

## Denied 451

### Chapter 451

#### Cleo POV

"But this is human land..."

"Well then it's a good thing they don't know what I am." A smirk enters onto his face, arrogance.

"They will if you continue to growl in public like you just did...and be too hands on with guests." I spin around, quirked an eyebrow at him.

Maybe all alphas are as arrogant as the one before them, a trait that didn't come naturally to Jace.

"Believe me, it's not a regular occurrence...in fact..." He stops himself, his eyes slamming shut again as if something pains him.

"He is a staff member and I have strict rules against staff and guests."

"Oh...I see." For once, I'm not buying his excuse. He acted out in the heat of the moment from protectiveness. I've seen it before from him. I suppose we were close growing up...

I let my legs move at their own pace, as my eyes investigating every inch of the large living space before me.

My eyes spot two doors, one must be a bathroom...the other his bedroom. The entire place was designed to the highest of quality, even as my hands roam across the back of the white couch and brush against the blanket that hangs on the back of it...I can feel from the lightest of touch how much money has been put into this place.

"I can't believe you've been here all this time." I whisper out, my heart panging with guilt that I am the one that has found him, on a whimsical get-away.

Whereas, Jaxon has an entire room dedicated to maps and CCTV footage print outs of possible last sightings of the male standing before me. "Everyone was really worried about you." I turn to face him, expecting him to be still by the elevator doors but he has moved closer, his hands were resting on the back of his white sofa that I had just touched.

Hands that currently had white knuckles from his tight grip on the fabric.

"You mustn't tell them, you must not let them know where I am."

"Why?"

"Just promise me Cleo, promise me you won't say anything." He pleads.

"That's too much to ask of me Jace you know it is."

"No, it isn't you just don't mention that you saw me. Easy as pie." He forces a fake smile, a smile that I can see right through.

He has always been the comic of the triplets, the one that lightens the mood...but sometimes that humour has served to hide something far deeper. What exactly I've never truly known.

"I couldn't do that to them not when..." I catch myself before I continue.

"Not when what?" He starts to move towards me, his great alpha height threatening to tower over me. His alpha aura releasing and swirling in this grand apartment, yet suddenly it feels too small of a space for me to breathe.

He doesn't know. He has no clue of what the Dark Phantom pack has been through only minutes after he left for the second time.

The heavy realisation dawns upon me that I could tell him but should I....

Am I going to be the one to tell him?

"It doesn't matter, I'm not asking Cleo, I'm demanding that you don't say anything." His aura takes on a more dangerous tone. "Demanding?" My wolf not appreciating his switch in character.

"I think you should leave..."

I'm scaring him off, I can see that. He's preparing to run for the hills again, putting those solid walls up again.

I can't leave here knowing I might have ruined any possible chance of him returning to his family.

For now I need to play along with his command, I need him to think I have his back, which I do...always.

"Wait..." I call out as he was already heading back to the penthouse elevator, calling it to open.

Preparing to cruelly kick me out...out of his life, once again.

"I won't say anything, I promise...please Jace....please don't kick me out."

His back turns, to reveal a tortured expression. No I won't say anything, not until I get to the bottom of what is happening with him, why he left in the first place.

My wolf presses forward again as he moves, I can feel her watching him through my own eyes, she isn't trusting him so easily.

He moves to the kitchen area where he pulls a bottle of champagne out of the fridge.

"So, you've finally turned 18 eh?" His eyes catch mine watching him as he pops the cork, grabbing two champagne flutes from behind him...his eyes managing not to leave mine once.

"Yes, hence the girls weekend away." I move closer towards the kitchen area, stepping up to sit on a high stool at the kitchen island. "Girls?"

"Well, just Maya and me now. I suppose it's a good thing Josie didn't attend as planned, she pulled out last minute. Otherwise you really wouldn't have revealed yourself to me."

"Revealed...you make it sound like I'm in hiding."

"Aren't you?"

"I suppose I am." That smirk lands back on his face, playful Jace was back.

"Knox marked her...she's living at the training academy with him."

"Yes, I knew they had marked one another but I didn't know she had left the pack." He nods slowly, holding my gaze.

"How?"

"Triplet bond thing...I felt it when he marked her."

"Really?" I always found their bond fascinating. Ares and I are as close as a sister and brother could be, but I don't share a sibling bond with him like the triplets do. Something different to a pack bond.

Chapter 452

"Yep. What about you then? Why have you run away for your 18th?"

"You know Mum...always eyes on. I had no chance of you know, unless I left the pack."

His brows furrow as he slowly pours me a glass of champagne before handing it out to me. I hesitate in taking it off him, his eyes burning at my last words.

"No, I don't know?"

I shouldn't have said what I had just said. I've potentially just got the barman downstairs fired.

"It's doesn't matter."

"No, go on tell me..." He finishes pouring his own glass before moving around his kitchen island and pulling the stool out next to me, sitting down on it, but not before clinking his glass with mine.

This was uncomfrotable, I could the heat of my embarrassment spreading up my neck and onto my face.

I must be bright red as a beetroot.

Intense green eyes continue to gaze upon me, as it takes all my strength not to move my knee that was centre-metres from his.

I could only describe it as a maic force that was encouraging me to make my knee touch his, like a puzzle piece that needed to be slotted in to complete the picture.

"Cleo?" He presses as I close my eyes to prepare for the words that were about to leave my mouth.

"I wanted to sleep with a guy, you know...tick it off my list."

"Tick what off your list?" He responds choking on the sip of drink he has just taken.

"I need to lose my V card."

"Your V card? What's a V card?"

I want the grey tiled floor to swallow me up, the entire hotel to collapse in on itself and take me with it.

"This is so embarrassing." I mutter under my breath as I place the champagne flute down and pull my head into my hands, if I was going to admit this out loud, I couldn't look him in the eyes.

"Virginity Jace. I came here to lose my virginity."

"Oh." He swallows down hard, his Adam's apple vibrating in his throat, as I peer out of my hands that now covered my face.

"I told you it was embarrassing."

"It's not embarrassing."

"No?" I click my tongue at him, rolling my eyes as I do so. Of course it was.

"No..." He can barely say the words as he starts to laugh out loud.

"It's not funny." I swat my hand against his shoulder as he places his flute on the kitchen island work top, a wide smile spreading out onto his lips. "I forgot how cute you were."

"Cute? I don't want to be cute Jace...that's how the boys in the pack see me. None dare come near me from fear of being castrated by Mum. I want to be...sexy. I'm the daughter of the alpha for crying out loud and it's like I have an invisible barrier around me, repelling all men off me.

At least I was making headway with the barman...until you nearly drowned him."

"Drowned him? I wish. Listen to me Cleo, you don't want your first time to be with a stranger, let alone a human." Laughter still lingering upon his lips.

"No?"

"No!"

"Then who should it be with Jace?" Why was I even talking to him about this? Why was I even sharing this information with him, this inner private detail of mine. He has no right to tell me what to do, who I should be with...he couldn't even take me seriously. He found this funny.

I swivel on my stool, being careful not to touch him as I step off and move towards the elevator doors. Yes, I came here with a goal in mind...and to hell with others, I was going to do what I wanted.

What was right for me.

Determined, I press the button of the elevator, knowing as soon as I was inside I would select the ground floor...on the hunt to find the barman. He was sweet, he was attentive. Why shouldn't it be him, he was as good as any other male.

"I meant what I said Cleo, if you go find him, I will kill him." A growl echoes behind me.

"Empty threats Jace, you have no authority here, I will do as I please. I'm not on the Dark Phantom pack lands, I don't have to play along."

The elevator door bings open and I lift my foot out to take a step forward only to stop as his hand wraps around my naked tummy, pinning me against him.

Tingles dance across my skin from his touch, my eyes darting down to make sense of the fric sensation.

"I said no."

"I don't care what you said Jace, I know what I want...which can't be said about you."

"Oh I know what I want Cleo, I've just been too scared in taking it. But to hell with it, especially

when you so easily land on my lap. How could I not take a bite of the forbidden fruit." He spins me in his arms as the elevator doors close behind me.

A hand snakes up, gripping me firmly but not painfully around my neck as his eyes shift into the powerful predator again, those eyes blackening as his wolf pushes forward.

A gasp barely escapes me as his lips crash into mine at an insatiable force.

Chapter 453

- Cleo -

A moan escapes me as his tongue pushes through and tastes every part of my mouth. Claiming it as his.

I had always hoped it would be like this, the reason I waited for someone special, but nothing prepared me for the desire that was burning throughout me from his touch.

He backsteps me, my back cold as it presses up against the closed lift doors, his hands gripping tightly on to me.

Pleasurable tingles only add to my moans of lust as his hands explore over me, taking in my curves.

The scent of coconut cocoons around me, my heart racing as I pull away for a much needed breath of air. My chest was pounding for oxygen, his kiss so powerful it took my breath away.

His eyes are hazy, glazed over but not in a mind-link, this was something else. I could already feel him pressed up against me, feel his own desire to be with me.

"What are you doing?" I go against my own self-need as I hold his head away from me, giving him the chance to re-think what this might mean for him.

I already know what this means for me; kissing



him is all I have ever wanted to do. But I gave up on the possibility, the fantasy of him wanting me, especially after the way he coldly rejected me in front of his friends.

Hurt pangs in my chest, I was just another female to him.....a female in this hotel, no different to the last.

If it wasn't me tonight then it would be somebody else.

Isn't that how it would be with any other male downstairs though, if Jace hadn't of appeared...would I be doing this with somebody else. "Cleo?" The gentle calling of my name upon his lips pulls my mind out of its self imploding downfall.

"What is it?" His fierce eyes search mine carefully.

"Nothing...it's nothing."

"We can take it slow...we can stop."

"No, I don't want to stop."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes... Yes I am sure." I've never been more certain of anything before. I would never get an opportunity like this again, not to be with Jace. It really was now or never.

I hook my hands onto the back of his neck, pulling his lips back towards mine.

This time his lips are more gentle as my tongue explores his mouth, tasting each and every part of it.

There was no denying the scent and taste of coconuts, the tropical coastal smell of the alpha of the Clear Waters pack...even though he hasn't yet claimed his title.

My body moulds into his as I lose control of the kiss and he retakes authority over me.

I feel his hands snake around to my waist where he unties the towel around my hips...letting it drop to the floor.

His lips pull away for a brief second as his eyes drop to my waist and hipline, my pink string thong bikini, once again, completely on show.

My heart explodes when a possessive growl escapes him, his eyes returning to dark green

before that layer of haziness returns to them.

I am lifted off the floor, hands snake around my

upper thighs as I am lifted against his torso and carried away.

I can't stop kissing him, I can't stop tasting him not even to look to where he is taking me.

But as soon as my back is gently laid on top of a mattress...I know exactly where I am. His

bedroom.

"Are you sure Cleo...this can't be undone?" A level of uncertainty enters into his eyes and I move quickly to reassure him. Because I know Jace...I know if I show any hint of doubt, of hesitation

about this he will pull away and those walls will be back up.

I want this, I've only ever wanted him.

"Yes, I am certain Jace." I am careful with my words, careful not to share the truth.

Of how much I love him, I long I have yearned for this moment....because I'm afraid it will frighten him away. Even if for him it is only this one time, I will think of it for the rest of my life. No other male will ever compare to him.

Chapter 454

"Then let's get you ready for me..."

"What do you mean.."

"You'll see.." Predator eyes take over him again as he unties the string on one hip of my bikini, his lips replacing the now missing fabric.

I don't shy away from the pleasure of his touch as my hip moves up towards him, my hands fisting against the bed cover.

I watch on, hypnotised as he moves to my other hip, removing the last fastening of the bikini bottoms before again placing his lips against my hip.

I could feel wetness spread out of me, feel the anticipation of what was going to become, potentially, the ruining of me.

With deep steady breaths, I watch on as his fingers move to my lower core, a finger opening my lower lips to grant him better access.

I bite down hard on my lip, drawing blood as his own lips place a kiss upon my clit...before his tongue licks against it.

"Fuck." I mutter out, a devious smirk forming onto his lips as he must realise I am his for the taking. That he could do anything with me and I would still be in awe of him.

How with one word, one action across my neck, I would be his forever. How I would do anything to be by his side.

His tongue licks down before entering into me, the warm wetness pushing into me as he laps up my flowing juices.

"So wet already." His whispers against me, before pushing back in...my back arching from the intoxicating pleasure he was creating within me.

He continues until I feel my tummy tighten, his hands gripping against my thighs as I fight the urge against his hold, just as my orgasm shoots through

me.

I'm still seeing stars as his hands roam up my body and he unties the top part of my bikini, exposing my breast and nipples to him.

A moan escapes him as his lips kiss against my chest, his teeth biting against my pert nipples.

"Perfection." He breathes out as his hands move to my lips, his thumb touching the part I had bitten into before his tongue runs across it. Offering his alpha healing saliva to me.

I can barely move from both exhaustion of my orgasm and the desire for more.

His mouth thrusts against mine again, his teeth biting down on my lower lip as I become that ripe

fruit for him to sample.

I can sense his own need to be with me, feel his own patience waning as his hands move and firmly, almost painfully grip under my ass, squeezing both of my ass cheeks in his hold.

The pace quickens again as his lips continue to devour me and I struggle to keep up.

He has been denying me all this time, I can tell...I haven't imagined it.

I can't have.

My mouth opens as a gasp escapes me as he enters me, the hardness of him a complete opposite to the softness of his tongue before. He pushes through my walls, until he hits the hilt

of me, when he stops, giving me the chance to catch my breath and let my body adjust to this

full feeling.

My fingers grip tightly onto his back, my nails digging into him as I move my hips from side to

side, getting used to the feel of him.

Him being inside of me.

"Cleo." He desperately growls out my name, a word of warning that he can't maintain this stillness much longer.

"I'm okay." I exhale out, my lips gently kissing back on to his as I reassure him...give him that silent consent to continue.

He pulls gently back out of me, only to thrust back into me, my body moving with his actions as I once again cling on to the bed cover.

Each thrust is perfection, each movement has me

screaming out in desire as I feel my body tightening once again, feel the orgasmic...euphoric sensation wash over me again.

"Fuck." I hear him curse just over the sound of our bodies slamming together, before I feel him shoot his load into me, my own orgasm still riding out.

Chapter 455

- Cleo -

I can hear him talking to someone, and I know it isn't to me because I am semi-unconscious.

My body is willing me to sleep yet my mind knows I should not stay...that, I should get up and go back to my own hotel room.

To go find Maya.

Every part of my body is exhausted, even my lips that somehow feel bruised. I challenge the gods to find a better way to lose your virginity than what I have just experienced.

It was perfect. My body was humming, my wolf purring.

I could hear her...I'm sure he can as well but I am too exhausted to do anything about it. I can't hush her, and I don't really want to.

He has awakened an unknown desire within me, and if I wasn't so exhausted I would go again, and again.

I feel the bed dip where Jace climbs back on, the distant one-sided communication that I can hear means he must be on a phone call.

If I had the energy I would push my wolf to hear for the voice on the other line, but it felt too much effort at this moment in time.

I make a deep guttural sound as I try to force myself to wake up, to not let my self sleep the rest of the night here.

But when he finishes his phone call and hushes in my ear to sleep...I can't help but lean into his touch again.

I feel his hand stroke the side of my face, my naked body twisting itself to seek him out...that magic pull making my body entwine itself around him.

I hear him chuckle before his hand moves to my ass, where he tabs it gently...before heavy breathing follows and I also give in to that call to sleep.

I wake up cold, the warmth of his body being next to me a distant memory as I find myself alone in his bed.

"Jace?" I call out, as I stir from my sleep...my eyes taking in the early morning sun through the tinted windows of the penthouse's bedroom. With the absence of blinds, the windows must be cleverly designed to see out but not see in, providing an almost surrounding coastal view. It was stunning.

Judging by the sun it was still early on in the day; I hadn't overslept as I had feared.

Keeping my eyes trained on the closed door, I scan the bedroom floor for my pink bikini.

For a shewolf I wasn't the most comfortable being naked, I tolerated it especially when shifting in a pack environment but the alcohol lead confidence of last night has now burnt off in my sleep, leaving the normal, slightly reserved Cleo present.

Once I find my bikini strewn across the carpeted floor, I place it on and search his wardrobe for a white shirt to cover myself up...just until I get to my own room and can put my clothes on.

"Just breathe Cleo, this is Jace...he won't make things feel weird." I tell myself as I stare at my reflection in the mirror.

A rosy-pink hue upon both facial cheeks and a sun-kissed tan noticeable on my forehead and nose where I caught the sun yesterday.

My wolf present as my turquoise blue eyes shine more ethereal...almost unworldly.

Plucking up the courage, my hand grasps around the door handle...opening the door to the open-planned penthouse living area, only to find it... empty.

I move towards the kitchen area, expecting to find a note...but it was bare.

Nothing...not even a "I'll be back soon" note.

Suddenly the realisation of the morning after was dawning upon me. I might have no regrets but I cannot say the same for Jace.

His silence, his not being here speaks volumes to me...he's run again.

Those walls have come back up.

It really was just that one night. He couldn't even have a coffee with me the morning after. He couldn't even find it in himself, for old time's sake...for me, to share an awkward morning caffeine induced drink with me.

Embarrassment, anger....shame washes over me. He's made me feel like a cheap date that meant nothing to him.

I just want to get out of here, I suddenly feel seedy...like I slept with a stranger and he has already decided to ghost me in the night whilst I was asleep in his bed.

I'm back at my hotel room within minutes, quietly opening the door in an attempt not to wake Maya when the door is ripped open, my hand moving forward with it.

"I knew it!" Maya squeals out as she pulls me into the hotel room, closing the door behind me.

Chapter 456

"You knew what?"

"That you had hooked up with someone...was it him..."

"Who?" I panic.

"...the barman?" She pauses, her brows furrowing.

Did she not see him? Did she not notice Jace...how could she not.



He was easily the hottest guy at the pool and his entrance hadn't been discreet.

He has an alpha energy that was hard to miss, but then she was drinking back the shots long after I had decided to slow down.

No matter how pissed off I am at Jace, I had made him a promise not to reveal his location.

"A lady never kisses and tells." I play coy, which wasn't difficult for me.

"Damn girl, I hope he got more than a kiss out of you. So did you get it stamped?"

"Get what stamped?" I move further into the hotel room, careful to maintain a distance in case Jace's scent remains upon me.

"Your V card..."

"Maya." I moan out as I move to the bathroom, turning the shower on and letting the water heat up.

"You did, didn't you?" Her hands grip onto my shoulders as she turns me, suspenseful eyes shining back at me as she is dying for an answer.

"I did..." I smile out, trying to downplay my news.

"Yes!" She claps out before punching her fists into the air.

"So we are applauded sex now?" I chuckle at her as I check the water temperature with my fingers.

"No, we are applauding you becoming a woman. So how was he?"

"Maya, I'm going to have a shower, then we are leaving as soon as possible..."

"I get it...don't want to run into him at the breakfast buffet. He's already scrambled your eggs."

"Maya." I playfully bat the side of her arm.

"Ten minutes and we will be checking out, I promise."

Two months have passed since my weekend away with Maya and I've received no word from Jace...nothing.

Not even a text to explain why he ran out the next morning...not even a poorly made up excuse.

It's not made visiting the Dark Phantom pack with my parents and brother particularly easy. Sitting in front of them, listening to their updates on where he could be, of possible locations.

Whereas I know exactly where he is, I can see the location on the map Hector keeps pointing at.

All I would need to do is place my finger on it, I wouldn't even need to say a word...Jaxon would understand me.

My heart aches for Jaxon but I made a promise. If I tell them where Jace is, he'll run. At least right now I know where he is.

Since the night with Jace, I've had a niggling gut feeling, something I haven't been able to put to rest.

Something that I've been putting off...I haven't had a period.

It must just be stress, the heavy burden of knowing he is safe...that he is flourishing. At the suffering of his family.

I was torn between keeping him from running, and being deceitful to those I loved.

They may not be blood but the Varon's were an extension of our family, of our pack.

When one hurts, we all hurt.

Which is why I've been struggling to take the pregnancy test staring in front of me. For about a week I've been pulling it out of my bedside drawer, only to swiftly stash it back away.

I can't be, it was my first time...

Enough, I needed to find out once and for all. I snatch the test off the bedside table, moving into my ensuite where I take the test.

Once done, I carefully place it down on the side of the sink, my back turning...stress can cause the same symptoms.

Nausea...cramps...

Yes, it was just stress...this will be negative. Of course it will.

It was the placebo effect, a phantom pregnancy. I hear about them all the time, as soon as I see it is negative all of this worry, all of this stress will melt away.

Steadying my nerves, I turn...willing it to be negative but deep in my heart...thinking it could be the one thing that brings him back to us. Once again, I was torn.

My fingers feel for the test, my eyes forgetting they have the ability to look down. I lift the test up, to eye level.

My heart stops beating, my lungs stop breathing as the words pregnant scream out at me on the test.

Pregnant, I was pregnant with Jace's child.

Chapter 457

- Cleo -

I reach for my phone without hesitation, Jace was a half of this story.

This child was his and he has a right to know.

"Can I come by the hotel, it's important? x" I write the text message out, taking in a deep calming breath of air before pressing send.

With all the attempts from numerous people to get a hold of him and with no response, most think he has changed numbers...but something is telling me to trust my gut.

That he has kept the same number that he is just choosing not to respond to them.

I move back into my bedroom, catching my side profile in the mirror.

I can't see any signs of a bump yet, but it was still early days. It would perhaps explain why my wolf has been more tired of late..thinking of it, I haven't actually shifted for a while.

There hasn't been the need, not even during training. It is wet season and all training has been inside in the gym.

My mobile beeps, a notification of a message...I reach for it, not expecting it to be Jace so soon but as his name lights up on my home screen...I have to sit down on the edge of my bed.

"Hey, I'm actually home. Back at the Dark Phantom pack, here for a few days."

He was back?

He was back at the Dark Phantom pack...and didn't tell me?

If I hadn't of text, would I have even known.

It doesn't matter, I need to see him, I need to tell him the good news...the hard part was over with, he was back.

Somehow the universe had been able to get him home for me.

Now the news I have might be able to make him stay, make him realise he has responsibilities to his parents, to his pack...that he needs to accept his birth right and claim the alpha title of the Clear Waters pack.

"Where are you going in a hurry?" My brother Ares calls out as I pass him on the stairs. Hearing the commotion, Dad stops heading towards his office and waits for me at the bottom of the stairs, placing his hand out to take mine just as I spring off the last step.

"I'm going to Maya's, I'll be back later." I hated bringing Maya in as an excuse but I know she is good for it.

She'll have my back and with her pack being neighbouring to the Dark Phantom, it was easier to bring her name in, than the real answer.

To say that I was going to the Dark Phantom pack, it would just open a whole world of questioning from Dad and Ares...and I didn't have the time right now.

"Take the car outside, I've just filled it up with fuel."

"Thanks Dad, you're the best." I tip toe to his great height, planting a kiss on the side of his face. Tattoos littered across his skin, something that even in middle age completely suits him. I couldn't imagine him any other way.

"I know that, just drive carefully and text me when there." He responds, placing the thin cigarillo cigar from the signature spot of behind his ear and moving it to his lips in preparation of lighting.

"I'll be fine.." I call out, ignoring his inquisitive dark stare as I feel it burn into the back of my head.

I always found bending the truth to Dad difficult, he always had a way of getting the truth out of me. Maybe it was his alpha instincts.

The drive always took a couple of hours between the Red Thorn and Dark Phantom pack, usually fitting a stop in-between but I couldn't find it in myself to break.

I wanted to get to him as soon as possible, wanted to share this exciting news.

## Chapter 458

I have been in love with Jace since I was a little girl. He was a best friend that at some point I developed deeper feelings for.

I couldn't tell you the exact moment but friendship turned to love at an early age. I've tried to let go, but nobody else compared to him...who ever could. This baby would be the defining moment between us.

As I approach the Dark Phantom pack gates, I reduce my speed. Thankfully, the guards recognise me and wave me straight through.

I pull up outside the alpha house to find the surrounding area quiet.

It was now mid afternoon, all morning training completed and the pack members either at home or carrying out their daily duties.

I let myself in, like I have done hundreds of times. No need to knock on the Varon's door...not when we are extended family. Our home is their home...and it's always been like this.

However, I am surprised to find the hallway empty, to find the downstairs silent. I had half expected some kind of celebration.

The missing alpha, finally home.

Even the alpha office door was closed, a sign that both Hector and Kaia were in a meeting...I suspect putting plans in place with Jace.

But...he isn't in there, I hear his voice upstairs, hear

him on the phone in his room.

I move upstairs, this would be better to see him in private. Best to tell him on my own than with his family in ear shot.

At least they don't know I am here yet...we have time to think things through, talk things through.

I'm not fooling myself, this isn't going to be easy. I've had hours on the drive here to let the information sink in, he'll need time...time we can spend together...letting it sink in.

If I didn't recognise his voice then the potent tropical coconut scent of his that lingers in the corridor leading to his bedroom, would be confirmation enough.

Without a doubt he was back.

My Jace was back.

Nerves suddenly wash over me, my hands shaking slightly under the sensation.

Just breathe...this was Jace.

I try to calm myself but the nerves dancing in my belly would have me turn around and walk back down the stairs.

No, I needed to do this. I needed to do right by him.

My hand reaches for the door handle, taking one last intake of courage before I pull down on it and push open the door...

Only for my heart to plummet at the very sight of a female standing in front of his mirror.

A female half naked.

She was stunning...

Gorgeous.

I stare, stunned, at her reflection as I take her in. She had dark brown curly long hair, plump red lips and large breasts that filled out the sexy red lace bra she was adjusting herself with in front of the mirror.

She was wearing a matching red lace Brazilian briefs that did everything it should over her womanly curves.

For a moment I think I have entered the incorrect room, even double checking the corridor outside to make sure I opened the right door.

But I hear him call out to her from the bathroom, his voice care-free...happy.

"Callie? Can you pass me a towel?"

"Sure..." She calls back out to him before turning to finally notice my figure standing in the doorway.

"Oh...sorry I didn't see you standing there. Can I help you?"

"I was...I was looking for Jace." I croak out, my voice suddenly dry, my eyes flickering between the en-suite door and her.

"We will be down in a minute." She softly smiles, her dark blue eyes scanning the length of me.

"Did Luna manage to get in touch with my parents?" Did she think I was some kind of maid here...  
"Jace..." Words seem to have left me as I only just gasp out his name, it is only just audible.

Chapter 459



"He's in the shower...you know.." She shrugs with a knowing smile. He was cleaning off having just had sex with her...

My heart that had already plummeted at the sight of her feels as if it is stuck in a never ending free-fall into the depths of the earth. Into darkness.

"Sorry..." I mutter out as I close the door, my back pressing up against it as I learn to breathe again. My chest is thumping, as my heart tries to burst out of my rib cage...I think the pain alone could kill me.

He has found another...brought one of the hotel girls home with him.

I can't be seen here, I need to leave. I can't believe he would do this.

He really did just see me as a one night stand, to hell with the repercussions.

He said it himself...the forbidden fruit.

I race down the stairs, my hand tightly gripping on to the railing as I make it to the bottom step...my heart quickening as I hear the alpha office door opening.

I can't be seen.

I make it outside to the car when a hand touches my shoulder, pulling me back.

"Cleo?" He stares back at me, his green eyes squinting in confusion as he looks behind me...expecting others.

"What are you doing here?"

"I can't be here...please, don't tell a soul I was here." I plead out to him. But it isn't him, it is his spitting image, his brother Jaxon.

Not one tattoo drawn upon his skin, no scent of coconut invades my senses...this wasn't Jace.

He hasn't done after me, he doesn't even know I was here.

Jaxon's brows furrow as he takes a closer step towards me but I take a step back, suddenly feeling like an endangered animal about to be caged in. I needed to get out of here.

I'm back in my car within seconds, reversing out...Jaxon even jogging after me as I floor the gas pedal, needing to put space between me and the Dark Phantom pack.

Between me and his brother.

He has another, already.

Tears stream down my face for the entire drive home.

The wet season hiding my tears as I step out of the car, letting the rain fall upon my face.

It was night time now, the lights of home providing a soft glow to the driveway outside.

I didn't stop, I'm not even sure how I made it home....I must have entered auto-pilot.

I can't go inside, not yet.

One word of truth and the entire relationship between our families will be destroyed. I will have ruined decades of friendship, just for one night of passion.

I should have gone with the human barman.

I know what to do, I'm not this person. I can't be that person.

That longs for someone for the rest of their lives, that has the evidence of a love affair...of a one night fling that ties me for all my remaining days.

I can't bring shame upon this family.

I close my eyes, letting my mind find her through the pack link. Once I locate her, I press on the link...creating a private one to one communication with the alpha family doctor.

"Cleo?" She responds instantly, even as the day has ended and the night was taking hold.

"I need your help."

"Where are you?" A panicked voice returns, Sophia our doctor always attentive to our needs.

"It's urgent." I keep my voice monotone, not giving away any emotion.

"Come see me now, I'm still at the hospital...what's the matter?" I could hear her concern as she responds through the mind-link. "I'm pregnant..."

"What?"

"And...I need not be."

Chapter 460

- Cleo ~

"You've done a test I take it?" Doctor Sophia asks me, as I sit in the chair on the other side of her desk. I was rarely in here nowadays, compared to my childhood.

Sophia's predecessor always on standby to soothe Mum's worries from a simple cut or graze...the normality of childhood. If I thought I had it bad, then Ares was probably in here every day as the future alpha.

Except for a paint job and some plants in the corner, the layout was the same.

A bed to the side, with a curtain for privacy...a medicine cab filled to the rim, and the unsightly but necessary bins still stood near the exit.

"Yes of course." I try not to let my frustration at my question get the better of me, of course I did a pregnancy test.

"Sometimes they can be a false positive, especially human tests. Let's try the old fashioned way shall we." Doctor Sophia hands me a small cup, her eyes shooting to the small toilet attached to her medical office.

It would certainly make this a lot easier if I wasn't, but deep inside I knew I was.

It would explain so much over the past two months. How I've been more tired than usual, my appetite has been off...I just put it down to being busy. For overthinking how coldly I was jilted the morning after.

But when my period hadn't come for a second month....I grew suspicious.

I walk back towards her desk, taking a seat and placing the now filled cup on a small medical tray.

Sophia takes a PH test strip before dapping it into the cup...her eyes watching keenly for the result.

I have no idea what she is looking for, what colour it may turn but as she pulls the strip out and places it under the desk light...a sigh escapes her. "Positive." She declares as she places the test down and rips her surgical gloves off.

"I need you to terminate it." I coldly respond, the sooner the better. I needed this nightmare to be over with.

This dirty secret of mine gone.

"Let's just discuss things for a moment..."

"There's no need..."

"If you are having sex you should have come to me, I could have given you contraception." Sophia is a young doctor in comparison to the male before her. Yes she was more approachable but even then, I don't think seeing her first would have been on my thought process.

I was so determined to lose my V card, I didn't even think about protecting myself.

"I'm not having sex...it was just a one time thing. A hang over from hell." I moan out, rubbing my temples with both hands.

"Cleo..." She tries to softly appeal to me, but I can't handle her kindness. I can't have my decision changed.

"Can you do it now?"

"No, there are procedures I need to follow....I have a duty of care I need to adhere to."

"What does that mean?"

"It means you might not be thinking straight. I need you to think about this...a termination is abnormal for our species. I need you to really think about this...to take the night."

"The night?" I hiss out, exasperated by her lack of urgency with the matter at hand.

"I need you to think about it overnight, to see if you think differently in the morning. Hormones play a big part in the early stages of pregnancy..." "Don't say that word..." I seethe out, my eyes darting to her closed office door.

This office was secure, sound proof, it had to be as the alpha family doctor office but that still didn't stop my paranoia from being overheard. "If it's someone in this pack, a male..."

"No, it's..." I can't believe I am going to do this. May the goddess forgive me but the barman's face flashes through my mind.

If she thought the pregnancy was half human, she may be more agreeable to my needs.

"He was human." I close my eyes, the lie tingling as it leaves my lips.

"Oh." Surprised by my revelation, she leans back into her chair...her hands resting by her chin.

"You understand now...I'm the daughter of the alpha, the first born. My parents won't allow a hybrid into the pack, they just won't...not as the alpha and luna."