

STEALING THE HEART OF MY ALPHA by Cassandra M

Chapter 6

AEON

I ran my knuckles down her cheek. Alexa was sleeping peacefully, purring softly in the passenger seat of the car. Her body finally succumbed from all the running and all that happened in the last twenty-four hours, that even after the car came to a full halt, she was still not moving from her sleep.

I withdrew my hand from her face the moment I realized what I was doing. I was not supposed to give in to the bond. It wouldn't do us any good. I have a chosen mate, and I didn't want to hurt Katarina

Lady Katarina was the Alpha Female I was betrothed to. She's the sister of Alpha Darvin of the Moon Stone Pack. Months ago, Darvin and I entered into an agreement for a union to take place between me and Lady Katarina. This was to ensure that both packs would survive.

My father has been consistent in holding on to the Alpha post until I produced a Luna he would approve of. And at the moment, he wanted Lady Katarina as my Chosen Luna. Alpha Darvin, on the other hand, has a different reason.

FLASHBACK

Six Months Ago.

'Alpha Aeon, Alpha Darvin is on his way to the pack house. He wanted a word with you.' Krane sent a mindlink. I was in the gym doing my morning routine.

Do you know why? But send him to my office when he arrives. I'll just freshen up.' I answered him as I stopped hitting the sandbag in front of me and took off my boxing gloves.

'He didn't say anything.'

I didn't reply anymore and just went to the shower room. I already had a notion it had something to do with the union he was proposing that I had already turned down. He and Dad wanted me to claim Lady Katarina on the next Claiming, but I had no intention of doing so.

If I would have a Chosen Luna, I wanted someone I wanted, even if it's just pure lust. But with Katarina, I felt nothing for her. Not that she wasn't attractive. She is. And has the perfect body to go with it. But I couldn't see myself with her. And she didn't even pique my interest.

That surprised me because I assumed any female with a pussy was a fuckable. But maybe it was different because I knew I would be stuck with that female for the rest of my life. I still have yet to find the right female that would make me want to claim her. And so far, no one has piqued my interest or even my curiosity.

"Darvin, what a pleasant surprise." I greeted him as I entered my office.

My father, Alpha Argon, is still the Alpha of our pack, but I've been handling more than fifty percent of all the pack duties and responsibilities, so my office was more useful than his for the last three years,

"Aeon, I hope I didn't disturb you." He smiled at me as he leaned his body on the wall beside the window

"Nope. Not all, so what's up?"

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"Katarina."

"Again. It's a no. I'm sure there are other Alphas for her. Try Caleb, Kallan, or Lucas. There are many out there." I told him as I slumped my body onto my chair, resting my elbows on the armrest while playing with the stress ball I grabbed from my desk.

"Not Caleb. He sees Katarina as his sister. Kallan has a girlfriend, and Lucas will claim Alba."

"Riley then."

"Do you think he will give up Andrea to Katarina?" He chuckled.

"What's up, man? Why are you peddling Katarina? Let her wait for her mate. How old is she anyway?"

"Twenty."

"Twenty? The fuck. Where is her mate?" I was surprised since females usually find their mates earlier than males.

Most females would find their mates the moment they turn eighteen which was the opposite of males. We tend to find our mates later on because I had no idea why the Goddess would always pair males with younger females. But she does, sometimes way younger than the males.

"No idea. That's why I'm here. I need your help." "As much as I want to help you, I don't fancy your sister."

"I'm dying."

The bumps on my skin raised at his words, as my eyes locked with his. I was trying to read if he was joking, but there was nothing but sadness in his eyes. Darvin has always been the life of the group – our small Alpha circle. He was the easy-go-lucky type of man that, seeing the seriousness on his face, I knew he wasn't joking.

my wolf is. But I had no idea if I would have time to live once he died."

"What the fuck, man?"

"I have acresia."

I brushed my palms against my face as I tried to make do with his words.

Acresia. A disease that eats up the immune system of wolves within us. I knew Darvin's father had acresia, but I knew as well that it skips a generation, so this must be a false alarm.

"How was that even possible?"

"I don't know. But my wolf is weak already, Aeon. And I have two sisters who knew nothing about my ordeal. And I have a pack that needed an Alpha once I stepped down." 1

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"No fucking way."

"You're my only hope, man. You're the only one who didn't have a mate or a chosen at this point."

"I don't know if I should say I'm lucky or not."

"I'm lucky you don't have. I just want to make sure my sisters will be protected. And my pack will not be taken over by another Alpha I promised my father that the pack would be passed

down through our bloodline My only hope was for Katarina to find her fated mate, but it's been years and she still has no one."

"And Sofia, the youngest?"

"She just turned seventeen. Of course, if she finds her mate before Katarina, I would gladly give it to him and Sofia. But she won't be eighteen soon, and what's my guarantee she will find him right away when Katarina didn't? I need to have an Alpha who can protect my pack."

"I can't be an Alpha of two packs. We're fucking three hours away from each other."

"Yes, you can. You have a Beta and Gamma in both packs. You can make it work."

"What if Katarina's mate shows up? Then I need to give your pack back to her mate? Is that what you want? Mess up your people with this Alpha issue?" "I fucking don't know. If I can protect my pack, I will never beg you, Aeon. But I can't. Once the word spreads out that I don't have a wolf anymore, I will just be counting the days before someone tries to take over my pack. If I'm the only casualty, then I won't mind. But I have a whole pack who rely on me and my sisters are there. I just want to make sure someone is out there to protect them when I can't."

END OF FLASHBACK

And just because Alexa showed up didn't mean I could just turn my back on Darvin and Katarina. Especially now that Katarina was fully aware of her brother's condition, and she agreed that regardless of a loveless union, we would make it work.

I have to stop whatever illusion my wolf has that we could claim Alexa because it would never happen.

But the fucking thing was, I couldn't understand the way the Goddess played me. Just when everything was already settled and I could almost feel the Alpha title in my hand, why did she throw my fated mate right in my face? And a rogue? And a fucking rogue!

As if the situation I was in right now was not hard enough already, the Goddess needed to make it more complicated by giving me a rogue for a mate – and not just an ordinary one, but the daughter of the man responsible for my mother's death.

I wondered why the Goddess always mocked me as if I was not one of her children. Was this a test to see if I deserved to be an Alpha?

It used to be just my pack that I needed to think of. But now, I have Katarina and then Alexa. And the last thing I wanted was to hurt any of them.

But if I had to choose, I knew the one I needed to sacrifice. I'm doing this for my pack. Yes, my pack above all.

I saw movement ahead of me and saw Krane walking towards my car together with his mate, Holly.

They received my instructions the moment I entered the territory and prepared the place wanted for Alexa. It was a small house, three kilometers from the pack house within the forest grounds. It was my grandmother's house, She stayed there when she and my grandfather had a tough time and she wanted to separate from him. They eventually patched it up, but my grandmother still kept the place clean, and it was one of the places she would take me when I Was younger

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I had someone keep the place tidy all these years after her death because it was the only memory I had of her. And I knew my father would never go here. He never liked this house,

I opened the door of the car and slipped out, nodding my head at Krane and Holly to acknowledge their greetings. "Is the bedroom prepared?"

"Yes, Alpha."

"Krane, I don't trust anyone at this point to keep her safe. So it has to be you guarding her tonight until I can talk to my father and everyone can stay away from her." "I understand, Alpha. And Holly doesn't mind if we stay here tonight." "Yes, Alpha. As you instructed, Krane and I will take the bigger room, and she can have the smaller one, but I made sure everything is clean and comfortable."

"Thank you," I told them before walking to the other side of the car, opening it and unbuckling her seatbelt before taking her into my arms in a bridal style.

Her sweet scent was so potent, that I just wanted to dig my nose into her neck. Her scent was

ing my knees weak and the sparks between our bodies were too much – it was too comforting that I wanted to press her body closer to mine.

But I knew better. I had to drain her out of my system or I would be the one at the losing end.

I walked past Krane and Holly, straight ahead inside the house, to the room I had assigned for her. Krane went ahead and opened the door while Holly was behind me. The moment I placed her down on the bed, I motioned for Holly to take over, and she came in with fresh clothes in her hand and a wet towel.

While Holly was changing her clothes, I waited outside the bedroom with Krane. "What's your plan?" He asked, his arms crossing over his chest.

"I don't know."

"Are you sure you want to do this? Keep her here? She'll be in danger once your father." "Not a word. I didn't tell you about my relationship with her. Whatever you have in mind, don't say it out loud." I reminded him again. My father could use an Alpha command and make him confess if he knew anything. That was why I didn't tell him.

"I needed Alexa to get information about his father. Or to lure Achilles to meet me. That's the reason I'm keeping her. And everyone who touches her, I will not hesitate to incapacitate them or kill them. That's all you need to know. I wanted her protected 24/7 until I got what I needed from her."

He just nodded his head, but from the way he looked at me, I saw concern and pity in it. But I chose to ignore it. If there was anyone who knew me and all the pain I was going through because of my father's refusal to give me my birthright title, it was Krane.

"Did Dad find out Alexa tried to run away?"