



Chapter 28

ELLE

I could not wait for my people ... our people like Kade said ... to get the good news of what they could expect in the Nightshade pack. Kade mentioned to Gabriel that first night that his pack was different than we were used to, but I never imagined that he meant to that extent.

There were so many opportunities that they could benefit from. I knew for a fact that the men would love the opportunity to potentially become warriors, and they would ensure that they kept the pack as safe as possible. There were even a few women in our group that would love the opportunity as well. Then there was the fact that we could all learn to train was something that blew my mind. Gabriel taught me everything I knew, and we taught the rest as well, so I could not wait to learn even more. I was getting giddy just thinking about it and bet Kade would be a great teacher.

Most importantly, I could not wait to help out the pack however I could. I had not a damn clue about being a Luna, but Kade was a great Alpha, so there was no doubt in my mind that he would help me navigate my duties and teach me everything I needed to know. He previously mentioned that there had not been an official Luna since his mother passed when he was very young. He took care of what he could, and there were two female Elders who helped out wherever they could as well.

"Here you go. I got Kade's permission to grab one of his tank tops for you," Gabriel said, handing over the clothes.

I thanked him and pulled Kade with me to the restroom. I appreciated that he did not question me when I pulled him without explaining anything.

"I know that the Council has taken care of the warriors and whatnot, but would you mind standing guard? Some of those women that tried to fake it with you all haven't been kind to me. Better safe than sorry," I said, blushing at the fact that I was acting like a child.

"Of course, I will. You never need to feel embarrassed like you do right now. It pleases Tyre and me to know that you feel safe with us around. Now, define haven't been kind," he said.

He ushered me into the bathroom before closing the door for me while remaining on the other side of it, literally standing guard. Goddess, I was falling for him hard and did not doubt that it would be full-blown soon.

I started explaining to him while I changed. "Haven't been kind as in taking turns with their warriors in beating me or taunting me. Sometimes more than that. A couple of them have attempted to murder me but failed miserably. I kept their names from Gabe because he's always been extremely protective of me, and I knew for a fact that he would get himself killed in trying to protect me from them."

I was thankful that Gabriel did get me one of Kade's tank tops because I typically trained in shorts and a sports bra. I

did not want anyone seeing me like that anymore. It never bothered me before because my people respected me and never thought anything negative. However, now I had a mate, and I never wanted to make him uncomfortable.

I pulled my hair into a tight bun. The black tank top was loose on me, but it did not matter because it kept me covered up. My tank tops were a bit more fitted, which I figured to be the reason why he did not pick one of them for me.

A lot of our clothes came secondhand or were made by those who knew how. My chest had always been a hassle to deal with when it came to clothes. The shorts came to mid-thigh, so the entire outfit was modest, and I appreciated that.

I opened the door and wound my arms around his waist before placing a kiss to his back. It was a wonder whatever I did to deserve a man as good as him, but I would not waste the blessing that he was. I would do everything that I could to ensure that I was the best mate that I could be because he had already shown me time and again that he was the best mate to me.

He turned around and tilted my chin up for a brief kiss. It was a great experience each time he kissed me. Even if it was brief and chaste, it was still perfect. He was a damn good kisser too. His body was great at many things, and I could not wait to get back to that tonight.

"First, you look incredible, and I love you in my shirts. Second, they'll also be brought to justice, and I'm very glad that you tore that list up. They certainly had the Council

fooled, but Gabriel said that you would know better than anyone who was truly innocent.”

He explained to me about what they told the Council. They actually tried to play the ‘woe is me’ card, forced mate-bonds, and so on. I could not wait to deal with them as well because their shit was documented too. I never played when it came to what they did to my people. I was a big girl and could handle myself, but I would burn their worlds down around them for the things everyone did to the others.

“Yeah, that’s a crock of shit.” I snorted, shaking my head. “I have their stuff documented too. The only ones who were truly not at fault were our people. Alpha Andrew destroyed this pack. He believed that his father had been too lenient and began using Omegas as incentives to show dedication to pack purity,” I explained to him.

Kade shook his head and disgust trickled down through the bond. Kade was an honorable Alpha who truly cared about his people and took care of them to the best of his ability. I did not know much about Nightshade, but I could not wait to learn it all.

“What happened to his father?” he asked.

“Mysterious death. He claimed it was rogues, but it occurred directly after his father caught him beating the shit out of an Omega woman. His father challenged him, but he knew for a damn fact that he would never be able to beat his father in a straight challenge. He took matters into his own hands. Some of the older Omegas shared the story with Gabe and me once we got older. Alpha Andrew got multiple warriors

to capture his father and mother just to rip their throats out while being held.” 1

Kade was quiet as we walked outside to join everyone. He was trying to compose himself so that he did not just murder Alpha Andrew where he sat.

I stopped us before we got to the group and turned around to face my mate. My hands cupped his cheeks, and he leaned into my touch. He seemed to get just as much comfort from my touch as I did from his.

I took a deep breath and closed my eyes to focus on my peace and happiness in this moment. I knew that hearing all of this made his Alpha instincts war against us letting him go, but he would for me and for my best friend. However, that did not make it any easier on him.

‘That is how you make me feel. You make me feel calm and happy – so incredibly happy. He’ll get a temporary freedom if he even survives it, but you and I will rip his last breath from his lungs because he doesn’t deserve to live in this world,’ I promised.

I opened my eyes and saw a small smile gracing his lips that I returned. Life was rough, and nothing about any of this was happy, but we made each other happy. We made each other smile. That was what would help us have a fruitful mateship because we could rely on each other for the things that our hearts and souls so desperately needed without fear of condemnation, concern, or judgement.

“You’re my everything, darling,” he told me before kissing the tip of my nose and turning me back around. I loved when he

said that because I could tell that he meant those words. 1

"And you're mine," I replied honestly.

There was a giant crowd of people waiting for us. All of the Council's guards, except a few who were left to watch over the warriors inside, the Omegas, and the Council all waited for the show to begin. The Alpha family, Beta Oscar, and Dulaney were also out here.

Apollo was talking to the Council members, but I was not certain what they were saying. The Council looked upset, but it was none of my business. If they wanted me to know then I would wait until they said something.

"Miss Elle," Denny called out excitedly as he rushed over to see me.

"Denny! It's great to see you," I said as I picked him up and twirled him around in the air.

His laughter was music to my ears. That was the happiness of a pup, and now he would remain that way instead of this pack tainting him. There was so much that he would get to experience in our new pack and new home that he would have missed out on here. He was a bright boy with a true and caring heart. His future would be of his own making.

I lost the innocence of being a pup when I was six because that was when I started getting beaten and emotionally torn down. The first time was by accidently bumping into Eric. It just continued on after that. By the moment that I turned twelve, I had already experienced true hellish horrors. There had been many times over the years that I wondered what

life would have been like for me had none of that happened.

"Denny, I want you to meet someone special. This is Alpha Kade my mate. Alpha Kade, this precious little guy is my best buddy Denny," I said, kissing the top of his head and letting his feet touch the ground again.

Kade knelt down on the ground and stuck his hand out for Denny to shake, but Denny bit his lip and kept his eyes on the ground just like he was taught by the assholes here. It hurt both Kade and me to witness this.

"Denny, sweetheart, Alpha Kade isn't like Alpha Andrew. He's an honorable Alpha who truly cares for us all," I told him, squeezing his shoulder reassuringly.

Denny looked at me for a long moment before he nodded and shook Kade's hand while looking him in the eyes this time. I could not help but smile at this because it was progress. His parents also watched with similar smiles on their faces.

"That's a strong handshake you got there. I promise you that nobody will be treated like this pack treated everyone. Our pack is a family, and everyone who lived in the house with you will be coming back to our pack with us. I'm certain that you'll have a lot of fun there," Kade promised him.

Denny flashed his megawatt smile which was only enhanced by his dimples. Goddess, he was so damn adorable. He would break many hearts as he got older, but he had a good head and heart about him.

I was not certain how many pups there were at Nightshade

that would be around his age, but I was certain there had to be some. It would do him good to develop camaraderie and friendships.

"It's good to see you Jesse. Alpha Kade said that you're all healed up. Just so you two are aware, I'll be fighting Dulaney. I just wanted you to know what was happening in case you didn't want Denny to be here for that."

Jesse snorted and shot daggers at Dulaney. Paula was not any better. Dulaney was a horrendous bastard. He was the worst out of every single warrior in this forsaken pack. There were quite a few 'punishments' that Dulaney aimed towards Denny that I took because I would be damned if he would be allowed to touch the boy. I would never allow him to harm someone like he harmed me.

"That's why we're here. Denny asked if we could come support you because you always supported us," Jesse said to me. His eyes softened when they met my own.

Jesse and Paula had been amazing additions to our group. I admired them from day one because they would do whatever was necessary in order to protect their son. They even put up with all the crap that went on here just to ensure that their son would not become a rogue because that would be damn near a death sentence.

"Well, I appreciate that. Thank you. I'll be even better now since I'll have my favorite little man cheering for me," I said, giving Denny a fist bump.

Kade, Gabriel, and Apollo pulled me off to the side. Thankfully Gabriel already had the wrap ready for my wrist. It

was the only semi-weak spot that I had all thanks to Dulaney.

Kade watched closely. He was not jealous that Gabriel was helping me which was interesting. He had mentioned that he and Tyre talked to Gabriel and Vince about not being upset about the bond at all which was reassuring because they also meant a lot to me. They would never be on the same level as my mates, but there was a shared history and connection that most would never be able to understand. The two of us had each other's backs for a decade. We were the only thing the other had for so long.

"Dulaney fucked up my wrist when I was a pup. It isn't normally an issue, but he always uses it against me. Gabe thought ahead to wrap it so that Dulaney is shit out of luck," I explained to Kade who was trying to figure out what was wrong with my wrist.

A low growl left my mate's lips, and golden shimmers pushed forward. Tyre gently grabbed my hand and put a loving kiss to my wrist. There was a deep rush of protectiveness from him. I could not even begin to imagine how difficult this had truly been on them. My history was not pleasant nor was it easy to stomach. They had to face it head-on but never once made me feel ashamed of it or anything like that.

"Mate, I expect you to be the living shit out of him. There's no doubt that you're one tough wolfy," Tyre said proudly. 1

"Kiss for good luck then?" I asked coyly.

He did not need to be asked twice before he placed a kiss on my lips that left me breathless. We needed to finish all of

this bullshit in order to be done with the day. Newly mated couples typically spent a couple of days together before interacting too much with others. The new bond became overwhelming, so they spent their time exploring it. Sadly, we had other matters to tend to today.

Kade proudly walked me over to the Council who stood around the appointed area for the match. They all looked amused, but Dulaney looked furious. That was enough to amuse me deeply. I basked in the fact that I would finally get to fight back against this piece of shit.

Dulaney sneered at me while he cracked his knuckles. He was trying to intimidate me, but he failed the mark miserably.

"The rules are simple. Everything is legal except weapons and shifting. The match ends with the submission of the other party or them being rendered unconscious. Do you understand the rules set forth?" Carlos, another Council member, asked.

"Perfectly," I said.

"What happens if she dies? Is it legal then?" Dulaney asked with a smirk.

The Council all deferred to me in order to see what I thought about the terms including death. I had nothing to worry about because Dulaney would not get close enough to even begin thinking about killing me. I was confident in my abilities.

"I have no worries. If Dulaney wants to add the potential of his death to the table then so be it," I said, shrugging

nonchalantly. 1

Dulaney snarled at my words but was simply responded to with a sarcastic meow. Everyone that was not him, Beta Oscar, or the Alpha family laughed at that. It just made him even more furious. 1

Carlos instructed us to get in our fighting stances. I cleared my mind and relaxed my body because this was my moment to shine and fight back on behalf of my people.



Shana Allen Author

" I want to thank each of you for your continued support with this story. There are already plans for a sequel to this because we haven't even begun to dig into the meat of the Fated tale. "

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