

The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 81

Valens wasn't a talker, I knew that. I knew before I mentioned it that he would be averse to the idea of seeing a therapist as he would have to open up. What I hadn't expected was for him to try to bury me with work all of a sudden to get me off his tail.

"This contains the history of our kind from the first king to the third. We went through a period when we had no monarch," the Royal Historian said, picking up a book.

"This book covers the history of wolves in the days when we didn't have a stable rulership." The book she produced next was the biggest I ever saw in my life.

"Am I really to read all these?" I asked, rubbing my neck. I knew there would be work to be done but these books would take months to read.

"No, you will get to read them but for the work we have to do now, I have a summary." She produced what looked like a long novel. "This is something my predecessor wrote. It is a bit more concise with only six volumes." She handed it to me. I took the book with reverence.

"It contains everything you need. The plan is for you to read a section in two days and the next evening, we can take a short walk and discuss what you've read," she said as she set the other books aside.

"What if – what if I forget to do the reading?" I smoothed down my skirt.

I hoped I didn't sound unserious to her, already talking about shirking my reading as if I had more important things to do.

“Aysel ” She paused. “Can I call you by your given name, Luna?” I nodded. She gave me a small, fleeting smile.

“Aysel, the point of teaching history is for you to know the mistakes we have made in the past so you can avoid them. I know you will dedicate yourself to learning our history but I want you to know that this is not school work.” How had she known what I'd thought of?

“Luna Levana will do a better job in coaching you on the duties and powers of a Luna but I must let you know now that you are the most important person in our world right now.” She reached over and I felt she wanted to give me a pat but she was too far away. “I know a bit of your history as I am drawn to history,” she continued. “I understand you will not always feel it but you must know that you are no longer just omega Aysel. You have been christened Aysel the curse breaker, Luna to Alpha Valens. Remind yourself of who you are every time you start to feel like your old self.”

“I will try,” I promised.

“I know you will and myself and the others will be here to support you and provide our knowledge whenever you need it.”

“Thank you,” I said.

“It is my pleasure to be of service to our curse breaker. We will begin our lessons tomorrow evening.”

After Avalon von Stein, I had to go over some things with Luna Levana. She was really nice and soft-spoken. It was almost impossible to believe she was one of the most powerful Lunas in the world.

“You are pretty chill for someone with so much power,”

” I blurted out. She laughed at that, her laughter low and pretty.

You are the more powerful one between the both of us. Besides, power doesn’t have to be showy.”

Her words gave me pause.

“I have compiled a list of your tasks and how you can go about them. Unlike the hard facts the Alpha and his Beta have to deal with, a lot of our work requires much more than knowledge. You need wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and everything in-between.”

Her voice enthralled me.

“Your decisions will be heavily influenced by your sense of judgement. The Alpha decides if a person asking for a thousand gets eight hundred or five but you will first have to decide if their purpose is worth funding in the first place.”

I was frightened, I would not lie to myself. I did not know if I had a strong sense of judgement.

What if I decided their purpose was worth funding and it turned out to be a loss to the pack at the end of the day?

You are no longer just omega Aysel, I reminded myself of Avalon's words. I didn't need to doubt myself. I was more than I gave myself credit for.

"As the Luna, you are responsible for every gathering the pack organizes, from the date of the event to the financing and the smallest details like the colours of the tablecloth. You are also responsible for the dungeons, who goes in and who comes out."

"Really?" I asked, surprised that I would have that much power.

"Yes. Along with that comes the responsibility of granting pardons to some criminals on death row, although the death penalty is in the process of being abolished so you may not have to do that." She handed me a journal.

"Most of these things you will learn on the job but I have asked an accounting professor to prepare a course for you on budgeting. It is tricky," she wrinkled her nose and I laughed.

"I was going to be an accountant," I shared with her. I regretted it immediately because she perked up. I knew she would ask about what happened to deter my dreams.

"You can still be an accountant. Once you get the hang of this Luna thing, it would be easier than baking a cake. You can enroll next year."

"I - " It was something I stopped thinking about a long time ago. I'd lost all hopes of furthering my education but when

she mentioned it, I already pictured myself back in school. “I think I will.” It became too appealing to let go of.

“Great. We can even talk to Professor Martins to put you through on the application process.

She beamed at me as if she understood she’d just changed things for me big time.

“Thank you.”

“It’s my pleasure.” She smiled again. “The overall welfare of the pack rests on your shoulders,” she added. “I got a portion of what should be your duty from the Alpha. We can work through it together. She pulled up a high stack of paperwork that she’d printed from Valens’ office.

“That must be a full week’s work,” I said with a gasp. She laughed.

“When you have a backlog of work to sort through, this becomes a little pile. These are mostly petitions. In the future, you will have to meet people physically to make some decisions.

We started work then. First, we sorted the pile into two; simple petitions and invites to different occasions, and another pile that I could not sort through because I was missing a lot of context on them.

I ended up declining eighty percent of the invites. I was going to ask Valens if he would want to honour any of them but Luna Levana reminded me that would be pushing my

load to him and it was my primary responsibility to do the opposite.

Finally, I scheduled a meet and greet with a neighboring Luna and we called it a day.

Levana gathered up the files and told me she would have to find someone to type out the responses I'd given.

“That is why it is best to work digitally.” She smiled at me when she saw the look on my face. “You will also work with your assistant and the elders whose duties it is to support the Luna so you will surely get the hang of things pretty fast.”

It was late evening when she left. I was all alone in the vast mansion after that. I decided to prepare dinner for myself and the six men that now guarded my home. After that, I took a bath, stretched, and tried to relax.

I was waiting for Valens to return from work when I remembered I still had to read up the history of my kind! Uggh! I went out to get the book and started reading.

I checked the time after a while. It was well past nine but Valens still wasn't back. I checked my phone for a message from him but I didn't have any. Then I messaged him. I waited for an hour to get a response but got nothing.

I called him. Once, twice, five times. No response. My heart started to race. I called Jabari but he too wasn't picking up. I hated how I'd cut myself from the pack then. I could not walk out of the pack house and hail a cab to his office.

I started searching for the keys to one of the two cars parked in the garage. Valens never really drove them and I couldn't drive so they were wasting away. I found the keys and was about handing them to one of the guards to drive me when the gates opened.

I watched apprehensively as the car drove over and Valens got out, then Celeste. She looked absolutely devastated, mascara running down her cheeks and her eyes big and puffy.

The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 82

“What happened to her?” I asked Valens when I successfully got Celeste settled in. She was having a bath now so I went to grab her some clothes.

She'd refused to speak when I asked her what was wrong. She'd cried the more I asked her if anything had happened. The only coherent words I got out of her were ‘I don't want him!’”

I assumed it had something to do with Jabari but still couldn't figure out how my mate fit into the mix.

“Did you know she is Jabari's mate?” He asked in response to my question, raising his head from his computer.

“Yeah, Jabari told me,” I replied. He scowled.

“And you couldn't tell me?” Why did it sound like he was accusing me?

“Why? It didn’t even occur to me that Jabari hadn’t told you.” I shrugged, pulling out a nightdress for my friend. It was bright, a sunflower yellow that I hoped would brighten her up a bit.

“He told me today. He was nervous about seeing her so I offered to go along with him.”

He sighed, pinching his nose. “You should have seen the way she looked at him.”

“How?” I could already imagine but I asked anyway.

“It was something of a mix of disgust, hatred, and fear. She looked at him as if he was an ugly monster who’d ruined her life. Then she just – ran off.” He looked appalled. “She ran into the streets and almost got run over. When we caught up with her, she was screaming and crying. We didn’t even say anything to her.” He looked upset as he spoke.

“Did Jabari try talking to her?”

“He did but ended up making things worse.” He scrubbed a palm down his face. “It was a hustle getting her here.”

“She has her reasons,” I said, wondering if I made things worse by asking Jabari to try talking to her. I hoped I hadn’t made things worse. I hadn’t seen Celeste break down like this before.

“Jabari is a good man. Why would she react to him like that?” I shrugged as I escaped from his unending questions.

When I got back to Celeste's room, she was shivering, a towel wrapped around her. She took the pajamas from me without a word.

After putting them on, she crawled into bed and under the covers.

"Will you eat at the dining or should I bring dinner up?" I asked when she disappeared under the covers.

"Im not hungry," she answered after a second of silence.

"Don't play with me. You haven't eaten and you will eat. I'm only asking if you'll eat here or at the dining," I said.

She was silent for a long time after that. The covers started to shake and I knew she was crying again. I approached her but she emerged slowly from underneath the covers, her eyes red and puffy.

"Why doesn't anyone care what I want?" Her voice broke as did my heart.

"Please don't say that." I got into bed and sat next to her, my shoulder brushing hers. "I care what you want. We all do."

"But I don't want him. I don't want him!" Her voice rose, hysteria setting in. I put a hand around her shoulders.

"And it's okay not to want him. No one would dare force you to be with someone you don't want to be with, mate or not."

“Even the goddess didn’t care. She just – gave me the last person I would ever want. I – and he’s the Beta while I’m just the girl from a bad family. He’s above me. How can I say no? What if- what if -“

“No, no what if’s. Jabari is the last person to force someone to mate and even if he were, I’m above him. I would never let that happen,” I assured her.

“You – and the Alpha –

“Would be stupid to say otherwise,” I cut off her sentence. “You don’t have to be with him if you don’t want to. It’s as simple as that.”

“It can’t be,” she countered. “I want it to – I want to believe you but – my life is ruined.”

She smacked her head against the headboard with the force with which she leaned back.

“You’ve been here for me all along. I won’t leave you to deal with this on your own. If you don’t want to be with him, then you don’t have to,” I said, squeezing her hand.

“But don’t you see – He’s the Beta. How can I continue in this pack with him? Will I be forced to leave? I’ve been here all my life. I don’t want to leave!”

“No one is making you leave. You’re thinking too far. Take a breathe, babe.” She breathed in deeply and then paused. Then she started to suffocate. “Let it out.” Horror froze my blood when I saw her turn purple.

I'd never seen Celeste break down like this before. I'd never seen her – I'd never seen her lose herself like this and it made me realize how much I'd been wrong about her in the past. Even as her best friend, I'd always thought she didn't have any problems. She had a family and she had love so she had no struggles in life. She didn't have my struggles but she had hers and I felt like an awful person for not thinking about that till now.

“My life is over.” She let out a breath, her head falling to my shoulders. We stayed in that position for a while, with me trying to convince her that she wasn't losing her life because she was mated to someone she didn't want.

“Do you think I'm overreacting?” She asked after a while. “I'm being unreasonable, aren't I?”

She raised her head with a sniff.

“No, you aren't overreacting. You're feeling cornered and that's perfectly understandable seeing as you've been predestined to someone you don't want without any foreseeable way out.”

“I could just reject him,” she said but I knew she knew that wouldn't work.

“He would never accept your rejection,” I told her, not wanting to lie. “He has waited for you for years,” I added.

“He's a good man.” It was exactly what Valens said a short while ago but I didn't know if I was supposed to be agreeing with her. “But I don't want him.”

“And that’s perfectly fine,” I assured her yet again.

“Is it, though? The goddess gave him to me.

He’s supposed to be the best person for me,” she looked more miserable as she said that.

“What if rejecting him turns out to be the worst thing I ever do? I’ve waited for my mate for a while too, you know?” Her eyes were blood red when she said that.

“If you don’t want him, then you don’t have to be with him but if it’s trauma that you haven’t dealt with stopping you, then we will get you help, I promise.” She looked away from me.

“I know he is a good man. He is dedicated to his duty and will never compromise his honour,” she sounded like she’d said this to herself countless times, as if she was trying to convince someone, perhaps the part of her that didn’t see a reason to be with Jabari,”I don’t – I don’t know what to do.”

“Celeste, what did your parents do when Mr.Vann abused you?” Her hands shivered and she clasped them together. I put my hand on them, squeezing.

“They- Well, they made him apologize to me, then the Alpha had him whipped and he was subsequently banished from the pack with his teaching license revoked.”

“What did they do for you?” I emphasized the last part.

“I got to choose what they used in whipping him and – and how many stokes he got. My mum got me a doll and my

father got me some device – it was to use to defend myself in the future.”

“How often did you get to speak about it?”

“We went to the oracle and I got to vent to the goddess.” I gawked at her.

“And what did the goddess say?” I asked, incredulous.

“What? She only speaks to her oracles. She said nothing.”

“In a nutshell, you never got help,” I concluded.

“How do you feel when you see Jabari?”

“He makes my skin crawl,” she said without her hesitation.

“He looks too much like Mr. Vann. I try to tell myself that he’s nothing like that but – I – they look the same.” She buried her face in her palms, letting out a small scream.

“Help me, Aysel. I’m confused.”

The Cursed Alpha’s Mate Chapter 83

Celeste fell asleep close to midnight with me hugging her. I was dozing off when a text lit up my phone screen, startling me. I opened it to see a message from Valens.

“When are you coming to bed?” It read. I yawned as I typed out a reply.

I’m not. I don’t want her sleeping alone tonight His reply came in a flash.

“What do you mean you are not? What about me?”

‘What about you?’ I stretched as Celeste turned.

You want me sleeping alone?’ Another text followed that.
‘Come to bed.’

‘I can’t. She’s going to wake up soon and I don’t want her crying alone in a strange room.’

‘How am I supposed to sleep?’ I blinked at the text. Then a smile stretched my lips.

‘You close your eyes, babe. And dream of me.’

‘Ok.’ I laughed a little at that reply. ‘Goodnight.’

‘Are you upset?’ I asked, holding back a giggle.

‘No.’

‘Oh my goodness, you’re mad at me.’ I added a bunch of emojis to the text, hit send, and readjusted myself in bed.

Celeste turned again, her breath hitching as if she was crying in sleep, before evening out again.

I am texting my mate while we are under the same roof. Ridiculous.’ His response had me grinning wider. Another text came in a second later, ‘Come to bed, little moon.’

Celeste groaned beside me as I made to reply to his text. She turned and the expression on her face was heartbreaking.

“I don’t want him,” she muttered in her sleep, her brows scrunched. Tears leaked out from underneath her eyelids and I considered waking her from her nightmare but thought better of it. She turned again, going into another short round of peaceful sleep.

I sighed, staring up at the ceiling. Celeste was always so happy and helpful. Everybody liked her and she constantly received praises for her looks, her kindness, and her intellect. She was the Beta’s beloved daughter. I was everything that she wasn’t. The outcast, the one without a family, no one’s beloved anything. Because she didn’t have my problems, I foolishly thought she didn’t have problems of her own.

Yes, there was a disconnect between our realities but I’d been wrapped in a delusion all this while. She was constantly there for me and I didn’t know she needed someone to be there for her too.

I thought back to all the years we’d been friends. Despite everything, she remained my best friend. She was pretty and kind enough to have a long list of friends but I realized that she stuck with me. I was her friend while everyone else was her acquaintance. She had the opportunity to make more friends so why hadn’t she?

I thought then that she may have been scared.

Scared of trusting the wrong people and having them hurt her as Mr. Vann did. He had been her favorite teacher. Her family even used to invite him over for dinner sometimes. He was part of the pack and a respected member at that.

He'd also been, in a way, her friend. Then he turned and betrayed her like that.

"I am so sorry, Celeste," I whispered into the darkness of the room.

Had I become self-centered? So focused on my problems that I didn't consider other people's problems?

I heard footsteps in the house, making me sit up in bed. Why was Valens going about? I grabbed my phone to check the time but a knock sounded on the door. I hurried out of bed and out the door before the quiet knocking woke my friend.

"What are you -" His lips silenced me when I closed the door behind me. His tongue delved into my mouth immediately.

My breath caught, my skin warmed and my heart raced as he kissed me out of nowhere, his hand in my hair.

"Come to bed, Sagira," he said against my neck, kissing down to my chest. "It's impossible to sleep without you beside me."

"Ok- I-I-" I lost my train of thought when he started to caress my thighs. Then I froze when a small sound from inside the room made the haze of lust blinding me dim a bit.

"She's awake." I pushed away from Valens. I'd never seen him scowl so hard as he did then.

“I almost had you,” he said, voice tight, his eyes droopy yet decidedly pissed. “I didn’t get to spend time with you all day and now I can’t even have you in bed at night.” If looks could kill, someone would have died from his look.

“I’m not running away or something. I’d stop by your office tomorrow, I promise.” I pressed a quick k!ss to his cheek and went back into the room.

Celeste was awake, sitting up in bed with her eyes eerily blank. I heard Valens curse before stomping away.

“I’m fine. I’m fine.” She wiped the tears hurriedly from her cheeks when I came in. “Go back to your mate. He needs you.” She smiled at me but her chin quivered and tears still leaked from her eyes.

“At this point, you need me more.” I got into bed with her and she immediately rested her head on my shoulder. “I’m here for you, Celeste. Always.” I gave her a side hug and she shivered.

“What am I going to do?” She wailed, the sudden loudness of her voice startling me. “I’m sorry I’m a mess. I don’t know what to do. I’ve been hiding from him and then – then it felt like he was hiding from me. I’m having too many mixed feelings. I’m scared whatever decision I make will be the wrong one and it’ll inadvertently ruin my life.”

“There’s no need to be sorry. I’ve cried uglier tears and you still held me.” I hugged her tighter. “I’m not going to let you make a bad decision, okay?” I k!ssed her forehead. “How about this; You don’t have to see him now. I’ll get his

number from Valens and you too can communicate through text and calls if you want. From there, we can determine if you like his person while we get you the help you should have received all those years ago.”

“Will that work?” She asked, sniffing and wiping her cheeks.

“If it doesn’t work, we can always try something else. You don’t have to rush things.

You can take it slow, see what he’s like before you decide whether he is worth it for you.”

“What if after everything I decide he isn’t worth it? What if I never get the memories of Mr. Vann from my head? What if I see the man I hate every time I look at him? Because that is who I see, Aysel.”

“That’s who you see now and its understandable but trust me, it’s not who you will always see. It may take time but everything will be better, I promise.”

I sat up with her, staring into the distance, not saying anything. Occasionally, she voiced her fears, and every time, I did my best to reassure her that it was okay to feel the way she felt and that I would help her in any way possible.

I tried texting Valens after that but he didn’t reply. He’d either gone to sleep or was being petty. I suspected the latter to be the case.

I ended up falling asleep before Celeste, my tiredness getting the best of me. I kept waking at every small sound to see her idly staring at the ceiling until she too fell asleep. Only then did I get a peaceful night's rest.

I woke up early the next morning to make Valens breakfast. It was something I started at the beginning of the week and I found I liked doing it. I felt better knowing he wasn't always eating takeout, junk, or whatever they were sending him from the pack house. That, and he really liked my cooking and never failed to compliment me.

When he came down to the kitchen, I realized last night wasn't a joke. He was actually pissed at me. He was sulking when he came down, his face blank. He pressed an absent kiss to my lips when he saw me and ate with a straight face, avoiding all eye contact.

"You're being petty," I pointed out when he wouldn't look at me even while eating. He raised his head and I was taken aback. "Wow, you look awful." He had dark eyebags around his eyes and his colour looked pallid.

"It happens when your mate chooses to spend the night in another bed." His words were flat.

"I need sleep now and I got zero last night without you in bed with me."

"I thought you were just horny," I admitted, bottom lip poking out.

“I was – that!” He sighed in exasperation “But I told you it’s impossible to sleep without you beside me. I meant that.” He pushed his hair away from his face.

“I’m sorry. I’ll do better next time.” I hugged him from behind and I felt him relax.

“Stop by the office by noon,” he said, rinsing out his cup.

“Why?” I asked, going through what I had in my kitchen and what I could make Celeste for breakfast.

“Why do you think?” He gave me a pointed look that made my skin heat.

The Cursed Alpha’s Mate Chapter 84

My friend came out of her room sometime before lunch. I’d eaten her breakfast at that point and had to prepare something else.

“Good morning,” she said, yawning. Her eyes were tired and puffy, her colour dull. She’d taken a bath and changed into the clothes she came in with.

“Morning.” I put my teacup down, inviting her to sit beside me. “How are you doing?” I asked. She shrugged.

“I’m sorry I broke down yesterday,” she said with a tired smile. “I overreacted but I’m fine now. I didn’t complete my shift yesterday. I have to leave now so that I’m not late again.” She shook her head.

“You’re volunteering. Why are you working so many hours as a volunteer?” She looked away.

“What aren’t you telling me?”

“I- Do you know how far my reputation has sunk in the pack?” I watched her expression as she said that. I could only imagine what she was suffering at this point.

She’d gone from the daughter of respected betas to the only good egg in her family. Her parents abandoned the pack and her brother was rotting in the dungeons. Her family members were branded traitors, known enemies of the Alpha Prince. It must be taking a toll on her.

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traitors, known enemies of the Alpha Prince. It must be taking a toll on her.

“Is that why you are working so hard at the hospital? To clear your name?” I asked.

“Partially.” She sighed. “My parents didn’t leave a penny behind. The only thing I have now is the house I stay in and I’m afraid to wake up one day to find they sold it.” She looked at her hands and I saw they were shaking on her thighs. She clasped her hands together.

“I want to be a nurse,” she said. “My father promised to pay for my schooling. I was unsure of what I wanted to do before and when it clicked, the pack was going through a lot so I refused to burden my father with my problems. Well, now I need a lot of money for schooling and the hospital has agreed to start paying a reasonable amount for my hours. For now, most places are unwilling to hire me because of the bad rep my family has.”

“Doesn’t the pack have scholarships?”

remembered there used to be something like that while I was growing but I didn’t know if it still existed.

“Alpha Xavier halted it at a point when the pack was going through a financial crisis and he never started it back up.”

“We’ll look into it. I’m sure the pack can afford to fund an intelligent and passionate nurse,” I said with a wink.

“You don’t have to do that for me.” She didn’t smile.

“You will serve the pack at the end of your schooling, wouldn’t you? We have a shortage of nurses so consider it something for the pack. We’ll get you to school in the next session.” I wanted to tell her I was planning to take an accounting course soon but I decided to keep quiet about it until I was certain I could do it.

“I -” She cut herself off. “You’ve had to deal with my whining since last night. I’m sorry about that.”

“Celeste, why didn’t you tell me anything?” I asked, ignoring her unnecessary and unending apologies.

“You’ve been going through a lot all alone.”

“Have you seen you?” She snorted. “What have I gone through? My parents screwed up and my mate terrifies me. That’s nothing compared to the things you’ve had to deal with throughout your life, especially this period.” She waved away my concerns.

“We are friends. You never let me go through my troubles alone. You shouldn’t have to go through yours alone,” I insisted. “Promise me you won’t keep things bottled again. Promise me you’ll tell me when things are good and bad and that you’d let me be there for you.” I got a promise alright, but I knew it wasn’t a sure one.

She had a late breakfast while I tried to finish up a chapter of the book I was supposed to be reading.

I was a bit distracted so it took me a while to read as little as a paragraph.

Celeste grabbed her bag, ready to leave. I picked up the lunch I’d put together for Valens and we left the house in one of the other cars. I got off at the office while Celeste continued to the hospital.

The Alpha, Beta, and a couple of elders were in a meeting when I arrived so I waited alone in Valens office for the meeting to end. I read the history book from Avalon but history didn’t really interest me at that point. I mixed up

the names and dates and had to go back sometimes to know who was ,who. It didn't help that the book started with a genealogy of men long dead. But I was decided to learn every treat could help me be a good Luna. An efficient one.

I perked up when I felt my mate close. The door to the office opened and closed as I closed my book and set it aside.

“Did you know that Alpha King Cassius had three true mates?” I asked, standing to greet my mate. He took off his jacket, a disgruntled look on his face.

“Yes, the first and only polygamous Alpha King, caused quite a hassle.” He set his bag down and pulls me in for a short k!ss. “How are you?” He asked, hugging me.

“I missed you,” I admitted. “How did your meeting go?” His expression had been hard since he walked in. From that look alone, I knew the meeting hadn't gone well.

“The trackers lost Skylar and Alpha Braxton. A hunter has Braxton's pack hostage and it's my duty to deal with that. There are dissenters among the elders. Some girl started a petition to free Lucien and it has gathered more than three hundred signatures. I have five men in custody for trying to break out Zavier and one of them is an elder's son.

One of my Alphas has gone rogue. Add a sprinkle of sleep deprivation and s3xual frustration to all this and you'll have a summary of how the meeting and my life, in general, isn't going well.”

“Im truly sorry about last night,” I said to his long rant.

“You said you’d make it up to me,” he eyes me up and down, waking across the desk to take a seat.

“Yeah. I brought lunch,” I raised the small bag with the lunch box. He scowled at me.

“If you aren’t lunch, I am not hungry.” His tone was flat. He closed his eyes for a second.

“Fine, I wore red,” I said. When he opened his eyes, they were a vibrant red.

“You could have started with that.” His voice was thick when he spoke. He got out of his seat, already taking off his belt. I unbuttoned my shirt and was about to slip it off when he stopped. “Let me have my fun.”

He k!ssed down my throat, to my collarbone, my shoulders, down my arm, slipping my shirt off slowly as he went. I was leaning against his desk, my hands gripping the edges to hold myself up. My shirt caught at my wrists so I hurriedly tugged it off.

Without unhooking my bra, he pulled the material down until one of my breasts was bare. He squeezed, k!ssed, care*ssed, and svckled with fervor.

He went lower, hiking up my skirt and bunching it around my wa!st.

“You smell good,” he said, his lips moving against my skin, k!ssing my stomach. Then he flipped me so that I was bent

over his table. He wasn't particularly interested in my colour choice then. He pushed my panties to the side and ran his palm against my opening.

"You are so wet already." I half turned to watch his expression as he sniffed me.

"You're not the only sexually frustrated one," I said, ending in a gasp as a cool tongue touched my opening. "Fvck," I whispered. "I like that," I admitted.

"I know," was the last thing I heard before his lips closed around my opening I felt the full extent of his frustration as he took me after that, his strokes hard and fast, rougher than I'd had it in a long time. I got so loud that I feared even those on the lowest floor would hear me.

Thankfully, he put his hand over my mouth, muffling my screams.

I was riding the waves of a euphoric orga*sm, feeling his warm release inside me, when someone knocked on the door.

The Cursed Alpha's Mate Chapter 85

"Did you know she is a witch?" Avalon von Stein asked, her legs crossed before her.

"Yes," I answered, flipping through a file Jabari just sent my way.

My Beta wasn't functioning at full capacity at this point which put more workload on me. It was a good thing my Luna was picking up more and more work these days. There was no way I could do all this alone.

"How do you feel about that?" The historian asked, making me pause.

"She's my Luna," I said offhandedly.

In truth, the thought of having a mate with magic was hard to digest. Her sudden magical abilities left me wondering and a lot of times, I would admit it made me recoil. I did not like magic and she must have noticed because she had fewer magical accidents around me. I imagined she was getting used to her new abilities or she was hiding them from me. I didn't want her to hide any part of herself from me. Never again.

"Does it bother you?" She asked. I shook my head, unwilling to say more than that. Jabari mostly handled Avalon but he wasn't in the right state of mind to work these days so I had to do it

It bothered me that there was a person documenting everything that went on in my life to share with the next generation. My conquests, my mistakes, everything about my life was being documented for the whole world.

Even the stupid things I had done as a teenager were on record and who knew what else.

“I am not a liar. I can tell you that it is something I am working on getting to understand and accept. I love my mate as she is even if I hate magic I have to come to terms with it,” I told her.

“And how are you coming to terms with it?”

She raised a slender brow.

My strategy had been to pretend she didn't have magic. I pretended not to see that she glowed differently these days and not a glow of happiness. An ethereal glow that had magic written all over it. I tried not to remember what magic had cost me and when I perceived that scent on her – the sharp stench of magic, I calmed my wolf and reminded him it was now the smell of our mate.

“I love her. I am focusing on that love.” That was as much truth as I could tell the world.

“You know this isn't an interview. In a more traditional setup, I would not have to sit in the Alpha's office to question him. The royal historian's duty is crucial. I should not ask to know how your administration works. If I fail to document the past, the future suffers.”

I didn't want to tell her she thought too highly of her position. Things had changed. What use was a royal historian when the monarchy had been destroyed a hundred years ago?

“For example, if there was no one to document the failures of King Cassius, your grandfather could have very well

repeated his mistakes.” It was the classic example she never failed to give. My grandfather had two true mates and banished one to avoid the dilemma of the kingdom after the first King Cassius’ demise.

“I am not the king. You don’t have to be so concerned about my affairs.” I dismissed her but Avalon was not so easily dismissed.

“You should be the king. You have had a mate for months now but you are still here. Why are you still in Redville, Prince Valens?” No one called me with that title anymore. Jabari sometimes called me prince when he was being snarky but I’d become Alpha Valens over the years.

“I have business to settle in Redville. What is it you want today, Avalon?” I closed the files which I had been flipping through without reading anything.

“I am very interested in your mate.” My brows rose and my wolf finally stopped pacing long enough for her to have my undivided attention.

“She is eager to stand beside you as your Luna but what about your queen?”

“I am just the prince,” I cut her off. “I am not the king yet.” She rolled her eyes in a manner uncharacteristic of her.

“You will be king soon. You should be king already. Why are you delaying? Why have you not held a Ceremony yet?” She fired off a string of questions, none of which I wanted to

answer. Yet, I was required to if I wanted to keep what was left of our culture alive.

“I cannot be king without completing the Ceremony as you know and I am not delaying.

We lost a child, in case you have forgotten. I am giving my mate time before I bring up the Ceremony again.”

“It does not excuse your being in Redville till now. The people back home are waiting with bated breaths for your return since they heard you found your Luna. But it doesn't seem like you have plans to return home soon.” She didn't bring out a pen and paper to write anything down but I could almost see the gears in her head turning as she spoke and captured everything I said.

“This is the first time in a century that I've ever truly felt at peace. Why do you think I will want to leave that and return to a home I have -“I cut myself off.

This was one of the reasons I did not like to speak to Avalon. Everything I said would be heard by everyone else, leaving them free to create their opinion of the kind of man I was.

My people at home no longer felt like my people. I had not seen them in over a century.

They were always at the back of my mind but now I barely gave them much thought. It was not an Alpha-like thing to do so I could not admit that to Avalon else the world would add another stain to a name I was trying to clean.

“Perhaps we will return soon but I have crucial business in Redville. It must be completed before we leave.”

“Is it revenge?” She asked.

“It certainly is,” I responded without pause.

“Prince Valens, I am not your adviser but I am recognized as a pillar of wisdom. Your mate will not thrive here even if this land feels like your peace. It is not hers and the earlier you realize this, the better. There are also no resources here to help her. All she has is the little books I carried with me to teach her when she could be learning from her surroundings.”

She stood, picking up her bag. “It is my humble opinion.”

“Right. Thank you.” I dismissed her.

My mate ran into the office once she was out.

“Did she mention anything about me slacking off?” She asked, breathing heavily. “I haven’t been able to complete the sections she wants me to read but I swear, I am not being lazy.”

The names and dates are all so confusing. I’ve read about three Alpha Cassius and ‘m not sure I can tell them apart.”

“If my father wasn’t more obsessed with my mother than he was himself, I would have been the fourth Thomas in a line of Thomases.” She brightened, about to say something but I continued, “Do you want to leave Redville?” I asked, leaning back into my seat.

“Like a vacation? Where?” She came over and took a seat.

“Not like a vacation. Back home. The Alpha Pack.”

Yea- I mean no?” She stopped herself but I could hear the answer loud and clear. “What do you think? Do you miss home?”

I’d been gone for too long. The land my original pack occupied did not feel like home anymore. Redville was the only place I ever felt at home in for over a century now. Why would I want to go back to the place that started all this? I never expected to ever feel like this. I used to think that once my curse was broken, I would go back home to be the Alpha King.

“I like Redville.” She looked shocked to hear that. “Why are you surprised? It’s the land I found peace after years of distress.” Her expression softened. “I like Redville but I am the prince. I cannot stay here much longer.”

And like that, it felt like time was running out, as if something crucial would slip through my grasp if I didn’t hurry.

“Redville isn’t your curse breaker; I am.” She pushed a finger into her chest. “I am your peace and I will go anywhere with you.” I smiled at the fervor in her voice. “But it’s fine if you want to stay here, though,” she smiled sheepishly.

She had never told me she loved me. I said it at least five times every day but she never said it back. I only got smiles

in response. The more I said it without hearing it in return, the more anxious I got that things were lacking. But now and then, she said things that let me know that she loved me even if she never said the exact Words.

“You are right. You are the one that makes Redville special. Let’s deal with Skylar and go back home.” She beamed at me.

Redville may be my peace but I could tell she had no love to give this land.