost everything. There is nothing more we can lose.

You, on the other hand, will lose his trust,” I reminded her just as Skylar said;

“That’s if you don’t walk in on him buried in his mate and having the time of his life while you love him from behind and watch him birth kids that look like that disgusting omega.”

“Skylar!” We both exclaimed at the same time.

The girl merely rolled her eyes with abandon.

“One day, I will have a good reason to bash your face in.” She vowed, smiling through her anger as she walked away.

I buried my face in my palms after she left.

“Was that your great plan!?” I exclaimed when I raised my head. The visual she had put in my head about the prince and my mate together made my heart ache. I felt tears sting my eyes as I thought about them together. The more time they spent together, the harder it would be to break them apart.

I couldn’t bear to think of my Aysel carrying that bastard’s child!

“Don’t be ridiculous. Did you really expect her to agree immediately because we asked?” She laughed without humour. Her face had gotten thinner and I only just noticed.

Were things too hard for her? I couldn't get myself to care about anything besides from the loss of my better half so I didn't ask her about her appearance.

"What was the point of inviting her here if you didn't expect her to agree!?" I exclaimed.

"To plant a seed. There is no way she would not do anything to keep Valens. She'd act first and when she realizes she can't break them apart on her own, she'll come seeking us out."

She sounded certain as if she controlled the future and had made it so.

"Whatever you do," I started with a sigh, "just make sure Aysel isn't hurt."

"Losing her mate would hurt. I told you already,

I don't care about your omega. When we succeed in breaking them up, Valens will be awakened and then I can take him down from his high horse."

"Your plans seem bigger than you're letting me on," I accused her. She never mentioned anything about dethroning Valens until today.

"They are. One step at a time, one puzzle piece at a time, the entire puzzle will come together.

You don't have to worry. You'll get your omega land I will certainly avenge my father for his humiliation. Valens will not rule over Redville pack for a long time," She vowed.

