

Chapter 16

Dylan

"Babe, I'll be back later."

"Okay. Don't miss me too much."

"Impossible."

I have Brienne a loving kiss, a tingle running down my spine. Who would have thought I would turn into such a mushy guy? This woman brought out the best in me, and apparently my best included this side.

"I love you." I told her.

"I love you too. Have fun."

I kissed her cheek before finally making my way out the door. I was supposed to leave over an hour ago, but Brienne had other ideas. Fun ideas. Sexy ideas. Needless to say, I felt a whole lot lighter, and I was in one hell of a good mood. Whistling a random tune while I drove, I made my way to the packhouse. I hadn't seen Garrett or Violet in a few weeks, too caught up in Brienne. I felt kinda guilty, so I set aside some time so spend with them today while Brienne was spending time with her sister. After the shifting ceremony, both of them had taken off pretty quickly, and I hadn't had a chance to congratulate them.

I was ecstatic. Uhni was a great wolf, a deep brown. With my hopes of becoming a warrior someday soon, his color would make for excellent camouflage. Brienne loved him, and he enjoyed being around her too. I couldn't wait until her birthday next week; He was pretty eager to meet his other half, even if she wouldn't shift for another month. I pulled up to the packhouse, my whistling cutting off as I jogged up the front steps. Nodding hello to some of the maids, I made my way to the stairs.

"Hello Dylan!"

I looked up to see Luna Lily coming down. I smiled cheerily.

"Hey Luna. How are you?"

"I'm good. And you? How is your mate?"

I grinned and she smiled cheekily.

"She's amazing Luna. I've never been happier."

"I'm glad to hear it! Are you here to see Garrett?"

"And Violet."

"I think Violet went out for a bit. But Garrett should be in his room."

I nodded. "Thanks Luna. Have a nice day."

She clucked her tongue at me. "No need for such formalities Dylan. You practically live here, or you did. Call me Lily."

"And have the Alpha on my ass? No thanks."

She continued to laugh as she passed by me. I took the steps two at a time, wondering if Garrett would put in a damn elevator when he was Alpha. It seemed to be a continuous complaint around here. Reaching his floor, I skipped along the hallway, tapping three times on his door. Nobody answered. Had he gone out too?

"Garrett?" I called.

"What?"

My smile faltered at his tone through the wood. Tentatively, I opened the door, peeking around and my eyes grew. The room looked like a tornado had passed through. The dresser against the wall had been taken apart, by force it looked like, clothes strewn everywhere. The bed had deep gouge marks in it, the springs showing. Every game he owned was broken, the discs smashed into tiny pieces on the floor., mixed in with the clothes.

Even the walls had holes in them. And sitting in the middle of the chaos was Garrett, glaring at me.

"What happened in here?" I asked as I shut the door.

"What does it look like?" He waved his arms around. "I got angry."

I pursed my lips. "And you thought destroying everything you own was going to make you feel better?"

"I kinda hoped, yeah."

I sat next to him, being careful of the broken disc shards. "What's wrong?"

"Violet."

He said her name like it was a curse word. My heart stuttered and my jaw fell open. I had never heard either one of the twins use that tone regarding the other. Honestly, it scared the shit out of me.

"What happened?" I demanded.

"She found her mate." He snapped.

My face morphed into confusion. I remembered someone being with Violet when she shifted, but he'd had his back to me. And I was too focused on my own shift to pay close enough attention.

"Okay?"

Garrett slammed his fists down on the floor. "It's fucking Jasper!" He shouted.

He looked at me, and even though I was surprised, my face remained neutral. This seemed to aggravate him even more.

"Jasper? Jasper Cole?" He said.

"Yeah, I know who you meant."

"Aren't you upset?!"

I sighed. "Not really, dude. I mean, if I know I would have been a few weeks ago, if I hadn't found Brianne." I leaned against his bed. "I get why you're pissed, but it's Vie's choice. I'm assuming she didn't reject him, since you're this upset."

"You don't know the half of it."

"So, explain it to me then."

"Remember Sophia?"

My nose scrunched up as I thought. "That girl you use to hang out with and fawn over?"

He launched into the story, giving me every detail, right up to earlier when Violet smacked him. He grew more and more upset as he talked, and by the end, he was breathing hard, his chest heaving up and down.

"And now she's run off to spend the day with her precious mate." He sneered. "Can you believe that?!"

Oh man, he was going to hate me right now. "Actually, yeah I can."

"What?"

"Dude, I hate to say it, and you really don't want to hear it, but Vie's right." I shrugged. "Sophia should have told Jasper about you guys. And even though the guy is an ass, I doubt he would have forced her into anything. Don't give me that look Garrett. If you guys were that close, and that in love, she would have come running to you if something like that had happened to her."

His shoulders dropped. He knew I was right; He knew Violet was right. He just didn't want to admit it.

"Look." I said. "I'm sorry you're going through this. But honestly, I think you need to let it go. How does Sophia feel about everything?" I asked.

"I don't know. I haven't seen her since my shift."

I punched him in the arm. "Seriously?! You're giving Violet Hell about her mate, and you haven't talked to yours? Man, you need to grow up."

I stood, walking to the door.

"Where are you going?"

"Sorry Garrett. But you need to figure shit out, and no offense, but you're not great company right now. Go find your mate, and stop being a baby." And I left. If I was anyone else, he would have probably beat the shit out of me for talking to him that way. He was my future Alpha after all. But even he did, he needed to hear it.

I ended up wandering aimlessly around town window shopping. I saw a few things I thought Brianne would like for her birthday, making a mental note. I walked for a couple hours, hoping Garrett took my advice and he was with Sophia right now. I had always been suspicious of their relationship, assuming they were at least fooling around. She must be really special to have him so worked up; Garrett was the most level headed person I knew.

"Dylan?"

I turned at the sound of my name, smiling when I saw Violet. She was sitting on someone's front yard with a kid, a blanket spread out under them. I crossed the street, waving.

"Hey. What are you doing?"

The kid she was with, a girl who was maybe five or six years old, looked over her shoulder at me.

"We're having a picnic. Duh." She rolled her eyes and Violet chuckled.

"What she said."

I looked around. "I don't see any food."

"It's an imaginary picnic!" The girl said. She looked at Vie as if to say 'Who is this guy?'

I pointed to her, a question on my face. Before she could answer, the front door opened and Jasper walked out, balancing three plates. He stopped when he saw me, his eyes narrowing a bit.

"Hey." I greeted him.

"Hey."

"Jasper, you know Dylan, right?" Violet said.

"Sort of."

"Well, come join us, Dylan. The more the merrier." She made room for me on the blanket, and Jasper sighed, but didn't argue. He joined us, setting down the plates with actual sandwiches on them.

"What do you say Elena?"

"Thank you!"

He smiled at her. She must be his sister.

"So..." Violet tried to ease the tension. "How's Brienne?"

"Good."

"That's good."

I glanced at Jasper, who was already eyeing me. I sighed, and so did Violet.

"Elena, do you have any sidewalk chalk?" She asked.

"I have lots!"

"Great! How about you go get it and we can draw together?"

"Okay!" She ran off into the house, leaving the three of us alone.

"Okay." Violet said quickly. "I know you two don't necessarily like each other, but Dylan is my best guy friend. And his mate is my best girlfriend. So can we please, please try to get along?" She begged.

I looked at Jasper. "I've got no issues. I mean, I did. But I'm over it. I'm not here to cause problems man, I was just walking by when I saw Vie. And for the record, I'm sorry about the shit a few weeks ago at school."

He put down his sandwich. "Yeah, same. I'm not looking for a fight if you're not."

"Not today." I grinned and he snorted.

Elena came running back out, dumping a shit ton of chalk onto the walkway. Vie got up and they started outlining a picture.

"You fish?" Jasper asked me randomly.

"Sometimes. Haven't been in a while."

He looked at Violet and his sister, giggling together. "I can tell she doesn't want any more fighting. Especially with what happened with her brother. You heard?"

"Yeah, I saw him earlier. I told him to get over it."

"Did you?"

I shrugged one shoulder. "No point in being pissed off about shit in the past."

He looked at me for a couple minutes, seeming to come to a decision. "I'm taking Violet to a place I know later, in the woods. You wanna come? I've got some poles there; Maybe if we catch something, we can make dinner."

"That sounds cool. But only if I can bring Brienne." I reached over, stealing Vie's sandwich. "The girls haven't seen each other in a while."

"Cool."