

## CHAPTER 133

Kai POV

"You should have seen Africa, Kai, it was beautiful" King Axel was enthusing at the breakfast table, his arms gesticulating wildly as he spoke, his eyes dancing. "For some unfathomable reason, even the shyest of creatures would approach our tour bus" he said, with a wry shake of his head. "Vanessa even reached out and touched a tiger's head as though it was nothing but a cat" he said chuckling.

My eyes turn to Vanessa, who merely looks at her husband indulgently. "Oh Axel, you make it sound much more exciting that it is" she breathed. For a moment her eyes linger on me and she licks her lips seductively as I watch, feeling desire and lust run throughout my veins. Storm grumbles a protest at me but I block him, not wanting to hear it. In fact, I don't wish to hear his voice at all, annoying and persistent as it is.

A guard tentatively walks in "Your Highness's" he says, bowing deeply from the waist in respect as Vanessa and Axel sit patiently, waiting for them to speak "some visitors attempted to gain access to the castle. Per Queen Vanessa's instructions, we have detained them in the dungeon, until such time as you are able to ascertain they are a threat."

"Thank you" drawled Vanessa with a coy smile "did these visitors say what they want?"

The guard hesitated. "They claim to be family members of your current visitors your majesty."

Vanessa gave a hiss and looks at me. I know who it must be, Damien and Langdon must have finally made their way down here. Thank fuck for that. I was starting to think they were going to make Winter and I go through this damn ritual by ourselves. Then it hits me what the guard had just said about them being put in the dungeon.

"They can stay in the dungeon. I want no complications when it comes to tonight's ritual" she decides, resting her head on her hand, her eyes flickering between myself and the guard.

"Queen Vanessa" I quietly say, "these family members need to be set free" I begin and then trail off as my mind becomes smoky, cloudy, unable to recollect what I was going to say, let alone what I had been thinking. I pause confused.

"It's safer for them to be in the dungeon" Vanessa insisted, her eyes blinking at me, her head cocked in annoyance.

"It's safer for them to be in the dungeon" I repeat blankly "they need to be kept away from the ritual" I added with a frown.

Vanessa's eyes gleamed. King Axel merely looked blank as he stared down at the table. The royal guard was confused but smiled at his queen anyway. "I shall keep them locked up then your highness" he said politely.

"Thankyou. Please take your leave" Vanessa said calmly, motioning for the young man to leave. Her eyes sparkled with triumphant.

I feel confused. "I should check on Winter" I mutter, about to stand up, when Vanessa's hand darts out and grabs hold of my arm.

"Winter is safe" she coos, her voice washing over me, my body feeling relaxed as she speaks to me, my whole body leaning forward in an attempt to be even closer to her. She has such a beautiful smile and that body of hers! Smoking hot.

"You need to let Winter rest before tonight's ritual" she instructs in a husky voice.

"Yes, let her sleep son" King Axel says jovially "tonight's going to be a big night after all. Best to get as much rest in as you can."

"But Winter needs to eat" I begin to mutter and Vanessa places a finger against my lips, causing my cock to twitch with excitement.

"Winter is fine, stop worrying about it" she breathes, standing up and pulling me up beside her, Axel looking away and completely oblivious, apparently, to it all. Either that or is this something he's used to. I feel like I should protest or move away but then just as quickly the thought flickers from my mind.

She's so close to me. I can smell her perfume in the air. an intoxicating scent of lilies and roses. I take a deep sniff in appreciation. I can feel tingles where her hand grasps my own.

"Kai, I can feel your heart racing in your chest" she whispers, placing a hand against my breast "I can smell your scent, I can feel the love you have for me" she continues as I look directly at her. Her voice washes over me, my body stays close beside her, but part of me wants more, even knowing that Axel is still in the same room, I don't care. It's like a compulsion, one that I cannot resist, as my head slowly lowers itself down and my lips softly touch hers.

She tastes divine, like ambrosia or what I figure ambrosia tastes like. Her lips are like velvet honey. She kisses me with a fervor, her cheeks flushing as she finally pulls back.

"Kai, what has come over you" she gasps.

I should care that Axel was there, but when I glance around the room, my friend has long since disappeared. There's no sign of him anywhere and I wonder, slightly guiltily whether he left as I started kissing his wife. Why don't I feel even remotely bad about it? Am I that much of a bastard? Because rather than leave, my eyes are sweeping over Vanessa's pert breasts and slim figure, my body craving to take her then and there on the dining table.

"Save that for later" she purrs, coming over and shucking me under the chin. There's a satisfied smile on her face as she studies me. "I think you'll make a much better King than Axel, by my side" she whispers thoughtfully.

I give her a nod, taking in her skin tight dress with a sigh. She laughs. "Go and take a walk my pet, work off some of you frustration" she says sardonically. I should take offense to that but my whole body just responds, whether I want it to or not. In fact, I bow before her, then turn and leave the room, very aware of her watchful gaze as I do so.

Kai, will you snap the fuck out of it already. You're an embarrassment.

Storm what is your problem? Vanessa is everything we've ever wanted in a mate.

She's not our mate jackass, Winter is. Can you get that through your thick skull?

I can't fight my feelings for Vanessa. Storm what do you think it is? I just can't move my body when I want to and all I can think about is her.

It's because you're under a spell you nitwit. How thick are you? Think about Winter. Think about the way she smiles when she's happy, the way those big eyes of hers widen when she laughs, how her laugh sounds. All the stuff that makes Winter unique and special to us.

I do. I think about Winter and how she lights up whenever she spots me coming. The way her hugs feel when she hugs me, her body so warm and toasty. The sparks that fly between us and what her lips taste like when I kiss her. Even the way her body feels like beneath mine, the sound of my name coming from her lips, the way she shudders as she cums.

The more I manage to think about it, the less confused I feel and the less clouded my mind seems to be.

She needs us, Kai. That gorgeous woman, upstairs right now, needs us and you need her. I swear to God when all this is over with, if you don't put a ring on it, I'm sticking your sorry ass in confinement. God knows any man would be lucky to have that girl and you're being such a douchebag when it comes to marriage. For fuck's sake, getting married isn't like you're contracting an std.

I know that, Storm.

Well, the way you act, I'm beginning to think you have serious issues when it comes to getting married. Are you afraid of priests? Because I can work with that.

It's not priests you jackass that scares me.

Then what is it?

I'm afraid of disappointing her! There, I said it. I don't want her to be disappointed and regret marrying me. So, it's easier to just not do it.

Um, you've disappointed her so many times, why would it matter if you were married?

What the hell Storm. Can't you just be sympathetic for once?

No. You'll get sympathy when I think you deserve it.

Damn mutt, you could be nicer to your human you know. At least try to be a bit respectful.

I'll think about it but don't hold your breath dumbass.

I give a slight huff and shake my head. Leave it to Storm to be so bloody blunt right now. I sigh and look around at the desolate castle, with the servants moving back and forth, chatting amiably to each other. What do I do right now? If I go to the dungeon, then Vanessa will know instantly and there's every chance I'd get thrown in there as well. I scowl, looking towards Winter's bedroom. I can already see several guards in the corridor, no doubt they will inform Vanessa should I choose to go back up there as well. The grounds seem to be the safest bet.

I walk off, slow, trying to appear as though I'm still unsteady on my feet and under whatever spell she placed on me. The front door is just as heavily guarded, the guards giving me a nod as I leave. I sigh. I can hear the sounds of shifters sparring in the distance, no doubt training to keep themselves fit and prepared for battle. My feet unconsciously turn towards the direction and I walk, the sun shining down warmly on me, my feet crunching over twigs and leaves, the grass soft and lush. Shouts can be heard as well as a small crowd cheering. They sound just like a pack would, I think with a smile.

The training ring is large, not unexpected considering the location, two large shifters in the ring. I can only see the back of them, but they look fit, with muscled abdomens and bulging arms. They are grappling in human form, much to my satisfaction. You should be able to defend yourself in human form as well as in your wolf form.

"Go, you can do it" screamed a person from the crowd.

"Make him drop" screamed another.

I stayed behind the crowd, watching pleasantly, distracted, from my problems, for a minute at least. The warriors leapt apart and began to circle each other, as I watched the crowd's reaction.

Thump. The taller one is swept to the floor, hitting the ground hard as the crowd roared in disbelief. The shorter one, immediately took advantage and gave a hard kick, before performing some sort of wrestling move, that had the poor bastard on the ground quickly tapping out.

"Drake is the winner" yelled out a member of the crowd who had been acting as the referee.

"What a surprise" scoffed a person.

"Yeah, like you couldn't see that coming" another laughed, elbowing his friend.

The crowd began to disperse and I start to move to the front, my eyes on the young lad still in the ring, his back to me. I can see the sweat glistening down his shirtless body, a half sleeve tribal tattoo on his right arm. His hair was shaggy. But something, something about this boy seems familiar. Like he reminds me of someone. He's busy talking to a friend as I slowly circle around and come up towards him.

I inhale in shock. Those features. Those eyes of his, the hair, the lips, so much of it was the same and yet there were subtle differences. The hair was slightly longer. He had ear piercings up and down his right ear. The tattoo. A small scar across his eyebrow as though he'd been hit with something. His lips were slightly twisted. But there was no denying who he looked like. For, despite the small differences, he was exactly identical. I was standing there looking at the very same image of Damien, right in front of my eyes, my mouth gaping open in shock.

"I better go before mother finds out I'm here" the boy called Drake said to his friend with a sardonic twist of his lips "she hates it when I spar."

"Your mother probably already knows" his friend said with a grin "Queen Vanessa knows everything. Poor bastard" he said laughing and walking away.

Then Drake looked at me. "I'm sorry, Can I help you?" he asked in a hoarse voice. No doubt from the fighting.

"You have to go to the dungeon" I whisper urgently, even as I hear her voice yelling for Drake in the background. I can't believe Queen Vanessa is his mother. How was this possible? A twin. Did Damien know? Before Vanessa reached us both, I take another shaky breath and tell him "Go to the dungeon. Trust me."