

Chapter 25 Abelia

Hunter's P.O.V.

Jax is still holding me in his arms, hugging me tightly to his chest and Justice is purring in my head. We both like the feeling of safety we get in his arms, it feels a bit like what we felt as Justin held our hand.

"Are you okay, Princess?" Jax asks and I start to laugh, Dad was right even my Brothers call me Princess. "What is so funny?" He asks and I tell him about my outburst when Dad told us who he really was.

"You made Gabe run away from you?" Jason asks as his eyes move between me and Gabe. Brent and Dad start laughing as Gabe's face turns bright red. Dad decides to tell them about me sneaking up on Victor and now the three of them look at me with wide eyes.

"Okay, whatever happens don't tell Jayce any of this. I want to see what you can do against him tomorrow." Jax says and both Jason and Justin start laughing as I stare at Dad.

"Jayce offered to assess your fighting skills and your Mom wanted a front row seat and a camera set up." He says with a twinkle in his eyes and I burst out in laughter before I wiggle my way out of Jax's arms.

I grab Mom's arm and tell her that I want to show her the gardens I have walked through so far, "I think Dad has some work to do and I need to stretch my legs a bit. Victor, are you coming with us?" I ask and I see Dad nod at him.

As Mom and I enjoy the beauty of the Palace gardens we pass males and females along the way. Most of them bow their heads at me and Mom, but a few females are staring daggers at us.

Instead of talking out loud Mom and I opt for a mind-link conversation instead, "Why are they so disrespectful?" Mom asks. "They don't like you taking King Yummy of the market." I say chuckling and Mom turns a nice shade of red.

"I can't help that the Goddess paired me with Daniel. We both believe that the pairing by the Goddess is something sacred and we both feel that everyone should cherish it." She says.

"Mom, you don't have to defend yourself to me. I believe the same thing and I hope that my Mate is raised the same way. I hope that my Brother's Mates will be raised the same way.

I have a feeling that if their Mates have been with other men, they will be very disappointed in their Mates. I don't know what they would do in that case, so I am hoping for the best." I say to Mom and I know that she hopes with me.

We stop in the middle of a path made out of paver stones and pebbles, just to admire the Dwarf Butterfly bushes to our left and watch as all kinds of butterflies come and go. The scent of Abelia enters my nostrils and I smile as I smell the spicy-sweet fragrance.

It is a scent I have enjoyed my whole life and Mom eventually planted a few near my bedroom window. Not everyone loves the scent, but I can envelop myself with it all day long.

Mom sometimes said I would probably smell like that to my Mate, but I would always tell her that he would smell like that to me and then we would both laugh as we thought of a male smelling like Abelias.

"Mom, do you think Abelias can grow in pots?" I ask her and she knows exactly why I ask. "I don't know, Pumpkin. Maybe Victor knows who the Gardener is and he will be able to tell you."

I turn around to face Victor and ask him if he can ask the Gardener to join us. His eyes glaze over for a second and it doesn't take long before a bulky Lycan comes towards us down the path.

"Victor, what can I do for you?" He asks and Victor turns his attention to us. "Vincent, this is Aspen, King Daniel's second chance and her Daughter, Hunter." He says and Vincent drops to his knee with his head bowed.

"Vincent, will you please get up?" I ask. "I don't mind you showing respect, but you can do that standing on your feet." Victor laughs at the strange look on Vincent's face. "Oh, Fuck. He is your Brother, Victor." I blurt out and now Mom is laughing too.

"Sorry, Vincent. Mom always tells me I have no filter and that I should think before I speak." I say and as I lean forward I say loud enough for Mom to hear, "But where is the fun in that."

Vincent gets up and smiles at me before he turns to Mom and say, "Majesty, I am not sure if I should thank the Goddess for sending her on the Princes' path or that I should feel sorry for them."

Mom and I burst out in laughter and I can see that both Victor and Vincent have trouble keeping a straight face. Once we have calmed down I ask Vincent if Abelias can grow in pots and after I explain why I want to know, he tells me to point out which one I like.

I know exactly which Abelias I want and I point at an Abelia "Kaleidoscope" with showy white flowers. The leaves a bright golden yellow color on green leaves with red stems.

After that I point at an Abelia "Edward Goucher" with small, picturesque flowers in pink and violet shades, which are characterized by red bracts. The tubular flowers appear at the tips of the stem and tops of the leaves.

"Hunter, it looks like you know your Abelias. They are both very beautiful and they will do fine on your balcony. I will take care of it first thing in the morning and I will look after them for you." Vincent says.

"Thank you, Vincent. I will take care of them myself, but if you could look after them if I am away from the Palace I would really appreciate that." He bows his head before he bids us a good day and leaves me and Mom behind with Victor.

We end up in the garden with the heart-shaped planted bushes and Mom and I sit down on a bench facing the Palace. "Mom, when will Daniel grant me access to the Pack and the mind-link?" I ask her as I lean my head back.

"Hunter, I don't think he realizes that you are able to accept the Pack or mind-link. I don't even know if it is normal for a Lycan or Werewolf to be able to do that, when they are as young as you." Mom replies and I tell her that I will ask him at dinner.

"Just make sure no one is eating or drinking, Pumpkin. We don't want them to choke." We both laugh at her remark and that is when Victor tells us we have to head back and get ready for dinner.

"Why don't we impress the hell out of those females and dress up for dinner?" Mom chuckles in my head and I know she understands me perfectly. In my mind I let my wardrobe pass by and I know what I will be wearing to dinner tonight.

I walk into my bathroom with Justice talking in my head about the dress I am going to wear at dinner. After turning the water on I grab the bottles I need and place them on the little shelf against the backwall.

I let the water clatter on my back with my hands against the wall and I stay like that for a few minutes. After tending to my long hair I start soaping up my body, the suds cover my body from top to bottom and I step under the cascading water to rinse them off.

Once I am done I turn of the water and I grab the big pink fluffy towel of the counter. I pull it around me and put my hair in my bright pink hair wrap, before I walk back in to my room.

I walk in to my closet and look at the clothes in there, it isn't much but it is all I need. I place my clothing on my bed and start drying off my body, in the meantime thinking on what to do with my hair.

I still haven't decided on how to wear my hair with my dress when I start putting on my clothes. Mom says I am to young for make-up, so the only thing I have is mascara and it always is enough for me.

I never understand why some females put so much junk on their face, it looks unnaturally and in most cases I think they look like clowns. Especially when a female decides to wear colors that don't suit her.

I have just finished getting ready, when someone knocks on my door and I open the door to see Gabe and Brent standing there. "Princess, you look amazing. Dinner is served in the main dining-hall and I know there are a lot of people who want to meet you and your Mom." Gabe says.

I step in between them and interlink our arms as I tell them to show me the way.