

Chapter 210

Zeke sat through what felt like hours of awkward conversations and a lot of food.

He noticed Ava didn't mingle as much as her brothers with the rest of the pack and kept her answers very vague about why she was home early. He'd heard a few of them whisper that she had probably been kicked out for being a handful and disgraced the pack. He wanted to throttle them for being so disrespectful.

But this was Ava's pack, so he couldn't pick a fight.

Not when they were all looking at him like he was about to murder them all.

He now understood why Ava had a hard time following the rules. There was nothing like that here. Omegas mingled and joked with Alphas, and he was sure the man cooking all the food had Alpha blood running through his veins. The children were running freely in and out. He'd been observing it all from a bench outside the backyard of the small house Ava had grown up in.

Okay, it wasn't small, but where the hell was he going to sleep? And how was he going to touch his mate without getting killed by her brothers?

This was a very unique situation for him. He never usually cared about things like that, but now he wanted Ava's family to like him. They had a special relationship that he'd never had with his father, even when things were okay between them.

"Here."

He looked up to see Caleb holding out a beer to him

"Thank you."

He took a sip.

"So you're sleeping with my sister?"

He almost choked on the beer when he heard that deceptively calm question. Caleb was like a pot full of raging emotions waiting to boil over if he said something wrong.

"Um... I... She's my true mate," he answered honestly

Caleb's eyes widened

"That's not possible. That doesn't happen," Caleb said.

“It’s a very long story that I think you should hear from your sister and father,” he said. “But I promise you, I will not hurt your sister because she’s a part of me.”

Caleb sipped his beer for a while and then stood to walk back into the house without another word. Zeke assumed he was going to speak to his father to demand an explanation.

Ava walked out of the house and smiled when she saw him. She’d changed into a dress and was barefoot.

“Do you want to get out of here?”

“Yes,” he answered quickly.

He put the beer down and followed Ava around the house. They walked a little up the road they had driven in on before she led him down a footpath.

“I love these woods. When I was little, I couldn’t wait to shift and run through them like everyone else,” she said, turning to face him.

She lifted the dress over her head and tossed it to the side before smiling at him. It took him a moment to stop looking at her body to realize what she was doing.

“Oh. Okay, let’s go for a run, then.”

He shed his clothes quickly and followed Awa as she ran into the woods. And then she shifted. He watched her for a moment, watched the giant

beast with purple eyes running around like a pup, and laughed before he shifted and joined her.

He had never thought they would just run together and enjoy chasing little rabbits. He'd never thought he'd ever be happy. But there she was, his gift from the Goddess.

He didn't know how long he chased her, how long Shadow played for the first time in his life without worrying that he would get enraged over something small and kill everyone within a mile of him. By the time they reached a river and had a drink, he knew he would give up anything to make sure she stayed by his side for the rest of his life. She was his anchor. His lifeline.

Ava shifted and then looked up. He followed her gaze and saw the forest fire lookout tower.

He had been here before. Ava had brought him on her last stint in Isolation.

He shifted and followed her up, testing each step carefully to make sure it could take his weight. And looking out at the setting sun.

"This is my favorite place." Ava said.

"I know. You showed it to me before."

Ava looked at him with a questioning look.

“In Isolation. The first time it happened, I took you to my favorite place. And that was how I understood that you were always meant for me.” he said, pulling Ava towards him.

“That was real?”

“Yes, and who knows what else we can do,” he said. “We’ll explore all of that in detail another time, but right now, for the love of all that is holy. please touch me. Ava.”

Ava chuckled before she pulled his head down and met his lips in a gentle kiss.

But he didn’t want to be gentle. They’d survived a war. They’d found each other against all odds and thought they would die. But they were there, in the middle of nowhere, with the sun setting above them. Together.

He picked her up and demanded more from her. He devoured her lips until she couldn’t take anymore. And then he carried her further into the fire tower. He let go of her lips only to find where to put her down and grinned when he saw what looked like a reading nook complete with mattress and bedding. This was where they would sleep tonight, and Ava could make all the noise she wanted.

When he put her down, he met her lips again; this time, he didn’t let her go. Not for a long time. Not until she was covered in love bites and exhausted. His scent was all over her, so he knew her family would know what he had done to her, but he didn’t care.

Ava was his for the rest of their lives.

When the sun started to rise again, he opened his eyes and sighed in satisfaction when Ava was still burrowed into his chest. She would be hungry soon because she was always hungry. And they would have to return to her family. But this tower had now become his favorite place, too.

“What are you thinking of?” Ava asked sleepily.

“I’m wondering if this will last. If we have something else coming for us around the corner.”

“Let’s not think like that. We have each other. We can face anything”

He tightened his hold on her

She was right. Whatever the future held, he would always have Ava Morgan.