

Chapter 18

Keep your head high. Remember your name.

Her father's advice rang constantly through her mind when she had followed the Alpha, though she wasn't sure if she could trust anything he had said to her now. But her fake confidence disappeared the moment she turned to lock the door.

This was so stupid. Why was she even listening to him? Why had she locked the door instead of opening it and getting to safety?

She still had her hand on the lock as she tried to think of a way out of this. The last place she wanted to be was in a locked room with an angry Alpha.

"Turn around," Ezekiel growled. "Don't even think about running because I'll catch you, Ava. And we both won't like the consequences."

With a shaky breath, she turned around to face him, but she didn't dare look into his eyes this time. She didn't know if looking anywhere else on him was any better. Her brain fizzled and stopped working when she looked at his body. The guy was huge and built to perfection. He wore sweats that molded his thick, muscular thighs and shaped other parts of

his body, which made her eyes widen. And the t-shirt he wore should have been outlawed. She could see every muscle, every curve, every indent. Among all the beautiful people in Phoenix Academy, this man still managed to stand out. He was truly a work of art

And he had locked her in a room.

With that thought, her heart hammered again. She was in danger, this was not the time to ogle anyone.

“I warned you, Ava,” the wolf growled as he stepped forward. “You should have been gone.”

There was so much coldness and determination in his eyes that she forgot about her earlier thoughts as fear built up inside her. She stepped back but bumped into the door. There was nowhere to run.

“But if you want to play this game, then I’ll play,” he continued, taking another step forward.

“I’m not playing.” she said. She hated the wobble in her voice. “I tried, but the dean didn’t want to listen to me.”

“You should have tried harder.”

The Alpha closed the distance between them, and his movements were deliberate and slow, making her feel quite hunted. She felt like his prey, and if she made any move now, he would ounce.

“I’ll see him again tomorrow and every day after until he listens to me

Her courage had deserted her. Why had she even antagonized in when she had seen what he was like? She should have kept her head down and her mouth shut.

“That would be the best solution all around,” Ezekiel said.

There was hardly any space between them now. Her face was eye level with his muscular chest; she didn't dare look up to meet his gaze again. She struggled to get enough air into her lungs as her whole body became aware of his closeness. Maybe it was the fear that froze her to the spot, maybe it was the fear weakening her knees. It was like her body was confused about how to rear to this threat, and none of the options were light of light. Her body wanted ridiculous things the heat of his body, which sent sparks shooting through hers from where they were almost touching.

She could feel A twisted part of her brain wanted him to close that gap completely.

“Do you know why getting out of here would be the best thing you'll ever do?” Ezekiel continued as he put his hands on the door on either side of her, caging her in.

Her heart pounded. This close, she could smell his spicy cologne as she had last night. Even with the fear, she couldn't help. taking a deep breath. If she ever got out of this place, she would bunt that cologne down and buy it by the truckloads.

“Do you?” he growled again.

Remembering the question he had asked, she wet her dry lips before she answered. Ezekiel growled, making her flinch and suck in a shaky breath.

“Because they’ll rip me apart,” she answered quickly.

“Oh, that’s not what you need to be scared of, little human,” Ezekiel said.

She could feel the heat of his breath above her. She could feel heat everywhere. Her body was probably trying to shut down. unable to cope with the fear, because she started to tremble uncontrollably.

Ava tensed when his large hand came down, and he picked a strand of her hair that had escaped her ponytail. It was stuck to her skin on the side of her neck, making her realize she was sweating.

She didn’t know what she had expected when he did that, but it wasn’t how he gently tucked the hair behind her ear. And it wasn’t the deep breaths he took

It certainly wasn’t the way he brought his head down to the crook of her neck and sniffed her skin.

Her brain fizzled again because of the contact, and she let out a gasp. He was taking her scent in to hunt her, she knew that But as his nose trailed up the side of her neck and his hand lowered to her ponytail and pulled it to tilt her head for greater access, she couldn’t think past how good it felt.

The fear, the anger... everything was forgotten. Her eyes closed as something she had never felt before filled her body.

Things were jumbled in her mind as Ezekial lowered his other hand to slowly trail his fingers down her arm, causing a surge of electricity through her body. The heat, the weak knees, the incredible cologne... everything whirled in her mind, making her forget herself.

Then his hand went around her waist and pulled her forward. Her eyes widened when she felt him. Ezekiel lifted his head from her neck, and, this time, she looked him in the eyes again was bleeding into amber as his eyes held so much heat. so much need, that it instantly melted her bones. If he hadn't been holding her up, she would have been a puddle at his feet.

“No, that’s not what you need to fear at all,” he whispered.

His voice was husky and called something within her. She had never been wanted by anyone before, and the fact that it was this man should have sent her running for the hills.

“Leave, Ava, or you will end up in my bed. And I don’t think you fragile body can handle me and my wolf.

Could anyone handle him and his wolf?

His words penetrated her foggy brain, and she widened her eyes again.

What in the world was she thinking

This man was insane! Who went around doing all of this to complete strangers? She pushed against his chest until he set her down.

“Don’t touch me again,” she snarled. “I will never end up in your bed. And if you want me to leave, you go and tell the Council to let me go.”

She turned around and unlocked the door.

“Don’t walk away from me. Ava.”

She didn’t know why she was antagonizing him again, but she ignored him and headed back to the gym. Her mind was still a jumble as she wondered how the hell she had allowed herself to end up in his arms.