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{ Alex }

Sweet mother of goddess. This woman was going to be the death of me. I obviously slept with Caroline, I actually slept with a few human girls before Caroline as a teenager, but I have never, in my life, been turned on by a woman like this and she is still fully dressed and 6 feet away from me.

I knew my eyes were darker once she told me when we needed to leave or she would do something to me we would regret. It was so hot the way she wanted me just as much as I wanted her already and she was showing off her confidence which was making me struggle to hold back my wolf and take things slow.

"Now, Alpha, would you mind showing me to the kitchen for a snack?"

She had a sly smirk and the sexiest voice when she said alpha and it made me twitch in my pants. She knew damn well what she was doing to me and I couldn't believe this woman was mine.

She stepped out of the office as if she knew I couldn't contain myself and she started walking down the hallway toward people. Fuck. I waited a beat more, calming myself and waiting for the issues in my pants to calm as well then I followed her. I caught up to her easily and we fell into step next to each other. She side glanced at me with the same sexy smirk and I just shook my head.

"You are trouble," I told her flatly. She giggled and smiled and I felt my soul came back into my body. Damn she was gorgeous.

"So, favorite snack?" she asked me, suddenly serious.

I raised my eyebrows and answered her, "Jerky."

"favorite sweet?" she continued.

"Pie."

I watched her smile ear to ear when I said pie and she turned to me excitedly.

"What kind of pie?" clearly this was a topic she loved.

"Apple is my favorite, but I do not discriminate with pie, ever."

"Mmm apple is good, my favorite is raspberry."

"Ahh too tart for me, I like mine sweeter. This bakery in town makes pretty good pies, we can get one sometime."

"Oh no, honey, I am going to make you a pie. I'm going to make you how ever many pies you want," she told me confidently.

"You bake?" I know I sounded surprised and thats because I was. Not many women her age could bake or cook. I don't think I'd met a woman without a mate or children who could cook let alone bake."

"Mhmm. Chalk it up to the best skill my mom taught me. She was a baker, a chef, but a baker by choice. She could make

anything and everything with batter and I have been baking with her recipes and my own since I was 11," she told me with pride in her voice. "Pie, happens, to be my specialty, since it is my favorite. I actually don't like cake, so I always had pie for my birthday growing up."

I watched her as she talked. She had this glow when she spoke about baking that made me see how much she truly loved it.

I was about to ask her something when we rounded the corner into the kitchen and a loud voice yelled my name. I knew the voice instantly but I wasn't sure now was a good time.

"Lex! Where have you been?" Annamaria asked me excitedly and a bit irritated.

"I was at work most of the day and then in my office since I got back." She shook her head and came over to give me a big hug. Annamaria was my little sister and she had been away with my parents for a few months. They had been traveling but she wanted to come home sooner than them as they kept extending their trip, adding more countries to see. I loved that they were getting to do this now that they were retired from alpha and luna.

A low growl next to me pulled me out of my thoughts as I hugged Anna. Oh shit, my mate.

I pulled Anna off me and she gave Raine a confused look.

"Hi, I'm Annamaria, who are you?" She asked raine politely and curiously.

Raine held a still not happy expression so I cleared my throat before she got the wrong idea.

"Raine, this is my sister, Annamaria." I glanced around and saw the kitchen was mostly empty so I told Anna quietly, "Anna this is my mate, Lorraine." I shot her a look that said to keep it quiet and she obliged but not without a huge smile crossing her face and her doing a silent weird happy dance.

"Oh oh my gosh! Yay!" she quietly cheered.

"Oh, I'm um, I'm sorry about that growl..." Raine told Anna which made me chuckle.

"Oh no problem at all! I understand, I would have done the same" she laughed. I then realized that they were the same age.

"Raine, Anna is 16. She has been away with my parents. Anna we are just here looking for a snack," I said to the girls.

Anna hooked her arm with Raine's and pulled her into the kitchen and to the cabinet to look for snacks. A part of me almost growled at her taking Raine away even though I could still see her. What was wrong with me?

They picked out a bunch of snacks and tossed them on the breakfast table before sitting down. I slid in on the bench next to Raine and grabbed a snack for myself as they chatted. I could see how confident and social Raine was, but I had also seen that she is shy and reserved before she makes up her mind about someone. She was decisive, not easily trusting, it didn't seem like anyone had to work to earn her kindness but you did need to get past a barrier to

earn her trust.

I heard Nel and Anthony talking and soon enough they walked through the door and joined us. We introduced Anthony to Anna and then we all enjoyed a few minutes chatting and eating. I looked at my watch and it was a couple hours until dinner still.

“Nel did you get Anthony to the cabin?”

“Yes, I got him the keys and he got together with Clarice to order some groceries that will be delivered tonight.” Nel told me. I nodded.

I had set aside a two bedroom cabin for Anthony and Raine, but my wolf was making my crazy with the idea that Raine should stay in the pack house with us. I would need to ask her later.

“Raine, is it alright if we take a walk?” Anthony asked her.

She immediately bobbed her head and then looked to me, “I’ll be back in a little while ok?”

I hesitated, but I knew they had a lot to talk about so I nodded. She seemed to notice this and gave me an appreciative smile before looking around, and seeing we were all still alone she leaned down and gave me a kiss on the cheek.

“Um,. Raine, be careful. You guys should stay in the house until Lex announces you and/or makes you a member of the pack. If you are wandering you then other wolves may mistake you for a rogue.” Anna told her.

Shit. To me she smelled like glorious cinnamon rolls but to others she smells like a rogue and I totally forgot.

"How do I become a member of the pack?" she asked, looking between us.

"Well usually there are trials, but since you are... who you are ..." she said, carefully avoiding saying outloud that we were mates which I appreciated. "It's just a blood oath."

Raine looked between each of us and her father had a smile on his face as he nodded at her unasked question.

"When could I do it?" she said finally.

I couldn't help the smile on my face knowing she wanted to stay here, with me.

"We could do it right now if you wanted." I told her happily.

"Just, um, can we have one moment first?" Anthony asked. I eyed him a bit but nodded.

"Yes, we will be right back! Should we meet you in your office?" Raine asked me. I told her yes and then they went down the hall chatting happily until they disappeared into the conference room.

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{ Raine }

I was overwhelmed with the idea of belonging to a pack. I'd seen what it was like here. The way people loves and cared for each other and I wanted that.

"What is it dad?" I asked as we entered the conference room and closed the doors. This room had sound proofing on the walls that we could see so it was perfect.

"Raine, I want to say that I am so happy for you. You and the alpha seem to be happy already and I can tell he will be good for you. I'm very excited for you and your wolf to have a home," he said with a big smile.

"But," I said, continuing for him.

"Not but, I am very happy. AND. There is something you need to know before you take that blood oath. The alpha and you will each cut your hand and then shake. It bonds you forever to the pack. But when you do this, he will be able to feel your power. Not the wolf kind." he said, giving me the knowing eyes.

Fuck. I may or may not have forgotten about that.

"Will he know what it is?"

"Not specically, to most people we are just a a legend. But he will be able to feel that you are immensely powerful. You have the Beta blood of a Molina, but Beta's are not as

powerful as Alphas. However with your elemental powers, you are as powerful as him in your blood and even though its a different kind of powerful, all he will feel is how much power you hold. Once you do this, you will have to tell him the truth.”

“you think I shouldn’t?” I asked carefull.y

“No, I think you should. I just want you to know whats about to happen. Clearly you feel the bond with him, clearly he feels it for you. But this is a lot to trust him with and you need to be ready for the conversation and for it to go one way or another.”

I nodded. I understood. Alex may not be happy. He also may not believe me. I won’t get my powers for another few weeks so I can’t exactly show him.

“Do you trust Nel?” I asked him.

“Yes, I do.” he said without hesitation.

“Should I tell him first? Before the oath and get some advice?”

“That... is actually a very good idea. I don’t want you to feel like you shouldn’t tell your mate, I just want you to understand its bigger than just an oath for you.”

I understood.

“Also, I wanted to talk to you about the cabin. Nel informed me that the cabin was set aside for us before we got here. Its a two bedroom, sweet little things althought I don’t know why they think they can call a stone building with a clay roof

a cabin, but nonetheless” he chuckled and continued. “Nel also told me that with the fact you and the alpha are mates coming to light, you may not be in the cabin. There is a good chance Alex will ask you to stay in the packhouse. I was able to ask Nel a lot about mates and he explained how protective they are, especially alphas. They can’t stand being away from their mate, the bond is the strongest for them so that the bond between alpha and luna is strong for the pack. By the look on your face I can see that he hasn’t asked you yet. Which is good, I got here first. Because I want to tell you to consider it.” 1

Wait, what?

“I know that isn’t what you thought I would say. Raine I’m your dad, its my job to protect you and for the past 48 hours I have done nothing but that. But this man, is your mate. Nel speaks nothing but highly of him. I still think you should take things slow, but if he offers you your own room here, I think you should take it.”

I felt a very strong swirl of emotions and they were so contradictive. But at the end of it all I knew my dad was right. I could feel that my heart wouldn’t be able to handle being far away from Alex.

“Ok, you’re right.” I told him. He smiled his cocky smile and I rolled my eyes.

“Go talk to Nel about the oath now, I can tell Alpha wants it done sooner rather than later. I am going to see the doctor, my knee has been killing me since last night and I cannot for life of me think of why. My only guess it that it was the plane

ride, I slept in a weird way. So I will meet with you later," he tells me before kissing my cheek and walking out.

I immediately went back in the kitchen but found only Anna and Nel there now. I watched them for a moment, the way that Nel smiled at her and Anna blushed at what he was saying. I could see there was something there between them. I cleared my throat and they both jumped in a guilty fashion, confirming my theory but I let it slide.

"Nel, can we talk for a second? Then I'd like to go found Alex for the oath," I tell him with a cheery tone. 1

"Absolutely! Anna, Ill see you later?" He said,

She smiled and nodded at him before waving to me.

I dragged Nel into the same conference room and closed the door. He waited for me to start so I did.

"Nel I'm going to do the oath with Alex and join the pack," he smiled a happy smile.

"I'm really excited about that, and all this. Alex is a great guy. He has been my best friend since we were 2 and there is no better man I know." he tells me genuinely.

"thank you, I'm really excited for everything that is to come. But, I need to tell you something first. And I need you to listen all the way through before you talk ok?"

He nods and I take a deep breath.

"have you ever heard of an elemental?"

"Yeah, its an old tale. Everyone has heard of it."

"Ok. Well, it turns out, it is not a tale. They are real. And my father.... is one."

The look he gave me told me he didn't believe me but I also saw that that softened immediately to curiosity.

"My dad is the fire elemental. And I, am the water elemental. I don't get my powers until I am 18, its not actually genetic or anything it turns out, I got the powers when the previous water elemental died when I was 1. My dad saw me control the rain and water sporadically until I was 3 and it was suppressed. Elementals aren't usually chosen so young. Usually the elements choose someone 18 or above when an elemental passes. But the water, chose me."

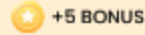
I stopped talking and I waited patiently while he processed. I was nervous and scared and realized I should have brought my dad because he COULD demonstrate.

Nel looked at me and I saw the moment when he decided to believe me.

"I know it sounds crazy, I thought that my dad was nuts too. But he showed me, I saw him literally create and hold a fireball! It was overwhelming and the truth is I wont know for absolutely sure until I am 18 if I am the water one but according to the other three no other water elemental has been found. They can all commmunicate with each other but no one can find Water. Everything points to me"

"Why are you telling me this now?"

"Because when I take that blood oath, Alex is gonna know I am hiding something. My power level should match yours or



below because I am Beta by blood. But if I am an elemental, my dad says my power will match or exceed Alex's. And that, he will feel."

He nodded as if he finally understood.

"You are worried how he will react?"

"Yes, very worried."

"Well, Rainey, I wouldn't worry. If you are one, then the blood oath will tell us for sure. And as for Alex, I meant what I said, hes the best guy I know. And he will be as confused as I was since we all definitely believed that elementals were a fairy tale. But he will also listen. Give him a chance," he told me softly.

I smiled when he called me Rainey. Only my dad called me that.

"Ok," I said quietly.

"Now, go find your mate. He has mind linked me 7 times since he got to his office about you," he laughed out loud at this. "I am going to go now too, I think I will find your father. I won't lie, my curiosity is peaked and I could use a good fire show!"

With that, he walked out after rustling up my hair. I turned toward my mate's office, took a deep breath and started walking.