

Chapter 3 Chapter 3

AIDEN

“She’s your mate?” Rhys asked while we both stared at the girl whose name was Jada according to the name tag pinned to her shirt, and I nodded.

My mate... I almost couldn’t believe it. I had spent so long searching for her, I had even travelled to different packs, but it turned out that she was right under my nose all this while. I had asked my assistant to let me know all she could find out about her and I learned that she lived in Belmill and was a student at Lorvale University. Those places were not far from here at all and she had also been working in my hotel for a while, so why was I just finding her

“Are you sure?” Rhys asked and I glanced at him, giving him a blank look. “I mean... She’s human,” he added before I returned my attention to Jada and the corner of my mouth turned up.

That was right. She was human. An alpha had never been mated to a human before, so I understood his surprise and I also knew there was a high chance that the pack elders would have a problem with this. But they had no say in it.

“There’s a first time for everything,” I muttered and he hummed, dropping the empty beer bottle in his hand on the center table, before clearing his throat.

“I should go check on Gina.”

Gina was one of the healers of the White Claw pack - my pack - and I had called her over because of the life-threatening injuries that damn werewolf had inflicted on Jada. I had tried to subdue him but he had been too violent and I ended up killing him. I definitely wouldn’t lose any sleep over that, seeing as he had almost killed my mate, but the tattoo on his arm identified him as a member of the River Ash pack... a pack we didn’t get along with. Another member of that pack had showed up in the hotel room a er I killed the werewolf and the moment he realized who I was, he took off. I knew they would want to start a fight over this but I couldn’t think about that because my mind was completely focused on Jada.

I was happy to have finally found her but at the same time, I was also worried. The situation with the Lycan Blood Pack wasn’t getting any better and they already killed high-ranking members of a couple of packs, so I was worried they would come a er her. Of course, I could decide to not let anyone else know that she was my mate but they had a witch on their side and since I had already found Jada, it wouldn’t take long for them to find out.

I didn’t want to lose her.

Rhys rose to his feet and walked out of the room, leaving me with my unconscious mate. She had been unconscious for more than thirty minutes and I would be worried if Gina hadn’t already told me it would take some time for her to wake up.

“Mum,” Jada suddenly muttered, sighing so ly as she turned her head to face me, and I stiffened before realizing that she was dreaming. I then got to my feet, made my way over to the couch she was sleeping on, and sat down next to her.

I had sensed her earlier when I was in the hotel’s restaurant with Rhys and my beta, Damien, and a smile crept onto my lips as I remembered how it had felt. My whole body buzzed while goosebumps tingled across my skin the moment I caught her scent. The exotic fusion of lavender and lemon had slammed into my system, making me growl in excitement and that drew the attention of Rhys and Damien who then began to ask me what was wrong. I immediately got to my feet to find her, feeling incredibly restless, and a er searching for her for several moments, I finally spotted her as she was leaving the restaurant. I went a er her but her scent had been everywhere in the hallway she walked into and that clouded my mind for a while before I figured out that she went to the staff room. I quickly headed there but just before I walked into it, I realized she wasn’t there anymore and proceeded to track her down again. Then, I finally found her in that room... in that state... I was so fucking glad that I had gotten to her on time.

I regarded her curiously as she slept and when she muttered ‘mum’ under her breath again, I placed my hand on the side of her face before inhaling sharply, taking in a lungful of her mouth-watering scent.

Her curly jet black hair was fanned out around her face on the couch and she looked absolutely ravishing. And her mouth... it was plush and carnal, and made me think impure thoughts. I absentmindedly brushed my thumb over her bottom lip as she made a noise in the back of her throat and took a deep breath.

‘My mate.’ I still couldn’t believe that she was right here, and a smile crept onto my face as I stared at her while moving my hand from her face to her le hand. I then gently squeezed it before her breathing changed, and her eyes snapped open. ‘Oh!’

She stayed unmoving for a couple of seconds, just staring at the ceiling, and when I opened my mouth to speak, she abruptly sat upright and pressed her other hand to the side of her head. “Ah,” she muttered with her brows drawn together and it didn’t seem like she knew that someone was next to her.

“You’re awake,” I said before her head instantly jerked in my direction and she just stared at me blankly. Several moments later, she quickly withdrew her hand from mine as her eyes widened, and she tried to scoot away from me before realizing that she couldn’t move far because we were on a couch. “I- Are you okay?” I asked, but when all I got was silence and a wide-eyed stare for several moments, I began to wonder if she remembered what happened to her. Then I heard how fast her heart was pounding in her chest and noticed how she was gripping the throw pillow next to her, like she was holding on for dear life, and I realized she was freaking out.

My hand immediately moved towards her of its own accord and her gaze immediately jumped to it before she shrunk away from me, making me pause. ‘How do I do this?’ She obviously had several things in her mind right now and one of them was definitely fear... Fear of me.

“Do you- Do you want something to drink?” I asked as I got to my feet to move away from her, wanting her to relax a bit, and without waiting for a response, I headed towards the mini fridge in the office to get her a bottle of water.

I had just grabbed the bottle from the fridge when I heard feet hitting the ground, heading towards the door in a hurry, and I turned to see Jada making a run for it. ‘Shit.’ I rushed towards her, getting to her in the blink of an eye, and as I grabbed her hand to stop her in her tracks, she immediately swung an empty beer bottle at me, smashing it against the side of my head, just before I dropped the water to grab her other hand.

I gritted my teeth at the sharp pain that shot through my head, a bit annoyed with her attacking me, but also understanding why she did. The last thing she remembered was getting attacked by a wolf in one of the hotel rooms and me - a stranger - showing up, transforming into a wolf and attacking the other wolf. She didn’t know anything about me and didn’t know if I was going to harm her.

She looked terrified while trying to get her hands out of mine and my heart tightened in my chest as I tried to figure out how to get her to stop looking at me like that.

“Jada, calm -” I cut myself off when the next thing she tried to do was knee me in the groin, and I quickly turned her around, locking my arms around her to limit her movement.

“Help!” she shrieked. “Someone help me!”

“Calm down. Calm down, Jada. I’m not going to hurt you.”

She didn’t stop shouting for help though and I felt awful about keeping her here against her will, but I couldn’t just let her leave like this, so I just kept murmuring that I wasn’t going to hurt her and that she should calm down in her ear, and a er a couple of minutes, she finally became quiet. This totally wasn’t what I had pictured would happen a er she regained consciousness and I didn’t know if she was quiet because she had finally decided to believe me or if she had just become tired.

Her heart was still racing, not as much as before, but she was trembling in my arms and I felt even more awful. I had been quite happy to find my mate and now I wasn’t even sure I should mention who she was to me.

When I felt that she wasn’t going to run for the door the moment I moved away from her, I slowly let go of her., and as I took a step back, she finally spoke.

“What do you want with me?” Her voice was hoarse due to screaming and I picked up the bottle of water I had dropped earlier before moving into her line of sight and stretching it out to her.

“Here.”

She glanced at the bottle, then at me, and a er a little while of thinking, she collected it from me and drank more than half of the water in it in one go.

“Are you okay?” I asked and she fiddled with the cap of the bottle a er screwing it back on. She was still wary, but she had obviously relaxed a bit, and I was relieved that she had.

“I-” Her brows suddenly snapped together and she glanced at her le leg, confusion washing over her face as she placed her hand on her leg. Her once ankle length jeans had been turned to shorts by Gina because of how ripped the wolf attack had le it and the bloodstains that had been on it.

I could almost hear the gears turning in her head as she tried to find the injuries she was supposed to have and I couldn’t help but move closer to her. “My friend healed you,” I said and she returned her attention to me, looking even more confused.

“Healed me...? ...Huh?”

I took a deep breath, trying to figure out the best way to tell her what she wanted to know and everything else she needed to know. I just hoped the things I was about to tell her wouldn’t scare her off.