

9 - Entangled With The Savage Alpha - Berrybloom

9

Dawn

I dreamt again and this time around, it was following me like a shadow. This time around I wasn't afraid, it was like a cloak and my wolf liked it a lot. In my dream, we roamed about a weird city and it was guiding me through it. It knew everything about the city and me. It behaved like it was part of my subconsciousness.

I tried times without number to get a look at it but when I turned around or tried to look at my shadow, it was nowhere to be found.

I woke up a bit dazed and confused about the whole thing. I rolled on my very soft bed and stared at my room. Everything in here was temporary and I didn't think I should bother to claim it. But after lunch last night, the three ladies whose names were Kayla, Layla, and Tayla, dragged me out of the pack house to the different stores in town where I made tons of purchases.

They were odd triplets, who were together at all times and had a weird sense of humor. I didn't understand them most of the time and I suspected that they didn't understand me either. But it was good to have company.

We did a mini tour of Golden Crest's suburb. It was a whole city filled with the most random types of werewolves. I remember when a rumor spread that Golden Crest had a large expanse of land and a huge amount of Werewolves within it. People laughed and ignored that rumor.

We all saw the mountains from afar and decided that it wasn't possible. But it was what I was seeing before my eyes. The valley I passed through wasn't the only place inhabited by people. There were many other places beyond the woods. It was impressive to see the harmony they had with each other. I think I liked the place a lot.

I looked at the large pile of items we bought and ordered yesterday, wondering if I even had the energy to make any arrangements.

I stretched, tossed, and turned feeling a dull ache of loneliness. Everything was new and the silence was thick. Maybe I missed being busy. I missed having something to do. I didn't miss the suffering or the hunger but I missed looking forward to something each day.

Rhys's harsh words from yesterday echoed in my mind. Stay away from me, at all costs.

I didn't know what to make of him but one thing was certain, he was disgusted with me. And I was going to avoid him like he said. At all costs.

Slowly I pushed myself off the bed and headed to the bathroom. After a quick shower, I picked out the most basic outfit I could find. I went through the closet and picked out more like it. I didn't plan to dress up and pretend that I was something in Golden Crest. I wasn't.

Dressed up and comfy, I packed my hair in a messy bun and got to arranging my room. I was going to make it my sanctuary even if it was a temporary one.

First, I covered every surface then tackled the wallpapers, striping them off before I replaced them with new ones. It had a gradient from Pale Blue to Deep Teal.

A giddy energy buzzed through me as I surveyed the bounty of boxes piled in the room's center. I loved decorating a space. Plus years of doing every odd job conceivable earned me many skills. There was nothing that I couldn't assemble.

First things first: the balcony. I hauled out the plush, faux-fur throw I'd splurged on. Its silvery sheen shimmered in the morning light, the perfect spot for those full moon nights when I yearned to feel the serene Golden Crest air against my skin.

The window nook was next. Lush, emerald green cushions transformed the window seat into a cozy haven. A fluffy white sheepskin rug, its surface as soft as moonlight on snow, added an undeniable touch of luxury. I hung sheer white curtains edged with silver thread, ensuring the sun's rays twinkled in without sacrificing privacy during the day.

Next came the shelves. I assembled a sleek, silver bookshelf, that held the promise of holding not just books, but also a collection of polished stones and ornately carved wooden figurines I'd found in a dusty antique shop. Beside it, a hand-woven tapestry, depicting a silver wolf howling at a full moon, added a touch of whimsy.

To the vanity, I hung a heavy silver frame adorned with tiny howling wolves around a hand-held mirror with an ornate, moonstone handle.

Finally, I tackled the empty wall above the bed. There, I hung a magnificent oil painting I'd found tucked away in the antique shop. It depicted a breathtaking mountain peak bathed in the ethereal glow of a full moon. Below it, I placed a small, ornately carved wooden chest, a perfect home for the silver locket containing a strand of my mother's fur. Since I didn't have any pictures of her, I kept the fur close to me at all times. She was the only person who truly loved me.

The scent of lavender and sandalwood from strategically placed incense sticks mingled with the sweet breeze blowing in. I took a step back and wiped a tear. It was nostalgic.

I'd just created the perfect place. A place that my mother would have truly loved. I was going to make the best of this 3 months.

My stomach grumbled and I ate a few of the snacks I'd stashed from our shopping, before going to take a proper bath.

Just as I was done throwing on a fresh pair of clothes, there was a knock. I'd opened the door to find a woman I'd never seen before standing there.

"Hey. I'm Princess." She said, "Kaden asked me to call you for lunch."

"Okay," I said, opening the door to step out.

"Wow." She exclaimed, peeking into my room. "That's awesome."

I felt a little blush rising to my cheeks as I shut the door. "Thank you." I exhaled.

She grinned and motioned for me to follow her.

Princess's energy was unmatched. She literally skipped all the way out of the Alpha's Lair and to the kitchen in the Packhouse.

"You didn't eat breakfast." An ample gray-haired woman commented as soon as I entered the kitchen.

The kitchen was a buzz of activity. Pack members trooped in and out with generous portions of meals on their plates. Some helped the woman who had addressed me, serve. Others were prepping a new batch of ingredients, while the rest cleaned up after them.

It was so chaotic that my eyes turned just from looking at them. Princess rolled her eyes beside me and joined the chaos.

"I'm sorry. I lost track of time." I replied, looking for a chance to join in and do something.

The woman looked like she was about to say something but Princess beat her to it. "Oh Mimi, you need to see what she did with her room in Alpha Rhys's lair."

Every activity came to a halt and all the eyes in the kitchen turned to me.

"Must have been something, because you're always critical of everything, ain't that right Mimi?" Someone quipped.

Everyone muttered in agreement and Princess rolled her eyes.

“Well, it's because you all suck. No one here understood the principles of design. And I've finally found my person.” Princess declared.

Mimi seemed like she had had enough and dropped the ladle she'd been using to stir. She used the napkin on the apron to wipe her hands and dragged Princess with her, then walked to me.

“I'm Naomi and everyone calls me Mimi. You're welcome to call me that if you want. Welcome to Golden Crest.” She said to me.

“I'm Dawn. Thank you so much.”

She harrumphed, “Marcus really took his time picking you out, didn't he? Dawn. The name's as exotic as you look.”

“Exotic Mimi? She's pretty. Everything about her feels almost unreal.” Princess cut in.

I was blushing. No one had ever called me any of those things before.

“Pretty but pale and fragile, dear,” Mimi added, taking my hand and twirling me around to take a good look at me.

She examined my skin and pinched it. She made a dissatisfied sound. “Have you done any work before? Your skin is too thin, easily bruised.”

“Come on, Mimi. You're rough handling her.” Princess said.

Mimi ignored her and held my face. “You must be famished. Don't ever miss your meals dear. You don't want me to be cross with you.”

I was smiling. These people didn't have a single idea who they were dealing with and I didn't blame them. My looks were deceiving. It always made people perceive me as some sort of fragile package.

“Yes, Ma'am,” I said to her.

“Now, shoo away both of you. You're not supposed to be here.”

Princess groaned. “You don't let me do anything. It's not fair.”

Mini rolled her eyes, “Your lunch has been served. Princess be a darling and show her around when both of you are done.”

“Yeah yeah. You've reduced me to a tour guide in this place.” Princess grumbled, “Let's go, Dawn. I'm delighted to show you around by the way. Maybe we'll brainstorm ideas for redecorating the pack house.”

I barely said a word before she snatched me out of Mimi's grip and led me down a long winding hallway.

"Well well well, look who decided to show her face," Kaden smirked as soon as I entered the large dining hall.

"Hi, Beta." I smiled, happy to see a familiar face.

He collapsed on his chair with his hands pressed on the left side of his chest. "You wound me." He wailed.

I exchanged a glance with Princess who was leading me to a seat.

"Beta? I've been reduced to just Beta?" He cried.

"Aren't you the beta?" I asked.

"Yes. But you'll call me Kaden." He said, sitting up.

"Whatever you say," I mumbled as I began eating.

Kaden smirked good-naturedly, then resumed munching his meal.

Lex walked in with his signature frown which deepened as soon as he saw me.

"So she'll be joining us now?" He remarked and took a seat.

Princess rolled her eyes, "Can you behave like something's not stuck up your ass for once? You were the same person who announced to the whole pack that Alpha Rhys commanded that he never wanted to see her again. How is she supposed to avoid him if she shares a table with him?"

"Shut your mouth," Lex warned. "And what are you doing here?"

"Well, Dawn here obviously needs a companion!" She shot back.

"He asked us to treat her like a princess. It wasn't an invitation for you." Lex muttered.

"You're such an asshole, Lexi." She gritted out.

"Lexi?" He growled.

"Kids kids," Kaden laughed, "Y'all are going to spook Dawn. Can't we pretend to be normal at least until she gets used to the whole place."

Lex scoffed.

“What's your problem with me?” I asked, watching him.

Stunned that I addressed him, he choked.

“What?” He gasped and cleared his breath.

“Have we met before? Do you know me from somewhere?”

Lex's ears turned red and he cleared his throat repeatedly.

“Did I take something that was yours? Am I in any way obstructing you? Am I an obstacle?”

He loosened his tie and sat up. “ Well-” he started to say.

He was caught off by a loud blaring sound that rang through invisible speakers.

“What now?” Kaden huffed.

“Not again,” Princess grumbled.

“What's going on?” I asked, following them as they all jumped to their feet and hurried outside.

No one offered me any explanation. They all rushed outside with a mixture of worried and pissed expressions on their faces.

We weren't the only ones rushing out. A stream of people who were inside rushed toward the exit too.

“What happened this time?” I heard Tayla, one of the odd triplets, ask.

Kaden shrugged, “I guess we'll find out outside.”