

Chapter 59

IVY

After the strange fiasco this morning, once I step out of the room, the strange foggiess and the territorial behavior diminish, and I'm fine. I walk the castle grounds with Abbie by my side most of the day.

It's peaceful, yet I feel different. Everything feels more enhanced, even my sight, sense of taste, and touch. It feels more intense and foreign. Even the colors have changed a little. Everything appears different, brighter, yet also the same.

Abbie looks at me strangely when I try to explain it to her. She appears worried as if she's expecting me to return to the mess I was in last night. I know I must have scared her. It scared me, too. The last couple of days have been bizarre.

I try to remain away from the bedroom all day, only going up there if it's vital. Dustin doesn't seem to mind following me around and appears to enjoy the sunset as we head back toward the castle from the rear gardens.

King Kyson still hasn't returned, and no one has heard from him. Beta Damian has been on edge all day because he can't get a hold of him or

any of the King's guards. He left to contact the old Alpha to see if he was gone.

As I approach the stairs leading back to the castle, I hear car tires on the gravel and the shouts of men. My heart speeds up as I listen to the doors closing in the distance, and I know he's back.

"That would be your King, Miss Ivy," Dustin says, and I feel giddy knowing I am about to see him. I've missed him so much; one night away felt like a lifetime.

"Go on. I know you want to see your future husband," Abbie giggles. I slap her arm, and she returns it with a hug. "I have to go help Clarice with the upcoming celebrations," Abbie tells me.

"What celebrations?" I ask her. She shrugs and smiles.

"Oh, nothing you need to worry about. Now go see the King. I bet he missed you just as much as you missed him," she says as we approach the front of the castle.

Abbie goes toward the kitchens, and I move toward the stairs. I race up them, taking them two at a time. Though I become puffed out by the time I reach the top, Dustin chuckles as he walks ahead before taking his usual spot outside our door.

My world stands still when I enter the corridor and spot the King at the other end. A gasp escapes me, and the same giddy feeling I have had all day whenever I went into his room returns, only a million times more potent. My chest constricts, and my heart swells with love as I stare at him.

Every particle of me wants to race toward him, my soul yearning for him, for my mate. The King is my mate. THE KING IS MY MATE!

I feel my lips tug up as excitement bubbles within me.

Dreams can come true, and I couldn't ask for a better mate. I loved him before I even knew he was my mate. So this is just the topping on the cake. He is truly mine, and my eyes light up when I realize. Dustin, I notice, smiles at my excitement at seeing him, and I am all but bouncing on my feet.

My feet move before I can contain my excitement, my footsteps loud on the floors. My King, my mate, is standing talking to his Beta. They seem deep in conversation as I get closer.

"Kyson!" I shriek excitedly and rush toward him. I have never been so happy. It explains so much. Did he know? He had to have known, and he kept it to himself. Did he want me to figure it out on my own? I have so many questions. My heart leaps in my chest as I race toward him. My stomach feels like it is filled with butterflies; I'm that excited.

His entire body tenses, his posture straightens, and he steals the air from my lungs when he turns around to face me, and I see his handsome face.

“Mate,” I whisper, trying to contain my joy as I rush toward him when suddenly my entire body seizes mid-stride. It’s like I hit a brick wall. Every part of me locks up painfully; my muscles seize and cramp. Then pain slivers through my veins, and I feel like I’ve been punched in the stomach.

“Halt,” comes one word, one full-blown command. I never would’ve believed it came from Kyson if I hadn’t seen his lips move.

My entire body becomes immobile as his aura rushes over me like the weight of a car crushing me. It feels so heavy I find it difficult to breathe, crushing the air from my lungs. Like a stone tossed in a lake, my stomach sinks painfully, yet the sinking feeling has no end, like a bottomless pit. Only then do I finally take in his expression.

A murderous glare pins me to the spot, his aura making my knees shake. Sweat coats my skin, and my entire body burns. It feels like he has set me alight and is watching me burn. Hotter than the sun, his gaze sears me.

The look he is giving me makes my chest hurt, like a needle piercing it. Something is very wrong. Pain ripples through me as I try to move; only my limbs feel paralyzed.

What did I do? Did I interrupt? I don't understand. Kyson was all happy and cuddly when he left yesterday. Did I do something wrong?