

Chapter Five

Commander Xander

It's been four days since my life was turned upside down. After Ayla's wolf claimed me, she hasn't spoken to me or even looked at me. I didn't need to claim her to know how she was feeling. I could see everything she was going through. Her guilt and pain were on the surface and she wouldn't allow me to help her. I would never deny her if she wanted to claim me but I knew she didn't want to hurt Nate. Nate told me wolves have one mate. And I've never met a mermaid with more than one claim.

I don't know what's happening and it couldn't have happened at the worst time. Ayla is dealing with the death of her mother and we are trying to track down her mother's claim. But we can't work together on this if she's not talking to me. I know she doesn't want to hurt me. But I would never leave when she rejects the bond. I don't feel a bond with her. I've always cared for her and my feelings haven't changed.

The only thing keeping me from confronting her is Nate. He's still talking to me, relaying to me what is going on. He doesn't blame me for what happened. He doesn't understand it, but he isn't shutting me out, or kicking my ass. He probably should be kicking my ass. His mate claimed another and even though we both have no control over the situation, I would still be pissed if I was him. I wouldn't want to share my claim with another. And I wouldn't expect Nate to allow Ayla to claim me. It just doesn't make sense.

I was on my way to the dining room for breakfast. It was the morning after Princess Melody's funeral. Most of the kingdom believed she was already dead, but the few who didn't attended the ceremony. I just wanted to be there for my best friend. And she was. I remember all the times we spent together. It may have started as a mission, but it became so much more than that. Ayla was everything I wanted in a claim even though I knew that wasn't possible. She's a princess.

Before I could enter the dining room, Ayla was in my head. She had closed off the mind link to me until now.

"Xander!" She yelled before it went quiet again. I took off running towards her bedroom. I knew Nate was with her, so why was she calling out to me?

I heard the chaos before storming into the bedroom. Nate and Kaden were fighting and I rushed to pull them apart. When the hell did Kaden get here?

"What the f**k is going on?" I demanded as I shoved them from each other, getting between them.

"This fucker wants my mate," Nate growled, panting. Both of them were covered in blood.

"Of course, I want her. And if she can claim this guy, then she can claim me." Kaden confessed.

"This isn't up to you, Kaden. This is Ayla's decision and I would never force her to claim me. No matter what her wolf said. All you are doing right now is pushing her away." I told him and he huffed.

Looking around the room, Ayla was sitting on the floor with her back against the wall. Scales covered her body like armor. Her head was leaned back and her eyes were closed.

"Ayla," I rushed over to her.

"I'm okay," she whispered. Nate was kneeling on the other side of her.

"What the hell did you do?" He yelled at Kaden.

"I would never hurt her!" He retorted.

"No one did anything. I was pushed when the fighting started. I hit my head on the wall." She informed us.

"Can you stand?" I asked her. She nodded and Nate helped her to stand up, while I turned my attention to Kaden.

"I don't know how you found out about what happened but I don't expect Ayla to claim me. She has Nate and I'm happy for her. And she had just lost her mother. Pull your fucken head out of your ass. This is not the time nor the place for this conversation." I told him through gritted teeth.

"Kaden, I don't know who this person is, you were never like this before," Ayla said, standing with Nate. Kaden didn't say anything before leaving the room, slamming the door behind him.

"Xander, I'm sorry. I didn't know who else to call." Ayla whispered as Nate sat her down on the edge of the bed. He was searching through her hair on the back of her head.

"It's okay, Ayla. I'm not going anywhere. What the hell happened anyways?" I asked, kneeling in front of her.

"I don't know. He just stormed in here." She answered.

"How did he know about her wolf claiming you?" Nate demanded and I looked at him.

"I don't know. I didn't even know he was in the kingdom." I signed.

"I think it's time for us to head to the Northern Kingdom. I need to go to the Black Pearl temple and demand to see the goddesses. This is all becoming too much." Ayla sighed. She let out a hiss when Nate pushed his hand through her hair.

"You two get ready and I'll get the chopper ready for us. We will leave after breakfast. And hopefully, we can all get some answers." I told them, standing up. I was about to turn and leave when Ayla grabbed my hand. I looked down at her, her eyes glossy with unshed tears.

"I'm so sorry Xander." I squeezed her hand.

"We will figure this all out. I'm not going anywhere," I reassured her before letting go of her hand and leaving the room. It was time to demand some answers from the goddesses.