

Chapter 11

Ava woke up with a start for the second time in a few short hours. The contents of the welcome pack were strewn all over her bed, and a piece of pie was stuck to the front of her T-shirt. She felt something on her face that felt like it was probably another piece of the pie.

Last night's events flooded her mind, and she shot off the bed. Daylight was streaming into the room through the gauzy curtains, which meant only one thing.

She was freaking late! And her schedule said she had a mandatory assembly before orientation.

She'd fallen asleep while trying to learn the millions of rules this place had. She hadn't even made the bed or taken her alarm clock out of her suitcase. And because of that unhinged Alpha, she had dreamt of being carried out of this place in a body bag. It had made a change from her usual nightmares, but it was still unsettling.

Still, she had to wait until after assembly and orientation before she could see the dean anyway. That Alpha couldn't have meant she should leave at first light, that was impossible.

With food all over herself and her hair, only a shower would fix the mess she was in. She had no choice but to waste precious time standing under the hot spray while brushing her teeth. A few minutes later, she had a couple of stubbed toes and all her paperwork stuffed into a bag with the school laptop and tablet. She hadn't done her tie yet, and the top buttons of her shirt were undone. Caleb would have a fit if he saw her like this. Her hair was still dripping wet when she ran out of her dorm while struggling to open the map.

Leaving the dorm without it had caused many problems last night; she didn't intend to make that mistake again, no matter how short her time here would be.

How in the world was she ever expected to get from her dorm to her class every day? Not that it would affect her for long. but that was a long way for any human to walk. And she still didn't know how late she was. This was the part her father and brother should have told her she needed a watch. She had relied on her phone for everything and now felt completely naked.

She'd only gone a short distance up the road when she heard a car drive up behind her. When she turned, she was relieved to see it slow to a stop. The tinted windows rolled down, and the dirty wolf from last night smiled at her.

“Morning, Little Red,” Jared drawled.

He looked like he had just rolled out of bed, too, but the look suited him better than it did her. Damn supernaturals and their perfect genetics. Jared would look good in any situation.

And that insane wolf from yesterday. He would look particularly good with a sheet draped over him on her bed, only if he put his mouth to better use and didn't growl so much.

That thought made her blush as she mumbled a reply to Jared.

“Hop in. You look like you'll get lost again if I leave you here.”

She didn't argue as she folded her map and opened the passenger seat door.

“Thank you so much. You've rescued me twice now,” she said, strapping herself in.

I guess that means you owe me,” Jared said with a grin as he put the car in gear and started driving,

She took the chance to properly pack her paperwork and zip her bag up before she started fixing her tie.

“Are you late, too?” she asked him.

“The rules are different for me.”

She almost rolled her eyes at that. It seemed that, like everywhere else, wolves with alpha blood were treated with such sickening favoritism at the academy. As she had clearly been labelled an Omega here, she knew what hell she was in for. Omegas were everyone else's maids. The

whipping boys. The butlers. Any service role at all. If anybody asked her, those were the real MVPS

“I’m sure they are,” she sighed as she used the hairband on her wrist to tie her still-damp hair...

Jared looked at her then, a little frown on his face.

“What?”

“I’m just trying to figure out why anyone would ever think you’re an Omega,” Jared laughed. “You have just made this semester a lot more interesting. Ava”

“I’m not staying, so don’t get used to it,” she said as they drove to a parking lot.

The large main building she had come to when she arrived loomed in front of them, and she realized Jared had parked behind it. She didn’t know why a college would still hold assemblies, but she already knew this would be unlike any other college in the country. Her anxiety suddenly returned. This was where the whole school would see her, but she was sure the Dean would also realize she was not supposed to be there. She couldn’t skip this.

“How late are we?” she asked as she got out of the car and looked around.

“Let’s just say we’re late enough to make an entrance,” Jared smirked, holding his arm out to her.

She supposed that was one way for the Dean to notice her quickly.

Ava eyed the arm he offered before she shrugged and took it. She was sure there were some specific rules about how she was supposed to behave with Alphas or other higher-ranked species, but she had fallen asleep before reading that part properly.

She breathed deeply to calm her nerves as Jared led her to the main building. There was no time to appreciate the beauty of anything around her as she focused on her breathing. The walk seemed to take forever, and at the same time, it didn’t feel long enough when Jared finally pushed some wide doors open

And then it felt like millions of pairs of eyes were on her. The man on the stage stopped speaking and turned to them. He was stern-looking and had the coldest grey eyes she had ever seen. His build and height suggested he was a wolf, and his eyes got colder as they lowered to their linked arms.

She wanted to pull her arm away but Jared kept it there, and then he walked in slowly as if he had waited for everyone’s attention first. He walked like he was on a runway. She kept her eyes down, unable to look at anyone as embarrassment filled her. This was not the entrance she had imagined.

She didn’t know what made her look up in a certain direction, but she met with another pair of cold eyes. They flickered between amber and

red, and, for some reason, made her feel like she had somehow made the biggest mistake of her life.