

Chapter 233 Miss You Already

Fiona “Will you be very busy for these next couple days?” I asked Alex cautiously as we walked back to our room hand in hand, after bidding farewell to our new friends.

He gave my hand a firm squeeze. “Yes, but I will make as much time as I can for you and Lexi, too,” he said very seriously. “We need to get out there as soon as possible, but not at the cost of rushing.”

“Good.”

I did not wish to say much more on the subject. I wanted to be sure we had some family time together before he departed, yes, but we didn’t need to dwell on discussing this part of things. How sad and difficult it was that he was leaving.

My Luna training had kicked right into overdrive when Alexander informed me he would be leaving for battle in only two days. This training prohibited me from feeling much, if any, emotion of my own right now. It required me to be strong for him, to support his needs over my own for the immediate time being. And that was all I wanted to do right now, and for the next two days.

“Do you want to get some breakfast?” Alex asked, tugging on my wrist. I’d been walking on autopilot in the direction of our bedroom, but we were nearing a place where we could turn the other way and soon be at our dining room instead.

I thought it over for a moment, slowing my pace. Alexander matched my stride. “Actually, I am a little eager to get back to work, if you don’t mind,” I said. “I just have some ideas in mind for the renovation that I’d like to get written out for Isabel before I forget about them. Perhaps you can make me some coffee and a little something to eat in our room instead?”

Alex bowed his head agreeably. Lexi cooed in his arms, catching his attention. He released my hand and spent the rest of our walk bouncing her in his arms, kissing her cheeks and making silly faces at her until she laughed.

It was a white lie. The reason I gave Alex for my intention to sit at my desk alone, leaving him to tend the baby. I did not love to lie to him, but I had a good reason to do it.

I just suddenly felt it was very important to carve out alone time for him with Alexis. Yes, Alexander would find a way to designate some hours for the both of us before Saturday. But Lexi was in a stage right now where she was very clingy with me. Anytime I was nearby, with her next meal in my chest, she was distracted trying to get into my arms.

And so I asked Alex if he wouldn’t mind handling all the baby duties while I enjoyed some quiet time separately in my home office.

Yes, it was a ruse to force the two of them into some quality alone time together. Some one-on-one time for our little girl to focus all her attention on her daddy, to look into his beautiful eyes and feel his warm, unconditional love for her, before she would be without him for a time. I heard him muttering to her sweetly from the other room as I settled down at my desk a few minutes later with a freshly brewed cup of honeyed chamomile tea. I couldn’t make out what he was saying, not with the nursery door only ajar and his tone so hushed.

I powered on my computer and opened up my email. It loaded the day’s new messages while I opened my notes app and started typing out some to-do’s I intended to assign to Isabel and Tracy, for the hospital room project.

I didn’t expect to see anything of importance in my inbox. But alas, there it was... yet another new message from Conrad.

Would this back and forth with him never end?

That frustration, though, that I felt just from looking at his bolded name in my email window – it was irrational, and fleeting. Because the content of his email was nothing I could have expected.

Dear Fiona,

Thank you for your response. I certainly appreciate the demands upon you and Alexander at this time. As such, I hope you’ll forgive one last intrusion. Today I have a separate matter that compels me to write you again, one of a personal nature.

Since Alexander and I last spoke, I have recovered additional family photographs and keepsakes that belonged to his mother. I must confess, I have been a poor steward of these treasures, allowing them to sit in the dark for too long. I have a suspicion that you, Fiona, would take much better care of these items than I ever could, and hope that perhaps they would also bring you, and your beautiful daughter, some measure of joy.

If you are interested, I can arrange for the items to be delivered directly to the palace. Or I can give them to your husband at our next meeting. Either of you need only let me know.

Hoping that you are well,

Conrad

Rather distracted by thoughts of this email, I spent the next hour typing a lot but accomplishing very little. I couldn’t focus and kept rewriting my email drafts over and over, continuously forgetting what it was I was trying to communicate...

Conrad wanted me to take possession of his family heirlooms...?

I was admittedly curious about the photographs and keepsakes about which he’d written. But my wolf brain kept reminding me that somehow even this could, just possibly, be part of some manipulation. Here I kept thinking I was done engaging with Conrad, at least temporarily, and then there he was, reappearing all the time to keep sucking me back in...

At some point, the baby fell asleep and Alex put her down. He came creeping out of the nursery and remained conspicuously quiet even after the door was closed, I think unsure if I wanted to be left to my work.

I turned my computer off and quickly met him near our bed. “Hi.”

“Hi. Did you get your work done?”

I smiled, leaning into Alex’s body as his big hands circled my waist and drew me close. “Yeah. I’m done. I’m all yours till you need to go get back to your work.”

He “mmm”ed and nuzzled into my hair, rubbing his face into my neck and breathing deeply. It tickled just enough to give me a shiver.

“I’ve got some things working right now,” he grumbled vaguely. “Nothing urgently needing my attention. Nothing but you. I’m all yours for the rest of the day, sweetheart.” And then his teeth found my ear and began to nibble on it playfully.

My breath caught in my throat. “Good,” I managed to say, my smiling mouth falling helplessly ajar under the work of his lips, tongue and teeth on my skin. “But Alex...” I pulled his hair a bit to force him to stop.

“What?”

I darted my eyes to the nursery door. “It is so difficult for me, my love. To be as quiet as we need to be, to keep from waking her...”

Alex frowned. I’d told him earlier that Nina had today off from babysitting duties. She’d confessed to me that she was feeling a little stir-crazy and wanted to spend the day in the city.

“What if I don’t tease you?” he pleaded, hovering his lips over my ear again. He inched forward into me, shuffling my body back until we were on the edge of the bed. “Hm? Will you let me please you?”

Distantly, I was thinking that I wanted to agree to this request. Maybe I could keep quiet if he didn’t tease me so much... maybe...

But my thoughts were more closely fixed on just wanting to linger in a kiss with him.

I leaned up and kissed his lips again, softly. Slowly. I closed my eyes and savored the taste of his mouth, the touch of his warm lips on mine, etching the sensation into my memory.

“Are you okay?” he asked quietly, pulling away.

“Yes.” I blinked up at my husband. “I will just miss you a lot when you are gone. I’ve forgotten what it’s like to be without you, Alex, even for one or two days. Thinking about it, imagining it...” I sighed. “I think I’ve begun to miss you already.”

He sighed too. And then kissed me again.

I submitted to his touch when he started laying me down in the bed. Then he eased his body down over top of mine. He propped his weight on his elbows, threaded his forearms under my shoulders and cradled my head in his two hands, looking down into my eyes.

“I’m right here,” he whispered, his lips ghosting over mine. “I’m here with you now, sweetheart. And I’m all yours.”