

Chapter 11

AARON

I paced back and forth at the entrance of the packhouse, waiting for the Alpha and my sister. I was beating myself for not coming home earlier to stop Clair from running away. I almost went mad when I saw all the things she came with gone from her dresser, together with her duffel bag, and her truck was nowhere in sight.

I called my dad and he confirmed that they had a fight. He raised his voice at her, but he never thought she would go today because she mentioned she would be leaving tomorrow. I tried reaching her through mindlink, but I couldn't get through her mind. I blamed myself again for why I didn't bother to teach her about it.

Left with no choice, I alerted the Alpha, and he directed me to send people to look out for her. And I did, reminding everyone that she would be shifting tonight.

I was hell-bent on trying to scent her when I received a mindlink from Jake saying that he had found Clair and that she had shifted. I felt relieved for her safety but felt guilty knowing she shifted without any help. To my surprise, Alpha Jake did not answer when I asked where they were and instead asked me to withdraw all the warriors looking for her and just wait till they come back – using his Alpha command.

I shook in anger at his command, but I couldn't do anything.

I was cursing him for thinking that this would sit well with me. Clair is my sister, and I wanted to see for myself if she shifted successfully.

I asked my warriors to retreat and continue with their plans for the night, advising them that Clair was found and well. I tried to reach out to the Alpha again, but he shut off his mind, and this just aggravated my anger.

After what felt like an eternity, he sent a mindlink to inform me that they were heading back to the pack house. I argued that I wanted Clair at home, but he did not reply. It left me with no choice again but to head back to the packhouse.

I was interrupted away from my thoughts when I heard a car approaching. I turned to see Clair's beat-up truck being driven by the Alpha. My brows furrowed when I realized that my sister was seated in the Alpha's lap, unconscious. 1

What the fuck just happened?! I knew first-time shifters usually exhausted themselves, so it was no surprise that she passed out or fell asleep. But what the fuck was she doing in the Alpha's lap? 2

I doubled my steps towards the truck and aimed to take Clair away from the Alpha's arms once he stepped out of the car, only to be denied.

"Don't. She's asleep." He didn't even bother to look at me and just continued walking toward the pack house.

"I can see that, Alpha. Let me carry my sister." I asked calmly as I walked beside him, matching his pace. I was trying to sound casual and calm when, in reality, I was

already pissed off. 4

"No harm done, man. She's light as a feather." He talked as if the reason I was trying to take my sister from his arms was that it would be uncomfortable for him as an Alpha. And it was fucking irritating me already.

"Jake, I want to hold my sister. Take your hands off her." I asked in a slightly higher voice this time.

He turned around, a scowl on his face as he looked straight into my eyes. "I said, I'll take her."

He sounded like he had let out a low growl as he strode toward the stairs. My room was on the second floor, but he didn't stop there. Instead, he went up to the next flight of stairs.

"My room is on this floor, Alpha," I called after him, my hands balling into fists.

"I'll put her in one of the guests' rooms." He answered coldly.

"There's a guest room available on this floor as well," I said, gritting my teeth as I punched the air in annoyance because he just ignored me.

I tried to calm myself before following his strides. I had no idea what game the Alpha was playing, but I wouldn't let him toy with my sister. She's my sister and I didn't want him messing with her head or worse, her heart, as he did with all the other females.

I stood by the door and watched him pull over a blanket to cover her after he laid her in bed. I waited until he left the

room before I closed it and followed him downstairs.

"I don't know what game you are playing, Jake. I don't find this funny anymore." I walked beside him as we went down the stairs.

He shook his head and walked towards the Alpha office. "I'm not sure I understand what you are trying to imply because I don't see anyone playing games here. She doesn't want to go home. She needs to rest. The best thing I can do for my pack members is to make sure they get the rest they need after their shift without any stress."

I followed him inside his office, but I stayed put beside the door. "I just want to make it clear, Alpha. My sister is off-limits."

I shot dagger glares at him as I continued. "I'm not sure what came over you that you didn't allow me to come to my sister's aid when she shifted. Or the fact that you refused to give her to me and clutched her as if you owned her. Or that you held her in your lap while you drove home. Tell me, Alpha, it doesn't mean anything because I'm fucking sure as hell that this is not how you treat any of your pack members!"

He just stood in front of his desk, not turning around to face me.

"You might be my Alpha, but Clair is my sister. Don't play with her just to toss her away as you do with all the females you charmed."

"You know me better than to think that low of me." He replied in a low voice.

"That's the fucking point! That's the fucking point, man! I know you far too well! Females are nothing more than toys for you! Once you're done, you just throw them away!" I shouted, pointing a finger at him. I couldn't control my anger anymore.

I knew I was the same as him - we fucked and we played around, but he set up a rule not to touch any pack members to avoid complications, and I was fucking sure Clair was not an exception to this rule.

After a few seconds, Beta Gavin came rushing inside.

"What the fuck just happened here?" His eyes shifted from me to the Alpha, waiting for an explanation.

"Ask your Alpha! I'm done here!" I turned around, ready to go when he spoke in his icy tone.

"I'm not playing with your sister, Aaron. We both know she deserves better than that."

I scoffed at him but kept my mouth shut before walking away. I didn't want to do more damage between us than I already had. I already got my point across. And I hope he will stay clear of her way from now on.

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CLAIR

I woke up with a terrible headache and a dry throat. And as much as I would have loved to stay in the comfort of my bed, my stomach reminded me that I needed to eat.

I flipped my eyes open and stared at the ceiling. It was so calm at the moment, and I was enjoying it. I was enjoying the silence. It took a while before I realized that the ceiling I was staring at didn't quite look like the ceiling in my room.

I tilted my head to look around as I sat up from laying down. I tried to sit so fast that I let out a loud grunt when pain erupted from my hips. I breathe deeply and calmly to control the pain while trying to recall what happened before I ended up in this unfamiliar room.

I glanced down at the shirt I was wearing and sniffed the scent it gave out.

Jake. I had Jake's shirt on me.

I closed my eyes and let a smile tug on my lips as I slowly took in the events of last night. I shifted, and Jake stayed with me through it all, until I fell asleep in his arms.

I remembered the moment Rain came forward and how Jake's eyes lit up just by looking at her. The time we spent with Jake and his wolf, Echo, was so special that it was turning out to be the highlight of my stay here. Echo was so beautiful that Rain and I couldn't help but marvel at him. He was just perfect, and so was Jake.


I pulled my knees up and placed my arms around them as I pressed them closer to my chest. I was still grinning like an idiot when the door suddenly burst open.

Jake came in rushing with a worried expression on his face. His hair was slightly disheveled, but it did nothing to ruin his perfect features. 1

"Are you okay, princess?"



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