Chapter 15

CLAIR

Unfortunately, sleep didn't come.

It was almost three o'clock in the morning, and I was still wide awake. The face of the wolf that almost took my life lingered in every corner of my room.

When I couldn't take it anymore, I stood up from my bed and went to my dresser, and took Jake's shirt that I had placed in there without even washing it. It was the one I put on after I shifted, hoping his scent would calm me down enough for sleep to take over.

And then, for the first time since I came back, I drew the curtains closed, putting the room into total darkness.

I wasted no time and lay in my bed, closing my eyes and pulling my blanket over my head, ready to put my mind in the blanks when a mindlink startled me.

'Are you awake?' A voice came into my head.

'Jake? Why are you still awake? It's three in the morning.' I pulled my blanket down from my head and openly stared at the dark ceiling.

I heard him chuckle before answering. 'Do you really expect an Alpha to sleep peacefully in his bed after a breach of his

territory?'

I scrunched up my nose when I realized how pathetic my question was. 'Yeah, apparently I've been out of my head and not using logic. How's it going? Do you know who attacked us?'

'We've been working the whole night to find out, and the wolf we captured hasn't broken yet. Hopefully, he will soon. It could be just a random rogue attack or could be deeper. Either way, we need to be more careful. I don't want this to happen again and put everyone at risk.'

I bit my lower lip, feeling guilty and embarrassed at the same time. I stayed silent, not knowing what to say.

'How are you, Clair?' He asked me, his voice laced with concern.

I swallowed before I answered. 'I guess I am okay. Are you going to scold me as well? I had enough from Aaron already. 'I answered softly, not knowing how to handle this conversation.

'I can't blame him. It was stupid what you did there. But I'm glad you're not harmed. I don't know what I would do if anything happened to you.' The last one made butterflies flutter in my stomach. He sounded broken while saying it. Maybe he did care for me more than I thought.

'Me too...' I smiled despite the guilt and found myself hugging my pillow tightly, closing my eyes.

'Do you want to sleep now, or maybe we can talk more? I just need a little breather from all this.' He asked. His voice sounded as if he was pleading.

'Talk? Like, mind talking the whole night? You know, I still feel weird about this mind-talking.' I chuckled, but the truth was, I could do this mind talk all night long if it meant being able to communicate with him.

'I'm outside your window. Come out and sit me here.' 2

'You're what?!' I gasped in surprise. Was it real or was he playing mind games with me?

I shoved the blanket off my body and rose from my bed, tiptoeing my way to the window. I slowly slid the curtain away and peered outside my window without making any noise.

I doubted if he was really here.

But there he was, sitting on the roof outside my window, with his back to me. I tried to steady my erratically beating heart while I stared at him. The moon cast a shadow on him, and it just made him look more mysterious and alluring.

I drew my curtain fully to the side and opened my window slowly. I climbed out of it and gently walked to the roof outside while trying my best not to make too much noise. I hoped Dad was already fast asleep and wouldn't hear any movement at all. "Hi..." My voice came out throaty as I sat beside him, all the while my stomach kept rumbling in excitement.

He didn't look back and remained seated. My arm brushed his slightly, which was enough to send tingles all over my body. It was only then that he tilted his head to look at me.

He was smiling, a smile that actually reached his eyes.

I licked my lips at the sight of his deep dimples. Damn, I miss this smile from him!

My heart was hammering in my chest. No matter how much I tried to control it, it wouldn't calm down, and I knew Jake could hear it as well.

"Hello there, little one." He greeted me back without taking his eyes off my face, and I felt uneasy. In my excitement to come out of the window, I didn't even check what I looked like. Maybe my hair was sticking out everywhere or I had drool on the corner of my mouth.

I scrunched up my nose and brushed my hands across my face, pretending to be annoyed, but in reality, I was just wiping away any traces of drool, crumbs, or whatever, if there were any.

"I'm not so little anymore, just so you know," I told him in a soft voice before pulling my knees up and resting my elbows on them while my hands brushed my arms to calm the goosebumps rising from my skin because of the tingles I felt all over my body.

"I'm sorry I disturbed your night."

"I couldn't sleep. So this is better than staring at my ceiling for hours."

He looked at my arm before he moved closer, snaking an arm around me. He then began to rub my arm with his callous palm before asking, "Are you cold?"

I closed my eyes as I reveled in his warmth. It's not every day I can sit and be held like this by the Alpha. It felt good.

"A little," I answered.

"Better?" He pulled me closer to his side, making the side of my body lean against his as he continued to smooth his hand over my arm.

I nodded as my body started to relax. I leaned my head on his shoulder, enjoying his warmth. We didn't talk for a moment, he was just holding me close, and I couldn't be more content than I felt right now as if I was meant to be in his arms.

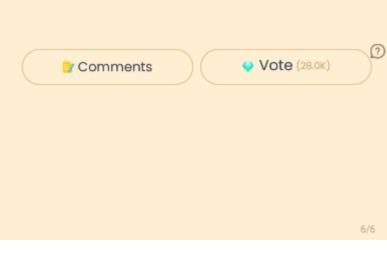
"Thank you." I closed my eyes and inhaled more of his scent. I could not get enough of him.

"Anything to keep you warm, princess." His breath ran over my face.

He was so close, and it was too overwhelming.

"I mean for saving me. Earlier. Thank you. I was scared..." I





Chapter 16

JAKE

I held her body close to mine and continued to rub her arm gently. I would have offered her a jacket if only I had had it with me, but in my hurry to get here as soon as I found out she was still awake, I forgot to grab one.

"I mean for saving me. Earlier. Thank you. I was scared." Her voice came out soft, almost breaking.

I pulled her head into my chest and dipped my mouth into her hair, inhaling her sweet scent as she began sobbing softly.

"I was not ready to die yet. I was so stupid..." she continued, and I let out the breath I was holding.

She was scared. And I was too.

I let her sob in my chest, and all I could do was hold her tightly, letting her know that I would not leave her.

When her sobs turned into hiccups, I hooked one arm under her knees, and with my other arm still holding her, I lifted her to sit on my lap. My finger curled under her chin before I tilted her face up and urged her to look at me. "Princess... You're here, and you're alive. That's the most important thing." My eyes fixed on her and I saw myself getting lost in those beautiful sapphire eyes of hers. But I also saw the pain flitting in them.

I cupped her cheeks with my hands and wiped her tears with my thumb. "Look at me. You know I will not let anyone hurt you, not on my watch."

She stared right back at me as she nodded her head. The pain dissolved in her eyes, and, slowly, they began to dilate. She was looking at me as if I was the only thing she could see, and the sight of her in awe of me snapped all the control I was holding.

My wolf within me, having witnessed the desire in her eyes, had forced himself to come forward, and, for once, I let him take over.

I lowered my head into hers, capturing her luscious lips in a full kiss. I felt her gasp when our lips met, but she slowly parted them open, allowing me to plunge my tongue into her warm and wet mouth, giving me more access to devour her.

I kissed her deeper and moved my hand to the back of her head, clutching her hair tightly while my other hand held onto her hips to adjust her position. I adjusted her legs around my waist before I lifted us up together without breaking the kiss.

In a swift movement, I ushered us into her bedroom without making a sound - our lips were still locked and lost with

each other.

I don't think I will ever get tired of this. I could kiss her all day.

We stood in the middle of her room, her legs still wrapped up around my waist while my hand was cupping her ass.

Her soft moans gave me the courage to continue what I started. I pulled her hair, making her head a bit harsh. I made her gasp once more as her lips tore away from mine. My mouth trailed her jaw down to her throat, up to the soft spot on her neck. I was nibbling and kissing her skin, making her moan seductively.

"Jake..." her voice was full of desire. Her breathing hitched as her fingers locked onto my hair in a tight hold.

"Hmmm..." I continued to nibble and bite her neck, leaving marks along the way.

"You taste so good, Princess!" I told her in a raspy voice when I couldn't hold it within myself.

She tasted sweet and refreshing, like a breath of fresh air. My very own fresh air.

And the hard boner I was sporting was clouding my sanity. I wanted to take her right now and fuck her until she screamed my name.

I took her lips again, earning a soft moan from her as she pressed her core into the bulge of my pants. I let out a low growl with her action and thrust my tongue inside her mouth, which she took gracefully, her fingers digging into my shoulders.

I was on a thin line, and I knew if I didn't stop now, I would do what I and my wolf wanted to do since she stepped back into my territory.

I wanted to fuck her. I wanted to have a taste of her. But I couldn't do that to her. Clair is off-limits.

I pulled away from our kiss, cutting us both out of our trance.

My eyes roamed around her dazzled face, taking note of how her swollen lips looked so tempting that I wanted to take it again, over and over. But I had to restrain myself.

I rested my forehead on hers and closed my eyes. "I.. We can't... We need to stop, Clair. I am taking advantage of you."

But even with my eyes closed, I could still see her swollen lips and smell her arousal — it wasn't helping at all.

We remained in that position until she tried to break free of my grip, at which point I had no choice but to let her go. I was still holding her by her waist as she stood in front of me. Her eyes refused to look at me as she silently fixed her hair.

I could hear her heart thumping loudly, and it was only then that I realized what she was wearing.

"You... You're wearing my shirt." I felt my cheeks burn. My

lips curved into a coy smile. And as much as I hated feeling vulnerable and going soft, the thought of her wanting to sleep in my shirt warmed my heart.

She bit her bottom lip as color crept onto her face. She wriggled away from my hold and walked towards her bed, sitting at the end of it, fidgeting with her fingers, not glancing even once at me.

"I had a good sleep after I shifted with this shirt, so I thought I would take it in case I needed a good one. And then, I remember to put it on just before you mindlink me tonight. I couldn't sleep and I thought maybe this would help. " She said it in one breath. "I'm sorry I took it home."

I couldn't take the smile off my face even if I wanted to. I was glad she wasn't looking at me because I had no idea how I would cover this emotion at all. "You can have it. It looks better on you than on me."

She just smiled while staring at her feet. The sight of her looking so innocent does wonders for my already aching dick.

Damn! This was so fucking unfair! How could she look innocent and yet alluring at the same time?

I let out a sigh and sat beside her, the bed dipping from my weight while I tried my best to cover my growing shaft by entwining my palms together.

"Go to bed and sleep, Clair. You need to rest." I glanced at

her beside me.

She nodded and, without a second thought, turned around and crawled to her place in her bed.

My eyes followed her movement, and I don't know if she crawled on purpose, exposing her thighs, or if she was too naive to even notice what she was doing.

I adjusted my pants before standing up to face her with my hands in my pocket.

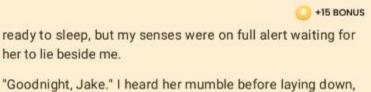
She looked at me, still sitting, before letting out a sigh and asking in a soft voice. "Will you stay?"

I shook my head and pursed my lips. "I can't. I don't think it is appropriate after what I did."

"You didn't do anything that I didn't want, Jake. It was mutual, so I'll take half of the blame here." She turned her head and looked at the wall of her room, avoiding my stare. "Don't go. Stay just for tonight. I promise I won't kiss you or anything. I just don't want to be alone..." She let out a whisper, just enough for me to hear.

I knew I couldn't fight this anymore. I brushed my hair with my fingers in a defeated stance before turning around to close the window and draw her curtains. I proceeded to take off my shirt and rest it on the chair by her table before settling beside her in the bed, just in my pants.

"Sleep. I won't be here when you wake up." I said calmly as I laid down on the bed and rested one arm over my eyes,



"Goodnight, Jake." I heard her mumble before laying down, her back on me.

I turned to my side facing her back and wrapped an arm around her, pulling her body close to my chest, my palm holding her hand resting in front of her. I felt her body stiffen before she relaxed and melted into my arms, leaning her back against my naked chest.

"Goodnight, princess," I murmured as I placed a kiss on her hair before I rested my head on the nook of her neck, letting her scent lull me into a peaceful slumber.

