

Chapter 130

No amount of washing in the lake would erase what they had done. Zeke had never felt such peace, and Shadow was the most content he'd ever been.

He sat on the bank, letting the sun dry his body as he watched his mate swim back to him after she had washed herself.

His scent was all over her. And there was that subtle change in her scent, the way wolves changed scents once they mated. Once they were bonded for life to one another. Everyone would know, even if they didn't see his mark.

He couldn't help but grin as she came out of the water and instantly tried to hide from him.

"My father's going to kill you. And my brothers," Ava stated.

That was actually a possibility. He'd defiled their little girl in all sorts of delicious and decadent ways.

"He'll love me."

That was probably not true. Ava's family may have already heard of him and his beast, like every other pack. They wouldn't want their fragile girl anywhere near him.

But it was too late because she belonged to him now.

"We better get back before he finds us. I'd rather see him when you're dressed, not lying around like that."

She couldn't even look down at his body. Her cheek colored as she busied herself with whatever she felt was more important than being with her mate right now. He grinned again and turned over to watch her as she tried to dress with her body still wet.

He was pretty sure everyone, for miles around, heard what they had just done. Her father included. But he wouldn't remind her of everyone sensitive ears and noses just yet.

"Do we have to go? This is like our honeymoon. We're allowed to stay naked for weeks, I'm sure."

"Have you forgotten there are parents all over the school? And we really need to go; I think you need to come with us when we see Mr. Patrick."

Mr. Patrick again. If he had been thinking clearly when he had found them alone in the lecture hall the other day, he would have put two and two together. It was Mr. Patrick who had given her the potion that could have killed her. Yeah, he needed to have a word with him about that. And he also needed to find out what he knew about the Head of

Council's visit. That was the worst possible news they could have right now.

"Okay, fine. I'll get dressed. But promise me you'll stay in my room tonight."

Something made Ava pause as she tried to roll her socks on her wet feet.

"I don't know where I'll be tonight. I'm in trouble. I think I killed Douche Dexter's dad."

"Who?" he chuckled.

"That Alpha | accidentally knocked out during the mock evaluations," Ava answered with a dismissive wave. "They wanted to put me in isolation, and I can't go back in there, Zeke."

He could feel her emotions more clearly now, courtesy of their bond. He knew what was supposed to happen when he mates with bond with Ava felt more than that. It was as if she was truly a part of him.

"Don't worry about that. He wasn't dead, and they won't dare to touch you now."

"The dean hates me. He won't need much of an excuse."

And the dean hated him, too, judging by that look on his face after the fire alarm when he had almost claimed Ava in from of the whole school. But even the dean wouldn't dare.

The only ones they had to really worry about now were his father and his allies. And, of course, the Council. For all he knew, their spies could have already reported them by now.

“Trust me,” he said as he stood and walked over in his clothes. “You’re my mate now. They’ll know not to mess with you.”

“I’m still human and an Omega. They’ll find a way,” Ava sighed.

It sounded like she was speaking from experience. If Shadow hadn’t been so sated, he was sure that maniac would have been demanding they hunt whoever had made her feel like this.

It didn’t take long for him to dress, and this time, he packed up their spoiled, discarded picnic and the blanket he had taken his mate on. That made him grin again, despite knowing that it was true they were about to walk into a lot of shit.

“We’ll go shower and change at home first,” he suggested as he took her hand.

There was no resistance at all. He hadn’t thought a mate would make him feel like this, like a brand new man, but as he led Ava back through the woods, he felt lighter than he had ever felt. The change in him was so extreme that for a moment, he wondered if that would be good or bad, especially when they had to face the Council in the future.

By the time they walked out of the woods into his backyard, he had decided he didn’t give a shit. Ava was his.

His grin grew, even when he sensed her father was waiting in the house with Derek and Myles. There would be no way to hide what they had just done.

He would have warned her, but he wanted everyone to know. And Ava would have to get used to it as soon as possible because they would all know.

They all came out of the living room the moment he and Ava walked in through the back door. Ava tensed beside him when their gazes all landed on her. Her hair was still dripping wet, she hadn't buttoned her shirt correctly, and there was a mark on her shoulder barely covered by her hair.

She was embarrassed, and he was sorry about that. But he just couldn't stop grinning.

Derek and Myles smiled the moment they realized what he had done. The man beside them, the huge Alpha who Shadow would have wanted to challenge had he not still been in his post-mating bliss, was not smiling. He was livid. He could feel that anger blast him from the other side of the hallway.

But he still couldn't stop grinning.

"I swear. I'm not trying to be disrespectful," he told Ava's father.

But nothing in the world would stop him grinning right now.

“Ava go and make yourself presentable,” Ava’s father said. “The dean has called a meeting with me about your behavior.”

Except that. That made his grin drop off his face.

“She did nothing wrong. I’ll come with you.”

“You’ve done enough, Mr. Michelson,” Alpha Morgan growled.

Ava flinched and then rushed towards the stairs. He waited until she had gone all the way up, and her footsteps rushed in the hallway above them before turning to the man who had raised such a stubborn daughter.

“We will discuss this later,” Alpha Morgan growled before he turned back to the living room.

“Dude, you’ll be in so much shit when your dad finds out,” Myles started, and then a slow smile appeared on his face, “but I’m glad you’ve finally got your girl.”

And then the grin returned.

Ava Morgan was his mate. And there was nothing anybody could do about that.