

# **My Bestfriend Slipped Inside Me (An Alpha's Secret) by Demiah13**

## **Chapter 121**

Xade's pov

'Have you done it?' Xaden pushes into my head.

I clutch Avery tighter, listening to her steady breathing. There was no telling if she was in pain or not since she was fast asleep. The only indication that she was either sleeping or in pain was the little cute twitching of her nose.

'Yes, it's done.' I replied, trying to not be too angry at him since she had come here on her own and he didn't bring her.

'How is she?' he asked worriedly.

I run my fingers through her hair.

'She's asleep,' I answered and pushed some of her blonde strands behind her ear and my heart clenches. I can feel my wolf stirring awake, his power returning, his essence and strength. She had saved us...

My hand go to touch her stomach, running gently over where our baby was nestled inside. There was no way I could not mark her now, she was pregnant. I kissed her head gently, closing my eyes as I listen to her heartbeat.

'Keep an eye on her,' Xaden said. 'Especially the mark.'

'I will.' I grunted, not wanting to be reminded of the small mark that can take everything I love away from me. If it doesn't heal within forty eight hours that would mean my essence had failed to thread with hers properly.

I looked down at it on her neck, the red skin. My jaw set tight. It glared at me, reminding me of the fate that awaits us if it doesn't heal. It is a cruel joke to see something so tiny, so fucking small determine how our fate would be.

I shifted slightly, trying to get more comfortable without disturbing her. I was still planted inside her and I didn't think I have it in me to part with her yet, not until she open those eyes and I know she would be alright.

"I'm so sorry baby," I croaked softly while I ran my fingers through her hair and trace her cheek and down her arm. Her body was warm, but not hot enough to alarm me.

I thought I was protecting you," I whispered, tracing her nose and her eyebrow as if I am trying to remember every inch of her features, every inch of her. Guilt gnawed at me bitterly. I caused this.

"I should have told you everything," I continued, my voice pained. "I should have and now I placed you in the very position I was fighting to save you from."

Avery made a small sound in her throat and shifted, her face scrunching up as if she could sense and feel my distress. My heart constricted. I held her closer, tighter as if my embrace alone could shield her from the consequences of my actions.

She will be okay Xade,' Xaden's voice pushed in my head, cutting through my thoughts.' She's stronger than you give her credit for.'

It was like he knew I needed to hear these words right now and I knew he was right. Avery was strong and as much as I want to always be the one to protect her, I knew she could handle anything on her own.

But that still doesn't make it any less painful to see her this way.

The tears slipped out my eyes and I kissed her head again, letting my tears fall on her hair. I sighed, unable to let her go and pull away. Minutes turned into hours and I still held her in my arms, still entwined with her in every way.

I had not been able to catch a wink of sleep, not when every little twitch or shift she made had me terrified.

The room cloaked in the stillness of the morning and the first crack of dawn embrace us both. I ignore the ache in my back from sitting like this for hours and watch as the soft warm light filter through the glass.

Suddenly she stirs, making my heart skip a beat. A soft moan flutter out her lips and her eyes flutter open slowly. She lets out a cute yawn, pulling away. She still looks very exhausted and her eyes squint on my face in confusion. " Did we fall asleep on the sofa?"

I smiled at her. " Technically you slept on me-

The words die on my tongue when my eyes fall to her neck, my heart jumping in my throat instantly. The mark, it was still raw, red and seem to be getting worse.

## Chapter 122

Xade's pov

Fear gripped my heart tightly, squeezing the already beaten organ with icy fingers as I stare at the still very inflamed mark. Panic surged through me like a tidal wave that stretched out its ugly claws and wrap around my ankle, pulling me deep into terror.

It look angry and inflamed, not the sign of healing I was praying for, begging for. My throat gets tight. Avery must have noticed my distress in my gaze because she asked.

“What’s wrong?” she whispered, her voice a bit shaky with exhaustion.

Everything. Everything is wrong.

I pull my eyes off the red inflamed mark, my heart hurting when I see the furrow of her brows and the questioning look in her eyes. I cupped her face tenderly, so soft as if she was a piece of glass who can be shattered from one little mishap.

Do you feel any pain? Anything at all? Does anything hurt?” I searched her body, especially her eyes to see if they reveal her true feelings. They do not.

She frowned, thinking and then her fingers draw to the spot on her neck. On my mark. She winces. “It stings. Feels like fire is in my blood.”

My heart rams against my ribcage and I feel nauseas. ” It should have subsided by now,” I breathed under my breath as I begin to panic inwardly.

into Xaden’s mind, not caring if he was still asleep or not.

He answers me right away. ‘Don’t panic, she’s human it might take longer to heal.’

Don’t panic?

My life could be slipping away from me.

It’s not only her who’s at stake, it’s our baby.

I can’t afford to lose them.

‘But it looks worse!’ I snarled, tremors shaking my body a little as I begin to fear for the worst. I can’t lose her. I can’t lose her. My eyes fall to her stomach. I can’t lose them.

'It's raw and looks swollen, fuck!' my heart rate spikes up and I gripped Avery harder. My wolf stirred in my being, terrified at the thought of our mate's human body rejecting our bond.

'Don't panic, I'm coming.' Xaden stressed.

Panic is all I can do as my breathing hastes and my skin starts to become sweaty.

Avery's tired eyes noticed my growing distress and my girl being the best, tries to ease me even though she needs more comfort than I do. Her hand placed on my chest where she could feel the frantic beating of my heart under her fingers.

She frowned." Why do you look so sad and panicked? What's going on?" then her brows knot and she looks down at our still aligned naked bodies just as the door to my room opens.

Shit man! The least you could have done was warn me that you two are leaking his eyes and looking at the bed and not our way.

He was being dramatic, he could barely see us from here because of the way the sofa was slouched to look at the view of the city below. " You both get dressed and I will come to examine the mark afterward." he gritted before leaving the room.

Avery gave me a puzzled look, seeming to try to piece together what was happening. I didn't want to scare her. I lift her off my cock, yes I had still been inside her for hours until now. Can you blame me? I didn't want to part from her.

I quickly grab her clothes and passed them over to her and then took mine and place them on. Her eyes watch me like a hawk as she slips on her clothes. " Xade?" her voice wobbles as she stands up, now fully dressed.

"I

Tell me the truth please," She cracked, her voice shaky and tired. " What's wrong with the mark?" her trembling fingers graze over it and I don't miss the wince on her face. It hurts. It hurts her. I hurt her.

I fall to my knees before her, wrapping my arms around her waist and pulling her close until my head is plastered to her stomach. Pain. Pain was all I could feel. This feels worse than the pain I've been feeling for weeks.

"Fight for me please," I croaked, burying my face against the fabric of her shirt, my ear against her stomach, my tears soaking the material. "I can't lose you. I can't lose you both."

## Chapter 123

Xade's pov

Avery's hands rest on my head gently, her fingers threading through the strands to soothe me. "Xade," her soft voice breaks through my rushing thoughts. I have never been this terrified in my life.

Hell, I wasn't terrified of death. But this, the fear of losing her was grand. She was my lifeline. What would be the point in this life if she were not there in it with me? This is why for years I fought off the bond so at least we could be with each other forever.

I screwed up.

It took one night, one night to change the course of our future.

I should have pushed her away that night. Put on the light. Hell, I should have told her I wasn't Kyan.

But I was selfish. Selfish for wanting her.

Her fingers running through my hair grow a bit rougher, as if she was also lost in her own head. And then her sweet determined voice came through, making my heart clench even more. "I'm not going anywhere."

I slowly pulled back, my head tilting up and my eyes staring into hers that were staring back at me with so much love. I don't deserve her love. I don't deserve her.

She begin to wipe my tears with her fingers and a sob wretch from my chest. I have never been this emotional before, Avery knew she was the only one possible to get me down on my knees. She was my weakness. Always had been.

"Th-e mar-k," my voice tremble and for that moment I feel like a little boy, lost, frightened and helpless.

Her eyes shift in understanding and they mist, her trembling fingers scanning my jawline. "Give me a little benefit of the doubt baby, I can do this. I'm not going to lose."

Her words give me threads of hope that I tried my best to cling to. "I'm sorry I am a monster. A beast," my voice breaks. "An animal. You deserved better, you deserve someone who is human-

Avery cuts me off when her finger press against my lips and her eyes turn into a lethal glare. "I love you in every way you are. Beast, human, I don't care," her eyes soften.

“There’s a reason why we are fated silly,” she breathed, a small smile painting on her lips and hiding that tinge of fear I know she felt. ” Even the Gods knew we were meant to be.”

The warmth her gaze brought me as she stares at me unblinkingly, made me swallow as it seeped into my soul. I kissed her stomach once, then again, then again until she giggled. ” Promise you’ll not leave me and fight this?” I whispered.

Avery had always been my anchor. It’s no surprise her words could manage to break through my haze of fear.

She nods, smiling gently. “I’m sorry Mr. Archer but you are stuck with us,” she joked and I sighed, placing my head back on her stomach and flicking my thumb just under her belly button.

I had to have more faith. I had to. I had to clutch every strand of faith left with both hands.

“I can’t believe you slept inside me the entire night,” she snorted, forgetting that we had bigger fish to fry. But perhaps she was trying to get her mind off things.

“I didn’t sleep,” I admitted, kissing her stomach once more, lingering on where I could now smell my pup growing inside her. My wolf was growing strong.....yet the love of our life is growing weak.

Life isn’t fair to us.

She gasped, her movements in my hair stopping. “Xade! Why didn’t you?”

I pulled my head away to look up at her sadly. “I couldn’t. Not when there was a chance you’d not be breathing when I woke up.”

Her eyes saddened and she cupped my face.” You must be tired. Get off your knees.’

I shook my head. ” No, you’re my Queen, I will stay on my knees until I know you will be okay.”

”

Xade,” she murmurs in a soft shy voice.

“You can’t kneel forever-

You have no idea the lengths I would go to for you Avery,” I whispered, every single word holding truth and promise. She was my lover. My life.

My Luna. My heart. My soul. My Queen. My everything.

I'd burn the world for her and I mean it.

## Chapter 124

Xade's pov

Are you two dress yet? ' Xaden pushes into my mind, making me sigh and pull away from Avery's stomach.

'Yes,' I replied.

Avery who stared at me for the longest, eyes shine in curiosity. " Your eyes just glowed oddly! Like a haze of smoke brush through them." she voiced in intrigue.

I smile, even with fear swirling in my being, she still manages to make me smile. "I mind linked my brother, it usually does that when I do." I explained, my eyes can't help to wander to her neck, her mark.

I swallowed, trying to clutch those threads of hope tighter.

Oh," she gasped, her eyes shining even more wonder. "It's a wolf thing then?"

I nod just as Xaden reenters the room. He looks at us, dramatically sighing in relief. " Thank God you two are properly dressed now. Nearly scared this old man half to death."

His eyes stopped on Avery, worry set deep in his gaze as he approaches her, concern creasing his brows. " Mind if I have a look at the mark little V?"

Avery gave him a small smile and a nod. When he got near, I growled low in warning, making Avery jolt a bit in shock. Xaden on the other hand spared me an amused glance, leaning closer to her to examine the mark.

He knew that growl was out of my control and was my wolf being possessive after he had just marked our mate. " Calm down big boy, she's all yours," he joked, squinting his eyes as he looked closer and hummed.

Mind if you move your hair a bit to the side little V?" he asked.

I would have done it but I don't think your mate would quite like me touching or being near you," he snorted and I snarled low in warning which he didn't take serious and burst out in laughter.

Avery eyed me with question and did as Xaden requested, pulling her hair behind her shoulder to reveal the angry raw bite. Xaden winced, cleared his throat and looked at me. "It's inflamed."

I raise a sarcastic brow. "Yes I know, I told you so. Remember?" Frustration creep in my tone as I glare at my brother.

His hand fist and he brought it to his lips to clear his throat. "Does it hurt?" he asked her and she nods.

Burns. Like fire touching skin." she elaborated.

He winced, looking at me warily. "Is it suppose to burn?" he questioned, scratching the back of his neck in uncertainty.

I gave him an 'Are you serious' look and he cringed, shrugging. "What? I am not a marking mate expert. Especially when it comes to humans." he argued, huffing a little.

My glare turn to steel, my teeth grinding against each other. "Then what is your point coming in here to examine it!?" My tone is sharper than I intended, my frustration bubbling even more.

He is useless. When I thought he would help, he was more clueless than I am.

My hands itch to knock him across his head. "I thought you were exaggerating like you normally do!" he defended, squinting his eyes at the mark imprinted on Avery's skin.

Exaggerating is what you do! Don't mistake me for yourself!" I growled, turning to him. He didn't have the answers I was hoping for. The fear I tried to bury comes back full force and my hands tremble.

I do not exaggerate!" He snapped, turning to glare at me. I am about to throttle him when Avery suddenly staggers forward and I barely catch her in time.

"Avery!" I shout in panic, my heart racing as I lift her in my arms. She groans, holding her head, her eyes barely open.

"What's wrong baby?" I cried, my heart in my throat. Every worst scenario runs through my head like a wave as I stare at her pale face."

Avery?" Xaden rushed over to us, his eyes deep with worry.

Avery squints, groaning as she holds her head. "Head, hurts," she grunts, her head rolling to press against my chest and I hissed when I felt the scorching heat of her skin. She was burning up!



## Chapter 125

Xade's pov

"She's burning up!" I yelled in panic, looking at my older brother who matches my own worry. Xaden touches her forehead and curses under his breath, his eyes swimming with fear and worry.

"She's feverish. We need to settle her on the bed." he looks at the bed that still had the bloody sheets and moves into action, tearing them off the bed until there is no longer the sight of blood.

I move quickly to place Avery down, but also join her on the bed, unsure of what to do as she groans in pain, her eyes barely open. Not too long ago she looked well enough to stand, and now....and now I don't know what was happening.

My eyes blurred with tears. Fuck. "What should I do Xaden?" I croaked out helplessly, not liking the sight of Avery in pain. My wolf whimpers in my head, growing restless and anxious.

Xaden looks just as helpless as I am, looking at Avery in concern. I try to search through the bond, trying to figure out if there was any place in her body that pained too but the bond hasn't fogged enough yet for me to feel this much.

Avery's face twitched in discomfort and my heart clenches in pain. "Is there any pain anywhere else?" I asked shakily, grabbing a hold of her hand and squeezing it.

She felt so hot. I drop my forehead lightly on her chest where her heart beats quickly. My tears soaked her shirt.

Yes," she whimpered and I lift my head, searching her eyes, feeling

"Where? Tell me where?" I urged, my eyes roaming her body.

She swallowed, trying to open her eyes. My poor baby. I cupped her cheek and even in pain she leans into my touch, sighing. "My neck, my veins, everywhere."

She clutched me. "Everywhere Xade," she whimpered and my heart broke. I clutch her to me, crying out loud to my brother who stood watching us helplessly.

"Tell me what to do to make it stop!" I roared. "Please!" My heart feels like it's ripping in two. I can't lose her. I can't lose her. I can't lose them. Please tell me!"

You should ask your father for help." A sudden voice comes from the doorway. Henry. " He should know. Did he not tell you that his sister mated with a human?"

What?" Xaden asked in confusion.

I peeled away from Avery a little to stare at Henry who is leaning against the doorframe. "My father doesn't have a sister." I growled low.

How dare he come here and spill lies while my mate is in pain and probably dying in my bed! I flashed my eyes at him, warning that I had no time for jokes and games right now.

Henry sighed, looking at Xaden and me." Of course he wouldn't have told you, Susan after all betrayed him."

Xaden's fists clenched at his sides. "Like my little brother just said, our father doesn't have a sister!" he took a strong step forward, one that warned Henry that we had no time for lies.

Henry smiled. "I am not lying pups. If you don't believe me, ask your father who Susan Archer is."

Xaden's fists clenched even more. "Why should we believe a word you say? You knew Avery was pregnant and didn't tell my brother or me."

Henry rolled his eyes. "I see you're going to hold this over my forever. But to answer your question, you shouldn't. But I'd tell you this." he eyed Avery on the bed and I shifted in a way to block her from his sight.

He grinned." Susan is your father's little sister. Twin sister in fact. But the poor girl was fated with a human who happened to be a hunter of our kind. She was stupid and made a stupid decision in turning against your father so the hunter would allow her to mark him. They ambushed in the middle of the night and it caused the death of your grandmother and father."

"Your father hadn't known the human came from a hunter's lineage and allowed her to sneak off with him. He blames himself for what happened, blames himself even more for allowing her to escape for her crimes. If you do not believe me, ask him yourself."

I don't believe a word that comes out of your shitty-

Xaden," I cut in softly, hearing the small whimpers leaving Avery's lips. I had no choice but to believe anything that could help her.

Xaden turns around to look at me and I nod. "We need dad. We need to ask him." I said, holding Avery tight to me as her whimpers grow a little louder. "Anything to save her." I whispered, bringing my eyes to search her face.

## Chapter 126

Xade's pov

Avery cling to me like I was her lifeline, her labored breathing making me grow restless by the second. "Hang in there baby," I whispered, kissing her forehead. Her skin felt hot under the touch of my lips.

She nods, as if to reassure me that she got this. I can't help but fall more in love with her. Even in pain, she still wants to soothe me.

"Dad said to place her in cold water to see if the fever would tone down but make sure the water doesn't touch her mark so it won't cause an infection," Xaden said after his smokey eyes vanished and replaces with his normal usual ones.

I nod, swallowing hard. "Fill the tub with cold water." I told him. He makes a move to head to the bathroom and I question him. "Susan?"

He looked over his shoulder at me and nod. "Henry told the truth." he said and disappeared in the bathroom.

Henry had long gone back to wherever he came from so he wasn't here to gloat about it. But I am sure he already knew we got our answer.

As Xaden move to prepare the bath, I gently eased off the bed with Avery in my arms, cradling her to my chest. Her face scrunches up at the sudden movement and a soft whimper escapes her throat.

Sorry baby," I said softly and pressed a gentle kiss on her head and holding her tenderly in my arms as I make my way to the bathroom where Xaden was just closing the tap.

On a scale of one to ten, how mad is dad at me?" I questioned as I move way over here."

I nod, not really caring if he argues with me about keeping this from him. Not when he had his own secrets he hid from us and not when Avery and our baby was my top priority.

"I'll leave you to it and be outside if you need me." Xaden said softly, walking up to me and giving me a gentle squeeze on my shoulder.

"She's strong, don't worry." he reassured, his worried lines deepening as he peer down at Avery's face.

I nod because he was right, my girl was strong. He leaves the room, closing the door behind him softly to give us privacy.

I stepped into the bath carefully, holding her tight to me as the cold chill of the water shocked my skin. I didn't want her to go through this alone so I'd do it too. We both had our clothes on and I saw no point in ridding us of our clothes now.

Slowly I sat in the water, holding my breath as I descend. The water was freezing, practically ice. The second the cold water touched her skin, Avery gasped, tensing and then tremble slightly. My throat tightens and I kissed her burning forehead.

Shhh, it's okay baby," I cooed, descending more until we were nearly submerged but making sure to keep the water level remained below her neck and away from the mark. I let her rest her back on my chest, holding her tenderly as her tremors start to subside.

"I'm here," I cooed over and over, running my hand down her arm to gently reassure her that I was indeed right there and not leaving her side ever.

I reach forward to brush some of her hair away from her forehead and watch her face tighten with pain. I feel powerless. "Fight it baby," I begged, the tears straying from my eyes and landing on her closed lids. Win this for me, for us."

Her eyes flutter, indicating that she is fighting to open them. I brushed my thumb over her cheekbone, my hand trembling. Her eyes flickered, tired and weary but they were still warm.

I promised didn't I?" she gasped, clutching my hand that was on her stomach, rubbing soothing circles on her skin. "I'm going to win," she said shakily, her eyelids growing heavy. "You can bet on it Mr. Archer."

My heart warmed, finding it in me to smile. I just couldn't remain sad when Avery was around me. You better Mrs. Archer, we have a human wedding to plan and a mini you to welcome into this world."

## Chapter 127

Xade's pov

A boy," she gasped out, her feverish skin like a dark contrast to the cold of the water. "a mini you." She cracked a smile, trying to show me that she was still fighting. I hold her tighter.

"Whichever baby, I will be happy," I planted a kiss on her forehead, breathing in her scent. Her skin was still feverish, hot to the touch.

I am still stunned by how quickly this had happened, one second she seemed normal, okay even. And now, she was fighting this burning fever that showed me that my essence was having a hard time threading with hers.

Her pain was mine.

As I held her close, feeling the heat of her feverish skin against mine, I felt absolutely helpless and powerless. What good of an alpha can I be if I cannot save my mate from this kind of fate? I cannot help her? Take away the pain she felt in her veins, her bones? What good of an alpha am I?

What good of an alpha am I?

The sight of her so weak tore me to my core.

I want to wear white," her voice is shaky, but playful, pulling me out of my grim thoughts. "Hmm?" I said on her head, my fingers grazing over her skin.

Her lips part into small smile. "My wedding dress silly," she lifts her hands to my face, her shaky fingers tracing along my jaw and then pinching my chin.

Even though I am clearly not a virgin anymore," she snorted, making me chuckle low. I cup her cheek tenderly, staring at her fondly. She really was my life, without her in it, I was nothing. Not a single thing.

And what color will I wear?" I joked lowering my head and brushing my thumb over her red flushed cheeks. I knew they were red because of her fever.

"I presume you will want your man to wear a color you'd like?" I whispered, the tip of my nose tickling against hers teasingly.

Her eyes were teary as she replied. "As long as I will be able to take it off of you that night, you can wear any color you'd like," she said playfully, making a bubble of laughter rumble from my chest.

Despite the gravity of our situation, she was trying her best to be hopeful, to show me how strong she really is. My eyes mist and I swallowed hard, the lump in my throat returning as soon as I do.

Hmm, any color huh?" I teased, playfully brushing my nose against hers and causing her to smile wider. I brush a lock of her hair behind her ear, grazing just below, making sure to avoid her mark.

"I'll make sure to remember that." I joked, pulling back and winking down at her. She giggle, faint and strained but I made her giggle. It warmed my heart, warmed my soul and being. My wolf wagged its tail, happily barking.

Her fingers that tremble with fatigue lift to brush against my jaw, her turning serious. “I can’t believe I forgot you...how was that even possible?”

eyes

I swallowed the knot in my throat, looking at her deeply. How will I tell her it had been my choice to erase me from her memories because I thought I was protecting and saving her?

V, “I breathed, hesitant to tell her this now given that this information could hurt her when she was already hurting.

Her eyes searched mine and she nod. ” You’ll tell me everything when I am ready?” her voice fragile and low.

I nod, swallowing hard. “I promise I will tell you everything. Every single thing Avery. I won’t leave a thing out,” I vowed, my voice laced with promise and regret for not telling her everything sooner.

She searched my gaze, her eyes so dim, so much dimmer than it always had been staring up at me. I didn’t like that mist of shadows that dimmed her gaze, that mist that revealed the pain she feels right now.

My heart. Oh V, I wish I could take away the pain.

“I trust you,” she murmured. ” Always.”

I choked, tears streaming down my face as I could no longer hold it in. I should be strong for her, a pillar and I cannot in the moment. I touched her feverish face, the heat still the same, even more intense now.

Why are you crying?” She whispered, moaning and shifting slightly in my arms.

Because you’re leaving me Avery,” I cried in pain. ” You’re leaving and you promised me you wouldn’t.”

## Chapter 128

Xade’s pov

I’m sorry,” I wailed, showing my weakness, my fear, my reality.

I am so sorry for not being able to protect you, for not being strong enough, for failing you.” My voice grows raw with grief swirling through it like a dark cloud.

My tears land on her face, drawing over her feverish skin. Pain clawed at my chest.

And then I don't know where, or how she managed to garner such strength...but a sharp sting kisses the side of my face, abruptly stopping me from saying anything else as I stare at the culprit in my arms.

Recharge successful!

She huffs, rolling her eyes. "That should do it."

I blinked, caught off guard by her sudden action and my hand instinctively rose to touch the hot sting on my face. "What was that for?"

I whispered in surprise, a bit amused that she smacked me across my face.

For crying and yapping about nonsense," She huffed, her eyes slightly glaring at me. If I promise you something, I keep it don't I?"

I nod, still a bit gobsmacked by what she had done. She glared harder. "Then shut it and let me keep that promise." her tone is a mixture of fondness and exasperation.

I nod, smiling. "Yes ma'am."

Good," she touched where the sting had land on my cheek, rubbing there affectionately. "Sorry for slapping you." she apologize, pouting slightly.

I cracked a smile. "It's fine, I clearly needed it."

She nods, her eyes playful. "Yes you did," she agree playfully. I chuckle and cover her hand with mine and turn my head slightly to plant a kiss on her palm.

She grins and then huffs, pushing her head closer to my chest and shifting to get more comfortable on top of me. "Now," she started, letting out a soft moan and closed her eyes. My heart skipped painfully and I am relieved when she reopens those pretty eyes once more.

What should his name be? I know we have to keep the family tradition in your family," she continued warmly and despite her frail voice, I can detect a bit of excitement.

"How about Xadel?" She suggested and I smiled down at her fondly.

Xadel," I repeated the name on my tongue, liking the way it sounded so pure. Pure just like the love I share with Avery.

She nods. "Or Xadrien?" Her eyes shone. "I think I prefer Xadel? No?"

I grinned down at her. "You are very sure you're holding a mini me huh?" I joked and her eyes twinkle, the mist of darkness fighting to cloud her eyes. "What if you hold a girl?" I continue to tease her.

She looks thoughtful. "Hmm how about Xadeline? Or Xadie?"

I chuckle, nodding. "Both sound cute."

Her lips work into a cute pout. "But which

"But which one do you prefer the most?"

I gently run my fingers over her flush cheeks, swallowing when I felt the heat. It hadn't subsided and it was growing which gnawed a hole in my already beaten heart. My heart aches.

"I like Xadeline," I whispered, my voice breaking even more when she tries to hide her whimper. "Has a nice ring to it and will be as delicate and perfect as her."

Avery sighed, nestling closer to me. Yes," she whispered, her eyes

fighting to remain open. I know she was trying her best to fight it, I could feel it. My baby was trying. I place my hand on her stomach, rubbing soothing circles.

Her eyes flutter close and my heart jumps in my throat. "But I still stand by carrying a mini you. I can feel it in my bones." she breathed shakily, trying to press her forehead harder on my chest. I know it was because she was in pain.

I make sure to hold her steady enough to not make the water touch her mark. I am to look down at it and see if it had gotten worse or not.

I would have to sooner or later. I swallowed and forced my

But I cared voice to be steady.

She needed me strong and I'd rather not have a stinging cheek again.

"And what if you're wrong?" I kissed her head, breathing in her scent. The water wasn't as cold as it had been earlier. It was like her heat alone was like lava rocks and heating up the ater.

Her eyes flutter open, staring at me intensely. "Then you intensely. "Then you better make sure you shoot a mini you inside me next time." she jested, smiling and then her face tied up in pain.



Xade?" she whispered, her voice a bit shaky with fear as she tries to sit up, just as she cough. Her hand press to her lips to stop the cough and when she retracts it, her hands shook when crimson dots on her palm.

## Chapter 129

For the boy? The one who will look like you?" she tries to smile but a wince of pain shows on her face instead and her eyes downcast as if ashamed to have shown me her weakness.

I swallowed harshly and cupped her chin, tilting it up and forcing her to look at me again.

Xadel," I replied softly, my voice hoarse with struggling emotion. "I like Xadel."

She nods, smiling happily. "You'll teach him boxing too," she nods again, her dim eyes lighting up a little bit as if she was picturing the scene in her head." And he'll be the best in the state," her smile spreads wider and her brows then furrow.

"Will he come out like a puppy or....." she trails off and then stops, looking at me shyly.

A faint smile tug at the corners of my lips despite the situation we were in Are you asking if you'll give birth to a puppy? A baby covered with now fur?"

She nods shyly and I pinched her chin fondly. "We usually come out the vagina all human," I snorted lightly. "But we will be able to fully transform when we turn a teenager, thirteen to be exact."

She nods, her lips pressing thoughtfully. " So he'll come out wailing and not barking?"

I couldn't hold it, I chuckle, shaking my head. "Yes V, he'll wail like a normal baby."

She smiles, her eyes searching mine and warming on my face. "I want him to have your eyes." she whispered, her eyes dropping to my lips. And your lips too-

I kissed her, planting my lips softly on hers and cutting her words. I make sure I pour every love I felt for her in the kiss, making sure even through the pain, my love for her can penetrate through and heal her.

She gasped and I pushed my tongue in to soothe her, not caring that there was still a tang of her blood on her tongue. This is my pain too, I will taste it too.

I pull away slightly and keep my forehead on hers, breathing heavily. "I will love him as much as I love you. I will cherish him as much as I cherish you." I rest my palm on her

stomach. "I can't wait to see you round and ripe with my pup." I breathed, my heart expanding.

Please," I croaked. "I want to see you round and ripe," I brushed my thumb over her swollen red lips. "I want to hold our baby in my arms," I continued in a heavy desperate tone. "I want to hold you both in my arms. Please," my voice cracks when her eyes begin to flutter close once

more.

Yet even so, a small smile paints on her lips as if she is still listening to every word I am telling her.

Please don't leave me." I begged.

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## Chapter 130

Xade's pov

Avery," I whispered brokenly. "Please,"

Her eyelids fluttered as she tries to fight the weight that threatened to consume her and tug her away from me harshly. "It burns," she whisper shakily and lifts her trembling finger where my mark was placed.

"I know it does baby," I rasped in pain, touching her burning face. The cold water was suppose to help! It was suppose to help!

The cold water is not working!' I snarled in my head at Xaden. I knew he was not at fault and was equally as scared for Avery as I was but I couldn't hold in my anger for being weak and helpless.

My bo paced with restless fury that our mark was causing this much anguish for her. It howled in pain, a feral cry of agony.

Get her out,' Xaden voice intrudes into my head. 'Dad said to have her sleep it off,' his voice is as helpless as mine.

'Sleep it off?' I snarled in disbelief.

Don't be mad at me!' he barked helplessly. This is what he instructed. I am also trying to help Xade. I also don't want anything to happen to her.'

And I knew he was telling the truth. I closed my eyes, breathed in and nod even though he couldn't see me. I gently cradle Avery against my chest and move out of the tub. Water soaked the mat under us, dripping onto the floor but I didn't care as I move out of the bathroom.

She moans against my chest, her skin so hot compared to mine. I feel disgusted with myself for now being the one without pain while she was struggling.

The second I stepped into my room I noticed that Xade had cleaned up the bloody tissues off the floor and also had place clean sheets on the bed.

'Remove everything off of her,' Xaden pushed into my mind again. 'And put on the AC. We need the heat to go down as much as possible.'

"Can you stand?" I asked her gently.

She moans and I take that as a no. I place her down on the bed gently and started peeling her wet clothes off of her, careful to not add on to the discomfort she must be feeling right now. Her skin was still hot, but at least it cooled down just a tad bit.

Or maybe I just wanted to have hope that it did.

I hate that she was the one in agony. It should have been me.

I lay her down gently and peeled off my clothes so I'd not wet the sheets. After undressing I slipped in beside her, pulling her body close to mine and throw the thin cover over our naked lower half.

She lets out a little sigh, curling closer to me. I kissed her head and reach for the AC remote that had been on the bedside table, just inches from my head. I set the air condition to the lowest temperature and cool air circulates around the roo instantly.

I prayed that the cool air could somehow give her a bit of relief from the tormenting fever and heat.

I held her close, my cheek resting on her damp hair as my heart clenched with every shaky breath that fluttered out her lips. "I love you," I whispered, kissing her head and sighing as I cling to her.

Her fingers twitch on my chest as if silently telling me she was listening to every word I say. I held her closer. "Remember when your date didn't show up that day in senior year?"

Her fingers twitch again, letting me know she heard me.

I sighed and confessed. "I kind of locked him in his own car and threw the keys in the bush."

"I can feel her small smile on my bare chest and my heart fluttered it."

knew," she rasped low and tiredly. "You had something to do with it."

I grinned proudly and continued to tell her our past stories until I heard her breathing even out as she gets consumed by exhaustion.