

Chapter 8

AEON.

I left the training grounds immediately after Krane informed me that she was already awake. And by the time I almost reached the cottage where she was staying, Krane sent another mindlink. Alexa asked him if I was mated.

And he didn't know how to answer her.

Me too.

I wasn't sure if I was ready to tell her about Katarina. Or that there was no possibility between us, even if I wasn't sure if she wanted me or not because I didn't know what I was feeling either.

I was not able to sleep at all last night, I wanted to see her. I tried closing my eyes, but all I saw was her helplessness while she was tied up in the tree.

And I knew, regardless, if I would never claim her, and no matter how bad my ordeal was right now, I was thankful that I arrived on time before my father executed his order to kill her. I don't think I would be able to forgive myself or live with myself if I was even a second late.

That night, I smelled her at the exact moment my father stated that he wanted her head. And for the first time, I was terrified. And I knew that if my father took the first step to kill her, someone would end up dead in my hands, and it wouldn't be Alexa.

"Why are you doing this?" She asked, and the pain in her voice would haunt me for a long time. I hoped I could give her an answer but I

couldn't explain to myself either why I was doing this.

"Can we get things done first and then we can talk." I slipped the shackle around her neck and untied her chain, all the while I was holding my breath. She was too near, and it was getting harder to control my urge to touch her. "Come, I'll take you to the toilet."

She just stood up, but she never looked at me, and I thought it was for the better because whenever I see her cerulean blue eyes, I get lost.

We didn't talk until we reached the common bathroom on the second floor of the house. There's a window inside, but it was already locked by Krane. I wasn't taking any risks.

She went inside, and I heard her lock the door, but instead of going away to wait somewhere, I stood beside it. I have never guarded anyone like this in my whole life. I always have my men do this for me.

But Alexa was making me her very own slave without her even knowing it.

I closed my eyes, arms crossed against my chest with my back on the door as I listened to her movement inside the toilet. I heard the tap running and the water splashing. She might be washing her hands and her face.

And then there was silence. I opened my eyes, my forehead creasing, and then I heard some shuffling inside.

"Aeon!" She screamed from inside the bathroom, and I just found myself slamming my body against the door, breaking it in an instant. She was screaming, and I was terrified that someone had tried to

assault her from the inside, only to find her standing on top of the toilet seat, her face as pale as snow. Panic was written all over her face as she tried to wiggle her hands in the air and if I wasn't too worried that someone tried to attack her, I would be laughing already.

She looked fucking too adorable standing on the toilet seat in soft short shorts and a t-shirt with her blonde hair cascading over her face. 1

"Aeon! Kill it!" She kept saying it over and over again, and I was already convinced she had finally lost it when I caught sight of a spider climbing up the wall adjacent to where the toilet seat was.

I bit my lower lip to suppress myself from smiling because her actions just amazed me. A rogue afraid of spiders? And it wasn't even a poisonous one.

My gaze shifted between her and the spider before the spider swung on the thread attached to the roof towards Alexa's direction, and the next thing I knew, my mate shrieked and jumped from where she was standing.

My reflexes went into full action, catching her even if what happened didn't register yet to me.

"Move! Run!" She was yelling my ears off, and this time I didn't stop myself from laughing heartily as I turned my body around and walked us out of the toilet, with her in my arms, carrying her in bridal style while she was scooting her head on the nook of my neck like she wanted to dig a hole in it. And the fucking sparks from our skins touching were giving me too much adrenaline.

"It's just a spider!" I told her, I couldn't stop my mouth from tugging

into a wide grin. I just found out one thing about her, and the fact that she was voluntarily clinging to me was calming me and Thunder.

"Not just a spider! It's a spider! Oh, God! Imagine if it landed on me!" It was only then that I realized her body was shaking. If she was acting, she was certainly nailing this.

"Calm down. It won't eat you alive." I was fighting myself from laughing because the last thing I wanted was to offend her more.

"Put me down!" She grimaced, her hands flinging in the air as if being touched by me was a big sin.

"Can you wait for a minute?"

"No. Put me down. Now!"

Was that a growl she made? What was wrong with this female? I put her down on her feet when we reached the door to her room, and I saw her face turning scarlet red, but I was thinking more of anger than embarrassment, as she glared at me.

"Is this what I get for saving your life? I saved you twice already."

"I didn't ask you to save me! You could have left me out there to die!"

"Didn't you just jump into my arms a while ago? Like I was your saving grace?"

"Where do you expect me to jump? On the wall? I'm not spiderman! It was your choice to catch me! I didn't ask you to do it! You could have just let me fall on the floor and I would still be able to pick myself up. Just admit it, regardless of how much you hated me for being a rogue, you want to touch me every time you can!" 2

"You're a fucking brat!" I snapped at her, but she was right. I was dying to touch her every fucking time that I could, but she didn't need to know that.

I turned my body towards her bedroom and went inside. "I'll grab your food. You can eat in the kitchen, so you don't ruin your bed. And don't try to fucking run! There are many spiders outside this house."

"So you think I'm a kid who you can scare that monsters exist just so I will follow your order?" She huffed at me as I took the tray of food from her bed.

I gave her a smug smirk before stopping beside her, leaning my head closer to her ear as I whispered. "Monsters exist, Alexa. You might be standing next to one."

I shouldn't have done it. The moment I leaned closer, her sweet, intoxicating smell of berries and wildflowers smacked me in full force. And I suddenly felt hungry.

"I'm not afraid of monsters like you." She hissed back before turning on her heels and walking away from me towards the stairs.

I sighed again, shaking my head as I followed her down the stairs and to the small kitchen, where she sat at the table without waiting for me. She was testing my patience. And I'm surprised I was still here talking to her after all the yelling she gave me.

I placed the tray in front of her and sat in front of her. She started eating without any words, not even inviting me to eat.

"Slow down, the food won't go anywhere."

"I'm just taking advantage of your generosity. Maybe in five minutes you'll change your mind and grab the food away from me. That's what monsters do."

"I'm not that kind of monster."

"So what kind are you?" She asked, her eyebrow raised as she continued eating, but her eyes were on me. "The kind that kills innocent people with emotional torture? Tell me, monster, does it satisfy you to chain or shackle a helpless female?"

Her eyes darted to my hand on the edge of the table that was slowly balling into tight fists.

"Or are you the type of monster who will hit anyone if they annoy you?"

"

"Do you think I will hit you?"

"No. I'm too beautiful to be hit." She said softly as she dropped her gaze on her food at the exact moment a tear fell from her eyes onto her plate.

"Alexa..." Her tears broke me more than her angst.

"Can we cut this crap, Aeon? Tell me what you want from me?"

I had no idea what to tell her. I knew I told everyone that I wanted her as bait for Achilles, but it was a lie. I would never let Achilles near her ever again.

"I want you to stay here and just be safe."

"What for? Can you just let me go? I promise, I will go far away from here. I will never bother you, and then you can have the life you want, with whoever you want to spend it with." 1

"My wolf... He will not allow me to do that."

"Are you not stronger than your wolf?"

"Are you?" 1

"So what do you want me to do? Will I stay here until I grow old and grey? Kept around in a shackle or a chain? I'm good as dead then. Have mercy on me! I didn't do anything wrong to you!" She spat those words as anger surged from her body, her eyes blazing with hatred.

"I will let you go as long as I know you can keep yourself out of danger."

"I lived in the human world for twelve years. I can take care of myself. My father will never find me again. And I will make sure you won't too. So just drop me off somewhere and I will be out of your skin." 1

The rest of her words didn't register anymore. All I heard was the twelve years she lived with humans.

"What do you mean you lived with humans for twelve years?"

"Do I look like a rogue to you? Do I smell like one?"

"Smell? I don't know. The scent I can smell from you is sweet."

"Because I'm not a rogue."

"Because you're my mate."

She swallowed hard but didn't say anything.

"I can't smell anything else from you. Now tell me why you lived with humans for twelve years."

"I don't owe anyone my story. Especially not you."

"Did you hear that my father wanted you dead?"

"And didn't you hear I told you I'm better dead than locked up here?"

I slammed my fist into the table. Everything on top of it jumped up as Alexa's body jolted from her seat. Her eyes widened before she narrowed them at me. "You're not going to scare me!"

"Tell me now. Or I'm going to throw you to a pack of wolves who will shred you into pieces in an instant!"

"Then do it, and let Thunder watch so he can make you pay for killing me in a brutal way instead of giving me a peaceful death or just simply giving me my freedom!" She spat in anger, her hands coiling into tight fists.

Fuck! I underestimated her. She knew how to use my wolf to get what she wanted.

I stood up from my seat, my chest still heaving in annoyance as I brushed my hand over my hair and made my way towards the front door. I wanted to be in control when it came to her, but I always ended up on the losing end. She was already dominating me and I was just letting her.

"My father left me in the orphanage when I was seven..." Her voice



came out low, almost inaudible, but I heard it loud and clear.



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