

Darkness Mate Cheated Versus Fated by Victory Done

Chapter 21

Chapter 21

Darius

The fact that her last months with him weren't great made me relax. If not, I might have sent her back.

The humility and pain the letter represented touched, my soul. It was a letter of true love.

He was giving her to me. He might not have said it clearly for me to see, but he was giving his consent for me to care for her and love her.

I did not need it, but I appreciated it.

Zora must have been important to him; too bad he was too weak to keep her. Based on the letters, he had lost her long before I took her from him. I now realised why she gave herself up. She did not want to be his luna anymore.

The situation must have been heart-wrenching for her to choose the unknown over him. It made me remember Shanon and why she left me.

It was late in the evening, so I took Zora's letter to her. I was glad for all the tips Casey gave me, but I had no plan of wooing her.

I knocked on the door, and no one answered, so I let myself in. Zora was on the floor in tears. I did not need to know why; the mark on her neck was gone.

I went to her and held her.

The two must have loved each other dearly, and everything that went

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Chapter 21

wrong must have been hard on both of them, but judging by their situation, this was for the best.

1288 Vouchers

I held her on the floor, and she cried in my arms. I could hear the pain in her wails. Fate messed up their love story, and his weakness wrecked them.

"He sent you a letter," I said and handed her the letter with a broken seal.

"I had to read it for security purposes," I said, stroking her back gently.

"He sent me a letter too. That I should take care of you," I said, and her tears fell freely.

I decided to leave her so she could read the letter privately. I stood up, and she grabbed my hand to stop me.

"Stay with me," She said, and I nodded.

She read his letter and then placed it against her chest and cried. I let her cry.

It was clear that even though they knew the marriage was over, neither was ready to let go. They were too attached.

She calmed down after a while and had to swear allegiance to me to join my pack. It was necessary so she didn't go rogue.

I felt the connection snap into place, which meant I could now mind-link her. She calmed down, and I studied her.

"So you were sharing your husband with his fated?" I asked her, and she nodded.

"Wow, that was a messed up situation. I see why you came here," I said, and she looked at me.

"They would have killed him," She said, defiant tone returning, and I

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odded because I knew I was right.

I hope you will be in the mood for horse riding tomorrow," I said and got p.

Where are you going?" She asked me, standing up too.

To sleep," I told her, and her eyes looked like she was contemplating something.

Okay," she said, but I knew those weren't the words she wanted to speak. So I moved close to her until her back was against the wall.

'Okay?" I said, and she swallowed and nodded.

Her eyes were swollen from tears. She searched my eyes with them, trying to figure me out, and before she could speak, I kissed her neck where her husband's mark once was and sucked gently. She moaned, unable to control herself, and Cremin growled.

"If I stay, I will take you, and you aren't ready for that," I told her and walked out of her room.

It was hard as hell, but I knew it would be wrong to take advantage of a grieving woman. She needed time and space to accept her reality.

I returned to my room, hard as hell, and went to the bathroom to work on myself.

As I lay on my bed, I thought of Zora and Casey's story and realised she was the type to love deeply. Would she fall for me and love me the same if anything happened between us?

Remembering what Shanon did snapped me out of my fantasies. Women could not be trusted. I learned that the hard way, and I have been on my

guard ever since
64.95%

Content

Chapter 22

Zora'

Darius left me in the room, and I remained sad. The emptiness and confusion were gone.

I was glad Darius was around to absorb me into his pack, this was my biggest fear of leaving Casey. I did not want to go rogue.

Monica was weak, and I knew we would never be at a hundred per cent again.

I would have to train harder now, I doubted Darius would let me, but I will try. I wished he had remained and done what he wanted to do. I wanted comfort, and I was willing to do anything for it, but instead, he had to be a gentleman and walk away.

I lay on my bed and re-read Casey's letter. I could see it was a difficult situation for him. He had given me closure with his letter. I knew it was best to write a letter to him to provide closure.

I doubted Darius would let me send it, but I will try.

I went to my vanity table and took a piece of paper and a pen to write.

"Dear Caseynardo,

I received your letter, and I want you to know I am not angry.

The fact that you are alive and well is rewarding enough.

Thank you for the closure. It really means a lot.

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Chapter 22

If it helps, I never blamed you for what happened to us. We were victims of fate, even Lori.

I know you have sworn never to replace me, but I beg you to give her her place. Both of you are expecting. Do not let my sacrifice be in vain, Casey.

I have joined the Wolf Lord's pack, so my sanity is intact.

Do not waste my gift to you. Live your life to the fullest and make the most of it.

Shower your love and affection on Lori and your children; they deserve it.

Know that I am well, and the Wolf lord has been genuinely kind to all of us. If we ever meet again, I pray it is in good health and joy. You will always have a place in my heart. Love Zora."

I read the letter a couple of times before folding it. There were no envelopes in

my room, but I was determined to give them to Darius to have them mailed in the morning. I did not know if he would take offence, but I will try.

“I guess that Chapter is closed,” Monica said as we lay on the bed.

I could not give a definite answer because as long as we are all alive, no Chapter is ever closed.

I went for breakfast in the morning, wearing the sheer clothes in my wardrobe against Darius’s warning.

Kara and Marcel were kissing when I arrived, and I knew he would have fucked her on the table if he could.

Eloise was still reserved, but she was getting along with Raphael. Darius was yet to grace us with his presence, so I went to sit in my usual spot and wait.

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Chapter 22

288 (Vouchers

I greeted everyone present with the utmost respect, and Eloise was the first to notice my mark was gone. She smiled at me, and I nodded. I was yet to adjust to being single.

From how Kara looked, it was clear the two were together all night. I wondered when she would get tired of it.

I couldn’t blame her, from not getting any to being the centre of attention, it was expected behaviour. I hoped for her sake it would last because, even if she didn’t want to admit it, she was falling in love.

Darius walked in, and he had lipstick on the side of his cheek. I did not need to know who it belonged to. For the first time, it got to me.

I composed myself and greeted him respectfully. He sat beside me when he picked up his napkin and angrily wiped away the mark on his cheek. I guess someone linked him to tell him.

“How was your night?” he said, gently lifting my hand and kissing it. I had the urge to pull it away, but I controlled myself.

“Peaceful,” I replied,

“Why are you annoyed?” He linked me for the first time, and I looked at him. He was too handsome for his own good.

“I am not; I am just respecting myself,” I replied, and he smiled and placed his hand on my bare thigh.

“I have warned you not to dress in these outfits with other people around,” He warned, and I smiled at him.

“This suits my mood best,” I replied, and he growled.

He ran his hand up my thighs, and I felt tingles; then he kissed my neck and sucked gently. Was this guy making out with me in public? I had never done this before, and I felt a bit shy.

Chapter 22

1288 Vouchers

"People are here," I linked him, and he sucked my sweet spot, forcing a moan out of me. 1

"If you are comfortable with dressing provocatively in public, then this should be okay, he said and moved his hands closer to my pu s sy. I wasn't wearing panties, and I knew I was wet.

"Please," I pleaded with him to leave me alone.

"Next time I tell you to do something, you do it," he said, got up and lifted me from my seat.

Kara was smiling, and Eloise looked away. He placed me over his shoulders and smacked me on the butt.

"Obedience class 101," he said, taking me out of place.

"We haven't eaten; I am hungry," I said, protesting, and he smacked me again.

I wanted to giggle because it was exciting, but I held it.

People saw us, and they were most surprised. Even Cindy and her sidekicks came to the passage to see the commotion.

Darius moved ahead until we got to my room. He opened the room and carried me in.

He threw me on the bed, and I sat up and moved back until my back was against the bed rest.

"I guess Lunas never had to be obedient, so this will be your first class," he said and took off his s hit. His body was sculpted to perfection. His tattoos were beautiful, and the art went up his neck.

His eyes were dark, and I was worried because it meant his wolf was involved.

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Chapter 22

He got on the bed and came to me.

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288 (Vouchers

"I let you be last night because you were grieving. But you had to push it," he said and kissed the corner of my cheek.

"I sense some jealousy, green eyes. Did it have anything to do with the lipstick on my cheek?" He asked, and I closed my eyes and turned my head to the side.

"So I see," he said and grazed his teeth along my neck.

"Do you want to punish me for it?" he asked me, and I did not know what to say: my legs were already shaking. I had never experienced this kind of energy and boldness before. This was something new.

He suddenly pulled away and got off the bed. It seemed he had a sudden change of heart. It was in his eyes.

Content

Chapter 23

Zora'

I was disappointed, but I tried not to let it show.

"I will permanently change your wardrobe. No more sexy outfits for you," he said and picked up his shirt.

"Are you afraid I might turn you on, and you will lose control?" I asked with a daring tone, and he looked at me and smiled.

"Green eyes, you are already mine," he said, and I growled at him out of frustration. Monica was at the forefront, and I knew he could see my wolf eyes too.

It wasn't okay to mess with people like this.

"Be a good girl, and I will reward you" he said with a smirk and left the room.

He had disrupted my breakfast for nothing. He had also figured out the lipstick got to me.

I got off the bed and decided to change my outfit. I wore shorts and a t-shirt.

When I was done, I remembered the letter I wanted to mail to Casey, and I took it out of my dresser to head back to breakfast.

To my surprise, Darius was there as if nothing had happened. I was mad at him, so I tried to sit next to Eloise, but Raphael did not allow it, and he made me sit next to Darius.

"Don't you feel better?" He asked, and I did not bother to answer. I was angry. I ate quietly, and when we were done, he got up to leave, so I followed him.

"Darius," I called in the hallway, and he turned to look at me.

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"I do not mean to abuse your hospitality or your kindness. Please do not see my request as an act of defiance or as taking you for granted," I said, and he frowned at me. I knew what I was about to ask him to do might not be welcomed.

"Please help me mail this later to Casey. You can read its content. It poses no security threat. I am just asking him to move on." I said quickly, and his eyes darkened. He held my arm and made me follow him to his office. The moment the door was shut, he looked at me angrily.

"Do not abuse the privilege, Zora. No one is allowed to communicate with their loved ones here. That is precisely the point. I will not make exceptions for you," he said, and my heart broke a bit because I did not feel I was asking for

too much. I just wanted to say goodbye.

“Other trophies were actively given to you, so they said their goodbyes to their loved ones. He was unconscious when they took me away.” I said with tears.

“How am I sure it is not a secret code? How am I sure you are not giving him information about the north? About me?” He asked me, and I knew he wouldn’t bend on this one.

“I am sorry I asked. It won’t happen again,” I said, folded the letter, and put it in my pocket.

“May I be excused?” I asked.

“You did not answer my question,” he said, and I took out the letter and handed it to him.

“Read it and decide for yourself. I am sure you have code geniuses here; they can tell you if I am selling secrets or not,” I said, and he opened the letter to read it. I could see shame in his eyes when he was through. I figured he had trust issues.

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Chapter 23

288 Vouchers

“Very well, I will send it to him, but no more, and no one must know of this,” he warned, and I nodded and thanked him. Whether I liked it or not, however kind he was and however comfortable the place was, I was still a prisoner of war.

‘Horse riding is in an hour; meet me at the stables.’ He said, and I nodded.

[was grateful that he agreed to send the letter.

I left his office and headed to my room.

On my way, I bumped into the annoying Cindy and her friends. She was behaving like a child.

“Alpha couldn’t stand seeing your hideous body, so he told you to cover up.” she teased, looking at what I was wearing and ignoring the fact that they were his clothes. I tried to walk away, but they blocked me. I really wasn’t in the mood for this.

“I sent you a message on his cheek this morning. Did you get it?” She asked me, and I did not respond.

“Do you want to know how it got there?” She asked, and I heard a growl behind me. I did not need to guess who it was.

“Cindy! in my office now!” Darius growled, and I started walking away quickly. I did not want to imagine what they would do there together.

After what happened with Casey, I should have had a thick skin, but Darius got to me. I did not know why but he got to me.

I moved quickly into my room and felt jealous over him for the first time.

I knew I was grieving, but I could not understand why he always controlled himself around me. It made me feel unattractive.

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It should be the least of my worries, but I was petty like that, thanks to the fact that I had nothing to do and I sat in a castle idle all day.

Once it was time to meet him at the stables, I headed there. I hoped to see many people, but it was just him and two horses. He walked to me smiling. He was all decked up and ready. He handed me what to wear, and I thanked him. I was still mad about Cindy, but I kept it to myself. I might end up punishing him for it.

“Do you know how to ride?” he asked me, and as much as I tried to get my mind out of the gutter with that question, my mind was rolling in it.

“Of course,” I said, and he laughed, knowing exactly what I meant.

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Content

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Chapter 24

Zora'

Darius looked handsome, laughing, and I wanted to tell him to laugh more, but it wasn't in my place.

“Of course I know you can ride, Green-eyes. I meant the horse.” He said, and I smiled at him.

“Not an expert, but I can survive,” I confessed, and he smiled.

I wore the necessary gear and mounted the horse. Darius went ahead, and I followed him.

The land was beautiful, and I felt a rush I hadn't felt in a while as we raced the horses through the land. With the way he was riding, he was heading somewhere.

We finally got to a cliff where the alpins were visible, and the sight was beautiful.

The snow-covered mountains were a sight, and Darius unmounted his horse. I did the same, and he secured them by the only tree on the cliff.

“What do you think?” He asked, pointing to the mountains in the distance, and I smiled.

“They are beautiful. The mountains back home aren't this beautiful,” I confessed, and he smiled at me.

The breeze brushed his hair, and he looked breathtaking.

“I felt you have been couped up in the estate for long; I thought this would

help," he said to me, and I was stunned at the gesture. However

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insignificant he tried to make it seem, the fact remains that he did this for me.

"Thank you, it is beautiful," I said, and then he came to me and cupped my face in his palms.

"Not as beautiful as you are," he said, and I was stunned by his confession.

He smiled and looked away. Those words were hard for him to say, but he said them anyway, and there was no taking it back; I appreciated it.

"Thank you," I said with a breathy voice, and he smiled.

He stood beside me and looked ahead

"I have sent the letter," He said, and I looked at him. I knew it was difficult for him, but I was grateful he did it.

"Other than Casey, did you date anyone?" He asked me, and I shook my head.

"No, he was my first," I confessed, and he looked at me and smiled.

"As beautiful as you are. I thought you would have a long list," He said, and I smiled.

"Well, I did not have the opportunity for that. We started dating when I was seventeen and married when I was nineteen." I said.

"I see. That explains a lot," He said and gently touched my hand.

"Do you want to sit on the cliff?" He asked, and I was scared.

"Goddess, no, not with a weakened wolf," I said, and he nodded.

"I felt it when you joined my pack. Your wolf isn't so strong anymore," he said out of concern, and I nodded.

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Chapter 24

288 (Vouchers

"I just need a bit of training to adjust. Brains beat brawn any day," I said, and we laughed.

"Sure, you can train with me," he said, and I was stunned.

"Are you sure?" I asked him, and he nodded.

"I wouldn't want anyone taking liberties with you and touching you," he said, sounding possessive. I laughed; he looked at me while I tried to stop laughing, surprised me and arrested my lips with his.

His kiss was gentle and warm.

He tasted sweet and warm. I did not hesitate to respond and grabbed onto his neck.

My response wasn't patient, like his. It was hungry and expectant. He wrapped his arms around my waist and pulled me to his body. Then he broke the kiss and looked at me.

"I can't make you promises, Zora," he confessed, and I nodded.

"I know," I said, and he broke away from me.

"Let's head back," He said, and I felt disappointed.

Why didn't he want to touch me? I was ready to go all the way with him.

Couldn't he see it?

I mounted the horse and followed him, angry and disappointed.

He was playing with my emotions, and I did not like it.

We rode until we got to the stables.

He secured the horses, and we started walking back to the estate as he had put it. To me, it was a castle.

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Chapter 24

288 Vouchers

"I noticed that the other Lunas before us are allowed to socialise and mingle. I learned some of them even date and find love here," I told him, and he stopped walking.

I could sense the fury radiating from him.

I wanted to know why we were special.

A luna had told me they usually split the lunas among themselves as spoils of war. It was a way of ultimately conquering the Alphas to whom the Lunas belonged. Although they never touched them, they owned them. My friends and I got a different treatment, and I did not know why. One day I will ask him if I ever get the chance.

"You are not allowed that," he said without hearing what I had to say.

"Then what am I allowed? I am a woman, and I have needs," I said, and he shook his head.

"Then you come to me," he said with a low growl, and I searched his eyes to see if he was joking, but he wasn't. He was serious. His wolf flashed in those moments.

"I want you tonight," I said, blurting it out boldly, and he looked at me critically and pulled me close.

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Content

Chapter 25

Zora'

"You are still not over him yet. I can't be a rebound," He said, and I was

stunned.

“Who said you are a rebound?” I asked him, and he smiled.

He kissed the corner of my lips, released me and walked away.

He had stylishly refused my invitation. I was furious, angry, name it. I felt everything. I felt inadequate. What did Cindy have that I did not? I was mad.

“He is arrogant,” Monica growled as we walked back to the castle, sexually frustrated. I walked to my room and headed straight for the bath. Touching myself would have to suffice.

I wore shorts and a t-shirt and headed for dinner.

He had sent me his clothes. I wondered why he didn't send someone to just buy me new ones. Instead, he wanted me walking about in his oversized clothes.

I did not dry my hair, so it was wet.

I met Eloise and Raphael there; I did not need to guess why Kara and Marcel weren't there.

I noticed Eloise wasn't in a good mood, so I linked her to find out her problem.

“Some bit ch es gave me a hard time because of him. I suspect he is screwing them, but he refuses to admit it. Not that I care, but I should

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Chapter 25

know,” She said, and I realised she had her version of Cindy.

288 Vouchers

Marcel finally arrived with Kara, and the food was served. I wondered where Darius was.

“The Alpha wouldn't be joining us; he is working on something with Cindy,” he said, and I felt a pain in my chest. That was why he turned down my invitation. I was furious.

I composed myself and tried to eat without showing emotions.

After the meal, Kara tried to make me stay to hang out, but I was fighting tears, so I just walked away. I would apologise to her when I am better, but I just needed space now.

I entered my room, and I wished it had a lock.

“We should barge in on them,” Monica said, ready to do damage.

“He is not ours, Monica, and he has not made his intentions known. We will only be making fools of ourselves.” I told my wolf, and she was silent.

I went to bed with a broken heart.

Morning came, and I did not go for breakfast.

“Zora, why aren't you in the dining room?” I heard Darius's voice in my head, and I was tempted to growl, but I composed myself.

"I am not hungry," I said, and he was silent.

"Regardless, you should eat. Training starts by nine; that is an order," he said. I growled and got up.

I decided to wear a sheer outfit instead of his clothes this time. I was glad he had not cleared my wardrobe as he had threatened.

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Chapter 25

288 Vouchers

I arrived at the dining room, and Kara smiled, but Darius was mad.

I went to sit next to him and greeted everyone with the utmost respect, then served my food.

"What do you think you are doing dressed like that?" He asked me, almost growling.

"I do not think it is wise I walk around in your clothes, Alpha; it will send the wrong message. I do not want Cindy's trouble," I said, and his anger dissipated.

He was silent, and I ate breakfast.

For the first time. I requested to be served wine. It was out of character and too early, but my nerves were all over the place, and I knew I had pissed Darius off. I needed to calm down.

He did not utter a word throughout my display, and when the breakfast was over, he left.

"You shouldn't push him, Zora. He has made a lot of exceptions for you."

Marcel warned me, and I was quiet. What did he know about being pushed? Kara looked at me, feeling sorry for me.

I felt sorry for myself. Being brave with Darius was pointless; I just broke down and cried. Raphael and Marcel excused us while Eloise and Kara remained. "What is the matter?" Kara asked.

"You usually have your shit together, but you are losing yourself," Kara said, and I nodded in agreement. I did not understand what was happening to me.

"Remember, we are prisoners here, Zora. They could get bored and kick us to the curb. As nice as they may be, we aren't free here. Please do not

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Chapter 25

288 Vouchers

aggravate the Alpha." Eloise pleaded with me, afraid of what would happen if Darius got mad and changed his mind. Being victims of severe abuse, I could understand their fear and her willingness to settle for less. Anything was better than where they were coming from, but I couldn't relate, and my heart and

emotions were all over the place.

I wiped away my tears for their sake.

"I will try," I said, and they thanked me.

I returned to my room to change my clothes. And then, I went to join Darius in the training room.

He was the only one there, and he was punching a bag.

It seemed ordinary until I realised it was coated in silver; I looked around and noticed that most things were covered in silver.

I realised why they were very strong. If they trained with silver, then an actual battle would be easy.

Remembering what my friends pleaded with me to do, I chose to be on my best behaviour.

"I am sorry I wore that dress to breakfast; it won't happen again, Alpha," I said, and he punched the bag hard.

I wonder what I said that made him angry.

He turned to look at me, his hair was wet with sweat, and his muscles flexed.

I tried to ignore his body and his face altogether.

"What are you doing here?" He asked me, a bit angry, and I swallowed. I guess I had pissed him off really good.

"To train," I said with uncertainty.

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Chapter 25

288 Vouchers

"No training today, and you can wear your sheer clothes henceforth," He said and turned back to continue what he was doing.

I felt insulted, but he had put me in my place, which Kara and Eloise feared.

What was the matter with him? What was he afraid of?

I did not want to trouble him any more than I had, so I gave up.

"I am sorry to disturb you. I will take my leave," I said and turned around. As I was leaving. I heard Darius growl loudly and punch the bag hard. I walked quickly to create the desired distance between us. I did not want to be in the punching bag's shoes.

I left the place feeling foolish and stupid.

I decided to go to my room and sleep the rest of the day.

I did not want to stay awake, so I won't think about what had just happened.

Maybe I will wake up, and it will all be a bad dream.

I told the servant at my door to bring me the strongest drink they had, anything to knock me out, and she smiled and went to fetch me something.

She was yet to know that my privileges had been revoked. I might as well abuse it one last time before it is official.

She returned with a bottle with a vodka label filled with a green-looking drink. I thought it would taste awful, but it was delicious. I went through half the bottle and started feeling funny.

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Chapter 25

288 (Vouchers

I had an out-of-body experience, and soon I wasn't in control of myself anymore because I could not coordinate myself, and everything went I woke with a banging headache and saw Darius sitting on the couch, looking concerned.

I was in his room.

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Chapter 26

Content

Chapter 26

Zora'

I got off the bed and looked at Darius.

He was worried, and then, his emotions faded.

I looked out the window; it was nighttime. I tried to get off the bed and realised I was naked.

I did not know what to say. Instead, I wrapped the sheet around my body and got off the bed, ready to leave.

"Where do you think you are going?" He asked me, and I could not look at him.

"My room," I said with uncertainty.

"The room you trashed, vomited all over the place and tried to jump out of the window?" He asked me, and my eyes bulged.

"What!" I exclaimed.

"You have been out for hours, Zora? Why were you so reckless? Who gave you the northern vodka?" he asked, and I knew if I gave the person up, she would be in trouble.

"I was the one that asked for the strongest drink there is," I said quickly.

"Why?" He asked me.

"I had nothing to do, I was hoping I would train with you, but you said no. I just wanted to sleep the rest of the day through," I said, and he sighed.

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Chapter 26

288 Vouchers

“Why were you acting up yesterday morning?” He asked me with a calm tone.

“I thought you were luna. Lunas are known for being calm through anything. You acted like a child,” he said, and I nodded.

“I agree, and it won’t happen again. Besides, I am no longer a luna. I do not have a reason to keep my s hit together,” I said.

“You haven’t answered my question yet,” he told me, and I sighed.

“It is childish and insignificant. It won’t happen again. I promise,” I said, and he stood up and walked to me. I did not know my hands were shaking until he held them in his and gently unwrapped the sheets off my body.

“There is nothing between Cindy and me, Zora. I have never touched her. She is good with computers, and she is helping with something. That is why she comes to my office and sometimes my room. I do not sleep with women in the h ar em. It would help if you stopped acting up and being jealous. The only reason I haven’t touched you is that I think you need to get over Caseynardo. If you want to be with me, it should be because you want me, not because you want to fill a void. I didn’t let you train with me because I was angry,” he said, and I was stunned as I looked into his eyes.

I did not know I was crying until tears rolled down my cheeks.

They were tears of relief.

“Since you have proven to me that you are a child and need to be cared for and watched, you sleep in my room henceforth,” he told me and led me to the bathroom.

“Let’s get you cleaned up,” he said, and I was still stunned.

He ran a warm bath and asked me to get inside the tub.

He lathered the sponge and washed my body.

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I

Chapter 26

1788 Vouchers

was stunned by the care and gentleness. It was amazing.

After he was done, I exited the bath, and he gave me an oversized t-shirt.

Then he led me to bed. I was speechless.

I was misbehaving and thinking all my privileges had been revoked, but I was wrong.

“Do not act like that again,” he said, lying behind and spooning me. He kissed my neck and nibbled my cars; instead of a giggle, a moan escaped my lips, and he held me tighter.

"You need to sleep some more. It will ease the headache. Always confront me about what you think. I can never treat you like the others, Zora. You are special." He said and rested his arms around my waist.

"Then make love to me," I managed.

"Not tonight, green-eyes. Tonight, we sleep," he said, and with that, he turned me down again.

Morning came, and we got ready for breakfast together. I could not believe what was happening.

As we walked down the hall, people looked at us, and then Cindy approached us and bowed her head.

"Good morning, Alpha," She said, and he responded gently.

"Good morning Cindy," He said, and she looked up and smiled at me.

"What time do you need me to come, Alpha?" She said, trying to insinuate it was for sex.

"Did you greet Zora?" Darius asked her, and she shook her head.

"You should accord her the same respect," He said, and I was shocked,

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Chapter 26

but I composed myself.

288 Vouchers

"Good morning, Ms. Zora," she said, acknowledging that I had no mark and wasn't a luna anymore.

"Good morning, Cindy," I said, and she smiled at me.

"Good," Darius said.

"I learned you go about giving people the impression that we are screwing," he said, confronting her, and she looked stunned as if it were a lie.

"I do not want to hear such nonsense again. And I am revoking all your privileges. I treated you like a little sister, and you abused that privilege. Pretending to be excited and hugging me so you can kiss my cheek and leave lipstick on it. That was very dubious. It will be in your best interest to tell your friends the truth. Your computer services are no longer required. Henceforth you are not allowed in my office or my bedroom. Am I clear?" he asked, and she bowed

I honestly couldn't believe what had just happened.

When he told me he wasn't sleeping with her, I thought he was lying and telling me what I wanted to hear. Now I knew better.

We left her and headed for the dining room. So much for having the Alpha's ears. What a joke.

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Content

Chapter 27

Zora'

My mood was lifted instantly. I felt sorry for her because she tried to live her fantasies aloud.

We entered the dining room and went to sit on our chairs; Kara and Eloise looked at me funny.

"What were you on yesterday afternoon? You wanted to jump out the window, Zora. You made Alpha make a lot of promises before getting you out the window," Kara linked me, and I looked at Darius.

"Did I make you promise me anything yesterday?" I asked, and he smiled at me?

"You didn't; your wolf did, and you don't want to know. Let's just leave it alone." He told me and served my food: I shook my head.

"Please tell me," I said, and Marcel laughed.

"You should tell her," he told Darius, and Darius looked at me and smiled.

"Are you sure you want to know what Monica said under the influence?" He asked, and I nodded.

"They called me that you were standing at the window of your room. We all rushed to your room and saw that you had trashed the place. There was also vomit everywhere. I saw the bottle of northern co ck tail, and I panicked because you had drunk more than the required amount.

When Monica saw me, she began to cry. She called me an a rse hole and scu mb ag; name it. She said I was a bully, and I was playing with both of

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Chapter 27

1288 Vouchers

you. She asked me if there was a reason I did not find you fuckable. She used that word. She compared you to Cindy then she said both of you would be running away by jumping out the window." He paused, and I was already ashamed. I tried to reach Monica, but she refused to respond.

"I pleaded with you not to jump, and she told me she won't if I promise to do you all night long until morning and then some more, and the rest of the things she said were incoherent. I doubt she was even processing what I was telling her because the moment I reached her and took her away from the window,

she passed out in my arms. You shouldn't leave your wolf in charge like that again.

are always brutally honest and don't pretend." He said, and I bowed in shame.

I suspected something was off about that drink. I knew something was wrong when I started feeling woozy and having experience. I was glad Darius came for me

an

out-of-body not just anyone.

Eventually, we made light of the situation, and we all laughed and joked about it.

Soon breakfast was over, and Darius asked me to join him for training. I dreaded going to that room after seeing the amount of silver that was in it, but I humoured him and followed.

I did not know how physically weak I had become until I trained with Darius. I felt terrible about it, but he calmed me down. He told me not to worry about it, but it troubled my soul.

After the training, Darius and I showered together, and he said he had something planned out for us.

He led me to the eastern garden of the estate, and there, a small picnic was planned for us.

There were people in the garden, especially women from the ha rem, but

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Chapter 27

no one came near us.

288 Vouchers

"Wow, Darius, this is amazing," I said, thrilled by what I saw. It was a bit chilly outside, but I appreciated it.

We sat on the mat, and he bought out a thermos and poured hot chocolate into a mug for me. To my surprise, he poured tinny marshmallows on the top.

"How did you know?" I asked him, and he smiled.

"Let us just say someone gave me tips on how to woo you," He said, and I knew who that was; for the first time, thinking of Casey did not make me sad; I smiled, grateful for his effort.

Darius moved closer to me and kissed me. I knew the ladies present could see us, and I grabbed onto his head and kissed him harder, showing ownership and staking my claim.

We broke the kiss, and he laughed.

"You want them to know," He said, knowing what I did.

"You can't blame me, Alpha," I said, and he smiled.

We stayed there a bit, and I gathered the courage to ask him why he chose me.

He looked at me and smiled, then lifted my hands and kissed them.

“It is our tradition in the north to split the lunas of the packs we conquered among the first three officials. In my father’s time, they would sleep with them, owning them completely to show they had conquered and dominated the alphas to whom the lunas are tied, but in my time, the three of us usually split them among ourselves and assigned duties to them. I do not think sleeping with a woman against her will just to prove I have conquered her husband is humane.” He said, and I was stunned by

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Chapter 27

the barbaric practice of the ones before him. He was different.

“Why didn’t you assign a duty to me?” I asked him, and he lovingly tucked my loose strands behind my ear and looked into my eyes.

“I was smitten by you, Zora. I can’t explain, but you made my heart beat faster than usual, and I knew something was there. My wolf wanted you. and he staked his claim before I could process the feeling,” He said gently and leaned closer to kiss me.

His kiss was comforting and reassuring. I realised he was falling just as fast as I was.

“You won’t be a rebound, Darius,” I linked him, and his kiss became more hungry

He travelled to my neck and sucked the sweet spot. I wanted him to sink his teeth in: he sucked hard and grazed his teeth on the spot, making me dizzy and turning me into a moaning mess.

Gradually he stopped and pulled away

“Soon,” he told me, and if we were alone at that moment, I wouldn’t have taken soon for an answer; I would have gone on a ride, and he knew it.

He laughed, showing his perfect dentition and pulled me close while we enjoyed the scenery together.

We stayed there until sunset, then returned to the house for dinner.

Besides the training session, it was the best day I had had in a long time. I hope Darius will complete the experience and make love to me. It was overdue. He knew I wanted him, and I knew he wanted me. There was no point holding back. The wooing was complete.

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Chapter 29

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Chapter 28

Darius

There was no disputing the fact that there was chemistry between Zora and me.

As I got to know her more, I realised she was genuinely innocent.

It was hard taking my heart out of the equation.

Although nothing had transpired between us, she was claiming my heart, and there was nothing I could do about it.

That was precisely why I refused to touch her.

I did not know how it would end, and neither of us needed to get hurt the second time.

So I walked away every time she created an opportunity for me.

After she boldly invited me into her room, I realised I couldn't put it off any longer.

It was unfortunate how it all began, and the reason why I brought the three of them here was cruel.

It was safe to say that I was looking out for my people, but it was no longer about keeping my enemies close; it was now a matter of the heart. After reading Caseynardo's letter, I realised attacking his pack was wrong. He wasn't a part of it.

Going horse riding was a great move to get to know Zora better, but I had to step back when she took the giant leap. Now I was willing to jump.

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Chapter 28

Holding her in my arms in the garden felt new.

I haven't been relaxed in a long time.

1288 Vouchers

When Monica went on a rampage, I realised her feelings were genuine and had nothing to do with survival.

As crude as it was and as crazy as it seemed, Monica had said everything Zora could not say.

When I carried her to my room, I knew this was it.

It all happened fast, and I realised fate had blessed me with her.

We left the garden when it was dark, to have dinner.

Zora tried to get us to go to the room first, but I refused.

I knew what she wanted and would not have the will to say no.

I knew I was postponing the inevitable since we both slept in the same room together.

We entered the dining together, and I noticed that Marcel and Kara weren't all

over each other as usual.

I hoped for all our sakes they weren't fighting because I wanted my Beta at his best all the time.

Marcel had jumped before Raphael and me. Even though he denied it, I knew his heart was invested in it.

No one asked us to get involved with these women, or fall in love with them. It just happened naturally.

Raphael had his eyes on Eloise from the moment they arrived, and he had the most difficulty. She kept asking him to assign her a duty as he should and that she wasn't interested in getting emotionally involved with

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Chapter 28

anyone. Of the three, she was the most used and abused, and I could understand why she was guarded.

288 Vouchers

Raphael was the patient type, taking it a step at a time, and I could see he was making progress.

"What is the matter, Kara?" I heard Zora say. She could have as well linked her friends, but I figured she sensed something was wrong, and she wanted to address it.

"Never mind," Kara said, and Marcel looked worried.

I had to link him to find out what the issue was.

"What happened?" I asked, and he sighed.

"She found out about my secret ha r em," he confessed to me, and I was stunned.

"I thought you let them go?" I linked him, remembering we had chosen to disband our ha r ems three years ago.

"I do not visit all of them, but I continued seeing Callie. I wanted to end it, but the woman won't let me." He said, and I was disappointed in him.

Callie wasn't a good person, and she had caused more troubles than I could remember when they were in the estate.

"What the f uck!" I said to my Beta aloud, and he bowed his head.

"So why is Kara mad? It has to be more than that." I said, knowing Kara was too tough to be mad about a lover that refused to go away.

"I have ended it, and then she got into Kara's head about this being a norm. She told her we usually split the lunas among ourselves and sleep with them to get information about their husbands and former packs so we can attack them," He said, and I was pi ss ed off and worried.

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Chapter 28

288 Vouchers

Kara was Zora's friend. If she tells Zora this, Monica will be mad. Zora might pretend, but I know her wolf won't.

"How the fuck did she get into the estate?" I asked him, and he bowed his head,

"She didn't. I took Kara to town, and we met in a store," He said, and I did not know what to tell him:

He wasn't supposed to take any of the newcomers off the property. Why will he take Kara to town? I did not want to create an issue, so I let it rest.

"You need to fix it," I told him, and he nodded.

We ate dinner in silence, and the atmosphere was a bit glum, but my heart wasn't.

My hands were on Zora's thigh, and I couldn't wait to go to bed.

"

Alpha, there is an attack on the north gate, southern soldiers," one of my warriors told me through the mind link, and I stood up abruptly.

"What is the matter?" Zora asked me, looking worried.

"I need you to stay indoors. There is an attack on the north gate, and we must defend ourselves," I told her, and her eyes darkened.

Content

Chapter 29

Darius' POV

"You ain't got many fighters around here," she remarked, leaving me curious about how she got that information.

"I keep my **eyes** open, Darius. Remember, I used to be a Luna," she reminded me, causing me to let out a sigh.

"We can handle them," I declared confidently, prompting her to seize me and plant a passionate kiss on my lips.

"We still have plenty to accomplish. Return in one piece," she commanded, and a grin spread across my face.

Marcel, Raphael, and I set off. As we made our way, a ruckus echoed through the corridor as the residents were being escorted to safety.

I reckon I had 'bout fifty blokes in the estate. I was pretty certain we could handle the situation. No need for me to know who sent those attackers, 'cause I had a hunch it was Elbert's handiwork.

We made our way there, and boy, were there a bunch of men. Cremin took charge, and we shifted our positions. Those attackers had busted through the northern gate, and they were swarming all over the place. How on earth did they manage to gather so many warriors here in no time? It was impossible for them all to be from the south.

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I had a hunch that some of the soldiers among them **hailed** from **the** east. Considering **the** alliance between the south and the **east**, **it was pretty** clear **that** those **eastern** soldiers had joined the party.

They charged at me like wild wolves, and boy, did I let loose my fury on them. I **was** livid that they had disrupted what was supposed to be a peaceful night. I had been saving up **my** energy to keep my promise to Monica, and now I had to channel it into fighting these pests. Cremin was fuming too. Why couldn't they just leave us alone?

I landed a powerful blow on the wolf that lunged at me, sending it flying sideways with great force. We were gaining the upper hand, and most of the attackers were biting the dust. We had inflicted numerous injuries on them, and only a few were left standing. Then, out of nowhere, they unleashed this strange green gas. It caught us off guard. Some of us managed to step away from it, but poor Cremin ended up inhaling it, which left him weak and vulnerable.

"Retreat, Poison!" I commanded, mentally signaling my pack of wolves.

As the noxious green gas dissipated, our strength waned, hindering any further progress.

Around sixteen remaining wolves advanced towards us, causing Cremin to whimper and cautiously retreat. My vision remained blurred, revealing little to me. I realized that the gas was their desperate final strategy.

Despite having inflicted injuries and casualties upon most of them, our numerical advantage held no significance. The bizarre green gas had sapped our vigor, leaving us vulnerable.

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Although **my body slowly** recovered from the gas's effects, the healing process **wasn't swift** enough to enable me to retaliate.

The wolves heading my way were likely the formidable Brians, the deadliest warriors among their pack. They were trained to fight until the bitter end.

Cremin growled, attempting to display dominance, but the approaching wolves couldn't be deceived. They recognized our weakness and capitalized on it.

Several of my comrades had succumbed to the poison, but I sensed their presence, assuring me that they would eventually recover.

Out of nowhere, a

Sage Brian pounced at me. But just in the nick of time, a sleek gray wolf appeared out of thin air and blocked Brian's attack. The gray wolf snarled at our assailants, and to my surprise, two more wolves, one brown and one white, swiftly joined the fray. When I realized the identity of the gray wolf, panic surged through me.

The battle raged on, and I decided to jump in and lend a hand. However, the new arrivals proved themselves to be more than capable; even in their weakened state, they fought like wild beasts. The white and brown wolves fought with unbridled fury, unleashing all their pent-up anger on our attackers.

The **gray wolf displayed** incredible skill and speed. Though lacking the brute strength of our foes, they made up for it with clever tactics that paid off. As I watched Monica effortlessly dismantle her opponents, I finally understood why

Casey couldn't let her go. **She was** a true Luna, an equal match **for an** Alpha.

Chapter 29

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Thanks to their intervention, the poison coursing through our bodies began to dissipate. We regrouped and fought back with renewed vigor, swiftly defeating the remaining wolves. It was a hard

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fought victory. Who could have predicted their underhanded tactics? We captured some of the injured enemy wolves for questioning.

I shifted back to my human form, and as I did, Monica approached me for a nuzzle before transforming back into the exhausted Zora.

"Why didn't you stay behind?" I inquired, scooping her up in my arms like a bride and carrying her into the house. We were both naked, but it didn't

matter.

"We couldn't let you guys have all the fun. We were watching the brawl from the balcony overlooking the northern gate. It takes a while to recover from the knockout gas, you know," she replied, and it dawned on me that she had jumped from the balcony. That explained how she had enough strength to fend off the attacking wolf.

"Don't ever do that again. You scared me," I said, and she chuckled.

"You haven't seen me at my full potential," she teased, and my heart ached for her. Her marriage to Casey had left her with a feeble wolf and a broken heart

I hoped to be a better partner, to give more than I took from her. I carried her straight to the room and put on **my** shorts.

"Where are you headed?" **she** asked, slipping into **my** bathrobe.

"**I need to make** sure nothing's been taken and everyone's **okay**. I promise

Chapter 29

288 Vouchers

to come back right **away**,” I reassured her, planting a kiss on her lips.

She let me go, and I hurried to the west wing where we held the prisoners for questioning. Upon arrival, I found Marcel and Raphael already dealing with the captives.

“Who sent them?” I inquired, locking eyes with Marcel.

“Elbert,” he answered, and I sensed there was more to the story.

“He sent them to capture Zora,” he concluded, leaving me dumbfounded as to why Elbert would risk a war for her sake.

Although I wanted to believe that Casey had a hand in it, I doubted he was involved. However, we needed to send a clear message to the east that they should never attempt such a stunt again. I had to find a way to question Casey’s actions. I needed to understand why Elbert was willing to endanger peace for the sake of Zora.

Chapter 30

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Chapter 30

Zora’s POV

1288 Vouchers

I freshened up and eagerly awaited Darius’ return. I was a bundle of nerves and anticipation, thrilled to put my skills to the test.

During the battle, an exhilarating rush coursed through me. I had missed it dearly, and I was grateful to be of service. Although I doubted the attackers would have emerged victorious, they surely would have inflicted considerable damage.

To check on my friends’ well-being, I connected with them and discovered their exhilaration from the fight.

Eloise and Kara seemed to have channeled their frustrations onto the men. Some of those foes reeked of an eastern origin. It puzzled me why our people would seek to stir up more trouble with the north.

Finally, Darius returned and headed for a shower. As he emerged from the bathroom,

I noticed a hint of worry on his face, but I couldn't bring myself to inquire about the reason behind it.

I rose from the bed and made my way towards him.

"Darius," I whispered, and unexpectedly, he pressed his lips fervently against mine. Our **kiss** was filled with passion, yet I sensed a hint of concern in **his** actions.

"What's **troubling** you?" I inquired, my curiosity piqued

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Chapter 30

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"Promise me you won't leap from balconies again or engage in fights in your current condition," he pleaded, anxiety lacing his voice.

"I had my reasons...." I began to explain, but he gently cupped my face in his hands.

"Please," he implored, his distress evident. **It** seemed he had overheard something that deeply troubled him.

"Alright," I assured him, aiming to soothe his worries. However, I was determined to uncover the root of his unease later on.

He embraced me tightly, planting kisses on my neck and inhaling my scent. I surrendered to his touch, allowing myself to relax in his arms. Throughout the night, Darius held me close, providing solace and protection.

As the morning rays illuminated the room, we prepared ourselves for breakfast, anticipation filling the air. Curiosity lingered in my mind, wondering what was weighing on his thoughts, secretly hoping he would confide in me.

Amidst our dressing routine, he unexpectedly broke the silence. "Have you ever personally crossed paths with Elbert?" he inquired, causing me to halt my actions, intrigued by his question.

"Yes, we met at a captivating dance soirée, where he kindly requested his trusted friend to escort me home. However, I never encountered him or received any correspondence thereafter," I disclosed, noticing a slight crease on his forehead.

Chapter 30

"Did anything of significance unfold between the two of you?" he pressed further, and I shook my head in response.

"Nothing of consequence occurred, not even a single kiss," I admitted. Observing a wave of relief wash over his expressive eyes. Drawing me closer, he enveloped me in his embrace, planting a tender kiss upon my lips while holding me firmly.

Sensations stirred within me as his teeth grazed my delicate spot. Was he endeavoring to assert his claim over me? I could sense an underlying unease within him, confirming my earlier suspicion that something troubled his soul.

We exited the chamber, embarking on a journey towards the dining hall to satisfy our morning appetite.

As we strolled along, Darius inquired. "Do you want to eat in the room?"

I glanced at him, a playful expression on my face.

"My hunger lies elsewhere." I admitted, and he responded with a mischievous grin, twirling me around. The whirlwind was so swift that I nearly lost my balance, but he swiftly caught me, and together we erupted in laughter.

"This morning, let us nourish our stomachs before indulging in other delights. I long to spend the day in your company," he declared, sealing his words with a tender kiss upon my lips. I playfully grumbled, well aware that it signified a subtle decline.

We eventually returned to **our** room, where a delectable feast awaited us.

Chapter 30

With care. Darius served the delectable fare onto my plate, and we both savored the meal. Yet, I secretly hoped that he would soon go beyond the ordinary, as such gestures were long overdue.

“Tell me about your final days with your ex-husband,” he inquired, and to my surprise, I didn’t feel a hint of sadness.

Once upon a time, if I were asked that question, I would have been a wreck, but my heart had moved on, and I knew it.

“Not so great, but he gave it his all. Lori, being the daughter of an Alpha, had a way of inserting herself into our lives. Casey tried to ignore her, but he couldn’t. They practically forced her into our home,” I recollected, thinking back to that incident.

“Did they force Casey into her bed?” he asked, sounding slightly irritated, knowing it would hurt me.

My silence spoke volumes, prompting him to gently touch and kiss my hands.

“Fate might have led her to him, but he could have rejected her. He was weak, and that’s what shattered your marriage,” he declared, convinced by his own words I sighed in agreement

“I suppose **so**,” I conceded, and he smiled

“So, what’s the deal with Elbert?” he inquired, his voice laced with jealousy. Not wanting **to** provoke him, I chose honesty.

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Chapter 30

“Nothing. I’ve already told you all I know,” I replied, and he nodded. Holding my hand, he kissed it, then studied me intently.

“If he tries to take you away, will you go with him?” he asked, as if that was the true question nagging at him.

“I don’t know him well enough to follow him anywhere. Besides, I have no reason to leave unless you kick me out,” I assured him, noticing his relief.

I hoped he would soon reveal what was troubling him.

“What about you? Any special someone from your past, or was it always non-stop orgies?” I playfully teased, and he burst into laughter.

Plucking a grape, he delicately fed it to me, and I made sure to sensually suck on his finger. As he slowly withdrew, his eyes took on a shade of sage, indicating his wolf enjoyed it.

“You’re a mischievous woman, Zora,” he remarked, and I giggled

“There was someone. Her name was Shanon. She was my first,” he confessed, and a pang of jealousy struck me. It was dangerous to feel this way about him, especially concerning an ex who wasn’t even in the picture. There was something about the way he mentioned her name, but I couldn’t quite pinpoint it.

“Relax, Zora,” he advised, and my cheeks flushed. How did he know?

“How?” I inquired, and he chuckled.

Chapter 30

“Your wolf gave it away,” he said, laughing and leaning closer to me.

“I find it cute that you’re feeling possessive,” he murmured, drawing near. Holding my chin in his hands, and gazing into my eyes.

“I find it sexy,” he whispered, and I couldn’t maintain eye contact

Suddenly, I became shy, a complete mess with him despite my boldness in other aspects.

He leaned in and tenderly kissed my lips, but retreated before things could escalate. “Don’t worry, green eyes. I won’t ask you to share.” he reassured me, and as much as I wanted to

believe those words, I was too afraid to invest fully.

I was determined to live in the present, ready to move on if things went south. My heart had grown resilient enough to handle it.

