

The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 46

I stared out of the window until the skies darkened, lost in my thoughts. A lot of things had happened in such a short time and it made me appreciate things I took for granted before.

My father was missing, my mother was hysterical and my sister wasn't talking to me. There was also the issue of my mate mating with someone else and my mum packing her things and leaving the house this morning without a word to us. In a nutshell, my life had fallen apart and it didn't look like it would be fixed any time soon.

When I finally managed to pull myself into a semi-working condition to grab dinner, my wolf perked up. A voice like a rushing wind slammed into my mind.

It was the Alpha's Call.

The Call was rarely used except on the occasion of the Feast of the Moon. In fact, I'd never heard the Alpha's Call except in the times of the Feast but when I heard it then, even if it didn't sound like the Call I was used to, my wolf recognized it and I knew what it was for.

It was physically impossible for a wolf to resist its Alpha's Call. I didn't want to be bound to mate stealer Valens, but I didn't have much of a choice. I couldn't fight his Call.

My body pulled me to the Arena where a lot of the older wolves were already gathered. A small podium had been set

up before I came. People trooped in while I looked around for a familiar face.

“What’s going on?” I turned to see Celeste at my side. She was dressed in her pyjamas and her hair was a tangled mess, her complexion pale.

Damn. I knew she liked Levi but I didn’t think she liked him this much.

I felt eyes on me and when I raised my head, I caught the unwavering attention of Beta Jabari. He took his time glaring at me before he looked away. The man didn’t like me one bit.

“Gosh, that Beta is an a*****e,” Celeste spat. He glanced at her quickly but she didn’t take note of it.

I’d seen the Beta lurking around my sister more times than he’d been lurking around Aysel which was weird because his duty was to follow the Alpha’s mate and make sure they were protected in the Alpha’s absence.

“Your friend is about to pick a mating date,” I said to Celeste. Her eyes lit up, transforming her dull face.

“I never thought of that!” She exclaimed, clapping her hands. “A Mating Ceremony. Nice.” She smiled and I knew she was happy for Aysel. But what about me?

I’d lost my mate and my sister couldn’t even sympathize with me. The chances of breaking her away from Valens was slim now but it would be darn near impossible to break

her away if they went through with a Mating Ceremony and completed the Mating Ritual. Not without severe damage to her which I didn't want.

"Can I talk to you for a second?" Skylar appeared from nowhere and dragged me away from Celeste. "Do you know what the f**k is about to happen?" She hissed at me when she succeeded in dragging me into a corner.

"My mate is about to make things official with that a*****e." I scrubbed a hand across my face.

"We can't let this happen." I know that already. "We'll be at a bigger disadvantage if it happens." There was a reason why I didn't want the Mating Ceremony between the two to happen but I didn't see why Skylar should care.

"Why do you care? It's not as if it'll hurt your chances of dethroning him if he completes the Mating Ritual." I needed someone to lash out at and she willingly provided herself so she couldn't blame me.

She hit me. She hit me hard. So hard that my vision blinked out for a few seconds.

"You're a daft child, Lucien. I can't believe it's taken me this long to realize it." She hissed. "Their bond will be stronger when they complete the ritual and the stronger their bond, the stronger their individual prowess. I was just telling you the other day about the Prince's new vulnerability and how we now stand a chance against him because he doesn't heal as fast as he used to and you don't have the sense to see

that we'd lose that edge if he completes the mating ritual!?" Her eyes blazed with fire.

Who'd blame me that I no longer thought straight? Who would take the hit I took and still be fine afterwards? Nobody. No one could just get over losing their mate like that. I wasn't thinking clearly anymore, darn it!

"What do you want me to do?" She gave me a disgusted look when I asked her that question.

"You're useless. Forget it." She turned and marched away.

I sighed, letting my shoulders fall back. Skylar was bossy and domineering. She had zero empathy and goddess, I really chose a bitch over my innocent and sweet mate!

"Have a second?" A cool voice called while I started at the ground. "Your friend didn't look too happy." I raised my head to see Clover.

The lady was stunning. She was dressed in black combat boots, a tight leather skirt with a crop top. She had slender athletic legs, a pretty face, a moderate-sized chest and a great rack. She'd have been my type a few months back but not now. It was unfortunate she just moved here because she really wanted me, I could tell.

"Hi, Clove." Her nose wrinkled at the nickname.

"Don't call me that." Her tone was light but firm.

"Why? You said we could be friends. Friends give each other nicknames." I knew the reason she wanted to be friends

with me was that she liked me. Skylar was the one that proposed an alliance with her but she decided to partner up with me instead.

I wouldn't humble myself to the point where I'd pretend I wasn't actually a good looking man. I knew my looks had a huge effect on girls and even guys but I only wanted Aysel now. I was willing to use Clover to get to Aysel but she didn't know that. She thought she could warm her way into my heart from being my friend and warning me about how dangerous Valens could be, trying to dissuade me from chasing Aysel, but I couldn't be stopped. Aysel was mine.

"I don't like the nickname." I snorted. She was probably giggling and going crazy in her mind that her crush gave her a cute nickname but whatever. "Do you know what Valens is about to announce?" I nodded, not in the mood to speak anymore.

Valens and Aysel. Aysel and Valens.

Putting his name next to hers out a bitter taste in my mouth.

"Their Mating Ceremony is set for the twenty-first of next month. You know what that means, don't you?" Three weeks. That was three weeks away!

People spent months planning their mating ceremony and they wanted theirs so soon?

"How do you know? They haven't announced it yet." I eyed her, suspicious. She gave me a cute smile at my question.

“Valens is my best friend. He tells me everything.” She sounded proud of herself.

Was she trying to make me jealous? I didn’t care about her so her relationship with Valens didn’t matter to me but I wondered why she liked me so much. She knew I was attached to Aysel. Except she thought I would never get my mate back.

I glared at her without meaning to, overcome with anger. No one believed I could destroy the flimsy mate bond the mate stealer had created with my mate. No one believed I could win back my predestined mate from Valens who was nothing but a common thief.

“What do you really want from me?” I asked the beauty queen standing before me. She leaned forward for no reason and I got a good view of her cleavage. So now she thought to seduce me? Ha! I’d seen Aysel naked and she had creamy skin, better than all the girls I’d been with.

“You are my friend. I want to assist you in your plans. I want to know how badly you want Aysel back because I want Valens.” She blinked at me and giggled.

This girl must think I was stupid. Valens? Yeah, right. She had the hots for me. I let her pretend though, to save her ego.

“How badly do you want Valens then?” I countered.

“He has been my best friend for a century. I do not want to lose him. They called me his lucky clover while we were

kids. I am a luck bringer.” Whether she was trying to sell herself to me or not, I wasn’t buying.

The announcement of the Alpha and his Luna drew our attention. Clover straightened.

“When you need me, call me. You have my number.” She bounced away. I noticed an extra sway in her hips as she walked away. I walked back to the middle of the Arena where Valens and Aysel stood. She was so short beside him. So small.

Indeed they were announcing their mating ceremony. I watched Valens as he spoke while Aysel smiled beside him.

“We will have our Mating Ceremony on the twenty-first of next month. My mate and I are officially inviting you and also asking you to help in our preparations,” Valens called in his cool voice.

Throughout the Call, he held her hand, brushed her shoulder, tucked her hair behind her ears and even hugged her closer. I saw red.

Just like that, we had a deadline.

There was an uproar in the crowd. People chanted their names. They hailed him, congratulated them and towards the end, a chant of ‘Aysel our curse breaker,’ rose in the air from the Prince’s men.

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“They are not best of friends but they sure are friendly,” Clover said. I nodded absently at her report. I wanted to know all about my little wolf’s relationship with Lucien but something plagued my thoughts.

This morning, I woke to my mate smiling down at me. She was usually asleep when I left for work but not today. Not only did she wake before me, but she also didn’t move. She stared down at me with a sweet smile. She said good morning to me with a honeyed voice and then she kissed me sweetly. Then she climbed atop me and gave herself to me in the gentlest way.

She walked me to my car when it was time to leave and her eyes grew really sad when I got in. I had to tear myself away from her because my wolf was feeling overly protective with the way she looked at us this morning.

I picked up my phone and stared at it. I didn’t know what I was expecting but I kept checking it every minute.

“Are you listening to me?” Clover asked.

I was good at listening while distracted so I knew what she had been saying. What I did not know was the relevance of this discussion. I told her to befriend Lucien and report everything he did to me but Lucien was irrelevant to me that afternoon.

“Why do you think he would trust you enough to tell you what he has planned?” That was assuming the dimwit had enough brain cells to come up with a plan.

For someone who was to become the Beta of a pack as strong as Redville, Lucien was a joke. He was not very smart. The man blatantly went after my mate despite knowing what I could do to him. It was as if he did not care for my wrath or he lacked enough sense not to know what I was capable of.

“He thinks I am in love with you so we have a mutual ground strong enough for friendship.” She tossed her hair behind her shoulder.

“And are you? In love with me, that is?”

“I love you like an omega loves her Alpha.” My brows shot up. “I love you the way every other pack member loves you but I appreciate you more because of what you have gone through for me.”

“Good.” I didn’t want any attraction from her end but I knew she was smarter than that, anyway. “You will find your mate soon.” The curse had been broken so my people should begin to find their mates soon.

We would only know the curse was completely broken when I sired a child and someone from my pack found a mate. It was the sign the first oracle told us to watch out for.

“His relationship with her scares me.” I snapped back to attention when she said that.

“Why? Does he plan to hurt her?” I should crush that man once and for all.

“No, but I fear you will be hurt in the end.” Interesting.

I may not be as untouchable as I was when under the curse but I had years of battle under my belt. No one in this pack or any pack for that matter could touch me. I was still very much invisible in battle.

“She loves Lucien too much. I don’t think she would be able to love you.” The side of my lips pulled up.

“He rejected her. She does not love him.” I recalled how vehemently she spoke about him. He left her broken and now wanted to claim her because he was a jealous a****e. His desperation made me laugh.

I would leave him to chase after my mate knowing he could never get her. I wanted her to get her revenge against him without even knowing it. I laughed out loud at that realization.

The second I heard Lucien was Aysel’s ex-mate, I should have banished him from the pack or had him locked up somewhere he could never lay eyes on her again. It surprised Jabari that I let him roam free. It surprised me too but I now knew why.

He was the fool that hurt my mate in the past. He was the fool that let such a treasure go. An idiot whose loss I now profited from. I wanted him to see her every day and be tortured by the knowledge that he would never be able to have her. I wanted him to run mad from the desperation and regret of losing someone like Aysel. I wanted to punish him.

“They were best friends. She can’t hate him all that much,” Clover countered. I had no fears but I did not trust Aysel not to be lured back into Lucien’s arms.

“I am no longer interested in your reports from Lucien. I know what he wants and I know he cannot have it.” She opened her mouth as if to defy me but she regained her senses in record time.

The Oracle had advised we had to understand each other for our mating to be blessed. I would not understand Aysel if I did not communicate with her. I would not understand my mate if I did not listen to her.

As a man used to getting all I wanted using cunning strategies, I found it hard to believe I could understand Aysel just by talking to her. Spending time with her these days, I noticed she was not as complex as I once thought. She was merely a girl who had been let down by her pack and her Alpha, a girl who had forgotten her worth and developed trust issues on the way. I understand that side of her because I spoke to her.

I found out that I liked talking to my mate. By no means would I be qualified as a chatty man. My words were few and they were the law but with Aysel, I wanted to talk as much as she was starting to.

Weeks ago, she never spoke to me. She only answered when I spoke. It frustrated me because her voice calmed the raging beast inside me so I wanted to hear it often. I was not chatty myself so it was difficult to draw her into a conversation.

Now, I did not have to try. She was letting her walls down for me to enter. All that was left was for me to let my walls down for her. These walls, I erected over a hundred years ago and they had turned to iron with time.

“You are my Alpha and – and my friend.” I nodded to speed up her words while I checked my phone again for a message.

Aysel had never once texted me since I got her a phone. Come to think of it, I’d never seen her with the phone. Had she lost it?

“I don’t think the relationship between them is what you think so if you don’t mind, I would like to follow up on the matter a little longer.” Before I could reply to her, a sense of calmness washed over me and I grinned. Clover, thinking I was encouraging her, smiled at me.

“My mate is here.” Her smile faded as she looked behind her at the door but saw no one.

“Valens –”

“You can leave now.”

“Yes, Alpha.” She picked up her bag and walked out.

I pretended to go back to work but my head kept lifting every second as I waited for my mate to walk in. After five minutes without seeing her, I wondered if I hallucinated her presence.

I stood from my seat and went to the door to peek into the hallway of the floor I occupied alone. I opened the door just as she raised her hand to knock. Without thinking, I grabbed her by her waist and pulled her in, slamming the door shut. She gasped in surprise at the suddenness with which I grabbed her and slammed her against the wall, attacking her lips with mine. I kissed her like a starved man, one hand on her neck and the other on her back, pressing her to me.

“You did not call me.” My words were an accusation when I finally pulled away from her.

“W – what?” Confusion and lust thickened her words. “I – I don’t –” Her eyes widened in realization. She looked cute with wide eyes, a reddened face and thoroughly kissed lips.

“Oh, goddess!” Horror painted her face and I became worried then. “I lost the phone you bought me. I am so sorry.” Tears filled her eyes in an instant and it made my skin prick.

“There is no need to cry. I will get you a new one.” Money did not matter to me so I could get her as many phones as she could misplace.

“No, I have to find the one you bought me. I haven’t seen it since – since –”

“You lost it the day we got it, didn’t you!” Guilt painted her face and I knew I was right. “We will get a new one tomorrow. If you pay for it this time, you will not lose it so easily.”

“But I don’t have any money, though.” She looked away from me with reddened cheeks.

“You will have enough money as my secretary and you can start work tomorrow.” I smirked at her.

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“It’s unfortunate that I’m stuck with you.” Skylar scrubbed a hand down her face. “I can’t even tell Bethel because who knows what he’ll blab it to after getting high.” She hissed, falling into a seat.

“Do you have a plan, or did you call me out to nag at me?” I eyed her, propping my elbows against my thighs as I leaned forward in my seat.

“Their Mating Ceremony can’t happen, so we’re going to disrupt it.”

“How do we go about doing that?” She looked at me with disgust shining in her eyes. It wasn’t my fault I wasn’t an evil mastermind like her. I’d grown up with love and care so I had no reason to be such a schemer. Unlike her.

“We need something against Aysel.”

“Why her? Why not Valens?” Again, she gave me a disgusted look. “Stop looking at me like that.” I fingered the neck of my shirt.

“You are idiotic. I knew you didn’t have a lot of sense but I’m surprised I’m only now seeing how daft you are.” She

stood again, pacing the room. “Because he can leave her. She can’t leave him, you daft punk.”

“Why can’t she leave him?” I admitted to being confused then.

“Imagine this. We tell her he’s been cheating on her so she decides to confront him. Do you think he would let her go without clarifying things? No, of course not. He’s the Alpha. A simple command will make her listen to him but what if the case was reversed?” My eyes widened as I finally grasped the beginning of a wonderful plan.

“So we are going to say she cheated on him?” I smacked my forehead. “We could have done that a long time ago and saved ourselves all this emotional stress.”

“You’re an idiot and I’m only telling you this because you’re important in this plan.”

“Okay, I’m listening.” My heartbeat spiked with anticipation. I wanted to hear everything and I wanted to hear it fast. The earlier we broke them up, the better for me.

“Bethel knows a dealer in wolf’s bane. We will need some for this to work.” Her eyes brightened the way they did before she said something magnificently despicable. “That Clover girl is smart playing you like this but she doesn’t know you’re a daft fool.”

“I don’t get why you have to insult me to tell me anything these days.” She ignored my protest. “Seriously, it’s like you

become a bigger bitch every day.” She cut me a sharp look that had me leaning back. In that look was enough spite and venom to make my skin crawl and my heart leap into my throat.

There was no trace of the sweet girl Skylar used to be. Granted, she was always pretending to be sweet and was never actually sweet, but it was scary to see her so comfortable in her wickedness these days, that it felt like she’d grown even more wicked.

“We are going to set Aysel up using wolf’s bane. We just have to find a way to lure her out and get her to take it. When it intoxicates her, you can do what you want with her while I film.” My stomach turned when I understood her drift.

“Are you insane!” I burst out. “What do you mean – what do you mean by that?” My skin crawled just from thinking of it. I felt as if I would vomit. I wanted to vomit!

“Don’t raise your voice at me, dimwit!”

“Are you really suggesting a*s*ult?” Oh, goddess. Oh, goddess.

I would never do that to Aysel. I loved her and I was desperate to get her back but I would not do something like that to her. I was an a*****e and I had done a lot of awful things to her but this – this was something I would never do. I would never!

“I am not suggesting anything. You’re the one who is a perverted motherf*cker.” She slammed her hand down on a table. “I am not saying you actually have to do anything to her. You just have to make it seem like there is something going on between you two so I can take pictures to blackmail her with.”

“That’s despicable.” My disgust leaked through my words.

“Well, all is fair in love and war.” She snarled at me. I was too stunned to speak for a long time after that.

“But – but it’s not though.” My voice was thin. If this was the only option then there was no option at all. I couldn’t do that to Aysel. It was sick and disturbing and not something I imagined even someone as wicked as Skylar would ever come up with.

“Do you want her back or not?” The energy seemed to go out of her as she fell into her seat.

“I can’t have her back like this. She would never forgive me,” I spat at Skylar.

She was a narcissist and had never been in love before. She was not used to considering other people when she pursued what she wanted but I loved Aysel and it would ruin her if anything like that happened to her.

I wanted her back. Desperately. I said I would do any and everything to have her back but this wasn’t what I meant. I didn’t have anything like this in mind when I said I would do anything.

“Lucien –”

“No.” My voice was firm when I refused.

“You don’t actually have to do anything with her. You don’t even have to touch her. I – ” I looked at Skylar and I saw tears in her eyes. “I am not such a horrible person to suggest something like that. It would only be pictures that look like something is going on. Nothing will really happen and I swear to you, she would never see the pictures. We’d send them to Valens and he would break up with her.”

“No, you don’t know that. You can’t predict how he would react!” I imagined the look of horror on her face if Aysel ever saw herself like that. “I would never violate Aysel.”

“He’s a proud man. He wouldn’t say anything about it to anyone. He would just disappear. I know you care about Aysel and I know it would leave her heartbroken to wonder why Valens would leave her without any notice but that’s where you come in. You will be there for her when he leaves and she would come to love you again.” Skylar’s soft voice deceived me.

It was too good to be true. Would Valens really leave without a fight? What if he attacked her?

As a proud man, if something like that happened to me with my partner, I would leave the pack without a word or backward glance. I would hate her for the rest of my life and never want to see her again for fear of what I would do.

“This is inhumane,” I whispered to myself.

“Yes, it’s something you will have to carry around but it’ll be worth it when you have her back. She would never know. You will be there to comfort her when he leaves and by the time you have a family together, it will all be worth it.”

“I – are you sure she would never find out?”

“I am a hundred percent positive.”

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“I am Luna Levana of the White Moon pack.” The woman standing before me introduced herself. She had a soft demeanour and a kind smile that immediately put me at ease. She was tall and slender and wore loose jeans with a classy top.

“Hello,” I gave a small wave.

“White Moon pack is the second pack the Alpha Prince conquered.” Another woman stepped forward. She looked older than Levana but carried an innate fire and vibrancy that made her seem younger.

“I am Avalon Von Stein, the Royal Historian,” she introduced herself.

“It’s a pleasure to meet you.” I smiled at her. Her inner vibrance gave off a nice warmth that made me comfortable with her.

“The pleasure is all ours, Luna Aysel. You have liberated us from bondage and to you, we owe a huge debt.” Both

women lowered their eyes and bared their necks in a coordinated gesture that made my eyes smart.

“Luna Levana will coach you on the duties of a Luna while I have been instructed to teach you the history of the royals from the first king to the cursed prince.”

“Thank you very much.” I clasped my hands in front of me to mimic the grace of the women but I think I failed.

There was a knock on the door and a woman like a pixie glided into the room. She was petite with blonde hair and an oval face.

“Forgive my tardiness.” She had a soft voice. Everything about her looked soft but she had sharp eyes that assessed me.

“I am Mavis Gold. It is a pleasure to meet our curse breaker.” And then she sank into a perfect bow. Every other person barred their necks but she went into a bow like I saw princesses do on television; proper and fancy.

“It’s a pleasure to meet you too,” I said to her, mimicking her greeting. Her sharp eyes turned sharper.

“You bow to no one but your mate,” she said sternly. My cheeks coloured at her stern reprimand. “I apologize for my tone. I am from a long line of royal etiquette teachers. My mother groomed Queen Valencia and I have lived a hundred years to continue our tradition with you. I will be your teacher on social intercourse.”

I was supposed to be Valens' secretary. When he said I had to work, that was what we both had in mind, until Clover came into the office on the first day of my new job to remind him that there were procedures, things I had to know and rituals I had to fulfil to be his Luna. That was when he called these women to help prepare me for the journey ahead. I was about to become Luna of forty-four packs and the princess of all werewolves.

“Thank you all for volunteering your service to me. I was afraid of taking this step without proper guidance but I'm happy you all will be here to guide me.” The three women smiled and it warmed my heart because it seemed as if I'd said the right thing.

Someone knocked again and a head peeked in. “Sorry to interrupt. You know me, I am Beta Jabari, your sword.” The women laughed at Jabari's grin. “The Alpha wants to see you.”

“I will be on my way.” The door clicked softly shut behind Jabari. “I have to take my leave now but when do we start?” I looked at the women.

“The Alpha Prince has hired an assistant for you. She will be in charge of mapping out your schedule. However, history lessons will be early evenings.”

“Fair enough. I will see you all later,” I walked out of the room and took a deep breath of relief.

The women were nice and had motherly auras around them but they were obviously deeply entrenched in royal

lifestyles that they felt too different from the people I was used to and that intimidated me.

“They will take some getting used to.” I jumped when I saw Jabari standing beside me. “They are nice women. No one else will prepare you better for your new life than them.”

“They are not judgmental, are they?” They didn’t seem it but they all had the looks of wives of rich alphas. They did not turn up their nose or look at me with disdain but if they did, I could easily see myself feeling inferior. Their carriage was magnificent and how they managed to preserve their royal dignity after over a century of the collapse of their kingdom made me curious.

“Only people lacking in class would look down on another person and it is usually to make themselves feel better. Those women are too high-upright to feel the need to judge others and even if they wanted to judge anyone, they would be stupid to judge you. You are our curse breaker,” Jabari said with casual assurance.

“Thank you. I’m just a bit overwhelmed, I guess. I haven’t really done anything to you know – they really are magnificent people and –”

“Your existence is enough for you to be respected.”

I – I’d never thought of that. It was the longest conversation I’d ever had with Jabari and it changed my perspective a bit. I still felt I had to do something to be qualified. I had to be more than who I was in the past for these women and people like them who were so dignified to respect me. But I

think he was right. My existence should be enough reason to not be treated like garbage.

“Is your friend seeing anybody?” I was still deep in my thought so I didn’t quite catch his drift. I didn’t even remember who my friend was at that point. “I’m talking about Celeste.”

“Celes – oh –” I raised my head then to look at him. “Ah – I’m not sure.” I was fairly certain Levi and Celeste didn’t make it as a couple because when I asked about him, she said she never wanted to hear his name again.

Looking at Jabari, there was no way he and Celeste would work out because – because he was just not her type. I’d seen a lot of good men approach Celeste but she rebuffed them no matter how good they were because they were, in her words, ‘nothing but muscles.’ My friend had a lot of trauma to unpack when it came to men that looked like Jabari.

“You do not think she would like me?” He asked with a small smile that was lacking in humour.

“I – You’re wonderful. Why wouldn’t she?” I gave an awkward laugh and he looked at me for a second before turning away.

When I arrived at Valens’ office, he appeared to just be arriving from a meeting. A meeting he must have hated because his face looked thunderous. I stood at his door for a second, wondering if I was about to get a transfer of aggression.

“What are you doing?” He asked when I stopped at the entrance, merely staring at him.

“You asked to see me.”

“I know. I am asking why you are frozen there. Are you coming in or what?” I didn’t need someone else to tell me to walk in. I went to take a seat opposite him and his expression got even worse.

“What are you doing?” He’d asked me to give him a kiss whenever I came into his office but he didn’t seem to be in the mood for that so I was cautious about how to proceed. When he asked though, I immediately walked over to place a chaste kiss on his lips. He responded by pulling me into his lap and burying his face in my neck.

“Are you alright?” I asked despite the surprise at the way he suddenly grabbed me. “You seem mad.”

“I have a lot of incompetent people working around me. It’s hard not to be mad.” He raised his head and the frightening expression on his face had melted away. He wrapped his hand around my wrist. “How is your day going?” He asked, leaning into me and kissing my collarbone. He kissed up to my neck, his tongue flicking against my mating mark.

“I met the people you – you –” My words trailed off when the hand around my waist went down to my thigh and hitched into my skirt. His hand caressed my thigh, pushing higher and higher.

“You’re distracting me.” My breath hitched when I felt his thumb brush my slit through my panties. “Do you – do you want to know how my day went or not?”

“You are the one distracting me with your perfect body. Let’s make a deal.” His hand paused its movement. “Let me eat you out on this desk and we’ll go out for lunch later. Then you can tell me all the exciting things you did today and I’ll tell you what I did too.” It was too good a bargain to pass up on.

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When we got back to the penthouse, I flopped into bed with tired legs. I wanted nothing more than to fall asleep immediately.

The bed dipped beside me and I felt Valens’ warmth against my left side. I wondered if he felt as sated as I did then. He turned and I felt his stubble graze my cheek. We’d had fun today and I’d discovered a side of Valens that I didn’t know existed.

The playful side. I’d seen his stern side, his domineering side, his sexual side but today I saw him smile more times than ever and he made me laugh often.

“Tired, huh?” He stroked my arm but I didn’t want to admit to being tired so I shook my head. Unfortunately, I let out a yawn right after.

“Woah there, don’t swallow me,” he teased. I covered my arms with my palms to hide my darkened cheeks. “Listening to a lie is funny when you already know the truth.”

“Stop.” I laughed underneath my palms.

“Look at you ordering me about.” I took my hands off my face to look at him and my breath caught. He was leaning into me, his face just a breath space away from mine.

“I – ah – I had fun today –” My words were a small whisper as I looked at him with my heartbeat picking up pace.

“Yeah? What part was your favourite?” His eyes twinkled when he looked at me as if daring me to confess.

I could say I didn’t have a favourite part because getting to spend time with him made my day but I still remembered how my legs shook when he spread me on his desk and told me how sweet of a dessert I was.

“Your eyes tell me you are thinking canal thoughts, little moon.” He smirked at me.

“I am not. I’m just sleepy!” I defended vehemently even if what I said was far from the truth. My mind already strayed to this afternoon and my body started to feel even weaker. There was no doubt that he could smell my arousal but, thankfully, he let things go with a gloating smile.

“If you are so tired, you should sleep.” Mischief gleamed in his eyes. “But let’s take a quick bath before bed.” He got out

of bed and pulled me with him, helping me out of my clothes as we got to the bathroom.

We washed up, then got dirty and had to wash up again. At the end of our bath, I had to be carried to bed. Once my back touched the bed, I was out like a light.

Valens got into bed sometime in the night but when I woke the next morning, I was alone in bed. It was disappointing to always wake up alone because my mate had tons of work to get done. It made me feel guilty because I was the one that pulled him from work the previous day so I knew he had even more work to get to today.

It was almost six in the morning when I woke so I brushed my teeth and pulled my hair into a ponytail, ready to start my day with a run before I had to train with Jabari. I was putting on running shoes when I heard a knock on my door. I looked at the clock beside the bed and wondered who would come looking for me this early in the day.

When I finished putting on my shoes, I went to check the door and I met Octavia with a tray and a beaming smile on her face.

“Good morning, Luna Aysel.” I stepped aside for her to enter with the large tray she was carrying.

“Morning, Octavia. What do you have for me?” She set the tray on the table and turned to me with her signature bright smile.

“The Alpha ordered me to bring you fresh fruits and coffee before your morning workout.” She pointed at the tray she set down with a flourish.

Coffee sounded like a good idea seeing as I was still groggy with tiredness. Coffee didn’t have any effect on most wolves but it could give an omega a boost if they took it in large quantities.

I grabbed a mug and the jar of coffee and poured myself a cup, inhaling the fresh scent. My stomach turned the second I took a big whiff.

“Are you alright, Luna?” Octavia asked but I was running to the bathroom before she finished speaking.

My stomach lurched and I made it to the toilet right in time before the content of my stomach started to come out of my mouth as I vomited. My throat burned as I retched up undigested food from the previous evening.

Octavia rushed into the bathroom when she heard me throwing up. “I am so sorry.” I didn’t know why she was apologizing but my stomach had calmed somewhat when she got in.

“I’m fine.” I rinsed my mouth and splashed water on my face as I straightened. It seemed as if I just vomited all my energy.

When I straightened up, my legs shook. Octavia had to hold me up by my waist and lead me to a seat.

“I’m sorry. I didn’t know you don’t like coffee,” she apologized. Tears already stained her face as she hovered around me.

I leaned back into my seat with a groan, closing my eyes. I hadn’t known that I didn’t like coffee either. I didn’t take it often but I never reacted like this to it before. In fact, I always liked the aroma of freshly brewed coffee.

“I don’t think it’s the coffee.” I opened my eyes and sat up straight. My vision darkened for a second but I didn’t allow Octavia to notice because she seemed on the verge of hysteria. “Maybe I ate something bad yesterday.” I smiled at her but she didn’t look relieved.

“I can get you whatever you want. What do you want? I can get you fresh juice. Do you like orange juice?” She was eager to please but my stomach was empty and none of the options she mentioned seemed pleasant to the ear.

“I don’t have an appetite now.” The poor girl looked like she would wail. She may not have seen a lot of sick people but then again, werewolves never really saw sick people as we hardly ever fell sick.

My wolf was silent this morning and I knew she too had been tired out from all the stimulations of the previous day. I surmised that I was feeling weak because not only had I not eaten, I had also thrown up and my wolf was not awake to lend me her strength.

“So – so –” To placate Octavia, I asked her to bring the tray of fruits to me without the coffee. I didn’t think I would be

able to push myself to workout that morning. Just the thought of stepping out of the room seemed too much for me then.

“I’ll have some of the fruits. Do you have pineapples?” She nodded vigorously before rushing out to bring the tray to me.

There were plates of diced pineapples, apples, grapes, some bananas, a slice of watermelon and a bottle of water.

Pineapples were one of my favourite fruits but they didn’t look appealing to me that morning. I settled for the apples and grapes but they didn’t really interest me so I could only eat a little.

“You can leave the rest. I’ll take a nap and hopefully, when I wake up, I’ll be better.” I waved Octavia away. She hovered around me for a few seconds before she finally left. I went back to bed and fell asleep almost immediately.

My dreams were weird and obscure, a continuous loop of me trapped in a red room that I tried but failed to escape. There was also someone else with me that I could not see and I was trying to break the both of us out. I heard a loud noise and awoke in a puddle of sweat.

The loud noise was my new phone with a message from Valens. He was asking where I was and if I’d met my assistant. I wasn’t very good at texting so I told him I was home and made a note of calling him later. My growling stomach didn’t allow me to concentrate.

I went back to the fruits Octavia brought me. I was surprised when I looked at the clock to see it was already past two o'clock in the afternoon.

“Wow,” I muttered to myself, wolfing down the rest of the fruits Octavia left behind. I put on a shirt and left the penthouse for the kitchen as I was still hungry.

“Luna Aysel,” Astrid rushed towards me when I entered the kitchen. The girls had just finished lunch and were washing the dishes. They had varying expressions on their faces which I simply ignored.

“I’m hungry,” I said to Astrid just as my phone pinged with a text.

I checked it immediately, expecting a text from my mate but it was from Celeste and she wanted to see me. She sent me the location and I groaned. It was such a faraway place that we used to visit as preteens pretending to be grown-ups.

‘I’ll be there in an hour.’ I replied to her text.

‘It’s urgent, please.’ I lost my appetite at once.