

I'm Ready

Chapter 21

Isabel's POV

I could tell Maksim was upset. I didn't know why. One minute, he's teasing and loving. Next, his wolf was close to the surface, and the bathroom was filled with a possessive growl. I have to admit, the sound of that growl did things for me. It hit me hard how much I wanted to be with my mate. It's hard for me to trust, but I believe I can trust my mate and his family.

Melina explained how it was believed that their wolves had come about. Cheryl was pregnant with the twins when she was turned into a vampire. The twins had been vampires all their lives, with no sign of a wolf. Then, on their sixteenth birthdays, they suddenly received their wolves. Well, they can speak to their wolves. They can't phase into one. Getting their werewolf counterparts allowed them to be blessed with even more benefits. They were stronger, smarter, and faster than they were before. She was wistful as she explained how upset the werewolves here had been towards them after that.

They were already pretty jealous of the twins. When they got their wolves, the bullies hated the twins, who now had even more heightened senses. The extra benefits drew a bigger gap between them all. Instead of bringing them closer together, the other teens shut them out. They hated the fact that the twins were even more after receiving their wolves. I could feel the sadness in her story.

I thought that it was pretty cool that they both received wolves. I know that it wasn't a coincidence. I'm sure the Goddess gave them their wolves to be able to find their mates. They'd both been mated to wolves. It allowed them to know when they found them. Trevor wasn't wearing a scent blocker, so Melina knew right away that he was her mate. I'd been in disguise and had been blocking my scent. Maksim didn't know I was his mate until after I'd been shot. But even before he knew, he dealt with the team that injured me swiftly.

I knew in my heart that I loved and wanted to be with Maksim. He's a good man. His devotion to not just his family, but to his team, showed me that. I didn't want to wait anymore. Alpha Allen has spies everywhere, looking for me. It could have already been reported back to him that I was here.

I never want him to get his disgusting hands on me. I only want to be with my mate. I'd been shy, a little embarrassed when Maksim stripped off so quickly. He was ready to go, and that was obvious.

It's a treat for me to be able to get a real bath. We went to the YMCA at least three times a week when Maddie was alive to use their showers. Since she was killed, I had to get into my wolf form and get into the river near my home. It wasn't a good option as I could hardly use soap in wolf form. After Maddie was killed, I had to move again. I'd spent a great deal of time trying to make my new home safe. I've spent so much time running. I don't know how to feel now that I don't have to run anymore.

I knew I had to make the next move with Maksim. He was upset, and he needed me. I wanted to bring him comfort. To bring us together on another level. If we had met under normal circumstances, we would have already marked each other and completed the mating process. I didn't know how long it takes for vampires to mark or accept their mates. It seems natural that they would be similar to wolves. Thrilled to find their mates, for the most part.

I tried to keep my eyes from dipping down and taking him in. He had an impressive build. Lean

and muscled, he showed off the hard training he had done. His eyes took me in as well, and I hoped he liked what he saw. I know I did. The water was ready. I picked warm, not quite hot, as we would be here for a minute. I didn't know what he liked, but I was going to need to shower twice to feel clean. I sighed as I got under the spray. I immediately wet my hair to shampoo first. I was scrubbing my hair when I felt his hands on me. He cupped my breasts in his large hands and used his thumbs to rub my n****s.

I couldn't hold back the moan. I never thought his touch could affect me like that. My moan encouraged him, and he turned to grab a washcloth. He applied the body wash liberally to it and told me to turn around. I kept washing my hair as he washed me from my shoulders down my back and below. He was attentive and gentle as he washed me. I heard his deep voice catch when he said, "Rinse your hair after you turn around."

I did as instructed, and he reapplied the body wash to the rag and started washing my front. I never realized how dirty my breasts were before. His hungry eyes took me in as he soaped my breasts up and put the rag on the shelf to use both hands on them. He pinched, pulled, and kneaded my breasts as I stood there holding the wall of the

< I'm Ready

+5 Points >

shower, as the tingles grew stronger with each passing moment. I wish I could freeze this moment in my memory forever. Maksim treated me as if I were important. Like I mattered to him, it was a first for me, and I loved every moment of

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it.

I rinsed my hair again, and I could feel it was squeaky clean now. I added conditioner to it and grabbed a razor. I was slightly embarrassed that he was seeing me naked for the first time, and not in a good light. I needed to shave, and I wished I

had thought this through before we got in the shower together. I shaved my underarms, and Maksim didn't pay the slightest attention to it. He was kneeling at my waist and not paying any attention to what I was doing. He was done with my legs pretty quickly, and I sat down to use the handheld to shave my legs. I felt a thousand percent better after our shower. He washed up while I shaved my legs.

We worked well together, and I had to work hard to pay attention to what I was doing as I shaved my legs. Not looking at my mate was hard. So much harder than I anticipated. He was perfect, and I felt like a lump standing next to him. I finished up and rinsed off my legs as he was washing his hair. When I glanced up at him, I had to swallow my saliva.

Maksim was hot. Like jaw-dropping, panties bursting into flames, hot. His arms were raised to wash his hair, with his biceps on full display. This must be the reward the Goddess was giving me for my tough life. I will gladly accept it as I can't wait to touch every single muscle on my mate. I hate that I missed the opportunity to wash him like he did me. I'll make sure I get that done tomorrow. He's barely touched me in a s****l way, but I've never wanted anyone like I want Maskim.

His form is perfection. I've always dreamed of being loved, wholly and thoroughly, by my mate. I already know he's caring, loving, and courageous. He loves his friends and family, and he strives to do what's right. I watched his interactions on the plane. He valued their input and opinions. He valued their friendship. He wouldn't do anything that would end up putting them in harm's way.

They get paid for what they do, but they do it to protect innocents from being killed. Their whole family, their whole team, cared about other species that couldn't defeat their attackers. I know, despite their anger at what the Council did, at the bottom of it, they're hurt.

They're upset finding out their relationship was one-sided. They thought the Council respected and cared for them. Only to find it was all a lie. That had to be hard to take. I believe the Council will always be about money, power, and backing the packs. The Council needed to be unbiased. To see who was in the wrong. Instead of trying to excuse the fact that Melina was almost killed. Her being healed didn't mean they weren't going to kill her, or that she wasn't hurt. Did they not realize that her baby could have been a werewolf? It was a loss they needed to acknowledge, yet it was ignored.

I was drawn out of my thoughts by Maksim clearing his throat. I looked up at him in surprise to see that he had shut the water off and was outside the shower with a towel wrapped low on his hips. I hated that he was covered, but saw the outline of his c**k was still visible. I stood up and grabbed the towel he offered, twisting my hair up in it. He handed me another towel, and I began to dry off quickly. We needed to get back to what we were doing earlier.

I wrapped my towel around me as Maksim led me to the bed. My heart rate increased in excitement as I knew what was about to come next. We sat at the end of the bed together, and Maksim looked down at me with such affection. He didn't try to hide the love he felt for me. I'm happy my instincts told me to stay with Melina, because it led me to Maksim. Despite my condition, Maksim loved me from the moment he realized we were mates. Despite my holding out on him and being cautious, he accepted me completely.

That mattered to me. He mattered to me. His first kiss was light and soft. He was gentle with me so that he wouldn't scare me. I turned towards him and returned his kiss with passion. I'm not a delicate flower, although I love that he treats me like a treasure. I'm a flesh-and-blood woman who

wanted to let the love of her life know that she loves and cares for him. Maksim pulled me onto him and held the back of my head as he deepened the kiss. I could feel his c**k pressing into me, and I was excited about completing our mating.

Maksim broke off the kiss and breathed out, "I have to stop. I don't want you to feel like we have to complete our bond today. I'm content, just by marking you as mine. You don't have to feel pressure to do anything you're not ready to do."

"No, I want you, Maksim. I want to complete our mating. I love you and I trust you. I want to be with you. I want to be entirely yours," I replied. My voice was laced with desire that was running through me. I wiggled my hips a little to show him that I wanted him, just as much as he wanted me.

Maksim looked deep into my eyes and asked, "Are you sure?"

"I'm very sure. I know that Alpha Allen won't stop. He will come for me; he always does. But I want you to be my first, Maksim, and my only. I don't want to wait, and give Alpha Allen time to find me. I want to be yours, and yours alone," I replied with conviction.

"As you wish, my love," Maksim answered.