

CHAPTER 158

Kai POV

I guide Winter through the hallways and corridors of the castle, my hand lightly pressed against her back, as we make our way to the hospital wing of the castle. She's quiet, timid looking with big scared eyes, her hand on her stomach unconsciously. She looks anxious and I don't really blame her. I'm anxious too, anxious about being a father, about being a better mate, about all the thoughts constantly going through my head.

Storm on the other hand. . . Oooh we're going to have a baby, a little pup to play with.

You don't' play with babies Storm.

Says who? Oh, I hope they have my eyes, or my fur. I want baby girls, that look like Winter.

I would have thought you would want boys Storm, you surprise me.

Winter's so lovely, I just want miniature versions of her to love as well. But if it's a boy then I won't complain. Besides I want lots and lots of pups. I want Winter's belly to be swollen all the time.

I think she might have something to say about that.

Yeah, because you haven't put a ring on it yet.

Damn the mutt! He was infuriating, but I could picture a miniature version of Winter in my mind's eye and my heart just about melts at the thought.

I glance over at Winter but it's impossible to see what she's thinking. We're met at the door by a doctor in a white coat and a lovely smile. He's tall, clearly a vampire, with spectacles and long brown hair pulled back in a ponytail. His green eyes are gleaming with humor. I like him instantly, Winter seeming to relax as she smiles at the young man as well.

"You must be Winter and Kai" the doctor says heartily, reaching out to shake our hands "I'm doctor Romero. Prince Jasper informed me you would be coming" he said mysteriously as I frowned. How did he get the message to the doctor so quick? I feel like an idiot when I notice the cellphone attached. Of course, Prince Jasper had called the man or messaged him. I was a special kind of stupid, as Storm relished telling me.

"Come in, come in" the doctor urged, leading us to some wooden doors. He opened them with a flourish and tentatively, Winter stepped inside first, her eyes wide as she took in the room. I followed right behind, impressed to see a room with a comfortable bed and an ultrasound machine, a blood pressure machine and a few other ones I didn't recognize.

"Now if you'll just lie down on the bed" said the doctor "my name is Dr Romero and I am here to tend to you. Now if I understand correctly, you believe you might be pregnant?"

Winter gives a slow nod and slowly climbs on the bed, lying down looking awkward. I come over to her side and take her shaking hand.

"What symptoms have you been experiencing?" asked Dr Romero as he checked over the machine, his tone absent minded.

"Well, I've been feeling nauseas a lot" Winter begins "and lately I've started vomiting. I get a little lightheaded at times and just feel a bit off."

"Well, those can be symptoms of pregnancy" Dr Romero comments as I continue to hold Winter's hand tightly "but let's have a check and see for certain."

He wheels the impressive looking machine over. Winter tenses and I squeeze her hand in reassurance, giving her a small smile, my own heart hammering wildly in my chest. This was it, this was the moment, where we would find out for certain if we are going to be parents. Nothing was going to prepare me for this, nothing was going to ruin it. Then Storm chimed in.

Come on, what's taking so long. Let's get this show on the road. Is it true they aren't any bigger than a peanut in the beginning? Like how does that work? The head would be so tiny. Miniscule even. Ooooh what if it's like a little wolf cub sleeping, wouldn't that be awesome.

I swear Storm has no common sense, but he's just as excited as we are.

"Gel will be cold" warns Dr Romero as he places it on the probe.

Winter stays still, her eyes watching his every move, a small smile on her face. She looks happy, or at least a tiny bit excited. I have no clue how she feels about the whole pregnancy thing, whether she wants it or not, but a smile is a good sign, isn't it?

He places the probe on her stomach as she pulls up her shirt and pulls down her pants slightly, with his instructions, exposing the smooth creamy skin. I hear her suck in a breath and surmise it's due to the coldness of the gel, despite the doctor's warning about it.

"Alright now, try to lay still, there might be a bit of pressure as I push down on the probe" Dr Romero says softly, his eyes intent on the screen now, his lips curled. There's the slightest bit of stubble on the man's face.

Did he forget to shave this morning? Or has the poor bastard pulled an all-nighter and was doing this as a favor to the Prince?

"Now then, both of you are hybrids? Is that right? Half vampire and half shifter?"

"We are" I say gruffly and the dr raises his eyebrows for a moment, looking lost in thought.

"At the time of conception, were you both hybrids" he asks somewhat delicately.

Winter shakes her head. "No, only I was" she says quietly, looking a bit apprehensive.

Dr Romero smiles reassuringly at her. "It's fine my dear. I have to ask these questions that's all. It's highly likely your child, if you are pregnant, will be a hybrid as well. I just want you to be prepared for that fact."

Winter pales, biting her lip but nodding. I stare at the monitor, almost willing there to be a perfect picture of a baby on the screen as Dr Romero adjusts the angles and moves a little further down on Winter's stomach.

"Are you wanting a large family?" asked Dr Romero.

Winter and I glanced at each other with questioning eyes. "I don't know" she says softly "it's not something I've really thought too much about. I guess I would like a few children, maybe three" she says, looking over at me.

"I would like maybe three or four" I admit, loving the thought of being surrounded by children, Winter's pregnant belly a beautiful vision in my mind. "But in the end, the decision is entirely Winter's. She's the one who has to go through the pregnancies after all. She deserves to have the final say" I add respectfully.

The doctor gives a small nod in approval. Storm gives a huff in my mind. If he had his way, Winter would never stop giving birth to his pups. Even if it was not realistic.

"Ah" says Dr Romero fixating on something on the screen. He pushes his spectacles up his nose with one finger, peering intently at the screen. I feel slightly panicked. Was something wrong? How would we know if our child was a hybrid? Was there some sort of test for that? God, what did I know about being a father? Or being paternal? I was a bastard; a downright rotten mate and I would most likely stuff the child up somehow. My heart was beating so loudly, I was sure the doctor could hear it, judging by the way he gave me a sidelong glance.

Winter is on edge, glancing anxiously at the screen and at the doctor, who appears to be looking for something, lost in thought, moving the probe almost absent mindedly.

"Well, you are pregnant my dear" says Dr Romero kindly, "not far along though, a few weeks at most. I would estimate you have at least six months to go before giving birth, the baby being most likely a hybrid."

Winter's eyes well with tears, but she gives me a shaky smile, as Dr Romero pulls the probe off and begins to wipe down her stomach with a towel.

He points to another door in the room. "The bathroom is through there. The gel is sticky so if you want to clean up a little more" he suggests. Winter hops up and goes straight towards it, while I sit there feeling stupefied.

I couldn't believe it. In a few short months I would be holding a baby in my arms. My child and Winter's. It boggled the mind. Storm however was smug, wanting to brag about his pup to everyone in the pack. The doctor

cleans off the probe and replaces it back in the machine, wheeling it to the far corner of the room while I hear the sounds of running water coming from the bathroom. Then it stops and the door opens, Winter coming back out and sitting on the bed.

"What now?" she asks Dr Romero.

He gives us a warm smile. "As a hybrid it means that you need to eat to make sure the baby receives the right nutrients. That means drinking blood as well as eating normal food."

So far, so good. That didn't sound too hard.

Dr Romero continues "I want Winter to get plenty of rest. So, sleeping as much as possible during the night, during the day take it easy. Because it's a hybrid, there is a higher chance of miscarriage, so I want you to be careful. If there's any signs of bleeding, you come to me or to the hospital at your pack immediately, don't wait. But if you do take it easy, no shifting either" he warns her "then everything should be fine. Try to avoid anything stressful and if others can do things for you, then let them. I'm not saying become a complete invalid, by any means, but avoid exercising except for gentle walks. You must take good care of yourself, in order to have healthy children as well."

We nodded, listening to his every word, drinking it in. He rummaged through the pockets of his coat and thrust a card at Winter.

"My phone number is listed on this. If you have any questions at all" he says a little gruffly "call, at any time. I am more than happy to help in any way I can. In a few weeks' time, I suggest another ultrasound to check out the gender and ensure everything is going well and nicely."

We could do that at the hospital at the pack, I thought, mentally filing that away in my mind.

Dr Romero thrust a brochure at Winter, which she grabbed hold of and began to scan. "There are certain foods that should be avoided, much like human pregnancies. There's also a lot of foods in that brochure that should be included."

Man, this was more complex than I thought. I was frantically trying to wrap my head around everything, Winter handing the brochure to me to peruse.

"Do either of you have any questions?" asked Dr Romero.

I was stumped. I knew I'd have a million the second I walked out of that room, but being put on the spot meant I couldn't think of a single one. I ignored Storms snickering in the back of my mind.

"I guess then, let me be the first to offer my congratulations to you both" Dr Romero says, his eyes twinkling "there's probably one other thing I should let you know."

I wonder what it is. A huge smile spreads on the man's face. "I'm glad that you both said you wanted multiple children at least" he says, "because otherwise this would have been really awkward" he chuckles and shakes his head "but it looks like you are having twins. Isn't that lucky" he crows while my jaw drops open in disbelief.

Twins. Had the doctor really said the word twins? I begin to shake, Winter going paler than before. The doctor just grins and walks to the doors. "I'll leave you two to digest it" he comments, sidling out. Without another word, I find myself slithering to the floor and Winter's face peering over at me anxiously.

"Twins" I repeat.

"Twins" confirms Winter as I stay there on the ground "can you believe it?"

Oh, I could believe it alright. After all, she had twin brothers. Storm begins to cackle as I stay there, unable to believe that my life was going to become extremely chaotic in a few months' time, with not one but two babies to take care of!

"Kai" says Winter in a small voice "I'm scared."

That made two of us.