## Chapter 89

~MAYA~

"I'm almost there!" Kane shouts loud enough for me to hear him despite all of the rain still pouring down on us. I'm both nervous and excited to see him. Part of me still couldn't believe that he'd come for me. After witnessing everything between him and Maya, I was sure that he wouldn't have come for me. But how did she react, knowing that Kane had still come to protect me? Was she okay with it, or did he come despite her protests? I knew that wasn't important right now, but I still wished to know.

I held my breath when I finally spotted him. His hair is wet and hanging over his forehead, his body covered with raindrops. His eyes are drowned in what seems to be fear. Was he that worried over me?

He hasn't spotted me yet, and his eyes are searching his surroundings ferociously in hopes of seeing me. When his gaze finally finds what it's looking for, he doesn't move for a few seconds. He takes in my soaked body lying on the ground, and I think he's checking for injuries.

I can practically see the movements of his chest as he finally begins to move. He takes long strides toward me like he can't believe that I'm really in front of him.

He falls to the ground beside me and continues to search my body for bruises. "What happened?" he asks as his hand lightly touches my waist like he's scared that he would hurt me.

I try to ignore the intense feelings that immediately follow from his slight touch.

"I fell," I whisper as I try to fight the tears. "I don't know how much damage I've done. I don't know if my babies are okay. Everything hurts. And I sprained my ankle. I can't walk. I tried to move, but it was too painful."

His hand travels to my bruised ankle, and he's careful not to hurt me as he examines the damage the fall had done to me.

"We'll have to get you back to the vehicle quickly. You'll have to see a doctor as soon as we get you home." He tells me.

I nod, and I can't stop staring at his face as he continues to examine my body. Why couldn't he be mine? Why did he have to belong to Maya? No one has ever looked after me the way that he does. His actions always warm my heart and make it difficult for me to move forward.

He finally stops looking at my body and drags his gaze to my face. Our gazes lock, and I swear I see a hint of intense heat mixed with a desire to protect in their depths.

He still wants to protect me, even when he has Maya by his side. My bottom lip trembles as I remember the kiss she gave him earlier. It's what had started this in the first place. I shouldn't have let it get to me; somehow, I think that I'd fallen straight into her trap. She wanted me to do something stupid that could hurt myself, precisely what I had done. I'd been so caught up in the pain that I didn't stop to think of the consequences of my actions.

"I'm sorry," I whisper. "I'm sorry for making you worry; for making everyone worry. I wasn't thinking. I just got caught up in my feelings, and I didn't know how to control them. I thought I was doing the right thing by leaving. I didn't know that I would end up causing more trouble for the people around me when it's the last thing that I ever wanted to do."

Kane gently cups my cheek in his hand, "you don't need to apologize. We shouldn't have let you go off on your own. If I had known, I would have found a way to stop you. You're not familiar with this forest. It's expected that something like this could happen."

I peer up at him, "would you have truly stopped me?" I ask him.

I knew that he was with Maya when I left. Possibly still kissing. Would he have done as he said and stopped me despite having her near him?

"Is that even a question?" he asks me. "Of course, I wouldn't let you walk off in danger. The last thing I want is for anything to happen to you."

I bite my lip, trying to find the strength to not fall any stronger for the man in front of me. "Please don't do that."

He looks startled, "don't do what? Am I hurting you somewhere?"

I shook my head, "stop being so caring towards me. Stop protecting me every time I'm in danger. Stop running to my side when I call for you."

He seems shocked by my words, "what are you saying? Why shouldn't I protect you when you need me? Why would you ask for something so preposterous?"

I look away from his penetrating gaze. I don't want to tell him how I feel. I know that there won't be any return for us if I do something like that. Kane would be forced to keep his distance if he knew how much I wanted him. How much I didn't want him to be with Maya.

I knew that her feelings would always come first for him and that telling him how I felt wouldn't make any sense.

"Hey," he says as he lightly touches my chin and turns me to look at him. "What's wrong? Why aren't you answering me?"

"Because I'm scared," I finally confess.

He immediately looks concerned at my confession, "scared?" he asks. "What has you scared?"

"I'm terrified of what would happen to my heart if you keep being so nice to me. Each time that I think I can't fall for you more, you do something like this that makes my heart beat only for you. I know that it's wrong, but I can't control it. And every time that you run to my rescue, it makes these feelings multiply. And I don't know how much of it I can take anymore, Kane. I don't. All of this that I feel. It's all because of you. Only you. No one else. And at times, I feel like it's driving me crazy because you belong to someone else. And I know that you could never belong to me."

I don't think I've ever seen him this stunned before. I've managed to shock him into a speechless state. The rain is still pouring heavily, and the water is leaking down his face and onto his bare chest. I don't want to stare; I don't want to be distracted from what I have to tell him. Because since I've opened the lock that trapped my feelings for him, everything came pouring out.

He opens his mouth to speak, but nothing comes out. He's still trying to process my confession. I know that it's selfish of me to tell him these things when he'd just found Maya. I know that I have no right, and while I've tried to ignore these feelings, to pretend that they didn't exist, I don't think I can do it anymore. It's too much for me to handle on my own. I don't want to do this to him, but I've already started; how could I stop now?

"I don't know how much more I can take of seeing you with her," I cry, and this time, there is no stopping the tears flowing down my cheeks. "Seeing her kiss you was one of the hardest things I've ever witnessed. I know that she's the one you love, and I'm sorry I'm telling you these things, but I feel like I can't keep it inside anymore, Kane. It hurts. It hurts so—"

I don't get to finish the rest of my sentence because Kane does the last thing that I'm expecting him to do. He does the one thing I thought he would never let happen between us again.

He closes the distance between us and covers my lips with his. At first, I was too stunned to do anything about it. I let him kiss me, and he did so slowly and controlled. His hands on my waist is still gentle, and he's still careful not to hurt me.

I know that this doesn't seem right. I know that we shouldn't be doing this while everyone searches for me. But I don't know how to stop it from happening when I want it more than anything else in this world.

My body feels like it's finally at peace now that he's touching and kissing me.

I wrapped my arms around Kane, and I held on for my life, kissing him back with everything inside me. With all the feelings I had bottled up. Since the beginning, I'd had to keep it trapped inside me from the first day my eyes fell on him. It felt good to have some of it out finally.

Kane's tongue requested entrance into my mouth, and I happily opened up to him. I felt like I would die when he deepened the kiss. They weren't controlled anymore; his kisses were rough and hungry, like he wanted to swallow all of me. And I knew by now that I would let this man do anything to my body that he wanted to do. I trusted him with everything in me. I knew that he could take me to places I'd only dreamed about. And I was happy to let him.

Kane's breathing was loud, and it matched mine perfectly. Something about the rain still pouring down on us made everything more intense. And I can sense that he can feel it too. He can feel how much my body wants him, how much it craves to be this close to him. And still, this isn't enough. I want more of him. I want to give more of myself to him. I want to provide him with all of me.

I gasped when Kane bit down on my lip, and I tasted blood. He growls as the taste of my blood mixed with our kiss hits him. His grip on my waist tightens as he picks me up so that I'm now straddling him. There is no mistaking his arousal. Kane is hard and ready for me. And my body is waiting, eager for the chance to have him inside of me finally. I gasp as he begins to rock me back and forth, making me crave for more.

"This is wrong," Kane growls between kisses, "it's so f\*\*\*\*\*g wrong, but you're like an addictive drug. I can't get enough of you. The more of you I have, the more I want."

My stomach drops at his confession. It's the last thing that I ever expected Kane to admit. He wants me. He wants me just as much as I want him. He may not realize just how much those words mean to me. I've always wanted to hear him say those words to me.

"This feels too much like a dream," I whisper. "I'm scared to wake up. I live for every touch and kiss of yours. They're all I can think about. You. Your touch. Your kiss. Everything that has to do with you. Your smile. The power in every stride. The way you look at me."

"STOP!" He growls. "Stop before I can't stop myself from taking this any further. Please don't make me do this. I don't want to lose control. Not around you."

But I want that. For him to lose control.

A howl quakes the raining forest, reminding me that we weren't alone.

Kane breaks away from me. He's heard them too. They are close to us, and it's not very smart for us to keep kissing. Not when Maya's brothers are about to find us.

Kane knows what we've just done. He knows that there is no going back now. This time there were no excuses. He wasn't drunk, and my life wasn't in so much danger that he had to kiss me to keep me warm like the last time. This was us kissing with our own will.

I could see his chest heaving. He knows just as much as I do that we've messed up big time. This was never supposed to happen between us. What are we supposed to do now? How can he look Maya in the face after today? Not that I cared about her feelings after the way she acted around me, but I did care about Kane's. And I knew since the beginning that his heart belonged to her. I knew that this would be an enormous betrayal in his eyes.

"FUCK." Kane growls out of nowhere as he untangles my body from his. He runs his hand through his wet hair and paces in front of me.

I'd done this to him. I'd somehow managed to make his life more complicated than it already was. I'd promised myself not to do it, but finally, I'd broken that promise.

What had I done? I'd let my emotions get the better of me yet again. I'd let it control me, and now I had to watch Kane suffer because of it. I can see the guilt on his face. He doesn't try to hide it. I don't even think that he can hide it.

Kane falls to the ground beside me, and I don't have a chance to react as he picks me up into his arms and begins to walk with me. He doesn't say anything, and neither do I. There is nothing left for us to say. We know what we did. And neither of us was proud about it.

It doesn't take long for the wolves to catch up with us. Gabriella spots me when I spot her, and she rushes to my side. From the look on her face, I could tell that she was on the verge of tears.

"Thank the Lord; you're okay!" She exclaims. "Where did you hurt yourself?"

"She sprained her ankle," Kane answers for me.

"I was so worried. I'm sorry for letting you go on your own." She apologizes. "I should have known better than that. I have plenty of experience in these forests; I should have realized it wasn't the same for you. This is all my fault."

I shook my head and hugged her even though Kane was still holding onto me, "this isn't your fault. It's mine. I should have known not to walk too far. I knew it was dangerous but still kept going. I would have been fine if the rain didn't come down and made me slip and fall."

Gabriella covers her mouth, "we need to get a doctor to you right away."

She was right. I didn't think I'd done any severe damage, but I wanted to make sure that my babies were not in any danger because of my foolishness. It's the last time I will ever do something like that without thinking.

Everyone hurries to get me back to the vehicle, and I held onto Kane knowing that it may be the last time he would ever let me this close to him again after what we'd just done. We both knew that it couldn't happen again. He didn't say it, but the strained look on his face told me all I needed to know.

As soon as we reached the lake, everyone surrounded me, asking questions. They were all concerned, and I was grateful that no

one was upset that I had ruined a good day. They didn't seem to care about that. All they were concerned about was my wellbeing. The only person that didn't manage to ask me anything was Maya, and I didn't expect anything different from her. And at this point, I can't blame her because I know that I'd just done something unforgivable.

At least no one found it weird that Kane was still holding me. I guess it's because they knew that he was the one that had found me. Whoever saw me first would have been responsible for picking me up since I couldn't walk.

He helps me into Arthur's vehicle, and he looks like he doesn't want to let me go. Arthur clears his throat, and it snaps Kane out of his trance. He finally lets go of me and walks back to where Maya's standing. I try to remain calm as Gabriella joins me in the back seat.

"Are you okay, auntie?" Emma asks me as she peeks at me.

I nod, "it's just a little bruise. Nothing for you to worry about, sweetie."

With how fast everyone was driving, it didn't take us long to reach the palace. There was already a doctor on standby when we exited the vehicle. This time Arthur was the one to help me inside, and I hated to admit that I still wished it was Kane. I can feel his eyes on us as Arthur carries me into the bedroom. I have to wonder if Kane wishes that he was the one holding me. I can't see his expression; but I know he's watching me.

I'm not sure whose bedroom I'm in, but it's beautiful.

The doctor asked for some privacy as he examined my bruised ankle and checked the condition of my babies.

When the report is ready, everyone rushes back into the room. I think we all breathe a sigh of relief when he tells us that my babies are fine and healthy.

I touch my stomach and find Kane looking at my hands across the room. He doesn't need to tell me for me to know that he's also relieved that they're okay.

Kane was good at many things but hiding how he felt right now was not one of them. I didn't think he would care for my babies as much as he cared for me, but I was wrong. It's possible that he cared just as much for them as he did for me.

I told him to stop doing this. To stop caring. My heart would burst with emotion where he was concerned if he didn't stop his actions.

"I'm so happy that both you and your babies are okay," Gabriella says as she grabs my hand in hers. "I'm sorry again."

"Please stop apologizing," I beg her. "I feel bad every time that you do because I know that I was the one that made a mistake."

"You can cheer up now," Arthur tells us both. "She's safe. Everyone is well. We can learn from our mistakes and put it all behind us now."

I think that Arthur was right. We didn't have to live in the past. Everyone was safe now; no one was in danger. There was no need for us to be apologizing to each other constantly.

Lucy and Isabella join Gabriella and stand on either side of me. "We're so happy to learn that you and your babies are safe. Never scare us like that again."

My gaze returns to Kane, and he hasn't looked away from me since.

What did this mean for him and me? The secret was out. He knew how I felt about him and Maya. He knew that being with her would break me in two. What would he do about it? Would he finally let me go?

I didn't think that there was a chance that Kane would ever choose me over Maya. And I think that alone is the answer that I'm seeking. This was it for us. I'd managed to destroy everything. I'd let my emotions control my actions, and now I had to pay for it. And pay for it, I will.