

## CHAPTER 100

### Winter POV

I wake up and stretch, staring out the window. It looks like a nice day outside, the sun is shining, there's big puffy clouds chasing each other across the deep blue sky and I can see tree's swaying in the wind. But I'm hesitant to go downstairs on my own. The man, Kai, claims to be my mate but I can't remember anything. I know I'm a shifter, but other than that, everything is a blank. I feel the back of my head, where the stitches are and frown. My hair is all matted with dried blood. The first thing I want to do is shower, but where are my clothes? I remember that Kai placed me in an adjoining room to what was supposedly ours and tiptoe towards it. With any luck he wouldn't be in there.

Luck was on my side. I spot a dresser and rifle through it, grabbing sweatpants and a shirt. I head into the bathroom and start the shower, my eyes closing in bliss as the water cascades down on me. It's relaxing and I inhale the steam greedily. The water is hot, just the way I like it and I could easily spend forever in here, if it means avoiding everyone downstairs.

Winter, honey, you know it's not so bad. Your memory will come back.

Who are you?

Your wolf Sabriel. I know you probably don't remember me, but maybe I can show you a memory or two of us. Would you like that?

I don't know. . .

It won't hurt, I promise sweetling. I just want to show you a memory of us and Kai.

Alright then, I guess it can't hurt. I'm curious to see.

For a moment there's silence and I lean against the shower tiles, closing my eyes and waiting. Soon there's images flooding my mind. I can see myself and I'm shifting, my bones cracking and adjusting. We're beautiful, I think to myself, taking in my wolf form. The man, Alpha Kai is there with me and I can't stop staring at him as he too, begins to shift, his wolf a large beautiful black one, called Storm.

We take off running into the forest, lightly nipping each other, Sabriel teasing Storm and playfully fighting with him as their wolf side takes over. There's no destination in mind, just the sheer pleasure of running, watching the trees and the scenery pass by in a blur, dodging over branches and debris, our paws thudding lightly on the ground. We're out there for hours, having fun, letting our wolves run free. It's so freeing.

We make it back to the grounds and I shift back, placing my clothes on while Kai does the same. There's a wide smile on my face, even though I'm exhausted from the run. Kai is beaming at me, even as he shrugs into his clothes. We embrace and he kisses the top of my head as I lean into him.

If that was a memory then it was a pleasant one. Even the feelings associated with it, the adrenaline, the care free attitude and everything else flashed through my mind. Sabriel had done well in showing me a memory. Alpha Kai seems far less intimidating to me now. I turn the shower off and wrap a towel around me, heading out to the bedroom and stop in my tracks. I wasn't expecting to see Kai in the bedroom and I can't help but tighten the towel around my body nervously, blushing profusely.

"I came to check up on you" he says to me quietly, not making a move to come any closer. I wonder if he can sense my nervousness?

"How are you feeling?" he adds.

"Tired" I admit sheepishly "even though I've slept a lot, it just doesn't seem to make much of a difference."

He frowns at that and looks a little concerned. I feel bad. I hadn't meant to worry him.

"Do you think you might want to visit a doctor at the hospital?" he asks kindly.

I shake my head. I've had enough of hospitals. The thought comes out of nowhere and I'm puzzled. How many times have I ended up in the hospital, to feel that way?

"No thanks" I rasp "I just need rest and food" I say wryly as my stomach chooses that exact moment to let out a loud growl.

He laughs.

"How about I show you to the kitchen" he says cheerfully and I give a small nod, my stomach churning. Man, I felt like I was starving. He holds out his arm, looking hesitant and to my surprise, I willingly take it. He beams looking so happy that I feel like I've done the right thing. Kai leads me out to the hallway and down towards the stairs. He steers me into the kitchen and I pull up short when I see two other men in the dining area. I don't know who they are. But they look over at me with smiles, although one looks to be particularly upset. I do remember vaguely one of them. Were they at the hospital?

"Winter, you might not remember them" Kai says quietly "but this man here" he indicates the upset looking one "is your brother Damien and this other one is my Beta Langdon."

I stare at my brother. There's nothing there, no memory flashing in my mind. It's strange. I force my mouth to open. "It's nice to meet you I guess"

I mumble, not sure what else to say. My brother's eyes flash with disappointment. Maybe he was hoping my memory would have come back by now. I wish it had. This would be a hell of a lot easier on me.

"Why don't you sit down" my brother says gently, pulling a chair out for me.

"Thankyou" I tell him, sitting and looking over at Kai helplessly.

"What do you want to eat?" he asks and I hesitate.

I thought I was hungry but my stomach feels a bit uneasy. "Dry toast" I request "and juice."

Kai just nods and sets the toaster up. "You really don't remember me, do you?" Damien asks.

"I'm sorry" I say tentatively "but I really don't."

"It's not your fault" he assures me, Langdon reaching over to hold his hand.

"Are you both mates?" The way they are touching each other makes it appear as though they are, but I can't help asking anyway.

"Yes" Langdon answers, with a smile "is that a problem?"

"No of course not." I feel indignant that he even had to ask that. He flushes and looks apologetic.

Kai places the toast and juice in front of me. I grab the juice and swig it down, feeling incredibly thirsty. Kai grabs hold of the empty glass. "I'll get you another" he says hurrying off. I take a bite of the toast and almost moan as it hits my tastebuds, my stomach beginning to feel slightly better.

He places the glass back in front of me, full of juice, and then sits in the chair next to me.

"I'm glad you're eating" he says, placing an arm over my shoulder.

I continue to eat, Langdon and Damien discussing their day in hushed voices.

"Winter what would you like to do today?"

I have to think for a minute, then it hits me, what I would really like to do today. "I want to go for a run" I declare happily and Kai's eyes light up, although he looks concerned.

"I don't know if that's a good idea, you're still recovering" he murmurs but I interrupt

"Please." Sabriel had sparked the interest in me with the memory and now I wanted to experience a run for myself.

"Only if I go with you" Kai says finally.

We go out to the grounds and I strip my clothes off, Kai doing the same. I flush and look away from his body. It's instinctual and

I know exactly how to shift into my wolf form. Once I'm done, I howl at Kai who hastily changes. I don't even wait for him, I head straight out to the forest, my paws thudding across the ground. My wolf is large and I frown. Something about the size of my wolf strikes a chord in me, but I can't remember why. But I'm not much smaller than Kai's wolf and I easily keep up with him when he dashes ahead of me.

We play, like wolves do. Nipping at each other, running as fast as we can, tracking down wild animals and watching them run when they pick up our scent. We drink from a nearby lake and play fight with each other. It's bliss. For a while I'm able to forget that I've lost my memory, completely absorbed in this run and spending hours with my supposed mate by my side. In fact, I'm having such a good time that time flies by and before I know it, we're reluctantly heading back towards the grounds.

I shift, feeling sulky. I really hadn't wanted to come back. Slowly, I begin to put my clothes back on. Then Kai shifts and my mouth goes dry. God he's sexy. He's the very image of masculinity and I can't stop myself from staring at his abdomen and chest as he starts to put his clothes on.

"Winter" he says gruffly "you keep looking at me like that and I'm going to drag you to the bedroom and have my way with you" he promises and I blush, biting my lip and looking away as he chuckles.

"Alright you can look now" he says and I glance back over, seeing amusement on my mate's face.

He saunters over. "I've been wanting to do this for quite some time" he murmurs, his face now inches from mine as I stand there trembling. He bends down and captures my lips with his, gently pressing them against mine as I gasp in shock. His tongue slowly dives into my mouth and caresses mine. I moan, my hands holding onto his shoulders to keep myself upright as he intensifies the kiss. My whole body feels like it's on fire. Is this what it feels like to touch your mate?

His hand twines itself in my hair, keeping me firmly pressed against him. My eyes close as I let myself feel, let the sparks and tingles spread throughout my body. His other hand begins to trail down the side of me, sliding underneath my sweater so that I feel his bare hand against my flesh. It burns, but not in a bad way, rather in a delicious sizzling sort of way. My own hands clutch at him, holding tightly onto his sweatshirt. I'm panting heavily now, moaning as his hand slides up towards my breast and squeezes it gently. I've completely forgotten about where we are, let alone who might be watching, completely lost in the moment.

Finally, gasping for breath, I pull back, seeing Kai's eyes have turned black. His wolf is close to the surface, or for all I know I was kissing his wolf. His lips curl up in a wicked grin. "There's plenty more where that came from" he promises me and I gulp. Maybe I should let him drag me

back to the bedroom, I think to myself hazily. Then I notice his hands are keeping my legs from buckling and keeping me upright.

"I have a request for you" he says, looking down and staring directly into my eyes "something I think you'll enjoy and might help with your memory."

Now I'm intrigued. I cock my head to the side. "What is it you want me to do?"

He smiles. "I want to take you out on a date" he says.

"A date" I murmur "what kind of date?"

"I want to take you to the same place, that I took you for our first date" he says with a smile "all you have to do is get yourself dressed up tonight and I'll take care of the rest."