Chapter 9

The Alpha's Mate Who Cried Wolf Chapter 9

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We decide to watch some movies downstairs.

'Can we make some popcorn first?' | ask.

'Sure, I'll make it while you pick a movie.' I flick through the list. There are so many to choose from that I can't decide. I

close my eyes and press play on a random movie. Ryker sits close beside me, holding a large bowl of salty, buttery

popcorn.

'What are we watching?' He asks.

I'm not sure. I couldn't decide, so I closed my eyes and picked a random movie.'

'That's cute,' he smiles. I giggle. Then, the movie starts, turning out to be a scary horror film. I have my face in Ryker's

shoulder halfway through it, too frightened to watch the spooky parts anymore.

'You can hold my hand if you're scared, he says. I laugh.

'You wish!'I laugh.

'I wish,' he says, grinning. I smile back at his confidence and jump in fright when the monster appears on the screen, out of nowhere, capturing and killing the human who tried to get away.

"Aww, baby. Did the monster scare you?' Ryker asks as he

swings my legs over his to cuddle me like a baby. I swat him, laughing, and lay my head on his chest.

'Shh, I can't hear the movie, I whisper. Ryker laughs.

I don't feel so afraid watching the movie in Ryker's arms anymore. Seth, Mia, Kane and Hayley arrive home just before the

credits. They smile when they see me in Ryker's lap. When the movie finishes, I get up and go over to the others.

I'm sorry about running away this morning, guys. I didn't mean to upset anyone.'

'It's fine, Luna. We didn't realise how new you are to all this. Seth filled us in. We felt so bad for upsetting you, Mia says.

We exchange little smiles, and I hug Mia.

'Ryker and I are going to watch another movie. You should join us, I tell them.

'Sure, Hayley says.

'Yep, sounds good! Mia says. The boys follow suit, making themselves comfortable. Ryker smiles and pats his lap. He is

happy we're watching another movie, so I snuggle into him. I can't refuse the offer if I try. His powerful arms and masculine chest are a very comfortable place to be.

The girls can't decide on a movie, so I take the remote from Mia

before pressing play on something random again. Of course, it's another horror film, to all the boys' delight. We girls are

not great with horror films. We keep screaming, jumping, and

flinching. Having our mates holding us closer makes it all worth it.

After the movie, right at dinner time, Alice still has a scowl on her face and tries to avoid me as much as she can. Ryker

takes my hand and leads me outside, where we wander through the garden in the dark.

'Sit here and close your eyes for me, he says. I sit down with my legs crossed and my eyes closed. 'What are you doing?' | ask.

I'm going to change into my wolf form. You can keep your eyes closed while you pat me, okay?' Suddenly, I'm nervous,

but I nod and close my eyes, trusting him. A moment later, Ryker, in his wolf form, nuzzles his fury face into my hands

affectionately. My hands are shaking. tears roll down my cheeks. Flashbacks of my mother dying keep appearing in my

mind. He whimpers to assure me it's okay. I'm too scared to open my eyes, but his fur is soft. I cautiously raise my hand

and place it on his smooth, furry face. He is panting happily like a dog, and his tail dusts the ground in excitement. I let

the fur glide between my fingers. I have both hands on the sides of his face. He steps closer and rubs his wet nose on my

cheek. I giggle.

'It tickles!' I laugh. I put my arms around his neck, and he rests his head on my shoulder. I rub my face in his fur. It's so

soft and warm.

'I think I'll try to open my eyes. I want to see what you look like,' I say. Ryker sits down in front of me, waiting obediently. I

slowly open my eyes, letting the moonlight adjust my eyesight. Exhaling in awe, he is the most impressive wolf I have

ever seen: his coat is long, black, and sleek. It shines and glistens in the moonlight. There is a sense of greatness and

power coming from him, his four-pawed stance is one of pride. He nudges my face with his muzzle. I hold his face close

to mine, enjoying the warmth and the connection.

'Thank you, Ryker,' I say, tears rolling down my cheek. He whimpers and licks my cheek. "Ryker! That's so gross!'I laugh and push him back. I stand and run, and he happily chases me. My long brown hair blows

in the wind behind me as I run through the trees. I zigzag through the trees with Ryker, and his tail wags like a puppy's.

After a while, I sit down to catch my breath. He nudges my shoulder and gives my cheek another lick. I giggle and push

him away with my hand-Ryker motions to his back.

'You want me to hop on your back?' | ask. He nods.

He has to lie down so I can climb onto his back because he is so tall. Once I'm on his back, I grip onto his fur, and he runs

further into the woods. He runs at great speed.

adrenaline courses through my body. The breeze whips past my face, and

I can't help but smile, the feeling is exhilarating. I hold my arms out and bask in the wind rushing past us.

Something out of the corner of my eye catches my attention and races toward us.

'Ryker, there's something-'Before I can finish my sentence, someone has forcibly knocked me down from Ryker's back. I

roll across the ground and plunge into a tree.

Growling and teeth-baring ensue in a fight. There is a rugged, small, brown wolf with a grey patch snapping at Ryker

from where I lie. I try to stand, but everything is spinning. I remain where I am against the trunk of the tree.

Ryker and the other wolf encircle each other, snapping and growling in a stand-off. Ryker uses his Alpha telepathy and

orders her to shift. They both change into their human forms. Ryker and the female wolf shift into human form. He is

entirely naked with his back to me. A young woman stands facing Ryker. She is beautiful and has long, blonde hair,

brown eyes, a good sized-bust and a curvy, toned figure.

Letting out a growl, I glare. She glares back at me and crosses her arms. Did I growl like a wolf?

'Vanessa! You just hurt your Luna!' Ryker yells.

I am your Luna! She snaps.

'Vanessa, we will discuss this another time. First, I need to see if Astrid is okay, he says as he walks over to me. My vision is

blurry. My head hurts. I realise I must have bumped my head on the tree trunk. Ryker grabs my arms to pull me up. He

asks,

'Are you okay?'

'I think I hit my head. Everything is spinning,' I say, rubbing my head with one hand and leaning onto Ryker. Vanessa marches toward us.

'Don't you walk away from me, Ryker!' She yells.

'Go home, Vanessa! We will discuss this tomorrow!' He yells back.

"I love you, Ryker! I know you love me too. We have already made the arrangements. I'm your mate and Luna! She yells.

Gasping at her words, I look up at Ryker.

'Is this true, Ryker?' | ask, praying that it isn't. Ryker lets out a

sigh.

'Yes, it's true, but-'I slap Ryker across the face before he can finish his sentence.

'You made me come here. You convinced me to give you a chance, and all along, you already had a mate and Luna?' ||

yell. Ryker has his hand on his cheek where I had slapped him.

'Astrid, you don't understand. I can explain all this. You are my true mate, my fated mate. Vanessa was just a chosen mate,

it's not the same! I didn't want

'Enough!'| say sternly. I look at Vanessa standing behind Ryker, smirking.

'You can have him!'I yell, making her grin.

'Astrid, please hear me out. You don't understand!' Ryker says as he tries to take my hand. I back away from him. 'You know, I thought we had something special and magical until your whore arrived!' | yell. Vanessa glares at my words.

Turning, I run toward the house. Ryker wants to chase after me, but Vanessa grabs his arm. I see Vanessa trying to hug

Ryker, but Ryker is yelling at her and pushing her off him.

I love you, Ryker!

'The feeling isn't mutual, he growls.

I shove the front door to the packhouse open. Everyone inside the packhouse rushes towards me and asks if I'm okay.

'Why don't you all ask Vanessa?' I snap at them as I run upstairs and slam the door to my room closed. I curl up on the

same couch I slept on the night before.

I finally receive some happiness only for someone else to come along and ruin everything. Why can't I have some

consistent happiness in my life for a change? Will lever know what it's like to be loved, to feel special and wanted?

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