



Chapter 13: King Dodgeball

ARDEN

I could feel Tessa's teasing gaze as I stood next to Cade. He hadn't spoken to me once while the others were partnering up. Additionally, I could sense Sienna glancing at me from time to time, her gaze sharp enough to cut through glass.

"You again," I muttered.

A small smirk made its way to his lips. "Shouldn't I be saying that, Flub?"

I clicked my tongue, crossing my arms in front of my chest as annoyance surged through my veins. "Why do you keep calling me that?"

He merely shrugged, not bothering to answer my question. I sighed and focused my gaze on Mr. Thompson, who had just finished partnering everyone up.

"As you know," he continued, "I won't let you do these things without merits. The pair who wins will get ten points each."

Murmurs of excitement echoed across the gym. There it was again—the dreaded point system.

"But," Mr. Thompson added with a smirk, "you will not be playing on your own."

He glanced at his watch. "They must be coming at any moment."

"What's happening, sir?" Sienna asked, raising her hand.

"I've talked to another teacher in this subject, and we decided to join the



two classes today for a grand game of King Dodgeball. However, they are not freshmen like you," he concluded.

Right on cue, like the heavens were listening to Mr. Thompson's announcement, the gym doors opened, and the scent of experience wafted through the air.

Unfamiliar faces arrived, but among them, one person stood out. I froze, my pulse quickening and bounding against my nerves.

I began breathing heavily before I could stop myself.

"Kieran, over here!"

"Wait a second," he chuckled as he tied his shoe, jogging over to his group of friends. It was a voice I had heard many times, but hearing it now sent a shiver down my spine, and not the good kind.

For the first time, Cade glanced at me, but I was too consumed by fear. Kieran was someone I wanted to avoid at all costs.

At times, he was even worse than my parents, making me feel like I didn't have a place in our family.

If he knew I was here...

I shook my head, not wanting to think about it.

"Hey, Flub," Cade said, snapping me out of my thoughts.

I turned to him, biting my bottom lip. His eyes glazed over my lips once, and I swore his gray eyes darkened, but I could be wrong.

He sighed and massaged the bridge of his nose. "It's about to start," he



said. "Do you even know the rules of the game?"

I slowly nodded.

Cade shook his head. "Why did I have to get stuck with someone as incompetent as you?"

I couldn't even retaliate.

"Get behind me."

I didn't waste any time. If I wanted to avoid Kieran, then hiding myself from Cade was my best shot. I saw him through my peripheral vision, and it seemed he still hadn't noticed my presence.

Good. I wanted to keep it that way.

With that, Miss Thompson blew on the whistle. I held onto Cade's shirt as he evaded the attacks effortlessly. 1

It seemed we were their greatest targets. They wanted to get Cade out first, because if that happened, they would have a higher chance of winning.

My vision quickly grew blurry with how fast he was moving.

"Slow down," I managed to utter after a while, but he merely clicked his tongue.

"You can't even keep up with this?"

Just then, a very fast spike came toward our way, and it was aimed right at my side. And of course, it was by none other than my brother.

I felt my grip loosening from Cade's shirt, so I naturally did what I could



have done—wrap my arms around his torso.

A small gasp escaped my lips as I felt his hard and toned body.

“Hands,” he said through gritted teeth. “Are you enjoying groping my abs?”

“N-no,” I exclaimed softly. “I have no choice. You’re moving too fast.”

Cade placed his hand over my arm, and I gasped once more when I felt how cool he was against my warm skin.

However, he had no time to remove my grip as another ball came toward us. A string of curses left his lips and he began attacking recklessly, eliminating three couples out with just one throw.

The others began murmuring in amazement, but it still wasn’t finished. I kept my arms around his waist, not because I wanted to but because I had no choice!

This was the best way to hide my face, too.

I peeked through his shoulders once but found that my brother was still in the game.

I quickly hid my face behind Cade’s back once more.

“Seriously,” he said. “You’re really enjoying this, huh?”

“I’m not,” I weakly said. “Please, let’s just make this quick and win.”

He subtly shook his head. “You don’t even have to tell me.”

With those words, he began moving in lightning speed, and I could barely keep up. However, we had gone too far into the competition to



stop now. Besides, there was a nagging voice in my head that made me want to beat my brother at this game. I had never beaten him before, and this could be my chance.

Before I knew it, we were down to the last five couples, and as expected, Kieran and his partner still remained.

Cade clicked his tongue. "Tighten your grip," he said.

"What?" I asked, but before I could process anything else, Cade began moving faster. It was surreal—for a werewolf, it was even faster than I had ever imagined. I truly struggled this time.

And... before I knew it, my grip on him loosened. I felt adrenaline surge through my veins.

That was another ground of elimination—being separated from your partner.

So, even if my arms slid down due to Cade's speed, I still held onto him for dear life, my face pressed against his back where all I could see was nothing but black.

However, just as I braced for his movement, he suddenly stopped, and my vision became clear once more.

I turned to the side, where the eliminated players were and saw them looking at the two of us with wide eyes.

It was only then that I realized I had been gripping something... untouchable. Something very warm—as opposed to his skin.

I was holding onto his crotch, right where his cock was. 1