

THE LYCAN KING'S SECOND CHANCE MATE

Chapter 0426



REAGAN'S POV.

"And I'm not comfortable with you living under the same roof with another woman."

Ashanti's declaration burns in my mind as I take the elevator ride to the floor where my office is located. Heck, I'm not comfortable living with another woman under the same roof either. I'm not doing this because I like it. It's for a reason. I need Selena to get more comfortable with me and let her guard down so I can know what Selena has been up to for the past five years and why she decided to show up all of a sudden. It's a planned act.

"But you didn't explain that to her, did you?" My wolf, King, stirs up in my mind and chimes in. "And even if you did, you don't expect her to still be cool with it. This is your ex-mate we are talking about. If you were in Ashanti's shoes, you would be upset as well. You would even feel threatened." He preaches and I run a haphazard hand through my hair, blowing out an exasperated sigh. The conversation I had in my car with Ashanti left me physically and mentally exhausted.

"What would you have me do, King? I'm doing my best to prove to Ashanti that she's the only one I want to be with, but she isn't getting the memo."

"That only means you have to try harder."

"Really? Is that all you have to say right now?"

"Yeah, because if you had listened to me two years ago when I asked you to accept and claim her as our mate when she just arrived in this pack, we would've been in a happier place right now. But you..."

"Right!" I quickly cut him off. "This conversation is over. That's enough judgment for today. Go get some rest." I block him out. I'm already hurt enough. I don't want him opening new wounds.

The elevator dings and its doors slide open. I quickly step out and make my way to my office and when I get there, I find Klein already waiting for me.

"Alpha Reagan." He calls with a quick bow as he follows me to my work table where I take a seat on my office chair and tiredly lean against the backrest.

"You sounded very agitated over the phone. Is anything the matter?"

"Do you have any leads on the whereabouts of Logan?"

"I'm sorry, there's no news yet. We are still trying to track him down. He's very smart about his movements. He makes sure to leave no traces behind. But I assure you my men and I are doing our best and it's just a matter of time before we track him down." He assures me confidently and I nod in understanding, but deep within, I'm panicking.

How much time will they take to uncover the truth about Selena's past? I'm afraid it'll be too late for me to get back with Ashanti by the time that happens.

"Is there nothing else? I mean on Selena now?" My heart drops into my abdomen when he shakes his head in denial.

"No." He says in a melancholic tone. "It's a lot more difficult since we have no idea what pack she used to live in. But we've sent out photos of her to all the packs and I have agents investigating the pack natives to know if any of them have seen anyone like her around. As of now, no one has called to report anything, but we are hoping to get some positive feedback soon."

Another exasperated sigh leaves my chest. I shut my eyes and release a low breath.

"You don't look too good. Did something happen?" His question triggers the dreaded memories of the conversation I had with Ashanti earlier. I sigh for the umpteenth time and rise from the chair. He follows me over to my wall to ceiling glass window that gives me a few of the city buildings and streets beneath.

I am the Supreme Alpha of the entire werewolf world. I rule over every Lycan and werewolf and they all fear and respect me. In the eyes of my subjects, I am perfect and I have every aspect of my life under control, but in truth, I don't. My love life is in shambles. It's a total disaster and I don't know if this a test from the moon goddess or if it's the karma of my past actions coming back to bite me in the ass.

Either way, it's frustrating and I wish it could all just end before I lose my Goddamn sanity.

"Alpha." Kyle calls daintily and I face him.

"If this investigation takes longer, I fear I might lose Ashanti."

"Why do you say so?"

"The fact that she is mated to me doesn't scare other men from trying to court her and she is giving them, audience, don't know if she's doing that just to spite me or if she's really considering going out with another man. I strongly believe it's the latter. She's keeping her options open and it's tearing me apart from within."

"If you ask me, I think it's the former." My brows crease in surprise. He nods.

"She agreed to go on a date with him this evening and even when I told her she didn't like the idea, she didn't cancel. She insists on going."

"That doesn't necessarily mean she's considering going out with him."

"What does it mean then?" I ask, folding my arms over my chest.

"She's just trying to spite you. Maybe push you into making a decision between her and Selena soon."

"But the guy likes her and he's very persistent. It's just a matter of time before he convinces her to accept him."

"If you think that's possible, then you really have no idea how the mate bond works and that's really shameful given that you are the Supreme Alpha." A frown forms on my face as my gaze on him intensifies.

What did he just say?

"Because I'm Alpha King doesn't mean I ought to know everything. Stop being so mean."

He chuckles.

He fucking chuckles and I stare at him as though he has lost his mind when he gives me a casual tap on my shoulder.

"Ashanti isn't going anywhere, Alpha

Reagan. She loves you and no one

else, so it's your duty to keep

assuring her that she's the only one you want to be with. My team and I will speed up our investigation, but

til we find anything tangible, just keep groveling at her feet, okay." Another tap. I stare at his hand on my shoulder and then at his face. He makes a pitiful face while nodding his head. I quickly step away from him.

"I'm going to kill you!" I warn. He chuckles and shakes his head.

"You can't. You love me too much. And we both know you won't survive a day without me. Now, sit down and think of better ways to win ou Luna back other than giving empty threats. The future of this pack and the world at large rests on your shoulders. See you later." He turns and starts heading towards the door.

"I don't remember dismissing you." I call out but he simply ignores me and exits my office.

All of them are driving me insane.

Chapter 0427



ASHANTI'S POV.

My shoulders rise and fall as I let out a small sigh and stare at my reflection in the mirror in front of me. My blue eyes stare right back at me, hard, and I can bet they are judging me for insisting on going on this outing with Leonard, but I don't care about their judgment either. I want to do this and that's what's important.

"All set." I say, nodding at my look in the mirror before heading out of my walk-in closet. Once in my bedroom, I go over to my night stand to pick up my handbag and my cell phone and just then, a text notification chimes in my phone. It's from Leonard. A small smile forms on my lips as I click on the text message which takes me to his inbox. It's a simple message that says:

"I'm here."

My eyes flick over to the top left bar of my phone and the time reads exactly eight pm. A chuckle tumbles from my lips.

"Of course, you are." I say to myself as I pick up my hand and exit my bedroom. As I make my way towards the staircase, I pray that the designer in Leonard did not surface last minute and convince him into dressing up flamboyantly instead of casually like we agreed. My outfit is so casual, I won't have the heart to walk with him if he's all dressed up. But I doubt that's the case.

When I arrive at the living room, I'm not surprised with the scenario I'm met with. Ryan is leaning against the backrest of a couch, legs crossed at his ankles, arms folded over his chest and he's staring intensely at Leonard as though he's about to order him out of the living room. Leonard on the other seems scared to make eye contact with him. He looks like a nervous teenage boy who's about to ask a dad permission to take his daughter out of a date, Ryan!

That little menace!

"Ryan, stop being such a menace!" I caution as I walk past him, making sure to give him a heavy punch on his shoulder. He doesn't budge. I look at Leonard whose eyes light up upon seeing me. He seems relieved. "Ashanti." His gruff voice says my name and I smile without meaning to.

That was hot.

"Hello, Leonard. You are welcome to my home. Please pardon my brother's manners. He can be such a brat sometimes."

"She calls me a brat when I try to look after her. How sweet." Ryan grumbles to himself and I simply ignore him and walk over to meet Leonard who looks like he really wants to get out of here.

"Forget about him. Let's get going." He flashes me a sweet smile and nods.

"Sure." He says, but before we can turn on our heels to leave, Ryan's voice comes through again.

"You better take good care of her. A

single strand of her hair goes

missing and you're dead." He repeats the same warning he gave Leonard the first time he showed up to take me out. I roll my eyes hard and shoot him a glare.

"What are you? My dad?"

"I wasn't talking to you." He fires coldly and averts his gaze from me and plasters them back on Leonard who nods and says:

"Understood. I will take good care of her and bring her back home in one piece." He says in the gentlest voice.

"You better." Says Ryan, maintaining his scowl. I make an annoyed face at him before following Leonard out of the house.

"I'm so sorry about Ryan's attitude towards you every time you two meet." apologize fervently as we both walk to the driveway where his car is parked. He stops walking and turns to face me.

"Don't be. Back at home, I terrorize all the guys who come to take my sisters out on dates just like Ryan is doing to me now. So, I completely understand. Brothers have to look out for their sisters even if they are older."

Chapter 0428



"Oh..." Is all I manage. Now I understand why he's always so understanding. He's guilty of the same crime. I can only imagine the look of terror on the guys'

faces whenever they ring the doorbell and Leonard opens the door and starts interrogating them.

Chills!

"Yeah. So, are you ready to leave?"

"I can't wait. I'm so excited about this evening."

"Me too." We both continue our journey to the car and when we finally arrive where it is parked, a black Audi pulls up in another lane of the driveway just beside Leonard's car. We both stop and stare in silence at the car to see who's going to come out of it. My breath hitches in my throat when the passenger seat opens and Alpha Reagan steps out of the car with an eternal frown masked on his face.

What the fuck is he doing here?

"Good evening, Alpha Reagan." Leonard greets respectfully with a bow as he approaches us. I don't greet him. I stay glued to my spot, my eyes fixated on his dark-with-rage face as he draws closer to us. Is he here to stop me from going on this date with Leonard? I thought I made it clear to him the last time we spoke that nothing was going to make me cancel this outing.

Why is he so stubborn?

"Leonard. Could you please give me a minute with my mate?" His voice is as depressing as death. Leonard nods in agreement and steps away to give us privacy. I roll my eyes in annoyance before fixing my gaze on him again. "Why are you here?" I ask, the annoyance in my tone doesn't go unnoticed.

"You know why I'm here, Ashanti." He speaks like he has a wound in his throat. His voice is very low and rough and it stirs up something in my chest. A feeling I do not want to give a name to.

"You can't keep doing this."

"I have to."

"I'm going on this date whether you like it or not."

"I don't want you to go." The

is

depressing tone of his voice is doing things to my heart. My frustration mounting I need to leave his presence right now because a few more words from him will convince me to stay like he wishes, which is not what I want.

"Well, too bad it's not up to you to decide." I say making sure to sound as sassy and nonchalant as possible. He cannot know that his sadness is getting to me. I can't even maintain eye contact with him because the crying look in his eyes will melt the stubbornness in my heart within a heartbeat. Damn this stupid mate bond!

"If you have nothing else to say, I'd love to take my leave now."

"Don't go." His voice breaks. I finally give into my urge and stare up at him and I nearly pass out when I see tears shimmering in his eyes. something snaps in my chest.

God, he's such a drama queen.

"I'm sorry, but I have to." Something dies within me the moment those words leave my mouth and as I walk past him, I pray for him to say those words again.

All he has to do is ask me not to go, again and I won't, but he doesn't. One step, two steps... ten steps and now I'm beside Leonard's car and he is opening the passenger seat door for me Alpha Reagan still hasn't said a word. He isn't even looking at me. I get into the car, feeling downcast by my own stubbornness and expectations.

Reagan and I are such a dramatic pair.



CHAPTER TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE. ASHANTI'S POV.

"You good?" Leonard's voice breaks the silence in the car and I let out a heavy sigh, contemplating whether to lie or tell him the truth.

I feel like shit.

Clearly, this plan of me trying to make Alpha Reagan feel miserable because he's living with his ex-mate under the same roof is not working. I'm the one getting tortured and feeling miserable. This is so unfair. Another heavy sigh escapes my chest as I turn to Leonard whose eyes are glued on the winding road ahead as he drives.

"You must think I'm an idiot." My voice is low and coated with guilt and shame. I can't even bring myself to look at him so I keep my head bowed down as I play with my fingers.

"And why would I think that?" His deep voice questions, causing me to shoot him a glance even though it's the last thing I have the courage to do right now.

"Well..." I rasp. I nearly evaporate when he shoots me a quick glance before looking back at the road.

"I'm listening." He says after I take too long to continue my statement.

"Every time we make plans, there's always some unpleasant drama with Alpha Reagan. You must be sick of me."

"If that was the case, I wouldn't make any more plans with you..." He shoots me another fleeting gaze while shrugging his shoulders as he says... "But

here we are." I bite back the smile that's threatening to crawl up my lips. This is not the time for me to smile. "Oh..." Is all I manage. "I'm really sorry this always happens. You always get caught up in the middle and I feel so bad."

"It's okay. I don't mind."

"That can't be true." I say, giving him a look of complete disbelief. He turns to me again, this time around with a smile on his lips and for some reason, that smile sets my mind at ease.

"I'm serious Ash. I really don't mind." He assures me and I find myself nodding.

"If you say so."

Silence stretches in the car but before I can bury myself in my depressing thoughts, Leonard's voice comes through again.

"I heard his first mate returned. Selena is her name, right?" He asks and I roll my eyes at the mention of the name, Selena. It irks me whenever someone mentions the name to my hearing and I might sound like a real bitch right now, but I really dislike her. Everything about her return seems shady and I cannot wait until the day her real intentions will be exposed. The world will be shocked. I can bet my life on that.

"Yeah, she did." I reply in the most depressing tone ever. He chuckles lightly.

"One Lycan wolf having two mates. This has never happened before. There's no way Alpha Reagan can keep both of you. He has to choose one." Another gentle chuckle tumbles from his lips as he lightly shakes his head. I can picture him imagining Alpha Reagan's current predicament in his mind. "Alpha Reagan must be on a hot seat right now."

"You don't say." My voice is still in its withered state and my mood has gone from bad to worse.

"You love him, don't you?" His question nearly makes me evaporate from my seat.

That was unexpected. I give him a quick glance with my eyes wide open, but his gaze is once more focused on the road. Calmly, I tuck a few strands of hair behind my ears and clear my throat as I prepare to give him a response.

"I do." I say, my voice nearly inaudible. "He's my mate for crying out loud. I cannot not love him."

"You sure can't. And just so you know, the man is head over heels for you."

"You say that with so much confidence."

"That's because I am confident. Alpha Regandoves you Ash, and if there's anyone he's going to pick between you and Selena, that person will be no one else but you. bet my career on that." He says firmly, confidently and I purse my lips to prevent my smile from showing.

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Leonard has no idea how much his words of assurance means to me.

"Don't you worry..." He continues. "The Moon goddess has a good reason for making things turn out this way. There's something big she wants to reveal to us, so let's just wait and see. Okay?"

He flashes me a reassuring look and I calmly nod my head, this time around, smiling openly.

What could the Moon goddess possibly want to reveal to us? I'm very sure it has something to do with Selena.

Goddess! I hope it's a bad thing so she can get out of our lives already.

Just the thought of a life with Alpha Reagan, just the two of us without Selena, makes my heart sing with joy. I cannot wait for that day to come.

"Enough about me and Alpha Regan. What about you?"

"Me?" He shoots me a surprised look. "What about me?"

"Have you found your mate yet?" I ask even though I know the obvious answer to that question.

If Leonard had found his mate, he wouldn't be taking me out on dates. We wouldn't be in this car right, driving around the city. Also, he's a very famous person. I would have heard of it on the news if he had found his mate.

Such a silly question.

"No. I haven't." He says, shaking his head and smiling and that has me shocked for some reason. Leonard is Alpha Reagan's age mate and, in our world, it becomes a cause for concern when a man of his age has not found his mate yet, but here he is smiling and looking chill about it.

"Aren't you worried?"

"Why should I be?"

"Most men in your shoes would be panicking by now because you know..." I shrug my shoulders. "Not having a mate yet at your age is considered late."

"Well, it's true that I'm late, but I'm

cool. I trust the Moon goddess and I know she's well aware of the fact that she's yet to pair me with

someone. Anytime she decides to send my soulmate, I will accept her with all my heart and even if she

doesn't, it's still cool."

I have a lot of questions to ask him right now, but because I don't want to pry any further, I seal my lips shut and nod my head. Agreeing with his point.

"Whoever that girl will be, she'll be so lucky! You are amazing."

"Why? Thank you!" He flashes me a bemused smile as he brings the car to a stop. "We are here."

Right.

Time for me to have fun.

Chapter 0430



ASHANTI'S POV.

"Did you have a great time?" Leonard asks as we both make our way towards the main entrance door of the Mansion. I look up at him and smile as I nod my head. Despite everything, these past four hours I spent with him have been nothing short of fun. From taking a stroll along pavements illuminated by street lights, to eating street food, playing games to win toys (We didn't win any. Turns out we both sucked at playing games) and him making me howl with laughter with his witty jokes and not-so-cool comments about people's outfits. His toxic trait is judging people's sense of fashion. He cannot stand anyone who doesn't know how to combine clothes and color patterns to create a good outfit.

"What if you are mated to a girl with no fashion sense?" My question had made him twist his face in disgust as though I had asked him to look at someone's vomit.

"She would have to learn."

"What if she doesn't want to?" I had pursued.

"She would not have a choice on the matter."

"That's you being a dictator and a cruel superior, not a mate and that's toxic!"

"Ashanti, stop giving the moon goddess ideas. Drop this topic already."

And that had made me howl for the umpteenth time.

"Ashanti." Léonard's voice comes through again, dragging my thoughts from the past and reeling me back to the present. That's when I notice we are both standing right by the door, facing each other.

"Yes." I reply quickly. "I had a wonderful time, Leonard. Words cannot describe how much I'm grateful to you for taking me out tonight. I really needed this outing. Thank you for coming through for me."

"I had a great time too, Ash. If I didn't love my life, I'd say let's do this every weekend, but I know Alpha Reagan already has a grave dug and ready to have me buried in it if I try to take you out again anytime soon." I am giggling by the time he finishes his statement. When they said do not judge a book by its cover, they were referring to Leonard. From his demeanor, one would judge him to be an uncompromising and aloof person, but he's the total opposite. And above all, he's really funny!

"You're right, Leonard." I say once I'm able to stop myself from laughing. "We can't do this anytime soon."

"Let's wait a few weeks before doing this again. Yeah?"

"Yeah."

"Cool. You should go in now and get some rest."

"I should. You drive safely, okay? And text me when you get home."

"Yes, Ma'am." He says,

demonstrating a playful military salute that makes me laugh out loud yet again. I give him a light punch on his right arm and turn to the door. only hear

his footsteps start to retreat when I unlock the door by typing the passcode and step into the house. As I shrug off my blazer, the familiar scent of my home envelopes me in its warm embrace, making me smile as I draw in a deep breath with my eyes closed. I can't wait to go upstairs, shower and fall on my bed.

"You're back." A low, gravelly voice from the living room fills my ears and terror rakes its claws down my spine when I look over and see Alpha Reagan rising from one of the couches in the living room

What the hell!

"Alpha Reagan." My voice is less than a whisper, laced with horror and shock. "What are you doing here?"

"Why else would I be here if it's not to see you?"

"At this time?" I ask, my voice filled with disbelief.

"It's only midnight."

"Only midnight? Do you even listen to yourself speak?"

"You were out until midnight. That's too late for you to be out."

"I fail to see how that's any of your business." My cold response makes him stop in his tracks. I watch his chest rise and fall as he lets out a deep sigh, evidently frustrated by my replies to his questions. I do not have any plans to stop making him feel frustrated anytime soon. He deserves every treatment I'm giving him right now. "Where's Ryan?" I ask, going over to the living room to meet him. The right thing to do right now is to probably ignore him and take the stairs straight to my bedroom, but knowing Alpha Reagan, he would follow me into my dreams and wouldn't let me be until we discuss what he wants us to discuss.