Broken 321

Chapter 321

"Why is there a target on your back?" I focus on the most important thing he said, not understanding. I thought the point of him

marking me was that we were no longer going to be chased.

"I killed that Alpha and I'm pretty sure I killed either his Beta or his Gamma. Then I had the nerve to mark the Guardian that they

had been chasing for a week. The only way they can get to you now, is through me, by killing me."

"Do you think they are following us?" I ask. I'm so tired of running-

"No, not really. I think they will have gone back to their pack by now to regroup, but I don't want to linger now that you are awake.

As soon as you feel ready to travel again, we're going to keep heading east."

"Where exactly are we, anyway?"

"We're probably about a day's bus ride to the Mississippi border. From there, it will still be a few days until we get to North

Georgia, which is our final destination. I think we're safe to stop each night if you want, or we can push through. Again, I know

this has been hard on you and I want to help make it as easy as possible now."

I finish eating, stuffed for the first time in a long time. "Can I sleep on it? We can move tomorrow but honestly, I think I'd like a

real bed at least one more night. From there, I'll have a better idea of how I'm feeling."

"Of course, whatever you need."

fear and

"Right now, what I need is a shower." I say standing up. I start to walk to the bathroom and stop. "What did you mean earlier that

you could feel m confusion through the bond?"

He looks at me a minute before responding. "I marked you. That means that I can now feel your emotions and I can also hear

you when you speak in your head, unless you block me out."

I turn to fully look at him. He can feel my emotions and hear the voice in my head?

He's nodding. "Yes, I can hear the voice in your head. Currently, it's very loud." He says smiling.

"How?"

"I marked you. Didn't your parents ever explain the mind link process?"

"Well, yes, but that was because they were part of a pack. You and I aren't part of a pack." I say, starting to freak out a little.

Ell stands and comes to me, putting his hands on my arms. "It's the same with a mated couple. I can feel your emotions and

hear you even though we don't have a pack. It's a family bond. When you and your mother left your pack, you would have been

able to continue to mind link her if you'd had your wolf."

"Then why can't I feel or hear you?"

"You haven't marked me. When you do, you'll feel my emotions and hear my thoughts."

"So, I need to mark you?"

He looks at me intently. "If you mark me, it will increase our bond. You are already feeling a stronger bond toward me. If you

mark me, it will become even stronger. If you are ready for that, I am happy to let you mark me, but you need to understand what

you are doing before you do it."

"So, if I mark you, I'll be able to feel your emotions and hear your thoughts, and it will also make our bond stronger?"

"Yes."

"I'd like to think about that before I do it then."

"Of course. And when you're ready, when you truly accept me as your mate, we will mate and mark each other in our human

form. Then, we will have completed the mating and marking process and our bond will be unbreakable."

"It's not unbreakable now?"

"I have marked you. You haven't marked me, and we haven't mated, so it's not a fully formed bond. It's basically one-sided. If

you died, it would most likely kill me. I can hear your thoughts and feel your emotions. If something were to happen to me, you'd

probably feel intense sadness, but it wouldn't kill you."

"That doesn't seem very fair to you. You're taking all the burden."

"You're worth it to me. I never expected to be given a fated mate. So, for me, I'm willing to take the risk until you trust me enough

to complete this bond with me. I lift my face to his and kiss him softly. "Thank you. For saving me, for keeping. me safe and for

your patience. I may not be ready to fully trust you yet, but it means a lot to me that you care enough about me to do all of this for

me."

"You're my mate. I love you, unconditionally. Hopefully, one day, you'll feel the

same."

I turn and go into the bathroom to shower. Eli has given me a lot to think about.

Chapter 322

I watch Grace go to the shower, listening as she turns on the water. Thank the Goddess she finally woke up. When I called Rik

earlier, he assured me that it's not uncommon for females to be knocked unconscious when they are marked, but neither he nor

Liam had that with their Guardians. However, neither of them were on the run, exhausted, half-starved and emotionally

distraught at the time they were marked either.

I'm thankful she doesn't hate me right now. I had some horrible flashbacks to the time when I tried to force the mate mark on

Cara. I know the situations were different, but I can't lose Grace. I wasn't joking when I said I never thought I'd be given a fated

mate. With everything that has happened in my life, I didn't think I deserved one. It just goes to show that the Goddess has a

plan, even if we don't know what it is.

I clean up while Grace showers. She takes quite awhile and I'm not sure if this is a common thing for her or if she's avoiding me.

When she finally comes out, I grab my things and head into the bathroom. I didn't have many clothes to begin with and I've lost

some on this journey. I'll need to figure out how to pay for new ones soon, along with everything else.

My plan is to take Grace to my old pack lands, the Silver Dawn Pack. I had started to rebuild it when I planned to take Cara as a

mate. It still needs a lot of work, but it has become a place where rogues can go for a second chance, a sanctuary of

sorts.

I had called myself their Alpha and they had followed me. Many were killed in the battle against the Canyon Ridge Pack when I

kidnapped Cara. Any that acted like true rogues, those that killed indiscriminately or couldn't abide by the hierarchy of the pack,

were banished or killed. What is left, are those that are able to fight, and those that are willing to be a part of a pack again.

There are too many stories of rogues that are on their own, simply because they came from poorly run packs that had

overbearing or cruel Alphas. Grace's story and mine are not isolated incidents. There are so many rogues that are packless.

through no fault of their own. I created a pack, a place where all the individuals. and families that wanted safety, wanted a place

to call home, could come without fear.

I haven't been back in a long time. After Cara was rescued, I ran. Then I was caught by Liam and held as his captive for six

months. Now I've been on the run with Grace, keeping her safe. But it's time to go home. Time for Grace to see what

she's in for if she decides to accept the mate bond. All I have to offer her is a broken-down pack with a bunch of misfits trying to

make their way in the world.

I sigh, getting out of the shower, pulling on a pair of shorts. I like feeling Grace's emotions. It has calmed Louis, but I hope that

someday, she will accept me and want to complete the mate bond. I want someone by my side, helping me to rebuild a place

that was broken into something amazing, something that everyone that lives there can be proud of.

When I walk out of the bathroom, I see that she's already in the only bed in the room. I don't want to presume, so I pull the chairs

at the table closer together and prepare to sleep on them.

"What are you doing?" Grace asks me.

"Just getting comfortable." I say. When I look at her, she's frowning at me.

"In the chairs?"

I look down at them. Yeah, nothing about them looks comfortable at all.

"I already told you I can't sleep unless you're lying beside me." She pats the bed beside her. "I mean, unless you don't want to."

Chapter 323

I step up to the bed. "I want to. I didn't know if you would be comfortable with that."

"Well, we're partially bonded, right? Won't you sleep better if you're beside me?"

"Yes."

"Good, then it's settled. Hop in."

I crawl into bed beside her, and she immediately curls up against me. I sigh heavily, relaxing for the first time in days.

"I'm sorry I had to mark you. I didn't want it to be like that."

"You kept those other wolves from forcing their mark on me. I have no idea what their pack is like, but based on their Alpha, I

would have been miserable in that environment."

I tuck her closer to me, Louis's growl rumbling in my chest that someone almost forced their mark on our mate.

"Shhh, Louis, I'm safe now. Thanks to you and Eli. Rest, sweet wolf." Grace says, rubbing her hand against my chest, soothing

Louis's growl.

"Sweet?" I ask her. Louis has been called many things, but sweet has never been one of them.

I can feel her smile against my chest. "He's very sweet to Maia. She's got a soft spot for him, too."

Louis's growl turns to a purr, and I feel Grace chuckle. "See? He's so sweet."

"What about me? Am I sweet?"

Am I fishing for compliments? Yes. Am I jealous that she seems to like my wolf more than me? Yes.

She lifts her head and looks at me. "You are amazing, kind and generous."

I lean up kissing her gently. "Thank you."

When she doesn't lay back down, I turn to look at her again. She slowly lowers her face to mine, kissing me tentatively.

In an instant, I have our positions flipped with her underneath me, my body settling between her legs. I slowly increase the

intensity of the kiss, wanting to taste her. I use one arm to keep most of my weight off of her while the other

strokes her cheek, moving into her hair as my need to touch and taste her overwhelms me.

I nip at her bottom lip, making her gasp. When her mouth opens, I slide my tongue into the sweet tartness of her cherry taste. I

moan as her taste floods my tongue and I hold her face gently as I take my time, tasting her mouth, feeling the soit plumpness of

her lips, letting her get used to my tongue teasing hers.

Her arms go around me and I feel her nails dragging down my back. Exquisite pain. I can feel her tentativeness through the

bond, but also her arousal which is perfuming the air around us. Her scent and her taste have me feeling intoxicated, drunk on

my mate.

I gently begin kissing my way down her neck, sucking gently on my mark. Her gasp changes to a moan and I feel her knees

come up on either side of me and she begins rubbing herself against me, trying to ease the pressure I'm causing and find her

release.

I lift up, looking into her eyes. Her embarrassment hits me though the bond and she begins to lay her legs back down.

"Don't." I say quietly, and slide my hand to her knee, pulling it back up. I slowly draw a line from her knee to the inside of her

thigh. I watch her as my hand pulls closer to her core, waiting to see if she'll stop me.

When she doesn't, I move my hand to her hip, sliding her night shirt up, my hand stroking up to her breast. Her nipple is a hard

peak and I rub my thumb over it watching her eyes flutter closed, a soft whimper escaping her mouth. I gently tug on her nipple,

causing her to arch her back into my hand.

"I want to make you feel good. Will you let me?

She opens her eyes and nods. "Yes."

I lift up and pull her shirt over her head. I kiss her lips, pulling back to look at her again before dipping down licking her nipple

then sucking it into my mouth. Her response is instant, her moan of pleasure making my already hardened length turn painfully

hard. My hand goes to her other breast, tugging on her nipple while I take my time licking and sucking on this one. When I shift, I

look up at her. Her mouth is open slightly, her eyes are closed in her pleasure. This is a look I want to put on her face every day.

Chapter 324

I move to her other nipple, giving it equal attention, my hand sliding down between us, feeling her heat through her panties. I can

feel how soaked they are and I can't help my own moan, knowing it is me causing this response in my

mate.

I slide a finger under her panties, running it through her slippery wetness before sliding it up to her clit. Her hips buck at the

sensation, and I begin rubbing circles around her clit, listening to the sweet sounds of her whimpers.

I graze my teeth over her nipple as I finally release it, kissing my way down her stomach, licking and tasting her as I go. When I

get her panties, I grab them with my teeth and begin pulling them down her thighs. I look up and see her watching me with a look

of surprise and excitement.

I keep my eyes on hers as I toss her panties to the floor and hook her leg over my shoulder as I move back up her body. I lick

her, core to clit as I watch her. She sucks in a breath but doesn't take her eyes off me. A possessive growl of pleasure rumbles in

my chest at her taste. If I thought I was drunk on her taste before, it's nothing to how I feel now.

I begin running my tongue in circles on her clit, her hips pushing up against my face. I slide my hand up her thigh and slip a

finger inside her, feeling her warm wet walls fluttering around me. Her legs start to tighten around my head and I take one hand,

pushing her leg to the bed, and her knee up toward her hips, opening her even wider for me.

Her hand goes to my head as her hips start rocking against my face, her whimpers increasing in intensity. I slide another finger

inside her, feeling how tight she is. I gently turn my fingers in a corkscrew motion and I suck her clit into my mouth, eliciting a

much louder moan from her.

When I feel her walls starting to tighten, I increase the speed of my movements and curl my fingers up looking for the perfect

spot. When I find it, I suck down hard on her clit, sending her over the top. Her scream of pleasure and the friction from the bed

moving under me has me joining her, my own orgasm ripping from me like I've never felt before.

I slowly let her ride out her orgasm, her walls contracting around my fingers slowly lessens. When I lift my head, my face and

chin are covered in her sweet arousal. I kiss her inner thigh, before moving my way back up to her face. I slide my tongue into

her mouth, letting her taste herself.

"You taste delicious baby. I'm going to go clean up and then we can get some sleep. You should be able to sleep now." I tell her.

I go to the bathroom and wash my face, pulling off my shorts to wash my release off my body. After wiping myself clean, I go

back out to see my little mate fast asleep, still naked.

I climb in behind her, curling up around her, and tucking her against me before pulling the sheet and blanket over us and

following her into blissful sleep.

Chapter 325

I wake up slowly, warm and surrounded by the scent of sandlewood and cedar. I haven't feit this comfortable in a long time.

As I come awake, I begin to realize certain things. First, I'm naked. Second, there is an arm wrapped around my waist ending

with a hand that is cupping my breast. And finally, there is a large, warm, strong body behind me and something long and hard

pressing against my backside.

I move to get out of Eli's embrace, but his arm tightens around me, pulling me to him. He kisses my shoulder.

"Not yet. Just a few more minutes." His voice is thick and husky with sleep.

"Eli." It comes out more like a squeak than a demand.

"Mmmhmm." He replies, snuggling his body even closer to mine and kissing the back of my neck, sending goosebumps over my

body.

"Eli, I'm naked."

"You were asleep when I got out of the bathroom, so I let you sleep." His voice is still low, his breath caressing my ear as he

speaks.

"You're naked too."

"Baby, after last night, there's no part of you that I haven't seen and tasted. And I've been around shifters my entire life. Nudity

isn't something that bothers me."

My cheeks heat at his comment. What felt right in the darkness of night, sounds almost elicit in the morning light.

I feel his teeth gently bite down on my shoulder. "I can feel your embarrassment, love. We're mates. You may not have decided

to complete the bond yet, but you and your wolf will be feeling the pull to me and Louis. There is nothing to be embarrassed

about. This is the way the goddess planned it."

"I'm going to jump in the shower and then we should head out. We have a bus to catch, right?"

He lifts his head to look at me. "Are you feeling up to traveling again today?"

I look at him over my shoulder and I can see the worry in his eyes. I blush but answer honestly. "I feel pretty good actually." I tell

him.

His answering smifk says everything I need to know. He's very proud of himself for being the one that made me feel this good.

And as much as I'd like to scoff at

him, he's right. My body feels languid and relaxed.

I lean up and peck his lips, but before I can pull away, he's captured me for a much longer and deeper kiss. I'm immediately lost

in his scent and taste, moaning softly into his mouth as his tongue plays gently with mine.

He rubs his nose against mine. "Go shower, and I'll get us something to eat and check the bus schedule." He tells me.

I scoot out of bed and start walking to the bathroom, feeling his eyes on me. I turn and look at him over my shoulder. "What?"

He is propped up on one elbow, the sheet falling low on his hips, his eyes slowly slide down my body before coming back up.

"Just enjoying the view." He says.

I turn taking the last few steps to the bathroom, making sure to swing my hips a little more than necessary, earning me a wolf

whistle as I close the door to the bathroom.

I can't help but laugh out loud. It's a powerful, heady feeling to captivate a man's attention like that, especially a man like Eli.

When I finish showering, I half expect him to still be in bed, but he has gone so I finish getting ready and wait for him to return.

When he does, he has several egg and meat sandwiches, coffee and lots a water.

"Drink some water and pick whichever sandwiches you want." He says before sitting down with me. "I know you drink coffee, but

I wasn't sure how you take it, so I have cream and sugar." He says as he dumps a bag with that, napkins and coffee stirrers onto

the table.

Chapter 326

I drink half a bottle of water in one go, then dig into the food. "So, what's the plan?"

"There's a bus leaving at 1pm heading toward Jackson, Mississippi. We'll stop at a small town tomorrow on the other side of

Jackson, stay the night then head out the following day toward Birmingham, where we'll plan to stay another night before

heading toward home. At that pace, we'll get to north Georgia by the end of the week. But that also gives us two nights in a hotel

to get decent food and sleep. I've already called Rik and given him the plan. I'll call him again when we stop outside of Jackson."

After breakfast, Eli showered, we check out of the hotel and head back to the bus station. Eli was still watchful of everything,

making sure there was no one suspicious. The bus ride to the area outside of Jackson was tiring, but uneventful. I took the

opportunity to ask Eli about where we are going and try to get to know my mate a little bit better.

"We're headed to my old pack lands, the Silver Dawn pack. I had started to rebuild the pack and was inviting anyone that needed

sanctuary to come and be a part of a new pack. Not surprisingly, there are many with stories like ours Grace. So, you can

imagine how many wolves came to the borders, asking for a safe place to live."

"Are they all still there?" I ask, wondering what we're going to be walking into. "I honestly don't know. It's been close to a year

since I've been back. At the time, I was the self–proclaimed Alpha of the pack, and I left my assigned Beta in charge. I guess

we'll find out when we arrive."

When we get to the town, we find a hotel and quickly wash off the dust of traveling, before heading out to get dinner. Eli is more

relaxed, having spoken to Alpha Rik and hearing that the red wolves seemed to have gotten word out that I've been marked and

am no longer eligible to mark and mate.

We go to a popular steak house and it's the most normal experience I've had since my mother passed away. We have a nice

dinner, talking and laughing. I'm coming to realize that Eli is a caring individual. If my mother and I had met him. in our travels, he

would have looked after us, as he seems to do with every stray he finds. He doesn't call them strays, but that's what they are. It's

what my mother and I were. We were lost, with no pack and no ties to anyone.

He doesn't seem to recognize that he gives others a sense of peace and belonging.

He just sees it as the right thing to do, something that he wished someone would have done for him when he was a child, alone

in the world.

We walk back to our hotel room, hand in hand. When we get there, he turns to me. "Are you tired?"

I shake my head. "No."

He grabs the remote and sits on the bed, turning the TV on. "Do you have anything that you'd like to watch?"

I have an idea, but I don't really know what I'm doing. I'm hoping instinct, the bond and maybe Eli will guide me.

I get on the bed, but rather than sitting next to him, I straddle his hips, facing him. I put my hands on his chest as he looks up at

me, a half-smile on his face. "Something on your mind, Grace?"

I nod. "You made me feel really good the other night. Now I want to return the favor." I say as I slide my hands down his stomach,

to his shorts.

Chapter 327

Hello everyone,

I hope you are enjoying Grace and Eli's journey so far. There is a lot more in store for them still to come!

My new book, For the Love of a Guardian, went live today. This book will tell Clint and Lily's story. It starts as a prequel when

they are 17/18 years old, but will go through the time frame of the first two books (Broken Warrior and Guardian Angel).

Since I started writing Broken Warrior, Lily has been banging around in my head, wanting me to tell her story, so now it's out. If

you enjoyed the glimpses of her life with Clint in the other books, check it out. This story will have more information on Anders'

and Calista's romance, as well. It will be more of a romance but if you've read the other books, you also know there will be

tragedy. For those of you keeping track, yes the name of the book is the same as the one that Clint gave to Cara for her 18th

birthday, and yes, that was intentional.

For the Love of a Guardian will only update three days a week, as Banished Beta is my primary book until it is finished. Once this

book is complete, Clint and Lily's story will begin updating daily.

Thank you all for being a part of this journey with me. I hope you are having as much fun reading abut these characters as I am

writing about them. I read and appreciate all of your comments. I don't know how to respond in this system, but I promise I do

read them.

Chapter 328

I'm instantly hard as Grace's hands slide over my stomach to the waistband of my shorts. I'm thrilled that she wants to be

intimate, but I also want to make sure we both understand what she wants.

"What did you have in mind?" I ask, as her hands slide up under my shirt and back up my stomach to my chest. She's pushed

my shirt up with her hands, so I lean forward and pull it over my head, dropping it on the floor.

Her eyes take me in, feasting on me like I've done with her, before meeting mine. "I'm not exactly sure."

"You can do whatever you want, but only if you're comfortable doing it. I have no limits with you. I'm all yours, Grace."

She leans in, kissing me and I let her set the pace. It's difficult as my body and Louis are screaming at me to complete the bond.

I want nothing more than to bury myself in her warm, wet folds while I sink my teeth into her neck. But I won't, not until I know

that I'll feel her teeth sinking into mine at the same time.

I slide my hands up her thighs, to her hips. She's moving against me, causing my dick to become rock hard. One of her hands

goes to my shoulder, the other around my neck as she deepens the kiss, taking control.

She begins kissing her way down my neck and I can't help but groan when she nips at my marking spot, causing my dick to

twitch under her. I see her smile as she sits back just enough to look at me, before beginning to kiss her way down my chest.

She continues nipping at me, biting into me in places, leaving little love bites on my pecs as she continues her path to my

stomach.

When she gets to my shorts, she does what I did to her. She grabs them with her teeth and begins pulling them down, getting off

the bed to take them off completely, leaving me in only my boxers.

"You should take your clothes off too." I say, my hunger for her making my voice deeper than normal.

She stands, looking at me. "Would you like that?"

"Yes." It's a deep, breathy reply and I know my eyes are dark with my need for

her.

She reaches down and slowly pulls her shirt over her head. I lick my lips at her beauty. I want this woman like I've never wanted

anyone in my life.

+15 BONDS

Her eyes stay on mine as she reaches behind her and unhooks her bra, letting it fall to the floor. My eyes trail down to her perfect

breasts. They are perky and smaller than some, but they are perfect to me.

She turns her back to me, looking at me over her shoulder as she bends down, pulling her shorts down, giving me a perfect view

her spectacular ass. Oh, how I want to sink my teeth into those fleshy globes, and one day soon, I will.

When she turns back around, I can feel her confidence wane. She is getting into her head and letting embarrassment take over.

"Come here." I say to her, crooking my finger at her.

She listens, crawling back over top of me. I'm not sure if she meant it to be sexy, but it definitely is. When she's close, I grab her,

pulling her to straddle me again. I can feel her warm, wet heat over my dick with nothing between us but my boxers. It won't take

much to get me off.

"What were you thinking baby?" I ask her, trying to get her out of her head.

"I wanted to make you feel good, but I'm not sure how." She says.

I push up against her. "Do you feel how excited I am? How much I want you?" I ask her. I want her to know that I want her, but I

still don't want to push her. She has to be comfortable with whatever we do.

Chapter 329

When I push up against her, my dick slides through her wet, warm folds. I groan in pleasure, letting my eyes close. "You feel so

good Grace. I don't know what you want, but I can't be inside you. When you're ready, we will. But I will want to mark you, and I

know you're not ready for that yet."

"I can use my mouth like you did." She says in her sweet voice. I groan at the thought.

"Have you ever done that before baby?" I ask her.

"No, but I want to."

I grit my teeth. I'll be lucky if I don't shoot my load the minute her lips touch my dick.

"Do you want me to guide you?" I ask.

"Yes."

I reach up and kiss her deeply before laying back. "Pull my boxers off and find a position that's comfortable between my legs."

When she does, she looks at my dick, then up at me. "Take me in your hand, stroke me up and down."

She does, watching as my dick twitches as soon as she touches it and my body. tenses in pleasure.

"Use your tongue, lick me then suck the head into your mouth."

She does, and it takes everything in me not to shoot off like a rocket. "That feels so good baby. So good. Slide me farther into

your mouth, use your lips and suck gently as you slide me in and out."

I'm gritting my teeth, trying hard to keep some semblance of control, but I'm about to lose my shit. Her warm mouth feels so

good. Her hand continues stroking me and she takes me in and out.

I hiss a bit as her teeth scrape my cock. "Careful with your teeth baby."

She immediately comes off me, looking up at me. "I'm sorry. Did I hurt you?"

"It's okay, just be careful. Biting me there isn't pleasurable."

She takes me back in her mouth, hollowing out her cheeks and begins sucking me in harder this time. I suck in a breath, and my

hand goes into her hair,

"That's it, love. When I tell you, you need to stop so I don't come in your mouth." I tell her as she continues. She begins moving

faster and I'm hitting the back of her throat.

"Oh god baby, that's it, yes."

I feel my balls contracting and I know I'm close. "Grace, stop, I'm about to come." I tell her, knowing it's only a matter of seconds.

She doesn't stop, if anything she moves faster. At the last second, she somehow takes me into her throat. My hips thrust

forward, pushing me even deeper into her throat as the force of my orgasm has me growling my release, her gag reflex only

increasing. my orgasm. My instinct is to hold her there while I finish, but I won't do that to her. Thankfully, she takes everything

I'm giving her before she finally slides off, licking every bit of my release off of me before sitting back and looking at me.

"Fuck, Grace. That was amazing!" I say, watching as a self–satisfied smile. spreads across her face.

"I'm glad you liked it."

I pull her up to me, kissing her. "Like isn't the word I would use. You are incredible my little mate."

She giggles and I growl at her. "I can smell your arousal. Now, it's my turn to feast."

I flip our positions and have my mate screaming in pleasure multiple times before I finally curl up behind her and we both drift off

to sleep.

Chapter 330

I can definitely get used to waking up in Eli's arms. It's warm, comfortable and safe. I love that I'm getting to know him better,

mentally and physically.

The physical part is nothing like I was expecting. I don't know if it's the mate bond, or if it's him, but I never expected an orgasm

to feel like this. I can't imagine what it will be like when we complete the bond. I remember hearing stories about how incredible it

is, and I can't imagine it being better than this.

I don't feel nearly as self-conscious this morning as I snuggle back into Eli's embrace. I love the sound of his sleepy growl when

I wiggle myself against him, causing his already hard length to twitch against my back.

"What are you doing baby?" He asks me sleepily.

"Snuggling up against you." I say as I wiggle myself even closer to him.

His arm pulls me impossibly closer and he pushes his erection against me. "I like waking up with you pressed against me." He

says, kissing my neck and biting down gently, making me shiver. "But we have a bus to catch this morning. One more stop and

then we should be home, or to what was home when I left."

He lifts his arm and I move off the bed, turning to stand in front of him. I feel bold this morning.

'He's a sexy man and he wants us. We're Alpha females, we should feel powerful because we are.' Maia says.

I lean over the bed, watching as Eli's eyes darken. "Come on old man, come shower with me."

In an instant, he's out of bed and has scooped me up. I wrap my legs around his waist, chuckling as he begins walking to the

bathroom. I'm a tall woman, at 5'11", but Eli carries me like I weigh nothing at all. I like it.

"Who are you calling old?" He asks, growling in my ear.

"Did I seem old last night when you had my hard length in your mouth?" I shake my head, no.

"Did I seem old when I had you screaming your pleasure over and over?" I gently nip his neck as he turns on the water. "No."

"Do

you need a reminder of just how young I am?"

I giggle like a schoolgirl. "Yes."

12

+15 BONDS

And he does remind me, in the shower, three times. Yep, I could definitely get used to this.

We spend the next two days on the road, working our way to Birmingham, again finding a small town on the east side of the city.

We had planned to stop earlier, but realized we were in the middle of wolf territory, so we kept going for another half day.

By the time we stop, we're both ready for a shower, food and bed. Much like our previous hotel visits, we get to know each other

over dinner then again in bed. I'm becoming more and more comfortable with the thought of Eli and I finalizing the mate bond. I

want to see this pack he put together and make sure there is nothing that gives me an indication that he's been lying to me this

entire time. But if it's as he says it is, then I think I'm ready to complete the bond.

'It's about time.' Maia says in my head.

Between her constant desire to complete the bond and my body's own pull to Eli, it is getting harder and harder to resist the

temptation to mark him. My canines. came out last night while I was kissing his neck and I had to pull away quickly before the

need to mark him became too strong. And while I'm ready to take our sexual relationship to the next level, I know he won't until

I'm ready to complete our bond. After the canine issue, I have to agree.

The last leg of our journey is another two days. While we're enjoying our time together and getting to know each other, I think

we're both weary of traveling. I'm excited to see what this pack looks like. According to Eli, it's run down and needs to be rebuilt.

I never really considered how exciting that might be, to build something of my own from the ground up. If his makeshift pack is

still there, they are the type of people that would be invested in rebuilding the pack lands. They would want a place to call home,

one that they could be proud of. It sounds like they just need the guidance of their Alpha.

he's

Eli has told me several times that he's not an Alpha, he only proclaimed himself to be one. But there is more to being an Alpha

than just blood. Although I do think it's possible that Eli has Alpha blood, he also acts like a leader. He's strong, compassionate

and from everything I've gathered from what he's told me, caring. He may not know exactly how to run a pack, but I have some

of that knowledge, and as mates, we can build something together, helping each other as we go.