

Chapter 33 : Dinner with the kids ;)

Anaya wasn't a heavy sleeper by any means but she had become used to sleeping and resting at any given time after staying in the hospital for a day.

Back at Blue stone she never got enough sleep because of the late night chores and the early morning routine. Slowly her body had adapted to that flow but as soon as she was made to rest, Anaya's body betrayed it's years of training.

"Anaya?" She heard someone call her name in sleep. She frowned because no one would ever call her name so nicely, at least not in reality. Assuming she was dreaming, Anaya continued to sleep.

"Anaya wake up. It's dinner time." Roman tried again. He was afraid of touching her just in case she wasn't happy about it later. So all he could do is speak.

Roman couldn't wait to have a good talk with Anaya and let her know about their mate bond and that she's an elemental. Even if she wasn't acceptable to those facts right then, he could take his time to court her. That wasn't a problem.

However, he had to maintain the gentlemanly image of his. The southern warrior pack's customs of maintaining a respectful distance from someone who isn't your mate was permanently embedded into him. For now he had to compromise.

Anaya shifted her body so she was lying on her back. There were traces of discomfort on her face due to lying on her back. Roman bend down on his knees and said loud enough for her to hear.

"Anaya, dinner is ready. Let's go eat." Roman said and caressed her head. Her hair had a bit of a coarse texture to it but that wasn't what Roman was focused on. He could see her face clearly while she slept. Those rare times when he was able to see her were like miracles.

Roman chuckled at his thoughts. How could someone be satisfied with just being able to see their mate's face?

Anaya heard the calling again and a warm weight on her head. It was heavy. Was Ginny trying a new torture method on her again? She opened her eyes slightly, prepared to see something horrifying. But what she saw was Alpha Roman crouching next to her bed and laughing to himself.

Only then Anaya remembered that she wasn't in

Blue Stone anymore. She was in southern warrior pack now and this Alpha was her guardian angel. A bit silly but a guardian angel nonetheless.

Roman was still shaking his head and chuckling so in order to not embarrass him Anaya closed her eyes and pretended to clear her throat and wake up.

Roman's hand left her head in an instant and the chuckling stopped, followed by a series of fake coughs.

Anaya opened her eyes and blinked. She saw Roman standing in the spot where he was crouching earlier and looking down at her with a slight smile.

"You are awake." Roman said, "Wash your face and let's go for dinner."

Anaya's reaction was a bit slow upon waking up. She sat up and rubbed her eyes a little then got off the bed slowly. Her wounds didn't hurt anymore but any sharp movement can cause the old wounds to tear and bleed again, that's what the doctor had said.

"Be careful. Take your time." Roman reminded.

After washing up Anaya looked at her face in the

mirror. There wasn't much difference from before. She was still as lifeless as ever. With a sigh, Anaya left the washroom and followed the Alpha downstairs.

The ground floor had an open floorplan. The living area and dining area were on two sides and in the middle was the staircase. The kitchen was close to the dining table so the cook can have better access when serving.

It was already six forty five when Anaya and roman arrived, a little later than usual. The kids were already seated on their assigned seats, waiting. Their plates were full of food but they hadn't touched it yet.

Kruger's stomach made an embarrassing sound, "Where is he?"

Logan lazily looked at him and then sighed. He wanted to eat and sleep but their Alpha was taking too long today. His punctuality was commendable. They would like to know what delayed their Alpha today.

When Roman arrived they saw Anaya behind him. With exchanged glances and a few whispers, the young teenagers came to a conclusion. Their Alpha was whipped for a girl.

Roman didn't see the change in atmosphere. Other than his there was no assigned seats. Anyone sat wherever they liked. Easton was his beta so there was an unspoken rule among the kids that they won't sit on the right side of their Alpha's chair because that was Easton's seat.

Today Easton wasn't sitting on his usual seat. At first the kids asked Easton but didn't get an answer. They watched as their Alpha pulled out the chair, that his beta would sit on, for Anaya.

"Come, sit here."

Anaya was nervous in front of so many people. She had seen a few of them right before she passed out. But there were many more today.

Anaya quietly sat on the right side of Roman. Charlotte was nowhere to be seen.

"Where is Charlotte?" Roman asked.

"She went out to answer a call." Tina answered, "Alpha, who is she?"

None of the kids were shy when it came to asking questions. The habit was due to their Alpha's upbringing. They could ask about something right in front of anyone.

Today Roman was a bit apprehensive towards that

habit.

"Her name is Anaya and she's a guest. Don't be rude to her okay?" Roman said. Tina was the youngest and Roman was naturally more accommodating towards her.

Roman turned to Anaya and said, "Don't mind then, they are still kids. I've taken them in and train them. They are Holden, Logan, Mason Georgia, Kruger and Tina."

Anaya looked up to see their faces. She was not confident when facing others so she looked shy.

"Hello." Tina greeted, "Why are you hiding your face?"

Roman's soul almost left his body when Tina asked that. He hurriedly tried to save it.

"You can't ask someone that Tina!" Easton interrupted, "Anaya is very pretty. If she keeps showing her face to everyone then it will be a problem for her. That's why she keeps it hidden. You have to master the moves that I showed you yesterday to see it."

Tina pouted, "Really? That's too hard."

Georgia giggled a little and said, "She must be very pretty then, right Alpha?"

Anaya's was a bit embarrassed to be the topic of their talk. She wasn't offended when Tina asked why her face was hidden behind her hair or she was looking down. This wasn't the first time someone asked that. And others in the Blue stone pack weren't so polite about it.

But then Easton said that and the conversation progressed in an entirely different route.

"Yes she's very pretty. And if you want to see her face then you have to earn it." Roman went along with it.

Easton secretly gave him a thumbs up for it. Roman conveyed with his expressions that he appreciated this move by Easton.

"Ooh. Where are you from?" Georgia asked, "I mean which pack?"

"I-I am from Blue Stone pack." Anaya stuttered and managed to answer.

"Blue stone? Never heard of it. Is it very far from here?" Holden said.

"Yes, it's a big far." Roman replied.

"Charlotte came from the same pack as Anaya? Then how is Charlotte not as nice as her? They are so different!" Said Mason.

Easton snorted a little, these kids really knew how to identify a person's personality.

"Charlotte is my sister." Anaya said.

"Sister?" Tina echoed.

Weren't sisters supposed to be very close to each other? When Anaya went to the hospital Charlotte was laying around in her room. She didn't even go to see Anaya!

"Isn't she a distant relative?" Roman asked. Did Charlotte lie about their relationship as well? Roman was not very happy about it.

Anaya's eyes widen in surprise. Did Charlotte say that about Anaya? Then that meant Anaya just exposed her. If Charlotte knew this then Anaya will be in trouble again.

Anaya tried to keep calm and fix her mistake by saying, "I-I mean cousin. She's my distant cousin sister."

Roman had some doubts but he still dropped the topic. It won't take too much effort to know how many lies Charlotte had said since they arrived. Sister or distant relative, he didn't care what relationship Charlotte had with Anaya. Roman won't give Anaya a hard time because of it.

A/N - I know for some of you guys the story must be slow paced, like the interaction between the two MC's is very subtle and almost non-existent. Even after Roman realised that Anaya is his mate he didn't go ahead and tell her or make small moves on her.

First - Anaya has a problem, ok. She has been abused, mistreated, told she should have d*ed instead of her brother and what not crap ALL HER LIFE. She has major trust issues and her confidence has gone into negatives after all this. Put in her mate's rejection. She has no way of believing that anything good can ever happen.

In this scenario you bring an Alpha who suddenly starts to act like he's the one for her, Anaya won't feel blessed out of nowhere. She will be shocked, depressed thinking that goddess is playing a joke on her, and have another set of breakdowns if Roman isn't careful with her.

He is walking on an extremely narrow road here. A slight mistake will cost his mate to him.

Second - Roman is an Alpha and a gentleman. In their pack everyone is expected to be loyal to their mate and respectful to those who isn't your mate (talking about the same age groups here).

The basic human morals prevail here. Imagine if someone just comes up to you and starts behaving all nice and say they are your soulmate just after being rejected by your 'soulmate', how bizzare would that be?

The lack of touches, the careful behaviour, it all comes down to being respectful towards Anaya. Roman respects her space and wants to take it slow because dumping a relationship on her is not something a nice mate would do.

He has plans, he will follow them and allow Anaya to accept him at her own pace. That's love, isn't it? It's not all about f*ucking and kissing all the time. Sometimes it's understanding each other's true fears and trying to overcome them together. That's what soulmates do.

Wanted to get that out and clear. Huff.

Hope y'all understand what I am trying to say. I do talk a lot for someone who has never had a relationship before. Geez. :)



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