

Chapter 21

JAKE

The day was almost over, and I hadn't seen Clair yet.

In two days, I will be heading off to Alpha Caspian's territory and won't be back for five days. The thought of not seeing her before I leave started to affect my state of mind. I was starting to become restless.

I also just remembered today that her birthday would be on Monday, and if I hadn't already confirmed the dates with Alpha Caspian, I would have adjusted the travel to another day. It would be too unprofessional if I canceled now.

And because of this, Echo has been growling in my head the whole day and just wanted me to search for her.

I would have if I could, but as much as I wanted, I had duties I needed to settle before my departure. And this was something my wolf couldn't understand. It was like fighting off myself, and it was just giving me a full headache.

I have been contemplating as well whether Clair's distraction was a good or bad thing for me. If this girl

could distract me and could hinder me from doing my duties, what more if it was someone I was fated with? Would it be worse? 1

My attraction to her frightened me.

I have goals — I wanted to be the perfect Alpha for my pack. I couldn't have a weakness. And it looks like she was turning into mine.

I shunned the idea of a fated mate for the same reason, but with her, I had no idea if I could take her out of my system. 1

She was the very same reason I was treading the path towards the training ground on my way to the daycare center.

I had a meeting with Marina and the head of the daycare, Melissa, but my feet went on their own accord to pass by the training area despite being out of the way just to have a glimpse of her.

But luck was not on my side today. After my eyes scanned the whole area, I still couldn't find her. I stayed for a couple of minutes and waited.

Nothing.

I let out a disappointed sigh before giving up and turning around and making my way toward the

daycare center. ①

My Beta, Gavin, was already waiting by the entrance when I approached the center. He advised what I already knew, I was ten minutes late, but I didn't care to explain. I

The meeting started as soon as I arrived, and as much as I tried to focus, this thing wasn't my forte, making me spaced out most of the time. And this does not go unnoticed by Marina.

She again jabbed me with her joke about having a Luna so I could be released from this misery. I almost bought it and just picked a random girl to be a Luna just to get away from here.

I let out a sigh of relief the moment the meeting was adjourned, only to be held back by Melissa. She wanted to show me around the improvements and the area that needed to be renovated. I wanted to decline and offer to do it at another time, but I changed my mind the moment the door opened and I smelled Clair.

She's here, and I wanted to find out why.

After touring the facility for what felt like an eternity, we finally reached the room where she was.

I watched in awe as she entertained two pups in a

crazy game of hers. Relief washed over me when it hit me that she spent her day with the pups instead of being openly ogled by my warriors. She was safer here.

After a short conversation with her and the pups, she left the room.

I sent a mindlink to Gavin to follow her to let her know that I wanted to walk her home.

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CLAIR

I walked timidly to my designated locker after leaving little Cassandra and little Ashton with their respective mothers.

I smiled in spite of myself because as much as it surprised me to see him here today, I wouldn't deny that I was glad. I missed my Alpha and seeing how accepting he was with those pups warmed my heart.

I was about to reach for my bag inside my locker when I heard somebody speak beside me, taking me out of my thoughts.

"I didn't know you had a talent for weird ways of talking." A teasing and playful tone came out of nowhere.

I closed my locker door to find Beta Gavin leaning on

the locker beside mine. His eyes were on me.

I rolled my eyes before answering, a sarcastic smile plastered on my lips. "I have many talents. You'll be surprised."

"Such as bewitching the heartless Alpha?" He asked coyly.

My jaw dropped open as I stared at him. "What did you say? Don't you know it's rude to put your nose in other people's businesses?"

I huffed and started to walk away from him, only for him to follow me.

"Hey! I didn't mean it in a bad way."

"Whatever!" I continued to walk until I was outside the building.

The Beta was still following, which annoyed me more. I stopped in my tracks and turned to face him. "You know what, just because you're a Beta doesn't mean you can get away with your words." I snapped at him.

He raised both his hands in surrender and smiled awkwardly. "I was just joking. No need to get riled up, Clair."

I glared at him. "Well, it's a bad joke, you... you accused me of bewitching the Alpha! A heartless one!"

"Did he now?" A voice I was so familiar with came out from behind me, and I stood frozen in my spot. My eyes widened in surprise, not knowing how to face the man I had been longing to see the whole week.

Beta Gavin offered an apologetic smile before scratching his head and lifting his gaze to Jake behind me.

"Beta, I asked you to tell Clair to meet me outside, not to put smoke on her nose." He chuckled, while I fumed in embarrassment. 2

The nerve of this Alpha to say I looked like a dragon? Smoke on my nose? 1

"You are dismissed, Gavin." He added, and Beta Gavin sped off towards the pack house after winking at me, leaving me alone with Jake.

I swallowed a gulp before facing him, trying to mask the giddiness I felt to be in his presence by putting a scowl on my face.

"What do you want?" I snapped at him.

"Hey, easy princess. Your prince..." He looked at me with that boyish smile that makes me weak every time. "He just wanted to walk you home. At least that's what the little girl called me."

I was dumbfounded and suddenly had a hard time talking.

"Can I?" He asked again, and my heart somersaulted in my chest.

"Can I say no to the Alpha?"

"I guess not. But you can always say no to Jake. And I am Jake right now. So is it a Yes or a No?"

I stared at him for a moment, like I was memorizing his face. I subconsciously bit my bottom lip when my gaze reached his lips.

A low growl reverberated from his chest that made me step back, taking me out of my trance.


"Clair, don't do that." He took a step forward and reached out his hand to my face, his thumb pulling my lower lip away from my teeth.

"What did I do this time?" I asked, a little confused.

"Biting your lips. They're making me lose my control.

" He answered hoarsely, and I knew he was struggling for control as I witnessed his eyes keep switching from their original color to black from time to time.

I took his hand away from my face in a calm way before walking past him, heading towards the path

 +20 BONUS

that will lead to my home. "I'm sorry. I didn't know what I was doing was wrong."

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