

LOVE ME AGAIN MATE By Katie Spheres

76-77

Chapter 76

Ana.

After staying in Andrew's office for over an hour without any positive results, I could not help but break down. It's painful. The thought of probably losing someone I love for good creates a deep ache in my chest.

Andrew left. He couldn't find anyone with the witch's contact so he decided to go by himself despite the injuries. I think like Leo, he deserves a second chance to come back in the pack.

So, after he left, I slumped back on his bed and started wailing. I couldn't go back to our room and sleep in the enormous bed alone. His scent will be there and my wolf won't allow me to rest easy when our mate is somewhere in the pack.

My primal side lacks understanding. There is no way to convince my wolf why I am not close to him. She will easily take control and do it herself.

A presence appears at the door and for the first time, I don't have the strength to push him away. Leo pulls me up and silently wraps his arms around me. He is not as warm as my mate but I need comfort right now. I just want someone to tell me that it's going to be okay even though it's a total lie. Something to take my mind away from the turmoil going on in me right now.

I never imagined Jace would walk right through when I am still in Leo's arms and his reaction is something I could have never expected. Is he seriously jealous or he is acting on impulse?

"You don't know shit, Leo. Ana is my mate and this is just a phase that will eventually pass" My mate snaps glaring at Leo. The tension between these two is heavy. Leo and Jace have always been on opposing sides and it will only take something irrelevant to switch on the fire between them.

Leo chuckles gripping Jace's collars and I am forced to intervene.

“Stop it will you?” I get between the fuming guys and push them apart. “Stop fighting and seek help if you care” I face each one of them but sigh in disappointment when none of them looks at me. They are not even listening.

Shaking my head, I slowly exit the room and I don't think they even noticed my presence is gone. Before taking the stairs to my room, I spot my dad in the living room and walk to him. Something to keep me out of the bed.

“How are you holding up?” Noah asks and I sigh joining him on the seat. I grab the

coffee in his hand and take a big sip but regret it afterward.

“Goddess! Dad” I quickly hand back the cup, fighting the urge to spit out the bitter liquid.

“What?” Noah laughs in amusement and pats my back. “You didn't give me a chance to warn you. I can make you one if you want” He offers and I quickly accept.

“Yes, please” I fold my legs on the sofa, lean back, and close my eyes. I don't understand why people like black coffee at all. I love mine with enough milk and

sugar.

“So, how are you taking in everything?” He repeats the question and I open one eye to peek at him. Everything is shitty. I should be in bed right now with my son, but I can't bring myself to because it won't be the same without my mate holding me throughout the night.

“You should pardon Andrew, Dad” I mumble and his jaw instantly clenches. I know he hates him for taking his mate but we can't entirely blame Andrew. It's Maya who made her choice. Furthermore, Andrew was never entirely on Maya's side. If he did, he wouldn't have saved us multiple times and Dad knows it.

“Leo wants to join the pack too,” I say when he remains quiet. “Give them a chance dad, we both know it's through their help we are here”

“We don't just overlook mistakes, honey. Both of them have tried to take the throne not once but a couple of times. What do you think will happen when we let this kind of people in our midst? I have done everything to make sure histor

y doesn't repeat itself and I need you to stop letting emotions control you, and do what is right for your pack" he strictly informs and I deeply furrow my brows.

"Are you forgetting it's because of these emotions we feel the need to protect each other?" I ask the question without elaboration and he sighs sitting next to me. My dad hands me a steaming cup of coffee and I immediately take a small sip. Just the way I love it.

"I know, honey. I know. I am sorry for my ignorance. I am trying to overlook their mistakes but I just hate that guy." Dad shakes his head and I squeeze his hand.

"You don't have to bring them back here. We have over a thousand packs in the world, let them choose one for themselves"

"I know. For now, let's settle everything first. Your mate needs to get back in his head, Ana. I have been thinking, honey, from the way you handled the war, I think

you don't need training like the rest of the wolves. I trust you, dear, and I believe since you killed the queen, you will do just fine when you take over, what do you think?" My dad proudly smiles and I return it.

I don't know dad, I don't think it's the right time. Jace..."

"If you have learned something from the beginning honey, I hope you will understand that in this life we are somehow alone. You love your mate I know that, but what if he is not here someday, what if something similar happens and he chooses another over you, or what if Jace doesn't come back? Have you thought about that? I am sorry but you were born with a responsibility dear, you are my heir and I want you to get that in your head. Relationships can change in the blink of an eye, but as a leader, you need to do what is right for your subjects. We can't let people with ulterior motives pave the way on the throne and ruin everything, just like that girl was trying to do with your mate"

'Can you give me a little time then?"

"Of course, sweetheart. After I take care of the rest of the traitors and appoint a new council and palace guards, I will announce my resignation. I am sorry sweetheart, but you will rule with your mate as your helper. I will start training Li

am and he will succeed you as soon as he becomes an adult. I hate to admit this, but I don't trust your mate with this kind of responsibility, there will always be opportunists everywhere and we can't risk harm befalling our people again" Dad mumbles and I nod in understanding.

"I understand Dad" I mutter, drowning the whole liquid in my cup. I guess there is no more running.

"Also..." Before Dad can finish his sentence, the door opens and he instantly drops the cup he was holding out of shock. Andrew and a perplexed woman remain in the doorway and I wonder why she and Noah are staring at each other in horror.

My dad's eyes turn black and when his nails elongate to claws, he instantly shifts and breaks through the kitchen window, leaving the shattering of broken glasses behind.

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Chapter 77

Ana.

What is happening? Andrew and I share glances before looking back at the still-shocked woman. She is not a wolf, that I can tell. She smells like a witch, and I wonder if she and my dad know each other.

"Is everything okay?" Andrew asks, snapping her out of her reverie and she quickly nods looking around until her eyes land on me. That was weird.

'What is it, dad? Is everything okay?' I mindlink Noah but his mind link is blocked. That is unlike him. Especially when he is okay.

"Goddess! This is just..." The lady walks to the couch I am sitting on and tiredly slumps on it. "I don't know what to think, Oh! Goddess" She suddenly releases a nervous laugh confusing us more.

She appears to be middle-aged with long dark hair and black eyes. Her figure is slim and she's quite pretty.

“Is she here for Jace?” I ask Andrew and he nods, finally walking inside.

“Let’s get to business Keira, I don’t know what is up with you but we have to help my son ASAP” Andrew instructs the witch who seems elated for some reason.

“They are in your room” Goddess knows what the brothers are up to in there. Neither Leo nor Jace has come out but fortunately, I don’t hear a brawl going on, so I assume it’s all good.

“Let’s go” Andrew ushers Keira to follow him and I debate if I should follow them or stay put. Choosing the latter, I sit back down on the couch and pray all goes well. I don’t want to follow them and become disappointed when things don’t work out as expected. I hate being in my mate’s presence while he ignores me.

Half an hour later, voices from upstairs draw my attention to them. Andrew and Leo are the first people to show up and I quickly get up to meet them.

“How did it go?” I hopefully ask, meeting them on the stairs.

“We don’t know yet, the witch did the spell and he immediately went unconscious. He hasn’t woken up yet so we came here to keep you company” Andrew says and I nod taking two steps back.

“I am going to make coffee, do you want some?” I ask enquire from the two men.

“I will come with you,” Leo says and I silently lead the way. I don’t know what I was thinking when I accepted his hug. It was a moment of vulnerability and I regret being weak in front of him. Now he will use it to mock me or my mate.

“I am sorry” Leo mumbles behind me. I grab two mugs and start brewing black coffee for the men. “I should have

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considered your feelings before lashing out at your mate like that” His words surprise me but I don’t show it. He is really determined to gain my favor.

"It's okay, Leo. Do you think he will be okay?" I don't even know why I am asking but I feel the need to.

"He will. The witch seems enthusiastic, I don't know why?" Leo lets out a low chuckle and I turn around to look at him.

"I hope so I hand one cup to him and he grabs it with both hands.

"Did you talk to your dad?"

"Yes, he hasn't given me the answer yet"

"Good" With that, he takes his dad's coffee and exits the kitchen. I follow Leo with my eyes and sigh when he disappears. I can't go to bed right now, I need to wait for my dad and also see if my mate will recover or show any sign of change.

I don't know when I fell asleep on the sofa. It's already dawn and no one is around me when I wake up. Though Leo's scent is

still present meaning he left a while ago. Before I can get up to check on my son, the front door opens and my disheveled dad slowly walks in.

His hair is messy and he has dark circles around his tired eyes

"Dad, what is wrong? You have been acting weird since you saw that woman and you look beat" I worriedly stare at him and my dad quickly snaps his gaze at me as if he didn't expect anyone to be in here.

"It's nothing dear" Dad brushes me off but I don't listen to him.

"Just tell me. You seem on edge. And you didn't come back last night. Do you know that woman from before?" I walk to him and gently gaze into his eyes.

"No, it's...She is my second chance" He reluctantly answers, worriedly scratching the back of his neck and I gasp in shock. Second-chance mates are rare. They never happen, at least I haven't heard of them before.

"What?" I mutter staring at my dad in shock.

"I don't think I want another. With what Maya did, I would rather spend the rest of my life alone"

"I don't know what to say, Dad. It's unbelievable" I didn't see this coming. Dad getting a second chance mate a few days after my mum's demise. With how corrupt this world has become, I am not sure of what to think.

"Give it time, Dad. I am happy for you anyway" I gently squeeze his shoulder and he reluctantly nods.

Walking to my room to finally see my son, a couple of mixed emotions hit me at once. Pain, anger, hurt and many more occupy my heart and I don't have to guess whose emotions are.

This only means my mate's wolf is coming back to life and he is the one triggering the matebond. I can vividly feel his emotions and none of them are good,

As much as I want to feel relieved, I can't help but wonder whether these emotions are felt toward me or the dead bitch.

Maybe it was a relief when I didn't know what he was feeling for another woman.