

Chapter 19

-Unknown POV-

"Well? Have you infiltrated their borders?" A man with authority sought, his golden eyes darkening as he focused his stare on the rogues before him.

"I'm afraid not," said one rogue. "The Stone Blood Pack had sent more than ten scouts in groups per border, twenty on the mountainside. Those on patrol have doubled. Now that they are more warriors guarding each perimeter, we don't think we stand a chance."

"Unless," the rogue added "Unless the kind alpha wishes to send his men along with us ~"

"Are you suggesting I give myself away? Do you take me for a fool?!" The man growled. Then he suggested, "Lure them the same way you did! Use another human. I don't care! We need to make Kieran fall! We have to!"

The rogues who were present that day looked at each other in fear. Then, one rogue revealed, "I'm afraid the packs have strengthened their protection over the humans. Alpha Kieran's men found which pack the child belonged to and even provided warriors to help secure their borders."

The man with golden eyes barked, his body appearing to be expanding. He ordered, "Leave! You useless rogues! Wait in the hellhole you live in until I give out more instructions!"

"Yes, Alpha," said one rogue, and the rest acknowledged the same.

When the dominant man was alone in his private chamber,

he made a phone call. He walked back and forth in front of his chair until someone finally

answered the call. He said, "My love, we can't easily get into Kieran's territory, not when we only intend to use the rogues."

"But using our men would give away our involvement," a woman's voice said. After a long silence, she said, "Then we'll have to change strategy. Kieran must have his downfall, or else we won't

succeed. He is getting in the way of what we want."

"His wife?" The man said. He purred and proposed "Let's use his new and little wife."

~Alexia~

"Again," Seth instructed.

Alexia was in her ready stance, preparing to go head-to-head with Seth. Following Seth's

recovery, Alexia had been training with him. He had been teaching her the basics of self-defense.

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That day, Seth was teaching her some basic hand-to-hand combat moves.

With Alexia's hands balled into fists, she grunted as she charged "Arggggh! Hiya! Hiya!"

Alexia threw punches left and right, with Seth blocking her hands.

"Harder!" Seth instructed, and Alexia followed through "Your legs this time!"

While in her training attire, Alexia put his right foot backward, hitting him with a sidekick "Hiya!"

"Faster!" Seth ordered.

Alexia did as Seth instructed. She advanced at a faster pace, using both her hands and legs.

"Good! Good - Ouch! Damn, Luna. That was strong!" She remarked after she gave a direct kick,

aiming for his torso. While Seth blocked all her attacks, Alexia noticed how he winced at her every kick.

She must have given a decisive blow. Otherwise, how could Seth appear to be in pain?

"Faster!" Seth ordered.

With Seth's encouragement, Alexia felt empowered that she appeared to have a sudden surge of energy. She kicked harder and faster. She felt the moment until her eyes caught sight of a familiar

man "Kieran?"

Suddenly feeling conscious, she failed to balance herself on the ground. She was about ready to fall when Seth caught her by the waist!

"Easy. I got you," Seth said.

While Seth aided Alexia in her stance, her hands unknowingly landed on his bare chest. She

said "Thank you -"

"What is the meaning of this?!" Suddenly, the air around the training grounds felt chilly, Alexia's and Seth's heads snapped toward the alpha, Kieran Stone.

For a fleeting moment, time stopped for Alexia. It had been more than two weeks since she last

saw Kieran. Today, seeing him standing in front of her brought a wave of happiness

that she could not describe.

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Kieran wore a long-sleeved black shirt which he had pulled up to his forearm. Alexia saw a bruise.

on the corner of his lip and was sure it was due to the fighting he had done over at the coast, but despite that, Alexia thought Kieran looked so handsome.

Just as she was daydreaming, her eyes landed on his face. Only then did she realize Kieran was angry!

He was glowering at her and Seth. His nose flared, his eyes fixed on how Seth was holding her by the waist! As if Alexia and Seth knew what made the alpha angry, they quickly let go of each other.

"Explain!" Kieran demanded.

Seth bowed his head and greeted, "Good afternoon, Alpha Kieran. Welcome back. Words of your.

great contribution to the war reached our ears."

Alexia observed how Seth was quick to appease the alpha. She fixed her eyes on Kieran and said, "Good afternoon, Kieran. I did not expect you to arrive so early. I thought you would arrive in the evening. Had I known, I would have prepared for your arrival at the packhouse."

There was only silence, not until Jaxon mindlinked with her. "Explain to Kieran the awkward position you were in with Seth, Alexia

"What? What for?" Alexia asked, her eyes moving to Jaxon for the first time. Jaxon was behind Kieran. She did not even notice his presence because of the sudden thickness of the surrounding

air.

"Just... explain, Jaxon insisted.

Alexia cleared her throat and said to Kieran, "Seth is training me. I believe you put him in charge of.

my training, right? Should we talk at the packhouse? I think I should be done with training now."

There was no answer from Kieran. Instead, Alexia noticed how Seth appeared to be nodding.

Kieran was fiercely looking at him, as if speaking to him. She immediately understood they were mindlinking with each other.

"Starting tomorrow, Sheena will train Alexia," Kieran ordered. He looked past her and Seth and nodded at the other young pups and warriors training with them.

"Good afternoon, Alpha Kieran. Welcome back!"

"Welcome back, Alpha Kieran!"

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Simultaneously, the warriors greeted. Afterward, Kieran returned his attention to Alexia, saying, "Is that how you greet your alpha, Luna?"

Alexia froze in her stance. She turned to Jaxon for help! She did not know how else to greet him! Immediately, she noticed how Kieran glared at Jaxon, making the beta ultimately look away from Alexia.

"Sorry, Alexia. You are on your own with this," Jaxon mindlinked.

"It's not like he would know we would be mindlinking!" Alexia said in frustration.

Without Jaxon's help, she turned to the only person who might be able to help her. She mindlinked with Rae "Rae, I

need help. How should a Luna greet the alpha after fighting a battle? Kieran is here, and he said I should greet him properly!

"A proper greeting?" Rae said back.

"Well, what are you waiting for, Luna? I'm losing my patience," Kieran warned in her head, his eyes thinning at her.

In a panic, she yelled in her head, saying "Rae! What is it -"

"Kiss him. Try to kiss him!" Rae suggested! Remember how the pack members asked you to kiss Alpha goodbye? Perhaps he expects you to do the same?"

"Why would he want -"

"Kiss him, for Goddess's sake. Alexia!" Rae interrupted her thoughts.

Alexia was left with a racing heart. Two things could happen. Kieran may get the expected greeting he sought, or she would anger him.

Slowly, she walked up to Kieran, her eyes fluttering. She felt her face burning, and the heat went up to her ears as she said "Welcome back, Kieran."

She lifted her face, so their eyes met, and she tipped her toes to lean in for a kiss. Briefly, their lips touched. Their flavors exchanged with the slight parting of their lips.

When Alexia pulled away, she gasped. She heard Kieran say, "Hmmm."

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