

## Chapter: 22

Carly

My lungs burned as I pushed my legs to go faster, though they felt like they were going to give out on me at any given minute. My breathing was labored and my wolf strength seemed to be doing me no good at the moment.

I had fallen towards the back of the group but I was slowly catching up, determined to do better than I had yesterday. With one last burst of energy I ran forward, pushing myself to the max, before collapsing on the back lawn in one sweaty heap.

For the last two weeks I had been training heavily, building up muscle, stamina, and agility. It had been rather difficult to convince Xavier to let me train with the rest of the pack but after multiple arguments about the subject and one or two guilt trips, I had managed to succeed.

I had decided on the day that we had the meeting with Collin and the others that I wanted to be trained to fight so that I could help to protect my pack. Training sessions were already being held daily, preparing for the upcoming battle, so all that I had to do was join them.

At first the training had been to difficult for me but after some serious endurance training it has been slowly getting better. With a little extra help from one of the pack trainers I had been getting caught up with the other fighters.

With a heavy sigh I pushed myself up from the grass, my arms wobbling as I did so, before walking into the pack house.

Gracie and Faith were both sitting in the kitchen when I entered, snacking on some fruit. Their conversation stopped when I came in and they stared at me. I frowned and shifted awkwardly from foot to foot.

I hadn't really had a chance to speak with Gracie because of all that has happened lately so I have no idea how she feels about me being a mate to Xavier.

Suddenly a body crashed into mine, surprising me, and wrapping their arms around me. I stared at Gracie in surprise for a moment before slowly wrapping my arms around her. Gracie squealed and practically squeeze the life out of me.

"I'm so happy for you!" Gracie said, pulling away from me and flashing me a large smile. I couldn't help but to giggle and smile back at her.

"Thank you." I spoke softly, happy that she was okay with the whole situation. I had thought that Gracie might be angry with me and it was a relief to find out that she wasn't.

"You make my brother happy, something I hadn't seen for a very long time, so really, I thank you." Gracie said, her voice gentle. A small, happy, smile tugged at the corners of my lips as I pulled Gracie in for another hug.

She chuckled and hugged me back for a moment before pushing me away and wrinkling her nose.

"Now go take a shower Luna, you stink." Gracie teased, gently pushing me towards the stairs. I chuckled as I shook my head, climbing the stairs quickly. My feet carried me towards my bedroom and once inside I grabbed some clean clothes and went to the bathroom.

Steam filled the air as the water began to heat up, fogging the mirror, as I undressed. The hot water made my skin tingle as I stepped inside and there was nothing better than feeling all of the sweat and grime wash off of me.

I sighed happily as I washed my hair and body, drying off when I was finished. I quickly dressed in a pair of shorts and a t-shirt before leaving the room.

I walked to my bed slowly, my body crying for sleep, when a pair of strong arms wrapped around my waist, pulling me back into them. I smiled as pleasurable tingles were felt all over my body.

I leaned back into Xavier's chest, grabbing his arm as I did so. Shivers ran down my spine as Xavier gently moved my wet hair away from my neck before placing gentle, butterfly kisses up and down the skin of my neck.

My breathing hitched as he slowly moved closer to his mark and when his lips were finally on the sensitive spot my legs turned to jello as a small moan escaped my lips. If Xavier hadn't of been holding me up my legs would have given out on me.

Xavier suddenly flipped my body around, cupped my face, and slammed his lips onto mine. My breath hitched and my lips were frozen for about three seconds before I went into overdrive. My lips moved rapidly against Xavier's as my hands moved up his well sculpted chest and into his soft hair.

I tugged his hair lightly as my tongue moved with his. Indescribable sparks were going off all over my body and the feelings swirling around in my head were like nothing I had ever felt before.

Xavier's hands moved down to my waist and before I knew what was happening my feet were no longer touching the ground and instead my legs were wrapped around Xavier's waist.

I broke away from Xavier, sucking in large breaths, as he went to work on my neck. He kissed and bit the soft skin, making me moan and tug his hair harder. Strange heat waves were traveling through my body, making my skin ache for Xavier's touch.

I gasped and slightly pushed away from Xavier. He glanced down at me, confused, but gently placed me back onto my feet when I gestured for him to do so. I took deep breathes, attempting to calm myself.

The way that my body was reacting to Xavier's freaked me out, to say the least. I had never felt like that before, like I had no control over my body, and I wasn't sure if I liked that.

"Carly, what's wrong love?" Xavier questioned as he lightly touched my shoulder. I gulped and turned to face him.

"I'm fine... This is just nothing I've ever felt before and I don't want to move to fast." I whispered, looking at my feet. Xavier was silent for a moment before he gently took my chin between his fingers, forcing me to look up at him.

"I understand Carly and I want you to know that we will always go at your pace. I will never do anything that you don't want me to. I can wait for as long as you need, hell I would wait years for you." Xavier told me firmly, truth shining in his eyes.

I stared into his icy blue eyes for a few more moments before a tender smile tilted my lips. My arms wrapped around his firm waist as I pulled him to me, resting my head on his chest. Xavier wrapped his arms around my body, placing his chin on top of my head.

We simply stood in each other's embrace, enjoying the feeling of the tingles traveling through our bodies. I never enjoyed being in Mason's hold, seeing as most of the time it was not a friendly one, so having this with Xavier was simply amazing.

"Will you move into my room?" Xavier suddenly asked, breaking the silence. My eyes widened at his question.

I hadn't thought of that. My mind had been so preoccupied with rescuing Aiden and training that I hadn't even thought about what the next step in mine and Xavier's relationship was.

Xavier must have taken my silence as an answer because he suddenly got fidgety and pulled away from me.

"I understand if you don't want to, I mean we did just talk about boundaries and maybe this would be crossing one." Xavier rambled out, almost stuttering.

A laugh escaped my lips as I watched Xavier turn red. My heart swelled as I watched my big, bad Alpha mate blushing bright red.

"Xavier, I would love to move into your bedroom with you." I told him, grabbing his hands and placing them around my hips, putting my hands flat on his chest.

Xavier stared down at me.

"Really?" He questioned, eyes wide. I laughed and nodded my head. Standing up on my tip toes I placed a light kiss on his lips.

Xavier beamed down at me. His smile was so bright that it nearly blinded me. As I watched his face I saw his eyes glaze over, indicating that he was mind linking.

"Okay, a few people are coming down to help you move all of your stuff to my room." Xavier sounded so happy that it reminded me of a little kid on Christmas day.

"Can't wait." And I meant it.

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About two hours later all of my belongings were in Xavier's room and put away. It was strange being in his room, especially since the last time I was in here he told me about his true mate.

Looking to the bedside table I saw that the framed picture that used to sit there was no where in sight. I had mixed emotions about this. Though I was extremely happy that Xavier is now my mate I can't help but to feel like I had stolen something from Sophia, his real mate.

This kind of thinking wasn't all that logical though. Sophia was human so she had no clue as to what mates even were, not to mention the fact that she was in a coma and had been for as long as Xavier had known about her.

No matter how many times I tell myself this I still manage to make myself feel guilty. With Mason and I, it was different. I had given up hope that Mason would ever accept me a long time ago.

I sighed and ran a hand through my blonde hair. I had just finished getting into my pajamas, a pair of shorts and a tank top, and now I was standing in the bathroom connected to Xavier's room, nervously biting my lip.

A soft knock on the door made me jump slightly before Xavier's deep voice reached my ears.

"Carly are you okay? I can hear your heart beating a mile a minute." Xavier told me through the door, sounding concerned. I pursed my lips before turning and opening the door quickly.

Xavier was leaning on the door and slightly fell forward when I had pulled it open. This made me laugh and with that all of my nerves seemed to melt away. I wrapped my arms around his waist, melting into him, taking in his intoxicating scent.

I squeaked when Xavier suddenly swept me off my feet, carrying me to the bed and placing me in the middle. I watched as he stripped down into nothing but his boxers before crawling in next to me. His strong arms wrapped around my small frame and pulled me to his side.

My eyes fluttered closed and I had never felt more content than I did in that moment.

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Hey guys! Here's the next chapter, what do you think? Anyways, hope you enjoyed and thanks for reading!

- Katelynn (:

**Continue to next part**