

## Chapter 9

ALEXA.

"My father left me in the orphanage when I was seven..." I blurted out in a low voice.

I panicked when he stood up and was about to leave the house. As much as I hated him for what he was doing to me, I couldn't deny that I wanted his presence in this house. It made me feel safe that, regardless of what I threw at him, he would never let anyone hurt me.

So I opened my mouth to speak, hoping he would stay a bit more.

He stopped walking and turned his head around to look at me.

I swallowed hard as I met his eyes. "He told me not to say to anyone that I still have a family. He told me to tell the orphanage I ran away from the man who put me on the street to ask for alms. And I must keep it that way until he comes for me."

"How old are you now, Alexa?"

"Nineteen. I begged the orphanage keeper to give me a space to sleep after I turned eighteen because my father told me not to leave the place. She was kind enough to give me a space in the attic. And I found work in a nearby small diner. I worked there during the daytime, and then, once I was back at the orphanage, I helped with the dishes and the laundry. I cleaned the kitchen too, just so she would make me stay." I couldn't stop myself from talking. I hated him, but in a way, I wanted him to know me, that I was not as bad as he thought I was.

I couldn't fathom his expression as he walked back to the table and sat where he was sitting before, but his eyes never left mine. "Why do you think your father left you at the orphanage?"

I shrugged my shoulders and leaned my back on the chair as I crossed my arms against my chest. "I don't know. But he came to see me from time to time. When I turned fifteen, he told me not to date any guys and to keep my virgi... myself intact. He said he would punish me if I lost it."

"When did he come back and take you away from the orphanage?"

"Three days ago, so if you think I know of his plan, I don't. Except that he said next month, we would go north so I could meet the man I would be betrothed to. "

I saw his hand on the table coiled into a fist, but he withdrew it and placed it on his lap.

"I was thinking it was the reason I had to stay pure."

"Are you?"

"Does it matter now?"

"No."

"I'm not a rogue, technically. I'm more human than rogue. I totally forgot the wolf ways until he showed up and told me that on the last full moon before my eighteenth birthday, my wolf would come out. And I have to be away from humans so they would never see me shifting."

"You shifted alone?" His eyes softened as I nodded my head.

"Yes. Alone. In the middle of the dark forest. You can only imagine how terrified I was. I was already scared of spiders and what more of dark creatures, but I was more scared of my friends knowing I'm a wolf. They would surely think I'm an abomination. So I went on my own and waited..."

I smiled at the memory of my own shifting, not the pain, but the moment that Serenity came out and I felt, for the first time, that I was no longer alone. "My wolf, Serenity, she's the best thing that happened to me."

"Serenity..." He murmured her name and Serenity purred in my head, loving the way Aeon mentioned her name. And it didn't slip my eyes the way his mouth twitched into a smile before he erased it and it was gone in seconds.

"I rarely let her out because I can't. And now, she will never be allowed out."

"That's not why I was suppressing her" He leaned back in his chair, his face void of any emotions again. "I don't want you dead, Alexa."

"But you don't want me either," I said in almost a whisper, and I was sure he didn't hear it because his expression didn't change. "I get it. You think I will lead you to my father. But I'm sorry to burst your bubbles, Alpha. My father never liked me, so even if you dangled me in front of his face, he would never come for me. Didn't you notice that he left me hanging on the tree while he fled with his men?"

"Why were you tied up? Was he hurting you?"

"He has previously slapped me in the face. That was the one you asked about that night. And then, before your pack attacked us, he was about to whip me."

"Whip you? What the fuck for?"

"He said I was fucking around with one of his men."

"Were you?"

"Does it matter to you?"

"Just yes or no, Alexa."

"I'm asking you the same thing, Aeon. Does the answer matter to you? Just answer with yes or no." 1

"Yes, it matters to me." He said it almost immediately, his tone void of any emotions.

"No. I wasn't fucking around. I'm saving myself for my mate." I stood up from my seat and gave him a weak smile before raising my brow as I picked up my plates and walked toward the kitchen sink. "But I guess it's no use now."

His stoic expression didn't change, and he didn't even flinch from his seat, and it just broke my heart. I shouldn't have told him about saving myself for him. I just degraded myself more, knowing he would never want me.

I opened the tap and started washing the utensils in the sink as tears were streaming down my cheeks. I never cried easily, but I had no idea how many tears I had shed already after meeting him.

I felt goosebumps on my skin and I knew he was near me. It didn't take long before his calloused hands gripped my arms tightly and I felt his forehead resting at the back of my head, and he was inhaling so hard as if he wanted to take all of my scents, and I couldn't stop more tears from falling.

He didn't say anything, just held me like that for a long time. And his actions hurt me more.

After a long silence, he let go of my arms and walked towards the door.

"Aeon," I called after him without tilting my head to look at him. My gaze was still fixed on the window in front of the kitchen sink, but I saw him stop in his tracks to look back at me. "I heard my father discussing an attack in the coming days. I'm not sure if the plan will be aborted or not because of your attack."

"Do you know which pack?"

I shook my head, still refusing to look at him. "But he mentioned a name. Caspian."

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AEON.

My emotions were all over the place. One moment, I was pissed off with her, and in the next, I wanted to pull her into my arms and console her. I felt like I knew what I wanted, but I also knew what I didn't want. And the fucking thing is, she was both of those.

"No. I wasn't fucking around. I'm saving myself for my mate." She



said in a soft voice as she stood up from her seat, and I restrained myself from showing any emotions, like what I've been doing for the last few minutes.

She saved herself for me. And the entire time, I paraded females as if I were simply changing my clothes. I never felt more ashamed of myself than I do right now.

"But I guess it's no use now." She added before I heard a tap being opened behind me while I remained seated in my chair. I could hear her soft sobs, and it was breaking my heart. I wished I knew what I needed to do to take her out of misery, but I was lost too.

I slowly rose from my chair and turned my body to face her. Her back was to me as she washed her dishes.

I didn't stop myself this time. I took a few steps and came to a halt behind her, my hands flying to her arms and gripping them tightly before resting my forehead on the back of her head while my heart was racing too loudly.

There were many things I wanted to tell her. There were a lot of things I wanted her to know. But I knew it would only hurt her more because this mate bond was bound to fail from the very start. I just needed to slowly withdraw her from my senses, and maybe she needed to do that too.

And then I would let her go. I just needed to make sure she could fend off herself before I did that because I knew she was better off without me. 1

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AUTHOR'S Note:

We are still in the hard days, but tomorrow might be a better chapter, plus we will get to meet Katarina and a certain Alpha, so hang in there! :)

Thank you for your comments and reviews! And all the GEMS! You're all amazing! Tomorrow again! ♡

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Not interesting at all

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