

Alpha Leo and the Heart of Fire Chapter 47

47. Speaking the Truth

LEO.

Two hours

had passed, and I was working with Ace, Jax, Dan and Li Sheng. There was so much I fucking needed to deal with, and although it felt like everything was fucking spiralling out of control, I would fix it.

Emmet had grabbed the chair when I had been distracted by the sheer shock of his revelation. He had slammed it into my back with such force, the leg had ripped through my clothes and back. But I had been far too wrapped up in my own thoughts to realise what had happened, until he was dragged away to his cell, and my men had begun worrying over me. *

The dull ache remained in my back, but it was healing quickly enough. I had had it cleaned and bandaged by one of the guards, not wanting to waste time by going down to the hospital.

“Alright, I need to get going. Start the preparations, Ace you need to get to Web. Dan, check Emmet’s laptop and office, see if you can find any bank statements or if he has any accounts that we don’t know of, or in any other names. Li Sheng have Emmet’s apartment searched, I’ll let Jackie know in advance, so hold up until I give you the order. Jax, try to find out exactly where he created these bullets.

I want to know where he got the funding to create that much without me even fucking realising...” I ordered, frowning as I snapped my laptop shut. “Get ready to execute both options.” 4

“Are you sure these are the only options?” Jax asked, frowning slightly. I had told the five of them about the bullets, having no other option but to bring in all the force I can, and to execute the retrieval of the bullets.

“If Plan A fails, then yeah, this is the only way, but let’s focus on Plan A first. Send our buyer to him, offer him whatever he wants, but I want all those bullets back at any price.”

“This is going to cost us a lot...” Ace frowned.

“It doesn’t matter, I’m not going to risk those bullets out there... if he refuses or doesn’t have answers, then we’ll do this via Plan B. Have everything prepared for that too. I need to have a word with Marcel, but I’ll be available via the mind link throughout. Tonight, I’ll meet you all at Kingdom of Sin.” I stood up when Ace sat forward, sighing.

“What if you asked Alejandro Rossi for assistance?” He said quietly. I frowned, maybe I needed to... I knew I could deal with this shit myself, but the more manpower, the faster the job gets done

“I needed to talk to him anyway... I’ll see what happens. I’m still going to deal with this myself. “I turned and left the office.

Mind linking Jackie, I asked her to come to the large oak tree that wasn’t far from Marcel’s mansion, and wasn’t too far from the hospital either. I had already been given a change of clothes after Emmet’s attack, and so I was going to head straight to Marcel’s after meeting Jackie. It was already late in the afternoon; work had taken fucking longer than I had expected it to.

‘Eric, have you been keeping an eye on Azura?’ ‘Yes, I have. She went to Alpha Marcel’s around lunch, and since then she hasn’t left the mansion.’ She had been on my mind, and although I knew I fucking hurt her last night, there was nothing I planned to do about it. I didn’t want her getting attached. 6 Ok thanks, I’m headed over there myself, I’ll take over watching her.’ ‘Anytime Alpha. Marcel probably invited her over for dinner too... Why am I not fucking surprised. “Leo.” I turned to see Jackie hurrying over. “Hey.” I greeted

Her eyes searched mine before she looked me over, and I knew she was assessing me.

“You need to take it easy.” She said quietly, glancing around.

“I’m fine. I called you because of something I learned about Emmet.” Her face fell and I switched to mind linking. ‘He had stolen a formula of mine and has sold a pretty large number to someone dangerous... I need to have a search of your apartment take place just to see if we can find out any more details. I’m really sorry it’s come to this, but it’s got to be done. You could move out for a night or two, just until we’ve covered the entire place.’

She looked down brokenly and shook her head.

“You can go ahead and search...”

“Thanks... Is there anything you can think of that could help. Any property he may have had that you knew of, or anywhere he could have possibly had the facility to mass produce something?”

“No there’s...” She frowned, and her heart thudded faster as she looked up at me sharply. “There isn’t anywhere I know, but he would often be gone for hours at a time.... And most often it was when you weren’t around. Maybe I’m just being paranoid –”

“No, I don’t think you’re being paranoid. Thanks for sharing that. If you do remember anything else, let me know alright?” She nodded, and I gave her shoulder a squeeze. “You aren’t alone.” I said quietly. She brushed her tears away as she tried not to cry. “Yeah. I know... I... I heard from one of the boys at the hospital that Emmet attacked you today

I didn’t reply, I couldn’t deny it but at the same time, I didn’t want her to feel guilty for it.

“I’ve... made my decision.” She said, twisting her shirt sleeve in her hand.

I looked at her sharply as she struggled to keep her tears at bay. I hooked my thumbs in to the pockets of my pants, waiting for her to speak. Deep down, I wanted her to reject him, but I knew it wasn’t an easy option...

“I’ll... I’m ready to reject him.” She said quietly. “Will you accompany me when I do it?” > Her words filled me with relief. With their bond broken, it would be far easier for her to move on and for me to deal with him.

Sure, I will, I know it’s not easy, but you got this. Things will be rough, but after a while, it will become easier. This isn’t the end, and who knows what the future might hold.” She looked up at me and nodded slowly. “Thanks...”

“Let me know when you want to do it; and we’ll go to see him.”

She nodded before we went our separate ways.

I really hoped she could move on from Emmet and rebuild her life. .

Mates... they were said to be a blessing, but at the same time, I felt like they were also a curse. You couldn’t live without them... and if something was to happen to one, the other would suffer too... 2

I entered the mansion, hearing laughter and silently made my way to the back lounge. The door was slightly ajar and I stayed silent, seeing Marcel sitting on the sofa whilst Corrado and Azura were painting. Corrado was a mess with pain on his face and clothes, whilst Azura was in a slightly better state with a huge piece of paper on the table, as they both finger-painted on the shared paper. 1. She was wearing skinny jeans with a baggy top as she showed Corrado something. Her eyes sparkled and the smile on her face was genuine as she spoke, but I was far too lost in how fucking good she looked to care about what she was saying. “Oh, I get it!” Corrado added, imitating what she was showing him.

“That looks like fun.” Marcel chuckled. I stepped back, unable to face her after how I had hurt her last night...

‘Let’s talk’ I said to Marcel through the link, walking away towards the front of the mansion.

Noticing the boxes that were in the hallway, and the extra staff around, I raised an eyebrow.

But I wasn’t really bothered with what was going on and took a seat, taking out a cigarette. I don’t fucking know how I was going to do this... but I needed to get this shit over with. ‘Good luck’

I froze, frowning slightly as Azura’s voice came into my head.!

“I don’t need luck’ I replied coldly.

‘You sure do, now shut up. You got this.’ Her curt reply came. ‘Always so fucking charming, aren’t you?’ ‘Yeah, well I don’t do charming when it comes to little Alpha Dickface.’ Her clipped reply came. I raised an eyebrow, as just then Marcel entered the room, shutting the door behind him. ‘I’ll deal with you later.’

‘Can’t wait.’ Came her sarcastic reply. “Everything ok Leo?” He asked, concerned, as he took a seat on the sofa opposite.

“Yeah, there was just something I wanted to tell you.” I said smoking my cigarette. I sat forward, resting my elbows on my knees. “Go for it.” He replied, clearly unsure of what to make of it.

Yeah, maybe I needed luck or some shit...

‘Just tell him everything you experienced... how you had to go through so much, and although you dealt with it, it didn’t mean it was easy or fair on you. You suffered, Leo, and it is time to tell him that, no matter how hard it is on him.’ Her voice was soothing and calmer.

‘Yeah, I know the damn deal.’ I replied.

I wouldn’t admit it, but I was fucking grateful for her words. I kinda didn’t know where to start

“What’s with the stuff in the hallway?” I asked, trying to bide time. “Oh well, that’s for tonight.” He smirked, running his fingers through his hair. “What’s happening tonight?”

“Ah, well, it’s just a little dinner for Azura. We haven’t really welcomed her into this pack since she got here and there was something else...”

He didn't want to talk about it, and I frowned but didn't bother questioning him.

"Whatever. What I want to talk about is the past." "The past?" He frowned, becoming serious.

"About the caves, the life of hell that we lived down there... You were one of the luckiest because you were entirely under her control... but what about the rest of us who had to live and deal with the nightmares of that past?"

"Leo..."

"I don't want to fucking sound like I'm whining, but my hatred of everything stems from back then... We went through hell down there." "I know Leo, and I wish I could have done more... you were somewhat immune to her compulsion and—" 2

"Yeah, I was, so I witnessed it all. You just standing there blankly whilst she tortured mom. You know dad, she was expecting when she died? Endora not only killed mom but your unborn child, And I was the one who was forced to stand there and watch it all. Unable to fucking do anything." 1

None of this was coming out like it was meant to, I just sounded like someone being petty—as fuck about an unchangeable past. What purpose would telling him bring? He couldn't change the past. It was done...

- I looked at him. He had turned ashen. He stared at me, his heart was thundering. I could see the toll my words were having on him, and he stood up, clearly shaken.

"Why... Why didn't you tell me she was pregnant? I mean even after..." "Why should I? It would have only hurt you right?" I replied now standing up and turning my back on him, no longer able to handle the look on his face.

"But you kept it inside... suffered all by yourself..."

"Yeah, because I could handle it. Do you know how it felt having to watch you do whatever Endora wanted? And what fucking hurts the most, is when you were given your free will back, you allowed Rayhan to come here and once again hurt our people. I get it, they weren't all good, but you just stood there just like you always did. Doing nothing." I said, hating how my voice was fucking strained and my emotions were showing in it.

"Leo... I failed you, your mother and..."

I closed my eyes, hating that I was causing him pain despite his flaws. I get it... We all make mistakes...

I get that Marcel's hands were tied too...

"No, but you failed my trust. You always say you won't hand over the Alpha title because you feared what I'd do if I were Alpha, but are you really a better Alpha than me? I mean you were never able to protect this pack. Nor your mate... nor your children." I hated hurting him. It fucking hurt me too, but I felt lighter getting it off my chest. "No Leo, I was just worried that you wanted to break away from Alejandro's coun—"

"I'm already running this pack the way I want but once again you keep on putting others first!" I snapped, turning and glaring at him, my eyes a magnetic steely blue, my aura filling the room.

"No Leo, I wanted to give you the—" "What? The Alpha title?" I asked.

He nodded, "Yes, you are ready—"

"No." I cut in, raising my finger. "Na, the only reason you want to pass me that title is because Azura's here, right? Not because you have faith in me but because of her right?"

My anger was raging around me. "Leo... no, I just — you are misunderstanding me, you were always so cold and heartless and." "Yeah I sure am, you sure know your own son. I told you what I needed to, so I'm fucking done." I said, turning to leave the room when he blocked my path.

"Not until you hear me out." He said firmly, his eyes flashing.

I didn't speak, my eyes cold as I waited for him to just say whatever the fuck he wanted. I wanted this conversation to be over and done with here.

"Leo I love you, and I know you feel I chose them over you but I didn't. I love my family, but you are my son. How can I not love you?" His voice was thick with pain as he looked at me with such emotions that I was forced to look away. "I didn't want you to do anything wrong... but know I alone am the one who has withheld that title from you. Alejandro keeps telling me to pass it on to you. Rayhan did too the last time I met him, saying you were capable. They care for you Leo, as do I. Azura or no Azura you deserve this title. As your father, no one will be

happier when you become Alpha than I will be. To see you take the title that belongs to you, to come into that position that you have worked on for so long.”

“Yeah well... It’s too fucking late. You can keep it.” I shot back coldly. “I didn’t come here to beg for that fucking title.”

I’m fucking dying anyway. +

“Leo, let’s put aside our differences.”

There’s too many... and no time. “It’s a little too late for that.” I replied, quietly brushing past him.

He grabbed my arm stopping me with incredible strength. I was still stronger, and if I wanted I could pull away. “Leo. Don’t do this. Please.” He said quietly, his eyes full of emotions. “I’m begging you for forgiveness for not being the father and alpha you needed. I’m sorry. Forgive me, son.” It was too late... but then life was short... “I will hand that title over to

you, not because of anyone, but because you deserve it. You suffered so much and the fact that I didn’t know... I’m sorry. I wish I could turn back time, take your pain, and make it my own. I wish I had been able to protect you from the truth. No son should have to protect his father like that... yet you did.”

I looked away, refusing to answer... refusing to give into the pain and emotions inside of me.

“At least I know my son cares for me.”

I looked at him sharply.

“I always fucking did, you were just too blind to see it.” I said quietly, pulling free from his hold and heading to the door. I had just opened it when he spoke. “Then, one last time, forgive this old man of yours, son, please.” His voice was breaking my resolve and I was about to refuse him when I stopped in my tracks, seeing Azura and Corrado standing there, a few metres from the door, covered in paint, but both had their eyes on me.

‘Forgive him, Leo. Everyone deserves a chance.’ Azura said softly as Corrado watched me, his eyes glistening with unshed tears of confusion. ‘Let it go, Blue-Eyes.’

Our eyes met and I knew the choice was mine, forgive Marcel and move on... or continue with my bitterness, and let it eat me up until I died... I looked down at my own son, before my gaze flickered to her stomach.

If I made

a mistake... I’d want my children to forgive me. – Thad made mistakes too, just like Marcel, like Rayhan... Did I want forgiveness?

I exhaled before taking a long drag of my cigarette. I looked back at Azura, her gorgeous eyes boring into mine. I needed the strength to do this... almost as if understanding she walked over to me, and, uncaring about the paint on her hands, she placed them on my chest, sending intense sparks coursing through me and making Corrado gasp. But we were both too consumed in one another's gaze to realise. 1

It was almost as if she was giving me strength...

Her scent soothed me and the urge to pull her close and bury my nose in her neck tempted me, but... I should stay away from her...

'Don't be so stubborn.' Her voice through the link made me come back to reality. 'Forgive him, Leo.'

I pulled away, blowing out slowly, my mind made up... 1

48. Family AZURA.

I sensed his struggle and knew I had to do something, even if he had been a total asshole to me last night. I mean, he had protected me from Judah and gotten rid of him. 'Don't be so stubborn, forgive him Leo.' I said softly. I wanted to do more... I wanted to cup his face and tell him he wasn't alone, but I couldn't bring myself to do so when he didn't want me, and so I simply tried to comfort him silently through the bond.

He exhaled sharply, taking another drag of his cigarette before he turned back to his father, his tattooed hand closing around my wrist just when I was about to remove it. Not letting me move away.

"It's in the past... You don't need my forgiveness. I just needed it off my chest." Leo said curtly, acting as arrogant as ever, but it was obvious that Marcel's words had gotten to him. "Thank you son, I'm glad you told me." Marcel said quietly, approaching us. The father and son looked at one another, and I slowly tugged my hand free, this was their moment. Corrado's eyes had been glued to Leo's grip on my hand, now flicked to mine. Curiosity, happiness, and still a bit of confusion lingered in those vibrant hazel eyes.

"I really am sorry Leo, and it just shows that I was wrong... Wrong to think of you like that, when I should have known you wouldn't harm anyone innocent." Marcel apologised, placing his hands on his son's shoulders.

I smiled down at Corrado, stepping back and giving his hand a squeeze.

"Yeah, you should have, because if I wanted, we both know that I could have finished Rayhan years ago." He said his voice was equally icy as it was quiet, so Corrado didn't hear.

I admired him, even when his emotions were so intense, he was able to keep himself in check around his son.

"I know what he did was complicated, but he has apologised to Leo. You will be happier if you let it go." If Marcel knew he was planning on talking to him I knew he'd be proud of him. Truly proud. "Yeah, well let's not get ahead." Leo replied coldly. Marcel smiled slightly and nodded. "Yes, you're right. I lost my mate and a child I never knew of... but I'm so grateful that I still have you. You are my greatest blessing." He said quietly, his voice thick with emotions. Goddess, it was too damn emotional! Marcel stepped closer to Leo and embraced him, Leo stiffened almost as if not used to it... "If you have truly forgiven me... I wish you would try to bring yourself to call me Dad again." He said so quietly that I just about caught it. &

Urgh, I'm going to blame the pregnancy hormones, this is not meant to be emotional! How the hell was Leo so stiff and cool? 2

I knew both were hurting and it made my heart ache to witness this... Life really was short and looking at Marcel now, I realised in a way, he really was alone... No mate, and his own son had pushed him away. Even if he did have other family, it wasn't the same.

Damnit, hug him.

Slowly, Leo raised his arms, embracing his father, and I smiled down at Corrado, who was watching with wide eyes. I was sure even he realised his father wasn't very close to Marcel. 1

I hope that changes going forward...

"I have never seen Daddy hug Grandad." He said in a loud whisper. 2

Marcel chuckled as Leo moved back. He was as stoic as ever, but when our eyes met, he was unable to hide the fact that they were full of emotions. I knew it wasn't easy for him... but I truly was proud of him.

"Come on over here, son." Marcel motioned him over, his arm still around Leo's shoulders, as Leo simply took a drag on the cigarette he was still holding.

"Group hug!" Corrado exclaimed, running over to them.

"Yes, you too, Azura." Marcel smiled.

My eyes widened slightly, not expecting that. “I don’t think—”
“Come on Azura, we are having a family hug!” Corrado said, turning and beckoning me over.

“Family hug...” I placed my hand on my stomach for a second, feeling Leo’s eyes on me, before I walked over to them as Marcel lifted Corrado into his arms.

“Yes, Azura is family, isn’t she?” He asked Corrado as I stopped a little away, feeling awkward. Leo’s scent didn’t help matters either...

With Marcel’s hands busy, did he expect me to hug Sexy Alpha Dickface? No, I so wasn’t going to do that. I’m still going to get that staple gun and execute my revenge... 3

“Yes, she is, we are going to keep her” Corrado whispered into Marcel’s ear, making my eyebrow shoot up. 2 He let out a laugh before nodding “Yes, I like the idea.”

Leo frowned.

“Are we done yet?” He asked coldly. “Oh no Daddy, we have to have a group hug!” Corrado reminded him, holding his arm out to me. At the same moment, Leo reached out, his arm snaking around my waist as he pulled me close.

My heart pounded, the electrifying sparks of the bond dizzying. Our eyes met for a moment, and I could hear his heart deceive him.

So close... yet so far away... 2 I placed my hand on his shoulder, placing my other hand on Marcel’s back. Forcing my gaze away from Leo’s, I rested my head against Corrado’s. He giggled, resting his hand on top of mine.

“I love you Azura!”

My heart thundered as I looked up into that innocent face of his.

“I love you too.” I whispered, reaching up I kissed his nose and smiled at him.

Somehow this little gem had made a special space inside of my heart...

There were just too many emotions inside of me... 1

Deep down past that stubborn ass exterior of mine, was it wrong that I wanted this? Wanted Leo... wanted to have Corrado in my life? Wanted Marcel to get to see his next grandchild grow up around him too?

My breath hitched when I felt Leo’s fingers caress the side of my stomach. My heart pounded as I turned my eyes hesitantly to his.

Those icy blues that I loved so much stared back into mine with such intensity, that I almost forgot to breathe... "I'll put them..."

We all turned to see Winona standing there holding some dress bags, freezing in her tracks as she realised the room wasn't empty.

"I'm so sorry." She said quickly, looking flustered, as Leo moved back first.

"Not at all," Marcel said, smiling slightly. "We were just having a moment, and I appreciate all the help. You didn't have to do any of this." He walked over to her, and she smiled slightly, nodding. 1

"Thank you, Alpha." She replied, looking down at the bags. "I'll take them." Marcel offered, "We all need a change of clothes anyway."

I watched curiously, wondering what those clothes were for. Marcel's words made me realise I had put paint on Leo, and Corrado had put some in my hair and all over Marcel. "Ah, this one is yours." Marcel said, passing one of the bags back to her. Winona looked at him surprised. 1 "Alpha, I can't accept this..." She turned to Leo for help, looking confused. "You are as much part of this family as the rest of us. You have taken care of my grandson, and that alone is enough. Since it's of your choosing, you can't really refuse." Marcel said firmly. "Alpha." She looked at Leo who simply raised an eyebrow. 1 "I don't know what she is going on, but you agreed to help him." He said smoking his cigarette, smoothly stopping himself from swearing. "And that should be enough of an answer to show you can't refuse. Alpha's orders." Marcel said dismissively.

Winona stared

down at the dress, her cheeks burning as she tried her best to protest. "I didn't realise it was for me..." She mumbled. "You will look great in it." Marcel said confidently, making her blush deeper and become even more flustered. "Now pass this one to Rosaline for me?" He added, not even realising the flustered mess he had left the poor woman in, as he passed her another bag. 2 Well, even I had to admit Marcel was some fine wine, what woman wouldn't get hot and bothered? I smirked, finding it rather amusing.

She nodded, looking at me for help. And although I kind of got what was going on, I wasn't going to side with her when I thought she sure as hell deserved that dress.

"So, what are these dresses for?" I asked, going over.

"The party tonight." Marcel explained, smirking slightly. "Party?" Leo asked sharply. "Oh yeah, a party! Me and granddad planned it! It's for Azura!" Corrado gushed. "I want you to look pretty in that dress Winnie! You helped us too!" "Did she now." Leo remarked, his voice sounding deep

and rough, as Winona lowered her head apologetically. I couldn't help but smirk. "What's wrong? Never been to a party before?" I taunted him.

"Only the ones I need to." He shot back.

"Well, you need to come to this one." Marcel added. "It's for Azura, I don't need to, I agreed to come to dinner... not to a party."

Corrado turned, his smile vanishing as he stared at Leo.

"Daddy..." "You won't come, Weo?" I asked, turning to him and giving him the best innocent face that I could muster, 2

I so hoped it worked... Please do not be immune like Mama!

He looked at me as I stared back doe-eyed, my lips set in a downwards pout.

His eyes flashed as he narrowed them.

"That doesn't fucking work on me." His arrogant voice came through the link.

Damnit.

'Oh? That's ok, because although I'm never enough for you, I seem to be enough for your body.' I taunted, my innocent expression replaced by a seductive one. I slowly ran my tongue along my lips, smirking when he swallowed, his gaze dipping to my lips. His nostrils flared and his eyes flashed. See?' 4 I turned my back on him before he could even reply.

One point to me! 1 "Winona, show Azura to one of the rooms upstairs so she can get ready too. We don't have long, and I know women take pretty long." "Right away, Alpha." Winona smiled, before she took my dress bag from Marcel and motioned for me to follow.

I didn't bother looking back at Leo, feeling his gaze burn into me before I left the room. I wasn't sure why Marcel was throwing this dinner party, and although I had made it clear to him earlier that Leo wanted nothing to do with me, he didn't seem to get it... Well, there was nothing I could do about that I guess.

I will just enjoy all the delicious food tonight and not think about anything else.

Winona instantly forced me to go shower, saying I had paint all over, which I did.

In the shower alone, my mind drifted to everything else that was going on.

Judah was gone, Song was safe, although she was still recovering in the hospital.

I felt light, relieved, and content.

He would never be able to bother me again. I felt relieved that he was gone. Everything would be ok now, right? 3

I guess... after the visit to Alejandro's pack, I would return home... Which meant before I left, I would need to ask Leo what he wanted to do regarding the baby...

Did he want to set up a day every week or month that he wanted to see him or her?

Then again, he's a busy man...

What should I do? I mean even though he didn't want me in his life, I wanted him in this child's life.

When I was younger, I always used to say that once you mess with the devil... there's no escape ... but it was obvious if I wanted him, I was going to have to be the one to break down those walls... Do I want him? 2

He can go fuck himself. 4

Ass.

I sighed, running my hand over my stomach, I could feel the slight curve to my stomach now. If it hadn't already gotten out by now, I guess it would have any day now...

I stepped out of the shower, drying my hair with a towel before I wrapped it around myself and entered the bedroom. My face lit up when I saw Song, sitting on the bed as both she and Winona stopped talking, turning and looking at me. "Song!" I rushed over, pouncing on her and crushing her in a hug. "Hey, owow..."

"Shit sorry I forgot your hurt!" I quickly got off her, only for Winona to chuckle. "Well, I'll leave you two to it, Alpha Marcel needs me downstairs. Someone will pop in to do your hair and make-up soon." She said with a small smile.

"My hair and make-up?" I asked. She paused at the door and looked over her shoulder at me. "Of course, Alpha Marcel insisted that you have everything you need." 1 The door shut and I looked at Song, planting my hands on my hips.

"What were you two discussing?"

"I don't know, but... check the dress out..." She tilted her head towards the bed next to her, and my gaze fell on the top dress bag.

Unzipping it I stared at the stunning dress that was inside. Somehow... This didn't feel like just any ordinary dinner party.

Hmm, what was Marcel planning? He and Corrado, together thrown in with Winona, meant trouble. And although the Westwood Devil could handle trouble... I wasn't so sure about a cherub, an angel, and an alpha with a wish... A

Goddess
these three really were trying to get Leo and I together.... I tilted my head, an idea popping into my head. Well, even if they were just hoping for something that would never happen, I couldn't throw out the chance to torture Leo. I mean sure, I wasn't as hot as Nikki, but thanks to the mate bond, he was attracted to me. "Oh, you're up to something..." Song replied, smiling slightly. "Hmm maybe..." "Tell me what's going through that naughty brain of yours..." "I'm just thinking I might take a note out of Mama's book, and show Little Alpha exactly how a Westwood woman rocks the colour red... 8

Tonight, I plan to be the devil in red, and I will make the most of the mate bond to mess with him.

Oh Little Weo, you are so damn screwed.

49. A Call

LEO.

She played me fucking dirty and left. But despite the fucking beast she awoke within me, it was her words that really got to me. 'Although I'm not enough for you...'

If I wasn't half as stubborn as I fucking was, I would have told her the truth that that shit ain't true... But yeah, that's all there fucking was to it...

I felt lighter getting that over with, and it reminded me of the past when I at least had my father... It's just a shame it's too late for all of that to be back. Right?

I was delaying... I knew I was far past the stage of Kiara being able to help me, but I don't think I wanted to hear it. Even if I already knew the truth.

I pushed the thought away thinking back to the moment between Azura and Corrado.

Corrado has only ever said 'I love you' to three people before now; Dad, Winona, and me. It had hit hard... He had taken to her, I didn't need any more fucking signs that she was meant for me.

That hatred I felt... even the word elites... it all seemed so fucking far in the past... I walked to the bottom of the garden of the mansion and pulled out my phone. Time to ring Alejandro. I smoked my cigarette while looking down at my phone. Although I did not want to hear his cocky comebacks right now, I couldn't delay it.

I found his number and hit call. He answered after a few rings.

"Leo." His voice was level, yet it was obvious he was happy to get this damn call.

"Alejandro." I replied.

"I'm getting lucky with all the calls. How are you?"

Not so fucking good.

"Perfect."

"Good to hear. How's your son, or should I say, my grandson?"

I frowned, obviously that wasn't going to stay a secret forever.

"Stop acting like I consider you anything close to a father." I replied icily, refusing to answer his question. "I called for a reason."

"You always fucking do."

Just get it over with Leo...

"Arrange a meeting at your pack with the Alpha of the Black Storm, I need to speak to him." I said coldly.

There was a pause before I heard the sound of a cigarette being lit.

"With Rayhan... is everything ok?" He asked, concern now evident in his voice.

"Perfectly." I replied.

"So you're ready to talk to him."

I did not want him thinking this shit was from me...

"I made a deal with Azura that we will both do what we don't want to, she'll talk to her brother Atlas Kamdon, in return."

He let out a low chuckle.

"You two are fucking perfect together, if in that short time you both have gotten each other to do the two things both your families have been trying to get you to do. I'm fucking impressed."

Yeah, she got me to agree to shit I refused to for years. I know that, somehow. Even when I kept her at arm's length...

"It was a deal, nothing to be so fucking impressed about."

"Oh yeah? Well, it fucking worked. I'll get that meeting sorted. How soon are you looking for?"

"How soon can he fucking do it? I'm sure he's either fucking too busy with his hair, or some other weird shit like his singing." 7

"Got to give it to him, he can sing, and that video that went fucking viral years back was courtesy of Skyla, who wanted him to be her popstar cousin. He's quite a popular search on BlueXZ, I'm surprised you didn't have him pulled down since you're the owner of it."

I hated him, but I made sure to keep an eye on all news I could get, but I wasn't going to waste my time pulling him from the fucking net. After all, I'm the one who fucking created the search engine BlueXZ. It was accessible only to the supernatural, and something that was now beginning to be used across the continent. Alejandro knew I was the creator of it, I knew that from Marcel since he used to always fucking share whatever shit I was up to. Years back, when I first created it, I had been surprised that Alejandro had verified it as safe, although he had never commented on it to me, but it was now something used frequently. I had a team that was ever-growing, but to expand it, the Sangue Pack just wasn't enough, but I always refused to branch out to other packs.

"I don't have time to bother with the likes of him."

Until now anyway, since I'm fucking trying to set a meeting between us.

"Fair enough, that was a smart move... If you ever want to expand, let me know. There are plenty of people who would love to work for such a company..."

"Hmm."

“You know... Azura hasn’t had the easiest life, Leo.” I frowned, and although I wanted to tell him to fuck off, I also wanted to hear what he had to say. “She may have been raised in one of the most powerful packs in the country, but due to her birth, she has had a lot of negativity from many. Even at the academy, she was classed as the troubled child, and had been suspended several times for getting into fights. She’s a good kid, and she has a good heart with a tough fucking exterior, but don’t let it fucking fool you. Don’t hurt her, you already did that by rejecting her after marking her. I’m fucking surprised she’s able to stay strong after that... It’s going to take time for her and her wolf to heal. But just don’t fucking hurt her again, at least remember that she’s carrying your pup.”

I knew that... and I knew the extent of what my rejection did to her.

“Yeah, I know. Text me the date and we’ll be there.”

“One hundred fucking percent, bring your pup. I want to see him.” He replied, not pushing me.

I didn’t reply and hung up. I didn’t want to take Corrado because although he was an Alpha

pup,

Stefan was nowhere near as strong as me... I didn’t want anyone to ever fucking question his birth...

I slipped my phone into my pocket as I finished smoking my cigarette. I guess I’ll go get ready for this thing, and I couldn’t wait to see what exactly she was wearing because, according to Corrado, she was going to look ‘so so so so pretty.’

Heck, she could be covered in garbage, and I’d still think she looked fucking gorgeous. I’d always remember the first time she caught my eye; it was before the bond snapped in to place and something about that always felt perfect...

I hid my smirk making my way back inside.

It was two hours later, and I had changed into a black pair of pants, and a white shirt with my sleeves pushed up and a few buttons left open.

I looked in the mirror applying some cologne before I began styling my hair. Not sure why the fuck I was putting in the effort, but... I looked good. I could hear the music being played outside, whoever was in charge of it wasn’t doing so bad.

The current song reminded me of Azura and me. I paused for a moment, the words resonating in my head.

Smoking just to forget life... We might just be dancing... dancing to forget..." Suddenly the night didn't seem so bad... to spend it with my family... with her. Who knows if the chance will come again.

11

Although I wondered what exactly Marcel had planned, it wouldn't stop me from at least relaxing a little.

Alejandro had replied saying he had scheduled the meeting for the day after tomorrow, but we were welcome to come earlier. Now that a date was fucking set I wasn't looking forward to it.

I had just put my shoes on, deciding to deal with some emails one of the boys had sent me on my phone, when there was a knock on the door.

"I'm coming in!" Corrado said, trying the handle and running inside without waiting for a reply.

I raised an eyebrow as he stood there, hands on hips, looking me over.

"You look good, kid." I said, he was dressed in black jeans, white blazer and a red shirt.

"Yes, Daddy but I need to check if you look good too! I saw Azura. She looked so beautiful." He said dramatically, before glancing towards the door as if someone might hear him.

"Oh yeah?" I asked, fucking hating that my heart had to race.

What the fuck was I? A damn teen?

"Yes Daddy, but I can't tell you what she's wearing. It's a surprise, so come on! We need to go down before Azura goes down!" He said, pulling at my arm.

I stood up not knowing if I should tell him that she was expecting... I knew he'd find out sooner or later, I just didn't want him to hear it from someone else... How would I explain it

to him? Life could be so damn complicated... and yeah, I fucking know half of it is my own fucking ego that made it harder. a

Too bad I ain't fucking changing.

I left the room, allowing Corrado to think he was pulling me along. His little legs running to keep up with my stride as we made our way downstairs...

Alpha Leo and the Heart of Fire Chapter 48

48. Family AZURA.

I sensed his struggle and knew I had to do something, even if he had been a total asshole to me last night. I mean, he had protected me from Judah and gotten rid of him. 'Don't be so stubborn, forgive him Leo.' I said softly. I wanted to do more... I wanted to cup his face and tell him he wasn't alone, but I couldn't bring myself to do so when he didn't want me, and so I simply tried to comfort him silently through the bond.

He exhaled sharply, taking another drag of his cigarette before he turned back to his father, his tattooed hand closing around my wrist just when I was about to remove it. Not letting me move away.

"It's in the past... You don't need my forgiveness. I just needed it off my chest." Leo said curtly, acting as arrogant as ever, but it was obvious that Marcel's words had gotten to him. "Thank you son, I'm glad you told me." Marcel said quietly, approaching us. The father and son looked at one another, and I slowly tugged my hand free, this was their moment. Corrado's eyes had been glued to Leo's grip on my hand, now flicked to mine. Curiosity, happiness, and still a bit of confusion lingered in those vibrant hazel eyes.

"I really am sorry Leo, and it just shows that I was wrong... Wrong to think of you like that, when I should have known you wouldn't harm anyone innocent." Marcel apologised, placing his hands on his son's shoulders.

I smiled down at Corrado, stepping back and giving his hand a squeeze.

"Yeah, you should have, because if I wanted, we both know that I could have finished Rayhan years ago." He said his voice was equally icy as it was quiet, so Corrado didn't hear.

I admired him, even when his emotions were so intense, he was able to keep himself in check around his son.

"I know what he did was complicated, but he has apologised Leo. You will be happier if you let it go." If Marcel knew he was planning on talking to him I knew he'd be proud of him. Truly proud. "Yeah, well let's not get ahead." Leo replied coldly. Marcel smiled slightly and nodded. "Yes, you're right. I lost my mate and a child I never knew of... but I'm so grateful that I still have you. You are my greatest blessing." He said quietly, his voice thick with emotions. Goddess, it was too damn emotional! Marcel stepped closer to Leo and embraced him, Leo stiffened almost as if not used to it... "If you have truly forgiven me... I wish you would try to bring yourself to call me Dad again." He said so quietly that I just about caught it. &

Urgh, I'm going to blame the pregnancy hormones, this is not meant to be emotional! How the hell was Leo so stiff and cool? 2

I knew both were hurting and it made my heart ache to witness this... Life really was short and looking at Marcel now, I realised in a way, he really was alone... No mate, and his own son had pushed him away. Even if he did have other family, it wasn't the same.

Damnit, hug him.

Slowly, Leo raised his arms, embracing his father, and I smiled down at Corrado, who was watching with wide eyes. I was sure even he realised his father wasn't very close to Marcel. 1

I hope that changes going forward...

"I have never seen Daddy hug Grandad." He said in a loud whisper. 2

Marcel chuckled as Leo moved back. He was as stoic as ever, but when our eyes met, he was unable to hide the fact that they were full of emotions. I knew it wasn't easy for him... but I truly was proud of him.

"Come on over here, son." Marcel motioned him over, his arm still around Leo's shoulders, as Leo simply took a drag on the cigarette he was still holding.

"Group hug!" Corrado exclaimed, running over to them.

"Yes, you too, Azura." Marcel smiled.

My eyes widened slightly, not expecting that. "I don't think—" "Come on Azura, we are having a family hug!" Corrado said, turning and beckoning me over.

"Family hug..." I placed my hand on my stomach for a second, feeling Leo's eyes on me, before I walked over to them as Marcel lifted Corrado into his arms.

"Yes, Azura is family, isn't she?" He asked Corrado as I stopped a little away, feeling awkward. Leo's scent didn't help matters either...

With Marcel's hands busy, did he expect me to hug Sexy Alpha Dickface? No, I so wasn't going to do that. I'm still going to get that staple gun and execute my revenge... 3

"Yes, she is, we are going to keep her" Corrado whispered into Marcel's ear, making my eyebrow shoot up. 2 He let out a laugh before nodding "Yes, I like the idea."

Leo frowned.

“Are we done yet?” He asked coldly. “Oh no Daddy, we have to have a group hug!” Corrado reminded him, holding his arm out to me. At the same moment, Leo reached out, his arm snaking around my waist as he pulled me close.

My heart pounded, the electrifying sparks of the bond dizzying. Our eyes met for a moment, and I could hear his heart deceive him.

So close... yet so far away... 2 I placed my hand on his shoulder, placing my other hand on Marcel's back. Forcing my gaze away from Leo's, I rested my head against Corrado's. He giggled, resting his hand on top of mine.

“I love you Azura!”

My heart thundered as I looked up into that innocent face of his.

“I love you too.” I whispered, reaching up I kissed his nose and smiled at him.

Somehow this little gem had made a special space inside of my heart...

There were just too many emotions inside of me... 1

Deep down past that stubborn ass exterior of mine, was it wrong that I wanted this? Wanted Leo... wanted to have Corrado in my life? Wanted Marcel to get to see his next grandchild grow up around him too?

My breath hitched when I felt Leo's fingers caress the side of my stomach. My heart pounded as I turned my eyes hesitantly to his.

Those icy blues that I loved so much stared back into mine with such intensity, that I almost forgot to breathe... “I'll put them...”

We all turned to see Winona standing there holding some dress bags, freezing in her tracks as she realised the room wasn't empty.

“I'm so sorry.” She said quickly, looking flustered, as Leo moved back first.

“Not at all,” Marcel said, smiling slightly. “We were just having a moment, and I appreciate all the help. You didn't have to do any of this.” He walked over to her, and she smiled slightly, nodding. 1

“Thank you, Alpha.” She replied, looking down at the bags. “I'll take them.” Marcel offered, “We all need a change of clothes anyway.”

I watched curiously, wondering what those clothes were for. Marcel's words made me realise I had put paint on Leo, and Corrado had put some in my hair and all over Marcel. “Ah, this one is yours.” Marcel said, passing

one of the bags back to her. Winona looked at him surprised. 1 “Alpha, I can’t accept this...” She turned to Leo for help, looking confused. “You are as much part of this family as the rest of us. You have taken care of my grandson, and that alone is enough. Since it’s of your choosing, you can’t really refuse.” Marcel said firmly. “Alpha.” She looked at Leo who simply raised an eyebrow. 1 “I don’t know what she is going on, but you agreed to help him.” He said smoking his cigarette, smoothly stopping himself from swearing. “And that should be enough of an answer to show you can’t refuse. Alpha’s orders.” Marcel said dismissively.

Winona stared

down at the dress, her cheeks burning as she tried her best to protest. “I didn’t realise it was for me...” She mumbled. “You will look great in it.” Marcel said confidently, making her blush deeper and become even more flustered. “Now pass this one to Rosaline for me?” He added, not even realising the flustered mess he had left the poor woman in, as he passed her another bag. 2 Well, even I had to admit Marcel was some fine wine, what woman wouldn’t get hot and bothered? I smirked, finding it rather amusing.

She nodded, looking at me for help. And although I kind of got what was going on, I wasn’t going to side with her when I thought she sure as hell deserved that dress.

“So, what are these dresses for?” I asked, going over.

“The party tonight.” Marcel explained, smirking slightly. “Party?” Leo asked sharply. “Oh yeah, a party! Me and granddad planned it! It’s for Azura!” Corrado gushed. “I want you to look pretty in that dress Winnie! You helped us too!” “Did she now.” Leo remarked, his voice sounding deep and rough, as Winona lowered her head apologetically. I couldn’t help but smirk. “What’s wrong? Never been to a party before?” I taunted him.

“Only the ones I need to.” He shot back.

“Well, you need to come to this one.” Marcel added. “It’s for Azura, I don’t need to, I agreed to come to dinner... not to a party.”

Corrado turned, his smile vanishing as he stared at Leo.

“Daddy...” “You won’t come, Weo?” I asked, turning to him and giving him the best innocent face that I could muster, 2

I so hoped it worked... Please do not be immune like Mama!

He looked at me as I stared back doe-eyed, my lips set in a downwards pout.

His eyes flashed as he narrowed them.

“That doesn’t fucking work on me.” His arrogant voice came through the link.

Damnit.

‘Oh? That’s ok, because although I’m never enough for you, I seem to be enough for your body.’ I taunted, my innocent expression replaced by a seductive one. I slowly ran my tongue along my lips, smirking when he swallowed, his gaze dipping to my lips. His nostrils flared and his eyes flashed. See?’ 4 I turned my back on him before he could even reply.

One point to me! 1 “Winona, show Azura to one of the rooms upstairs so she can get ready too. We don’t have long, and I know women take pretty long.” “Right away, Alpha.” Winona smiled, before she took my dress bag from Marcel and motioned for me to follow.

I didn’t bother looking back at Leo, feeling his gaze burn into me before I left the room. I wasn’t sure why Marcel was throwing this dinner party, and although I had made it clear to him earlier that Leo wanted nothing to do with me, he didn’t seem to get it... Well, there was nothing I could do about that I guess.

I will just enjoy all the delicious food tonight and not think about anything else.

Winona instantly forced me to go shower, saying I had paint all over, which I did.

In the shower alone, my mind drifted to everything else that was going on.

Judah was gone, Song was safe, although she was still recovering in the hospital.

I felt light, relieved, and content.

He would never be able to bother me again. I felt relieved that he was gone. Everything would be ok now, right? 3

I guess... after the visit to Alejandro’s pack, I would return home... Which meant before I left, I would need to ask Leo what he wanted to do regarding the baby...

Did he want to set up a day every week or month that he wanted to see him or her?

Then again, he’s a busy man...

What should I do? I mean even though he didn’t want me in his life, I wanted him in this child’s life.

When I was younger, I always used to say that once you mess with the devil... there's no escape ... but it was obvious if I wanted him, I was going to have to be the one to break down those walls... Do I want him? 2

He can go fuck himself. 4

Ass.

I sighed, running my hand over my stomach, I could feel the slight curve to my stomach now. If it hadn't already gotten out by now, I guess it would have any day now...

I stepped out of the shower, drying my hair with a towel before I wrapped it around myself and entered the bedroom. My face lit up when I saw Song, sitting on the bed as both she and Winona stopped talking, turning and looking at me. "Song!" I rushed over, pouncing on her and crushing her in a hug. "Hey, owow..."

"Shit sorry I forgot your hurt!" I quickly got off her, only for Winona to chuckle. "Well, I'll leave you two to it, Alpha Marcel needs me downstairs. Someone will pop in to do your hair and make-up soon." She said with a small smile.

"My hair and make-up?" I asked. She paused at the door and looked over her shoulder at me. "Of course, Alpha Marcel insisted that you have everything you need." 1 The door shut and I looked at Song, planting my hands on my hips.

"What were you two discussing?"

"I don't know, but... check the dress out..." She tilted her head towards the bed next to her, and my gaze fell on the top dress bag.

Unzipping it I stared at the stunning dress that was inside. Somehow... This didn't feel like just any ordinary dinner party.

Hmm, what was Marcel planning? He and Corrado, together thrown in with Winona, meant trouble. And although the Westwood Devil could handle trouble... I wasn't so sure about a cherub, an angel, and an alpha with a wish... A

Goddess

these three really were trying to get Leo and I together.... I tilted my head, an idea popping into my head. Well, even if they were just hoping for something that would never happen, I couldn't throw out the chance to torture Leo. I mean sure, I wasn't as hot as Nikki, but thanks to the mate bond, he was attracted to me. "Oh, you're up to something..." Song replied, smiling slightly. "Hmm maybe..." "Tell me what's going through that naughty brain of yours..." "I'm just

thinking I might take a note out of Mama's book, and show Little Alpha exactly how a Westwood woman rocks the colour red... 8

Tonight, I plan to be the devil in red, and I will make the most of the mate bond to mess with him.

Oh Little Weo, you are so damn screwed.

49. A Call

LEO.

She

played me fucking dirty and left. But despite the fucking beast she awoke within me, it was as her words that really got to me. 'Although I'm not enough for you...'

If I wasn't half as stubborn as I fucking was, I would have told her the truth that that shit ain't true... But yeah, that's all there fucking was to it...

I felt lighter getting that over with, and it reminded me of the past when I at least had my father... It's just a shame it's too late for all of that to be back. Right?

I was delaying... I knew I was far past the stage of Kiara being able to help me, but I don't think I wanted to hear it. Even if I already knew the truth.

I pushed the thought away thinking back to the moment between Azura and Corrado.

Corrado has only ever said 'I love you' to three people before now; Dad, Winona, and me. It had hit hard... He had taken to her, I didn't need any more fucking signs that she was meant for me.

That hatred I felt... even the word elites... it all seemed so fucking far in the past... I walked to the bottom of the garden of the mansion and pulled out my phone. Time to ring Alejandro. I smoked my cigarette while looking down at my phone. Although I did not want to hear his cocky comebacks right now, I couldn't delay it.

I found his number and hit call. He answered after a few rings.

"Leo." His voice was level, yet it was obvious he was happy to get this damn call.

"Alejandro." I replied.

"I'm getting lucky with all the calls. How are you?"

Not so fucking good.

“Perfect.”

“Good to hear. How’s your son, or should I say, my grandson?”

I frowned, obviously that wasn’t going to stay a secret forever.

“Stop acting like I consider you anything close to a father.” I replied icily, refusing to answer his question. “I called for a reason.”

“You always fucking do.”

Just get it over with Leo...

“Arrange a meeting at your pack with the Alpha of the Black Storm, I need to speak to him.” I said coldly.

There was a pause before I heard the sound of a cigarette being lit.

“With Rayhan... is everything ok?” He asked, concern now evident in his voice.

“Perfectly.” I replied.

“So you’re ready to talk to him.”

I did not want him thinking this shit was from me...

“I made a deal with Azura that we will both do what we don’t want to, she’ll talk to her brother Atlas Kamdon, in return.”

He let out a low chuckle.

“You two are fucking perfect together, if in that short time you both have gotten each other to do the two things both your families have been trying to get you to do. I’m fucking impressed.”

Yeah, she got me to agree to shit I refused to for years. I know that, somehow. Even when I kept her at arm’s length...

“It was a deal, nothing to be so fucking impressed about.”

“Oh yeah? Well, it fucking worked. I’ll get that meeting sorted. How soon are you looking for?”

“How soon can he fucking do it? I’m sure he’s either fucking too busy with his hair, or some other weird shit like his singing.” 7

“Got to give it to him, he can sing, and that video that went fucking viral years back was courtesy of Skyla, who wanted him to be her popstar cousin. He’s quite a popular search on BlueXZ, I’m surprised you didn’t have him pulled down since you’re the owner of it.”

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