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{ Raine }

As soon as the door closed I groaned into Alexander's shirt. I had buried my face here on instinct and instantly found it relaxed me. I could literally stay here forever but I was trying to remind myself I did not know this man and I was still skeptical of whatever this mate bond thing was. Clearly it wasn't a given and both Alexander and I had been burned before.

I felt him hesitantly move his hands from my hips. One landed on my middle back and the other on the back of my head. He stroked my hair a little and I felt him release a small groan at our contact. I was pressed up against him, every inch of me touching him and suddenly I was aware of each detail of his body that was touching mine. This man's chest was solid, not a single part of it was hard as a rock and defined. My face was buried in his collar bone and my hands resting on his pecs. I felt him breath in and out slowly and calmly as he held me but based on the way my breathing was heightened and my core was suddenly making itself known I knew I had to break contact, reluctantly or not. ²

I pulled my face back first. He looked down at me and I up at him for another few moments. He moved his hand from the back of my head and placed it on my cheek, gently

rubbing there. He didn't make a move to kiss me, didn't move an inch and I appreciated the fact that he was as willing as me to take this a bit slow.

"Alexander-" I started.

"Alex, please. No formalities between us," he said simply but firmly.

"Alex," I started again, then I realized a better question I had than what I was going to say before. "What is your name? Your full name?" 1

"Alexander David Navarro," he said with pride filling his voice.

I smiled a genuine smile hearing his whole name roll off his tongue with that sexy spanish accent. "Lorraine Nidia Molina, although I spent my entire life thinking I had a different last name. My mom lied to me about that too," I told him while I shook my head.

"Well it doesn't matter anymore. You know now. You are a Molina, through and through. A descendant of one of our pack's original bloodlines, one of our strongest bloodlines, a Beta." 1

I stared at him as he spoke. He was looking at me with admiration, adoration and pride. Other than my dad I hadn't ever had anyone look at me like that. My mother looked at me with love, at least she did when I was little. But No one was proud of me like dad and not even he looked at me with

adoration like that.

"Where did you learn such good English?" I asked him.

"All packs speak English, at least the highest ranks do. Being the most common language among countries we use it as the base for meetings and communications. Don't worry, mi amor, you will pick up on the Spanish in no time." 1

"I had no idea my dad spoke Spanish," I told him honestly.

He nodded. "Yeah, that surprised me too. Although he is latino, he seems possibly Cuban, and if he was raised in that culture he would know it. You will notice as you get better with it that he speaks differently than we do. Spanish is spoken all over the world but each area has its own style."

I just looked at him. I was aware my dad was latino, as was I, but I just now realized he never answered my questions about his family when I Was little. Maybe he would now, I thought.

"Raine, how- uh, how are you... feeling?" He asked me hesitantly.

I moved one of my hands along his chest as I thought of how to answer. The sparks danced along with it and I felt a shiver run through him from it. I smiled without thinking and giggled.

"Sorry," I half apologized.

"No, no. Don't be, please. They feel amazing, terrifying but

amazing” he chuckled.

“I feel... the same. As what you just said. Like this is terrifying but amazing. I didn’t um, get to even touch my first mate, whom I don’t even like calling that. I’d rather just call him by his name because he doesn’t deserve that title. So Matthew, I never touched him. He rejected me on the spot so I’ve never felt these butterflies before. The way my wolf just gives into you and the way that your scent affects me, deeply, is all new and scary. But also so soothing that it makes me never want to leave you. Which is also, scary,” I said, laughing as I finished and realized I probably made no sense.

He just watched me, a sad smile on his face that made me tilt my head.

“Caroline, my first mate, when we first met, I had just turned 18 and gained the alpha title from my father. She turned 18 and visited our pack, she wasn’t from here, a few months later. I felt the sparks with her, the draw towards her, but I was never actually emotionally connected to her. She got pregnant immediately and she was angry about it. We had only been together 3 weeks when we found out and I was confused why she wasn’t excited like I was. Cooper wasn’t planned but he was still a blessing. The pregnancy went by and I felt like something wasn’t right. We weren’t close, again the sparks were there but it was like my wolf and I both weren’t attached to her. Just going through the motions because we were supposed to be together. Cooper

was born, and she seemed like she was happy at first, but that last a few days. When he was 13 days old she packed a bag, told me off and left. I rejected her that very moment before she even walked out the door. When she made it to the pack borders she denounced us and our bond broke completely," he paused and took a breath. I waited, because I could sense that he wasn't done. 1

"The way I feel about you, is a thousand times more than the way I felt about her, even from the first day. I watched her carry and have our child but I never felt as connected to her as I do to you already and its been a matter of hours. I can't say for sure what the Goddess had in mind, but I can't help feel like I was never meant for her. I was always meant for you, both Cooper and I were. And it is scary, its new for me too in that way. Its so comforting to touch you, and hold you and my wolf is quite literally purring in my mind from our contact and you being here. So I understand. We can take things slow, we can get to know each other, we can build a better bond for both of us. But I want to say right now, with just a few hours under our belt I know its crazy, but Raine I'm not going anywhere. I'm not Matthew. And a part of me is thankful to him because if he wasn't a total dipshit I wouldn't have you right now." 1

"Wow," I breathed out. That was quite a speech and I was at a loss of words listening. His story with Caroline was heartbreaking. The fact that they were mates and didn't love each other and had a baby together but never loved each other makes my heart ache for him. My wolf already loves

him, I can see how I could get there as well. This isn't Matthew. Its scary but he is right, maybe we lost our first mates to find each other.

It turns out there was one thing my mom actually didn't lie about. I thought she lied when Matthew straight up rejected me. But she wasn't. A mate is a blessing. And they will change your life.

I was struggling to find the words to tell him that I appreciate what he told me, I appreciate his honesty, I want to move slow and I Want to stay together. So instead of saying the wrong thing, I said nothing. I leaned forward and placed a gentle and quick kiss on his lips.


That one kiss made my whole body come alive. I pulled away after just a few moments but I felt tingles all the way down to my toes and a new part of me seemed to wake up.

I opened my eyes and saw his were staring back at me with wonderment.

"Wow indeed," he said in a whisper.


"I- um. I'm sorry, if that was too fast. I just, I couldn't find the words, to say.... that." I tried to explain and apologize in case it wasn't what he wanted.

"No, baby, don't. Don't apologize or explain it away. It was perfect," he told me as he leaned down and kissed my cheek, lingering there a moment. His breath on my neck made me release a small moan. I blushed profusely as

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embarrassment set in at the way my body reacted to him. He got this sexy smirk on his face as he pulled back.

"Don't feel embarrassed, I love that your body reacts to me that way. Mine does to you as well," He said.

"Well, we should probably leave this private room before I do something to you I will regret later," I said firmly as I turned and pulled out of his grasp, walking two steps away to the door before turning around. 

When I glanced at Alex his eyes were two shades darker than before and it sent a shiver up my spine and tightening to my core. I had to get the fuck out of here.

"That was the sexiest thing I've ever heard," he told me with a husky voice.

I could feel what he was doing to me more each moment and so I grabbed the handle behind me and told him, "We need to go, now, be with people. I've never been one to have a short supply of will power but apparently that's because I've never met you. Now, Alpha, would you mind showing me to the kitchen for a snack?" I added the alpha with a bit of a flirty voice before I opened the door and stepped back through it waiting for him.

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