Chapter 10

KADE

I had never been more furious in my entire life than I was today. To see my mate treated so poorly threatened my tenuous control because everything would become much more difficult and dangerous if I lost that control.

Walking to the Omega quarters was damn near impossible because all of the Blue Crest warriors lined up outside the packhouse. You could tell that Alpha Andrew was pissed off at having no control in this situation. He was used to being the one to give the command instead of being the one forced to take it. I was not someone to mess with, but he did, so he would suffer the consequences.

I almost lost my mind with the hateful looks thrown at my mate. Then she laced her fingers with my own, and it helped calm the raging storm inside of me. The sparks reminded me that the best possible thing came out of today. I got to meet the gorgeous and courageous Elle.

It was clear that the Omegas in this pack were treated like trash, so I was not certain what it would be like meeting them because their own Alpha was a bastard. They had every right to throw us out of their house. However, they were warm and welcoming. They were filled with a love for one another which was bred through a shared history and pain. They only had each other, but that was enough for them.

It was amazing to see Elle interacting with her people. They looked up to her, and you could tell how much she meant to them and they to her. It was great to witness each smile and laugh that she gave them. My sweet mate was a candle in the middle of darkness that attracted others to her. It was almost like she was their Alpha. It was fascinating to witness, and I was once again in awe of her.

We could not wait to meet her wolf because apparently she would be a blast. I would give anything to know what her wolf said to make her blush so deeply. It had to have been very juicy.

These people were hers. They were incredibly important to her, and I could not imagine them staying here knowing how rough their life here was. They deserved respect, dignity, and the ability to choose how to live their own lives. I wanted to talk to Elle and see how she would feel about extending the offer for them to join us as well. Our pack could easily accommodate them all.

“Would you like your own room, or would you want to stay in mine?” she asked a little shyly as if worried about overstepping. She should not worry about that at all. I wanted to be around her, but I did not want to make her uncomfortable either.

“What would you prefer, darling?” I asked.

A smile tipped her lips upwards with the pet name. Her lips looked ever so kissable, but I would not make the first move with that. I wanted her to be completely comfortable with everything, so we would go at her pace. She was used to people taking what they wanted, and that was one thing I would never do to her.

“Would you mind staying with me? I wanted a chance to talk to you privately, and I also feel safe with you around,” she admitted sheepishly.

Elle did not seem to be the type of person who would ever ask for help or show weakness. Her saying that she felt safe with me around probably made her feel like she was admitting weakness, but it was not that at all. Mine and Tyre’s hearts warmed with her admission because she felt safe with us and knew that we would protect her.

“I’d love to stay with you,” I told her. She brightened up with that, and I could see that my answer made her very happy.

“Awesome. Would you mind if I told Gabe goodnight?” she asked carefully.

It was easy to see that she did not want to cross any invisible lines. She did not know me yet, so she was not certain if I would take offense to the question. Some mates were highly possessive and did not want their mate around the opposite gender without them. That was not me because I would trust my mate just as I hoped she would trust me.

“You never need to ask that. You two are very close, and I would never dream of taking that away from either of you,” I told her honestly.

She sighed in relief and graced me with a truly free smile that lit up her entire face. Goddess she was so damn beautiful. How could anyone look at her with anything other than adoration? This pack was filled with complete idiots.

She opened up a door, presumably to her room because it was bathed in her scent. This scent would be one I would never tire of. It was so much better than the small bit that I got in the guest room.

‘Roll around on her bed. Please? Goddess. This scent is divine,’ he groaned.

‘Yeah, like that wouldn’t make her pause and reconsider things,’ I scoffed.

‘Or it could make her realize that we want to worship her and bathe in her scent like any good mate would,’ he countered.

I just snorted and ignored him because it was causing some not so soft thought to flit around in my head.

There was a Queen-sized bed against the far wall with black and silver bedding. There was a bookcase that was filled to the brim with books. If she liked to read then she would love the main library in our packhouse. We had an extensive collection of books, so I knew she would find what she wanted. If she could not then we would just get it from somewhere else. I was a book collector myself and knew how to find what I needed or wanted.

My eyes trailed to the walls that were painted a colorful teal and adorned with quotes written in perfect hand-drawn calligraphy.

‘Be strong, be fearless, be beautiful. And believe that anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you.’ That quote was made a focal point for the wall, so it must have meant a great deal to her.

‘Life doesn’t get easier or more forgiving. We get stronger and more resilient.’

Every quote was a mantra to her. My eyes recognized everything from Dr. Seuss to Maya Angelou and everything in between. I was getting an inside look into Elle, and I loved what I was seeing. I could not even comprehend her strength because I had never met anyone as strong as her.

She left the door open as she knocked on the one right in front of it. I made sure to remain out of sight to give them a semblance of privacy.

“How are you doing, Em?” he asked softly.

“I haven’t exactly processed it all. I never expected that I would be granted another mate. Selene promised this change. She said that he was my true-mate. Eric was just necessary for something. He’s done more for us than anyone ever had before. He didn’t have to do a damn thing, but he did because it was the right thing to do. I’m thankful for the man that he is because he proved tonight that I can trust him with the truth. I don’t know how he’ll take it, but if anyone deserves it then it’s him. I’m also happy that the assholes will finally get what’s coming to them,” she said with a chuckle at the end, and I heard him hum in agreement.

What truth was she talking about, and why was she unsure how I would take it? It was not like I was eavesdropping on purpose. It was kind of hard not to hear the conversation. However, I would let her come to me whenever she wanted to explain everything. I was not about to demand answers. It was something that seemed very personal.

“You should ask Selene about the blood oath when you talk to her next. He has to be lying about it. I’m wondering if he knows about your destiny. He’s fighting awfully hard to keep you here. We just need to be on guard because he would do absolutely anything to get what he wants,” Gabriel said.

How much interaction did those two have with the Moon Goddess? They seemed to be very close, especially to be on a first name basis. Hopefully she would open up to me so that I could help her.

I also agreed with Gabriel that I did not trust Alpha Andrew and that he had to be lying about the blood oath. It was also curious as to why he refused to produce it but only would at the tribunal. What was his endgame?

“I really like him for you, Em. He’s going to treat you right and make one hell of a mate. Don’t you dare get into one of your stubborn moods either. He’s not going to judge you for the past that wasn’t in your control at all. Those are their sins not yours.”

I hoped that she would not even entertain that I would blame her for what was done to her. I had no idea the extent of it. It was clear that she was abused, tortured, and raped. None of that was in her control. I was incredibly proud of the strength she still held onto despite everything they did to her.

“Who wants a mate whose body and soul are scarred as much as mine? You saw the shitshow that went down. He heard some, but what’s he going to think when he learns the full extent of what’s been done?” she whispered with pain and heartbreak lacing her words.

She obviously did not have a clear picture of herself. There would not be a single thing that I could learn about her that would make me think poorly of her like that. I hated that she saw herself that way. It was no doubt a product of this fucking pack.

I wished that she could see herself the way that I did. She was gorgeous and fierce. Despite the hostility at supper, she never cowered or showed an ounce of fear. I saw the heart that she showed to her people. She was a force of nature that one should never cross.

“I swear that you better get that bullshit out of your head right the fuck now. Your scars share a survival story. You’ve been to Hell and back again. Your soul isn’t scarred, sweetheart. A scarred soul wouldn’t ask Selene to free the bastard’s wolf’s spirit. A scarred soul wouldn’t have asked her to place him inside a future Alpha of a powerful pack. It’s because of how pure your soul is that he’ll get a chance at a great life. He’ll have a brand-new start and be able to find his mate. You did that for him. Selene also wouldn’t give you a mate like Kade if he wouldn’t accept you wholeheartedly. She chose him because he would. Through your union, he’ll help unlock your shared destiny. Okay?”

Most mates would probably have an issue with their new mate being called sweetheart by another male, but I did not feel jealous simply because their bond kept her alive and able to face another day for ten whole years. It was an important one that Selene needed. That helped curb issues.

“You’re right,” she said, sighing.

“Come again?” he teased.

“Nope. Not going to happen,” she said, giggling. “Night, Gabe.”

“Night to you too. See you in the morning,” he said.

I heard her footsteps coming back this way, so I remained facing the wall with the quotes on them. I wondered if she would like to do something like this in our room back home. I thought it was a really cool concept. It was easy to see that these were words of affirmation for her that held strength. That was why she surrounded herself with them in her room.

She shut the door, so I turned around. There was a light blush along her cheekbones. I would love to know what went through her mind to cause it, but I would hold off on asking because I did not want to overwhelm her. She had been through a rough night already.

“Did you do your own calligraphy in here?” I asked instead.

She nodded and smiled. She looked relieved that I was not mentioning what they talked about. She left the door open so that I knew she would not keep things from me. That was also why they spoke aloud instead of through a mindlink. I did not expect her to be transparent immediately, but I did appreciate the gesture. I would like to think that we were starting off on the right foot.

“I love doing it. I decorated a lot of the rooms in the house like this because they loved what I did with mine. I’ve always been a firm believer that words held power, so I wanted to surround myself with that power,” she explained.

“I share that same thought,” I said, smiling at her.

Her eyes slowly roamed my frame, as if savoring every inch. I was very glad that I chose to dress up a bit tonight. Her heartrate increased some as she met my eyes. She swallowed before clearing her throat. She apparently approved which was good and certainly mutual.

“Unfortunately, we don’t have personal bathrooms here. There are two communal shower rooms that we split off into male and female. Like I said before, this place isn’t anything special, but at least you don’t have to worry about Luna trying to molest you. Her and Alpha have a very open relationship, and I heard him telling her to bed you.”

My body shuddered with that repulsive thought. I knew it. This was something I would have to tell Apollo because he would understand my revulsion.

“This place is perfect. Everyone is very welcoming, and it was great getting to know everyone tonight. As far as the Luna goes … yeah, Apollo and I picked up on that the moment we saw them in front of the packhouse. She wanted me in a specific room, so I forced Apollo to switch because my needs trumped his since I had just scented you and knew you were in this pack. He wasn’t happy, but he took one for the team on your behalf and not mine,” I said.

Melodic laughter passed through her full lips, and her eyes twinkled with amusement. I loved her laugh and vowed to make her laugh each and every day. We would head out for our pack once this tribunal was over. She would have a completely different life there. I had no doubt that she would find her happiness, joy, and passions.

“Remind me to thank him for his almost sacrifice. If you wanted to change into something more comfortable, I can show you where the shower rooms are so that we can talk afterwards. I made sure that some of the other people showed the rest of your pack where they were located.”

I told her sure and got into my bag to grab a pair of shorts and a tank top. I typically slept just in boxers, but that would not be the best first impression because I had already been fighting against my cock all night. My cock was very excited about her. Her looks, personality, scent … all of it. There would be no way to hide the effect she had on me with just boxers. I also grabbed my oral care kit.

I turned around as she was bent over, grabbing something out of her bottom drawer. It was my first view of her firm ass. Luckily, she could not see me, so I quickly readjusted myself. She was going to be the death of me but what a way to go. I have had casual relationships but never anything serious. I thought that my eyes beheld beauty before, but I was sorely mistaken. Nobody could ever match up to her, and I was one lucky bastard to have been chosen to share a life with this amazing woman.

“Ready?” she asked.

“Lead the way.”

Many of the doors and walls were decorated with artwork. The details were remarkable and unique. No two looked the same at all. One wall was a mural of wolves running through the forest while they hunted a stag. Tyre loved to hunt, so this mural called out to him.

“Who did the artwork?” I asked, gesturing towards the hunting scene.

“Gabe and I did. Those are all of our wolves. We’re not allowed to hunt like everyone else, so the two of us drew this for everyone. That one’s Gabe’s wolf. His name is Vince,” she said.

Her finger was pointing to a large brown wolf. It made sense that his wolf was bigger because the size of the wolf was in comparison to the size of the shifter. The bigger and stronger the shifter was then the bigger the wolf was as well.

“Where’s yours?” I asked curiously as I scanned the different wolves. Tyre and I were eager to see what hers would look like.

She pointed to the one in the Alpha’s spot at the head of a pack. Her wolf was positively stunning. She was a massive pure white wolf with cobalt blue eyes. Her size rivaled some Alpha wolves. Tyre internally growled an approval. She already had him wrapped around her paw.

“Is she really that big?” I asked, looking closer. I could not wait to see her in person.

“Mhm. Her name is Faye. She’s the best wolf I could’ve gotten. Gabe’s the only other person who’s seen her for certain reasons that I’ll explain in private. She’s a quirky wolf that is privy to things that I’m not always privy to. It’ll make more sense once we get a chance to talk about who I really am. Gabe’s the only other person that knows about it, and I’d like to share it with you,” she said, smiling at me.

I knew there was something special about her from the moment that I laid my eyes on her. I would love to know everything about her, and it made me happy that she wanted to share it with me. She had no obligation to trust me given her history, but she did, and I would never take that for granted.

“I can’t wait to know everything about you,” I said as my fingers tucked some hair behind her ear.

She went to speak but was interrupted by a woman frantically calling her name. Our heads both turned to her at the same time. The woman looked rattled and afraid.

“Paula, what’s wrong?” Elle asked as she put her hands on the woman’s shoulders.

“Have you seen Jesse? I can’t find him anywhere. He was supposed to be back after supper from a special job request and still hasn’t come home.”