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ELLE

'I leave for a couple of days and come back to a sexy shower scene,' Faye teased me. 1

I let out a verbal squeal by accident when I heard her voice. Goddess, I had missed Faye something fierce. It had not been until I could not rouse her that I truly understood her importance in my life and how much she meant to me.

Kade looked at me curiously, obviously not understanding where the excitement was coming from. I just tapped the side of my head.

"Welcome back, Faye." Relief was evident in his voice. I could only imagine what it had been like for him and Tyre while I was out.

"Are you okay, Faye? We were worried about you," I said aloud, so that Kade could be part of the conversation.

Kade's smile of appreciation lit up his face entirely. I did not have to do it, but I knew that if I spoke like this then she would also talk through me so that both Kade and Tyre would then hear the conversation too. We did not have the mindlink just yet, so this would have to do.

"I would've come back the moment the wolfsbane was out of our system and off our body, but Selene gave me access to the complete arsenal of my healing abilities. I never had them fully until our mates came along. That was why our body held up to the torture until they could get to you. Anyways, the ability allowed me to heal us

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from what others chose to take that was never theirs in the first place," she explained through me. 2

My head tilted to the side in confusion with her words. What did she mean? My eyes widened in shock as realization slammed into me like a ton of bricks. My hand flew to my mouth, and my eyes glassed over with unshed tears.

Kade looked at me curiously, not fully comprehending what was going on either, but he did recognize that it meant a lot to me whatever it was.

"This way we can have pups with our mates. The damage would've made that impossible. I couldn't erase the pain of the past, but I could heal our body from it," she explained.

I had not even considered whether or not the damage from being taken advantage of would affect having pups. I never expected to have pups until Kade came along. Thankfully, my amazing wolf made it possible. The smile on my face was large and semi-painful, but I was extremely happy.

Kade knew that it happened, but he did not know the full extent of it all. I would tell him if he ever truly wanted to know because I would not keep secrets from him. As difficult as it would be to tell him, I would if that was what he wanted.

Golden shimmers surfaced as Tyre fronted. He looked at me with the utmost gentleness. His hands cupped my cheeks as he lowered his lips to place a chaste kiss.

"We never would've looked at you any differently or desired you any less than we do now even if this had



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never happened. You are our mates, and we both care about you more than we can express. With that being said, thank you Faye for doing this for the two of you and for us. We would've just adopted if we hadn't been able to have pups, but this is a precious gift that we'll always cherish just as we'll always cherish you both," Tyre said.

I pulled Faye back very quickly once I saw the image in my head that she wanted to do. Nope. Not doing that here. It was a very raunchy picture of Kade taking me from behind in agonizing detail even down to the sweat dripping down his skin as he thrust.

Kade did the same thing with Tyre before resting his forehead against my shoulder and chuckling.

"Gabriel was right that I'd have my hands full with Faye. Tyre isn't much better, especially after that image she sent him." 1

"What are we going to do with those two?" I asked. He just shrugged before kissing my lips again.

It was still early in the morning, so we got dressed and decided to head back to the house. I did not want to go to the packhouse just yet, and I knew that he did not want to either. We would have to deal with everyone soon, especially in light of needing to meet with the Elders later, but we were still in our own little bubble at the moment.

I had been thinking about something, but I was not certain how he would receive it. I hoped he would agree, but part of me worried that he would not just yet. I wanted to complete our bond before we dealt with everything else today. I did not want him to think I was rushing it or did not want to take my time getting to know him first though.

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I had not even realized that we made it back to the house until Kade opened my door for me. I blushed at having been so caught up in my own head.

I clasped his outstretched hand and relaxed into him as he wrapped an arm around my waist. I tried to discretely inhale his scent, but his low growl showed me that it was not discrete enough. It was not my fault that he smelled so delicious.

"Where is everyone?" I asked, looking around at the oddly vacant area. This room would normally be bustling this time of morning.

"The Council took them all out hunting today. They'll be gone for a few hours," he explained.

If I had not turned in surprise with that bit of information, I would have missed the slight twitch of his lip. Perhaps we were on the same page after all then. Now, I just needed to rile him up a bit for my own amusement. This would be fun.

"That's extremely kind of them. I've never been hunting before. We should join them," I said excitedly.

"Tyre was really hoping to take Faye hunting for the first time in our pack. He's already been plotting what type of game he wanted to give her as an offering," he said smoothly.

"But -"

I could not even get a second word started before I was thrown over his shoulder without him even breaking stride. His legs carried him toward my room with fierce determination. He really was fun to rile up. He thought he



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would only have issues with Faye. The two of us girls would become a great team if it meant making our mates crazy.

He opened the door before kicking it shut with his foot and tossing me on the bed. He stood at the edge of the bed with his arms crossed over his chest. His eyes were darkened as he looked at me like I was his prey. I really wanted to be his prey because he would devour me like a fine feast.

"You damn well knew that I planned this. Are you aware of how I know that?"

"How?" I asked curiously.

"I can feel your emotions already even without being marked. Thompson was wrong about what strengthened our bond. It was you that did it. He realized that after he found out who you were. When they met with me after we got you to the hospital, he said that it had strengthened from three years like when he first met you to seven when he saw you again. I started feeling your emotions once Faye surfaced again."

I looked at him carefully as I took all of that in. I could not help but laugh excitedly at that. I jumped off the bed, launching myself at him. His arms easily caught me and held me to him. My lips passionately kissed him, and I felt nothing but relief. 1

"I'm thankful that it had nothing to do with that asshole," I told him once I broke the kiss. "So, when did you arrange this?"

He laid me back down on the bed, hovering over me without resting his weight on me. His eyes looked at me

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like I was the most precious thing to him, and that really warmed my heart. I did not know what to expect when I found out that I had a mate, but Kade was more than I could have ever hoped for.

"When you mentioned marking in the bathroom. I don't have any expectations at all, but I wanted you to feel comfortable if you did want to complete the bond today. I wasn't sure how you'd feel about completing it with so many people in earshot," he explained.

"So, if I said that I didn't want to complete it then you'd be okay with that?" I asked. He nodded without any hesitation whatsoever. "I want to complete it Kade. It's why I was lost in thought on the drive over. I didn't want you to feel like I was rushing or anything. It was very sweet of you. Just so you're aware, this entire room is soundproofed," I said with a wink.

He just growled at me with that bit of information. I saw the lust swirling around in his eyes, and I knew he would be taking full advantage of that.

How did I get so lucky in life to have been given a mate like him? Selene truly picked the best one for me.

Alpha Kade was a revered Alpha, but he did not let his title go to his head. He treated his pack members with respect and kindness. I hoped that I could be a good enough woman, mate, and Luna for him.

I had no idea what types of women he was normally with, but part of me worried that I might not stack up to them. I knew the types of girls that often hung around Alphas. They were absolute bombshells who were very willing to be anything the Alpha wanted. I was nothing special, but he was. Even a blind man could see the god among men



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that was Kade.

"Why are you worried, darling? We don't have to do anything. When we do complete our bond, I want you to be ready for it," he said, sweetly caressing my cheek with his thumb.

'Tell him the truth or I will,' Faye huffed at me.

I could tell she was annoyed with my thoughts. She often was when I talked down about myself. Faye knew about our connection to Selene since the day she awakened and had always prided herself on our strength and character.

"It's not that. I do want to complete our bond, and I'm ready for it," I began, but did not know where to go with it.

His brows furrowed as he tried to figure out what I was getting at. I took a steadying breath and just pushed past my insecurities because he was my mate, and I would not hide things from him even if it made me feel like a child.

"I'm worried about whether or not I'll be able to stack up against other women," I admitted in a smaller voice than I intended.

He just stared at me for a few moments as if not comprehending what I was saying or trying to work through how to respond. I was not certain which it was. Why could I not feel his emotions? That would make this moment so much easier to navigate.

In one swift movement, he turned us over to where I was straddling him. I bit my lip as I felt his bulge firmly planted where it belonged, and where I desperately needed it.

Kade pulled me down until my chest was pressed against

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his, and his hand gently cupped my cheek. I leaned into his touch, letting it calm my racing thoughts.

"I can lay here and tell you that this right here – you and me – Faye and Tyre – is the only thing I care about, but that's just me telling you my truth. You need to find your own truth, darling. Ask me anything you want to know, and I swear to be completely honest whether the question is awkward, uncomfortable, or even humorous. You're in control."

This was not the first time that he gave me control of a situation. Typically, Alphas thrived on control and did not give it up at all. It was seen as a form of submission by most. Yet, this Alpha mate of mine ...

"Would you ever submit to me?" I asked first.

"You're the only person I would ever submit to. Yes," he said without even needing to consider his answer.

I ran my fingers through his hair while I thought about my next question. A low rumble left him when I tugged on his hair some. I could not help but smile at his reaction. I enjoyed seeing how affected he was by me. It was nice that it was not just me being affected.

"When was your last relationship?" I asked next.

"Define relationship."

"When's the last time you dated someone? When's the last time you slept with someone?" I clarified.

I was not certain why I was even entertaining these questions. Everyone had a past. There was nothing wrong with that. I supposed part of it was because I was worried that my past would somehow taint our future. What would



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happen if the she-wolves in the pack learned all about their new Luna? What about this she-wolf that the Elder wanted for him?

Kade's thumbs rubbed soothing circles on my waist, and it helped relax me. Perhaps I was just overreacting for no reason. This was all new territory for me, and that was unsettling.

"I had one girlfriend in high school. We dated for a couple of months, but she turned out to be one of those girls who aspired to be Luna whether or not we were mates. I broke up with her once I found that out. I've had a few casual hookups, but they were simply for release. There was never a connection there. The last hookup was a couple of years ago," he explained.

I was actually fairly surprised with his answer. She-wolves always threw themselves at Alphas, yet he barely paid them attention.

"Why haven't you hooked up with anyone since then?" I asked.

"You and I both know what many she-wolves are after when it comes to setting their sights on a pack's leadership. They saw me for my title and not for me. There hasn't been anyone since because I was tired of dealing with their pettiness. It wasn't even worth the release anymore because my hand could handle the release without expecting me to make it my Luna. I always wanted my mate. I wished that I had stayed abstinent for you, but unfortunately I can't change that. What I can tell you though is that you've exceeded every single desire I had for a mate. You're compassionate, filled with fire, and willing to stand toe-to-toe against any

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foe. Not to mention that you're the sexiest female I've ever met, and you don't even have to try." 1

His hands traveled around my hips until they rested on my ass. The sincerity in his eyes made my heart flutter. He was laying himself out right here before me with raw honesty, and that meant more to me than I could ever explain. 2

"I love the fact that this is new for you. It's new for me too. Anytime you feel the urge to compare yourself to other she-wolves, I want you to remember this one fact." He lifted his chin and bared his neck to me. "You're the only person I'll ever submit to because you're my equal. You're the other half of my soul. You are mine," he growled out possessively. 1

My teeth pressed against his neck and nipped it to accept his submission. I offered my neck to him as well, and I felt like I was finally whole for the first time in my entire life when he nipped my neck back. 1

Every pack had their own practices, but the Alpha and Luna were equal in most packs. Kade and I were equal. Tyre and Faye were equal.

"And you are mine, Alpha."

Our lips collided in an explosion of need and desire. I never needed anything more than I needed him at this moment. He ranked above oxygen. He ranked above life. Kade was above it all.

There was no doubt about it that he was everything that I could ever want in a mate and in a partner.