

Chapter 11

AEON.

"Where is she?"

"At Nana's house."

"What?"

"I need her to feel comfortable with me. Then she could spill out more."

"Do you think she knew something?"

"I don't know. That's what I'm trying to find out."

"We could just break her and she would spill everything, I can assure you."
"

"No. I don't even think she's a rogue. Are you sure she's Achilles' daughter and not a replacement they took?" I didn't know where these ideas came from.

"You're confusing me."

"What does she smell to you, Father? Because I can barely smell a rogue scent on her." I asked Krane and Holly if they could scent Alexa as a rogue and they both told me it was too faint a scent. Even fainter than a rogue pups' smell. And I remembered Luna Nadia stating she couldn't smell rogue smell on her as well.

I was relying on them because her smell to me was totally different. And I hope this would take any doubt from my father if it ever crossed his mind that she was my mate.



"Hmmm... It makes sense. Do you think she's not Achilles' daughter? If so, she would be more dangerous. What if he was using her as a spy or a weapon? You need to be careful, Aeon. The last thing I wanted was for a rogue to infiltrate my territory."

"I'm careful, don't worry. I'll break her in my own way until I can get her to give me what I want from her. I just want your word, father, that no one would touch her within our territory." I told him, my eyes looking directly at his.

"You have my word. I'll make sure everyone is made aware not to touch her. Just don't fail me."

I nodded my head before standing up from my seat. "I won't. Thanks, Dad."

"Aeon, but that doesn't mean she's allowed to shift into her wolf. Once she shifts, the men will know what to do with her. Are we clear?"

"Yes, Alpha," I answered before heading for the door.

I left his office in a more confused state than when I entered it. Everything I told him backfired on me. His words were ringing in my head. What if Alexa is not Achilles' daughter and was used as a tool to get to any pack? And she just happened to end up as my mate, making it more complicated.

— ♡♡♡ —

The day was almost over and it was almost dinner time, but I didn't have any appetite to eat at all. And if anything, I didn't want to see my father.

He rolled out an order that no one is allowed within the 200-meter area where Alexa was residing except for rank wolves and our top elite

warriors. So that only means no one would be able to reach Alexa except his Beta and Gamma, my Beta and Gamma, and another 10 warriors with special elite badges. I told him I wanted Holly to have access as well since Alexa needed to have a female around who she could trust more than the males, and Holly was given authority to cross the perimeter.

I would rather have fewer warriors or no one at all who has access to her, but I didn't voice anything. It was enough that he was agreeing with my request. And if he already had any doubts, I needed to be more careful.

But my father should know I was always on his side. We have our disagreements, but despite everything, the pack always comes first for both of us. It was just that sometimes, we had different views on how to make sure our packs were well protected. 1

I changed into a fresh shirt and jeans before leaving the pack house. I wanted to see Alexa and find out what she was up to today. I told myself I would refrain from visiting her, but my fucking mind was losing control over my body.

Krane told me that Holly was with her the whole day, and they spent the day in the garden outside Nana's cottage, fixing and cultivating all the flowers and vegetables around it. Krane told me Holly was actually enjoying Alexa's company and that I had to remind him that they were not supposed to be close or be at ease around her. She wasn't meant to stay long with us.

As soon as I opened the front door of the cottage, the smell of a home-cooked beef stew swirled around me, and I suddenly felt my appetite was back. I was wondering if it was Holly who made the stew, but as soon as the kitchen came into view, I couldn't stop myself from growling.

There, sitting at the table was my Beta, Krane. A wide smile on his face as

he looked at Alexa, who looked so fucking adorable with an apron around her body, a fitted white shirt, and jeans that hugged her body perfectly, and a ladle and pot cover on each hand as she beamed sweetly at my Beta.

Jealousy was eating up my senses and I almost launched at Krane if Holly hadn't appeared out of anywhere and snapped me out of my anger.

"The Alpha is here!" Holly exclaimed before she nudged Krane to stand up from his chair. "We weren't expecting you, Alpha Aeon. Would you like to eat here?" 1

My chest was still heaving as my eyes shifted back and forth between Krane and Alexa. Alexa rolled her eyes at me and turned her back, putting her attention back on the pot on the stove.

'What was that growl for? I didn't do anything. I was just telling Alexa she made a fucking good stew.'

I ignored his mindlink and dragged a chair to the table and sat on it, my eyes fixated on Alexa's back.

I didn't know what got into me. I knew Krane was head over heels with Holly and would never cheat on her, but I didn't like the way Alexa was beaming at him. She never even gave me half of that smile, not even a quarter of it, and yet she was smiling all out for him? Was she fascinated by Krane? 2

"I think this is our cue to leave." Holly blurted out, and Alexa spun around abruptly as her mouth opened wide in shock, and I felt my dick twitching in my pants. Her expression was fucking too innocent that all I could think of were all the things I could do with her mouth open like that.

I shook my head and dropped my gaze to the floor, waiting for their conversation to proceed.

"Leave? I thought you and Krane would eat here?"

"Actually, my mom invited me and Krane to dinner. But then you said you don't want to eat alone, and you made food, so..." My head snapped up to look at Holly, and our eyes met before she continued with her words. "But the Alpha is here already. And I'm sure he won't let you eat alone. I don't have the heart to cancel the dinner with my mom. It was arranged days ago."

"Oh..." Alexa's face dropped and my heart crashed, but she nodded her head before smiling back at Holly. "I understand. I just thought you didn't want to taste my food."

Holly shook her head and raised her hand, holding a container. "Wrong again! I've been dying to taste them, so I'm taking some with us. I won't let this opportunity pass!" She winked at Alexa, and my mate's face lit up, and I wanted to hug Holly. She was amazing. I was already thinking of ways to console Alexa once they left, but she did her part well.

Alexa took the container from Holly's hand and started preparing food for them, and my eyes just followed her movement. She was happy. She liked Holly and Krane. And in that moment, I was hoping she would give me those smiles as well. But it would just make things more complicated.

I let out a sigh and leaned my back on the chair before I caught sight of Krane staring at me. He was smirking smugly at me and I just raised a brow at him but didn't say anything.

I stayed in my seat as Alexa went with them by the front door and watched them leave, leaving just the two of us alone.

"Do you want to eat?" She asked as she took off the apron and placed it on a hook on the wall.

"If you want to feed me, then yes, I want to eat."

She didn't say anything and just went to prepare something before placing the bowl in front of me and before taking her own seat at the other side of the table, facing me.

"Where did you learn to cook?"

I wanted to taste the stew, but I also wanted to talk to her while my eyes were ogling the way she chewed her food. "I worked in a small restaurant. The cook there let me assist him from time to time, and sometimes, when there were not many customers around, he would let me cook and just instruct me on what to do."

"He? Sounds like he likes you. Do you like him?"

"Yes. He's nice."

"So what does he get in return for helping you?" I sounded mean, but whoever the fuck was that guy, I didn't like him at all.

"I don't know what you mean. He was old enough to be my father."

"So he likes younger females." 

She glared at me before grabbing the bowl in front of me, and my hand automatically raised and grabbed her wrists to stop her from taking it away.

"What are you doing?" I asked, my brow furrowing.

"It seems you want to interrogate me rather than eat. I worked hard to cook that, and I won't let you just waste it."

"Who said I'm not eating. Give it back."

She placed the bowl back on the table, and I let go of her wrist. I saw her wrap her hand around her wrist as if soothing it.

"Did I hurt you?" I asked before putting a spoonful in my mouth. "
Hmmm... this one is delicious!"

A smile curved on her lips, and my heart soared as the spoon stopped midway in my mouth.

She was smiling. A smile meant for me. And I couldn't help my own lips from tugging on a smile.

"You sound so fake..." She playfully rolled her eyes as she began eating again.

"What do you mean?" I asked, taking a mouthful again while my eyes never left her face.

"Like you're forcing yourself to say it's delicious." She said, but she was still smiling, and I was left in a daze, not wanting to wipe off the smile on her face.

"You can think whatever you want, but this one is really good. You can ask Thunder. He will never lie to you." I winked at her, and I noticed a red tint on her cheeks before she returned her gaze to her meal, a smile still on her face, and I felt like I had struck gold.

"Do you like cooking?"

She just nodded her head as she continued to eat.

"Will you cook for me?"

"I cooked this for you." She blurted out before she bit her bottom lip and started explaining. "I mean, I didn't know what to cook, but Holly said you like beef stew, so I cooked this. I was hoping you'd come tonight, but if not, I was thinking of saving some for you."

"You cooked this for me..." I hadn't even been sitting here for a long time, and yet the happiness I felt was already higher than me.

"Yes. To say sorry for being rude to you when it was you who saved me..." Her eyes started to water and I had no idea what was going on in her mind right now. "It just sunk in on me today, if you didn't come on time. My body must be rotting in the forest now."

My hand coiled into a fist. I was scared she would have a breakdown. Facing death was something you could not take easily. If her almost dying was still hunting me until now, I knew it must have been harder for her. 

I moved my hand and reached for hers, squeezing it gently as our eyes locked. "I know you don't fully understand why I'm keeping you here. But one day, everything will make sense. I just want you to trust me."

She smiled weakly before her tears fell. "It's hard to trust you, Aeon, because you didn't want me or the bond between us. But do I have a choice now? So yes, I will trust you. Or at least I will trust Thunder that he won't hurt me."

I moved from my seat and kneeled beside her. My hands went to her arms and angled her so she was half facing me before my hands cupped

her cheeks. "Alexa... I might be rude or have a temper sometimes, but I will never intentionally hurt you. And I will make sure no one hurts you. The shackle around your neck is my only guarantee that none of my men will come and kill you. But as soon as I can find a way, I will take it off. Just be patient with me."

She nodded her head and smiled at me as my thumb moved on its own to wipe her tears away.

I rested my forehead against hers and closed my eyes. I could hear our heartbeats, and although they were thumping loudly, they were calming me.

"I want to kiss you, Alexa..." My voice came out hoarsely, and I didn't know where I got the courage to say those words. I knew I shouldn't. I have a fiancée. 

But Alexa is mine.

"Are you mated, Aeon?" Her voice sounded like it was breaking.

My jaw tightened as I withdrew away, only to find her staring at me.

"No." I gulped. "Not yet."

Her hands went to my face as she cupped them before leaning forward, crushing her lips against mine.

And the world faded away. It was just me and her. 