

Chapter 24

Emily's pov

I gasp, my hands quickly tangling in his brown hair and gripped it tightly.

"Shawn what the hell?!" I snapped.

I'm on his shoulders, forcefully so.

"I'm just trying to help shorty." He snorts, gripping my thighs and heads over to the tree where I'm supposed to put those fairy lights on.

Tonight was the alpha's ceremony and also Bryson's birthday. As soon as the clock strikes 12:00 and Bryson turns eighteen tonight, he will be passed down the title.

Tonight was a big deal. Especially for the pack.

"Luna Lera is going a bit overboard with the decorations." Shawn snorted as he nudges his head to the chocolate fountain in the middle of the yard.

"I know Alpha Brent must've been annoyed when she suggested to include that chocolate fountain." I snorted.

"Who wouldn't be? It's an alpha's ceremony, there's no need for a chocolate fountain in the middle of the yard." Shawn replied with a chuckle.

"It's not like he'd tell her that though. He's so different when she's around." I smiled. Alpha Brent who was known to be very strict was the complete opposite when his mate was around.

The big bad Alpha turns into a sap.

Shawn makes a fake gagging sound. "And that's why ladies and gentlemen I don't want to find my mate anytime soon. They turn you into a whimp."

I laughed knowing he wasn't serious. Out of the four of us, Shawn was the one who was most excited to find his mate.

Which he'll hopefully find out in a few weeks.

"Hey you two. You're here early. Need help?" A voice shouts a couple yards away from us.

We look over to see that it was Maya.

Shawn groans. I never understood why he hated Maya so much.

"Kill me now." Shawn grunts.

Maya who obviously heard him given her advanced hearing yelled. "Shut up Shawn!"

To defuse the tension I answered her. "Yes, we need some help with the lights. There's a string of them over there," I pointed at the table where I set them.

She nods and grinned.

When she's making her way over to us and I'm putting up the lights with the help of Shawn, something shifts in the bushes.

We all froze until we sensed the unmistakable powerful aura of an Alpha.

Bryson's figure is seen approaching and when he shifts out of the bushes, I sucked in a sharp breath.

I haven't really been in his presence since that day in the library. I made sure to avoid him like the plague.

Today is the ceremony, and as I had promised him, I would be there.

I watch him fixedly as he strode over.

He has no shirt on, putting his toned six pack on display. His muscles are ripped, tempting me to run my hands down those muscular plane.

Those khaki shorts he had on hang low. I tighten my thighs and Shawn coughs, I loosen them quickly, my face burning up as I try to stop from looking at my best friend in any other way than friendly.

"Went for a run?" Shawn asked him when he's nearing.

We can only be seen together like this, when others were around.

I looked at him intently and noticed that his face was tight with irritation, his jaw clenching as he stared at Shawn's hands on my thighs.

"Nervous about tonight?" I asked him, noticing how tense his body was.

He was just a few hours of being eighteen. A few hours to being our alpha.

Of course he was nervous.

Bryson's eyes tore away from Shawn's hands on my thighs to my face.

I sucked in my breath when there's a flash of emotion in them. They're so strong that they manage to make me shiver.

"Yes. I went for a run to calm down a bit." He admitted hoarsely while staring at me intensely.

It's been a few days since we've been so near. It feels so good to have him so close.

"Why are you holding her up?" He directed this question to Shawn, his brows knotting in a frown.

"Helping her reach the nails on the tree. You know how short Em is." Shawn snorted in amusement.

I look down at him, my brows knotting as I glared slightly. "I'm not that short." I defended.

"Sure you aren't," Shawn snorted and suddenly there's low growl coming from Bryson.

I snapped my eyes quickly towards him, my brows lining into a frown of confusion.

He's glaring at Shawn and I'm stunned to see the amount of anger swirling in his eyes.

What's with him?

Sensing my stare, Bryson clears his throat and rip his gaze away from Shawn to look up at me. "Sorry. My wolf's been acting up lately. My dad said it's normal."

I nodded, still unsure if I should believe his words. He had after all, glared at his best friend so harshly that I'm surprised Shawn hadn't dropped dead.

Maya joins us a second later, her voice chirpy as she walks up to Bryson and stops beside him.

Way too close to my liking but I bit my lip and force my sour jealous feelings aside.

You need to stop being so jealous when other females are close to him Em. Especially tonight. You will have no other choice but to forcefully bury those feelings you've had for him for years.

"Went for a run alpha?" Maya joked, her eyes shining playfully.

Bryson nods.

"I need help with getting those fairy lights way up there. Mind lifting me on your shoulders?" Maya asked innocently.

Shawn suddenly groans, his knees buckling a bit.

"You know what?" He grunts. "I think Bryson should be the one to hold Em. She's way too heavy for me."

Did he just call me fat?

Maya puffs. "Don't be ridiculous Shawn, Emily's tiny she doesn't weigh much."

Shawn ignored her and set me on my feet safely.

"I'm not fat Shawn," I barked. My wolf may not be present right now but I can sure kick him where the sun doesn't shine.

He raised a brow. "I never said you were."

"But I'm bigger than her-

Maya started but Shawn cuts her off. "Maya just shut up and let me help you up on my shoulders." He snapped in irritation.

Suddenly there's a hand wrapping around my arm, tugging me away from the two bickering wolves.

I turn to face Bryson, a bit stunned to feel his touch hotter than usual. There's a sudden heat brushing on my skin where he touched.

"Scared of me?" Bryson jokes.

I snorted. "Me? Never?"

His lips curve into a small smirk. "Good."

In a swift move Bryson had me on his shoulders, my thighs wrapping around his neck, my hand in his curly brown hair.

I'm marveling at how soft it felt when I feel his hands grip my thighs to hold me steady.

I want to moan.

The feeling of his hands on my skin feels better than usual.

They always felt so good when they touched my skin but now...I couldn't explain it. But it felt out of this world.