

Chapter 11

KADE

Elle said that Paula was part of the family that joined and had not been expecting how Omegas were treated here. I could only imagine what these people were used to given the confessions earlier. Nobody should be subjected to those horrors.

"No. We were held up while the Council was called out here to deal with Alpha. Where's Denny?" Elle asked calmly, trying to push that calm onto her. It was helping some.

"He's at home. Franny came to look after him while I came to find you," she said.

Elle nodded and led Paula back to her bedroom. She asked her to take a seat and went to get Gabriel. While Elle did that, I grabbed a water bottle from my duffle bag and held it out to her. She took it and thanked me. Her hand shook as she took a drink. She was downright terrified right now. I could see it in her eyes that she knew something was wrong.

Gabriel ran his hand through his hair as he leaned against the wall. He was wearing a pair of shorts and a tank top. His strength was downright impressive. He would probably make one hell of a warrior. Our pack could definitely use someone like him. I was happy that he would be getting a new start the same as Elle. They would both get to live on

their own terms just like they always should have been able to.

"Do you know which warrior he was supposed to be working for?" Elle asked as she knelt in front of her, giving her hand a comforting squeeze.

"Warrior Dulaney," Paula said.

Elle and Gabriel exchanged a look, and the anger in their eyes told me that Dulaney was not a good person. I doubted that any of these warriors were. I hated the fact that we were stuck in this pack because of a damn tribunal that was a crock of shit in the first place.

"Have you picked up any images or impressions?" Gabriel asked.

I looked closer at her and realized that she was a gifted wolf as well. I had no idea what her gift did, but I was not about to ask. It was personal, and I never asked someone what their gift was unless I had to. We did have to know when we offered them sanctuary, but I let them choose whether or not they ever told me other than in that one instance.

"No. I've tried but can't," she whispered, gnawing her lip.

The aura of the Goddess appeared behind Elle again and spoke to her. That answered my question from earlier about how close she was to her. I had never heard of someone having direct access like that. It was certainly fascinating indeed.

"We're going to try something that should help. This is Alpha Kade of the Nightshade pack. We found out today that we're mates. I'm going to need his help. The three of us are going to hold hands, and I want you to focus on your mate. Focus on connecting to him. Okay?" Elle asked. Paula nodded nervously.

I was not certain what this would do or why I could help with it. That was not how my gift worked, but the Goddess apparently told Elle to do this, so there had to be a reason.

We linked hands and closed our eyes. Those sparks shot through my hand, up my arm, and throughout my entire body. I had never experienced such warmth before. It was like my body was the sun itself, but it was not painful. The feeling was incredibly calming and invigorating at the same time. It was an odd dichotomy, but it felt absolutely amazing. That warmth turned into sheer power, and I felt everything within me expand without effort. The power made me feel completely invincible as if I could accomplish anything I wanted to. It ended just as quickly as it started.

My eyes flew open and met Elle's beautiful blue orbs which were shining with so many emotions that I could not even begin to decipher them. It was like she was feeling everything all at once and was in awe of it all.

"I'll explain later what happened. I promise," she told me before turning back to Paula. "Did you see anything?"

Paula nodded as she wiped away some of the tears that fell from her eyes. There was fear in her eyes.

"I saw him in the woods. He wasn't moving and looked like he'd been attacked. I don't know where he is though," she said, biting her lip and wringing her hands.

"Don't worry about that because I can find him. Go back to Denny, and we'll go get your mate. I need you to stay here no matter what. Okay?" Elle asked.

Paula looked like she wanted to object because this was her mate, but she did have a pup that she needed to keep safe as well. They both needed her, and she was torn in two about what to do. I did not have pups, but I felt that way about my pack members when I had to make a decision that conflicted between which one to help.

"Paula, we'll get him. I'll leave a couple of my people behind to guard you and your son, and the rest will come with us to find your mate. After this tribunal is over, every Omega in this pack will be offered the chance to join our pack and come with us. I wanted to run it by Elle first, but you all deserve so much more than this pack offers," I told her.

Paula's jaw dropped open in surprise, and Elle looked like I just gave her the most precious gift in the world. Gabriel smiled and inclined his head to me.

These people should be able to look at others, be treated with dignity, and be protected. I would ensure that they got

all of that, and our pack would welcome them with open arms. Their entire group would find brand-new lives of their own choosing. That pup would grow up and know what it meant to live in a pack that treated others fairly. He would have every access that he would ever need. None of these people would be defined entirely by an insignificant title. They would be defined by their character.

A knock on the door revealed our people. They wasted no time at all in coming to the room. Each of them was affected by what we witnessed thus far in this pack. We all held convictions against abuse and maltreatment of pack members. A pack was meant to be a family. They were meant to watch after one another and care for them. The fuckheads in this pack seemed to have missed that memo.

"I need two people to go with Paula here and guard her and her pup. Her mate is missing, so we're going to go find him. It looks like he was attacked, but we don't know for certain what's going on. We're under Council rules right now which means that we can disarm and act in self-defense, but that is all. Elle said that she can find him, so she's got the lead on this, and we'll all follow her orders. Questions?" I asked.

Everyone shook their heads because they knew how dangerous it was for this man who was laying there attacked. He would be dead before anyone found him if it was left up to this pack's warriors. They would probably take turns slicing his limbs off simply because he was an Omega.

"Okay. We'll leave out in five minutes. We have spare clothes on the porch of this house if you need them. I suggest wolf form because there's little to no light deep in the woods, and the warriors like to use that to their advantage," she said.

Everyone filed out before I turned to her and cupped her cheeks. "You're a true Luna and exactly who I need and want beside me," I praised her which made her smile.

I did not need to be a mind reader to know that she questioned whether or not she was suited to be my Luna. It was the same way that I questioned whether or not I was suited to be her mate. However, the Goddess paired us together for a reason and thought we were exactly who the other needed.

"You're the only person I would ever want to stand next to and am proud of it," she said.

Elle leaned up and quickly pressed her lips to mine, wiping all thoughts from my mind for a moment. She pulled back, and bit her lip, as if afraid that she overstepped. My thumb gently pulled it from her teeth.

"You biting your lip is too tempting because it's making me want to kiss you again, and we don't have time for that right now." I chuckled as her eyebrows raised up in surprise. "You don't see what I see, Elle. You're the most beautiful woman I've ever met, your heart loves your people deeply, and you

have a fire inside of you that I can't wait to get to know. That is what I see when I see you, Elle. I see a mate that is more than I ever knew she could be," I said, pressing a kiss to her forehead.

She quickly swiped away a tear and cleared her throat. This pack tore her down and tried to destroy her. That type of thing would leave scars on her own identity. The vulnerability in her eyes when I told her those things showed me that she had never looked at herself that way before.

"Thank you, Kade. And I promise to give you a proper kiss once we sort all of this out. I'm going to change in here because we don't have time to go back to the shower rooms," she said as she went over to her dresser to grab something to put on.

I turned my back on her to give her privacy. Yes, she was my mate, but that was not something I would rush her into. We literally only met each other a few hours ago. I would not be against it if she wanted me to see, but again it was at her pace.

I took my shirt off and pulled on the pair of basketball shorts that I was originally going to change into tonight.

"I'm done," she said.

I turned around and let out a low growl without even thinking. She had on a pair of mid-thigh shorts that accentuated her legs which seemed to go on for days. Her

thighs had defined muscles that showed her strength. Her tank top was perfectly fitted which showed her hourglass figure and a full chest that would get some serious attention whenever she was ready for that.

"Fuck," was all I could say, and I was lucky that I could form that one word.


"Right back at you. Damn. I wondered what you looked like underneath your dress shirt. My imagination did not do you any justice. I absolutely love your tattoos by the way," she said.

Her eyes greedily drank me in from head to toe. My upper body had many tattoos, as did my thighs, and back. Like I said before, I loved them and had many. I would live without a shirt on if she continued to give me those responses.

A knock on the door broke the spell that we were under. There would be time for this later. What a great time it would be too.

"Coming," she called out. "Just so you're aware ... Omegas aren't allowed in the woods. It's a ridiculous rule meant to ostracize us. And like I said before, Gabe's the only one who's ever seen Faye. Selene told us to hide her form until the time came that we needed it, so that must be now. They don't know about any of her abilities. I promise to tell you everything when we get back," she said apologetically.

I was insanely curious about these abilities. It would make

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sense with the sheer amount of power within her that she would have abilities. I was curious about how many and what type. I had yet to meet someone who had more than one gift. Sometimes their gift did more than one thing but was still tied in as part of the overall gift. However, she said abilities, so I wondered how that would play out.

Tyre was also jumping at the bit to see his mate. He was not normally an excitable wolf, but now he had a reason to be excited. It was amazing to see how much we both began changing just by meeting her.

"They won't touch you or Gabriel. We'll all be fine. It's not like you're hiding anything from me. This has been a hectic night, and there'll be time to talk after. Let's go find him."

She nodded and took a deep breath before opening the door. Everyone was ready to go, and I noticed that we had some additional recruits. The loyalty among these Omegas was something truly remarkable. It was unwavering even when faced with potential backlash from those in charge. That bravery was admirable.

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