

## Tattooed 161

### Chapter 161

"There, I did it." Pushing the will away, I felt dirty. "I have to go but I needed to tell you Alec's dad wanted you to call him." Colt stood up as he gathered his stuff. "You think that is a good idea?" Alec asked Colt. "I think he is ready to apologize and forgive. He needs this last closure. The tree is planted. I had a plaque made and said it was from you. So, if he thanks you, that is what happened." "Are you okay?" I asked Colt. "You are under a serious amount of stress right now." "I am. I just have to make it through this week. With any luck, dad will be able to hang on a little." I stood up and gave Colt a long hug. He hugged me back like it might be the last time he saw me. "Stay safe. I can't worry about you too right now." Colt looked haunted. "She is." Alec stood up and pulled me into him. Colt nodded as he turned and left. Burying my head into his chest, my heart broke. "This has turned into a s hit show." I muttered against his chest. "I know." Alec moved us back to his couch. "You should probably just get this phone call done and ov

with." "You're right. I should." Pulling out my cell phone, I hit dial on Ace's home phone. It rang twice before there was an answer. "Hello?" "H-hello. This is ..." "Kristen. Thank you for calling." "Of course. What can I do for you?" I knew my voice was shaking. "I wanted to apologize. I appreciate you allowing me to say what I needed to say. Still, I'm sorry for how I acted. I know you loved Ace. I wish it was in a different way but the Moon Goddess knows what is best.

You are a good person and deserve happiness. I hope you found that." a "I did." I said as silent tears ran down my face. "Good. I appreciate the plaque as well. You will always be like a daughter to me." "Thank you. "Have a good day." He said before he hung up. "That went well." Alec said as I laid back against him. "Yeah." My eyes landed on the Will. "I can't believe what I just read." "Me either. Your dad really came through. Making sure you were taken care of." "I can't believe it. I just can't. I never saw a dime of this money. Everything for the shop I had to pay back. Dad got me started and I didn't make a dime till he was paid off." "You learned the value of a dollar. Most alpha females are entitled and think money grows on trees." "That is true." "Does this change if you want to travel?" Alec asked. "I want to see what is in Florida." "We can start there." Alec agreed. "I would like to go to my mother's family house too." "We can but we need to wait till after saturday. We can't f uck anything up. "Okay. I don't know how I am going to keep this from Emmy though." The whole situation sucked. It almost two weeks ago and my biggest worry was where I wanted to travel to. Not that I would give Ai up for anything but I did have very little headache. "I'm sure you will be busy with the shop to really pay attention. Before you know it, saturday will be here." "Yup..." I didn't even have the motivation to do any work today. "Do you want to watch movies this afternoon?" "Seriously? You don't have work to do?" I looked up at him. "Nothing that can't wait till tomorrow." Alec stood up and reached out for my hand. "Come on. Let's just

relax and watch a few movies. I have popcorn..." "What did I do to deserve such a great mate?" It was a rhetorical question but Alec answered anyway. "I am pretty good, aren't I? I guess the Moon Goddess

loves you.” “Anyway...” I gave him a ‘really’ look. “What movie are you picking out?” I asked as we started up the

## Chapter 162

“What are you in the mood for?” Alec asked. “Something funny.” “Hmm, let me see what I got.” Alec unlocked the bedroom door. “Why don’t you start the popcorn.” “Yes, sir.” I said sarcastically. “What happened to yes, alpha?” Alec teased me without even looking at me. “That is for the bedroom.” “We are technically in the bedroom.” Touche. “When we are n\*ked in the bedroom and your di ck is in my mouth.” “That can be arranged.” Alec put in a movie and turned off the lights as it came on. The popcorn just started popping as he walked over to me. “Do you want water or Dr. Pepper?” “Dr. Pepper, please.” Grabbing a bowl, I started tapping my fingers on the counter. “What movie did you pick out?” “Bridemaids.”

“Seriously?” I looked at him and smiled. “What? It’s hilarious when she s hits in the street.” The microwave dinged. Alec went to the couch and I put the popcorn in a bowl. Just the smell of it made my stomach growl. Shoving a handful in my mouth, I sat down by Alec but not touching. Instead, I put the popcorn between us. Angling my b\*dy so I was facing him, he pressed play. This felt good, felt right. We didn’t have to cuddle or have S\*\* to enjoy each other’s company. We sat beside each other and ate popcorn, laughing at the funny scenes and judged the dressed the girls tried on. This was another form of intimacy that you can’t achieve unless you are fully comfortable with a person. I knew I loved him. I knew he was learning me and I was learning him but sitting here. I watched his face light up and laugh. This is when I fully understood what it meant to have a second

half. A soul mate. This... this was my forever. The next morning, I woke up to my phone buzzing. It was an email alert that seemed to never shut up. Peeking through just one of my eyes, I tried to read it. “What’s that?” Alec asked as he rolled over. His arm wrapped around me and pulled me tightly against 1/2 “I got an email.” “About what?” “My shipment for my store will be here around mid-day. They need a signer.” Groaning, I tossed my phone down and curled into Alec. “Honey, we need to get up and get going. I’m sure there will be a few things that you need to do at the shop before hand.” “But I’m comfortable.” Wiggling a little more, I was as close to him as I could possibly be. “Who know you were the clingy type.” Alec laughed. “The f uck!” Pushing him away instantly, I had jumped out of bed before he even realized what happened.” I am NOT clingy.” Putting my hands on my hips, I tried to glare but he was trying not to laugh. “What is so funny?” “You are kind of clingy. Now that you have completely opened up to me, you are clingy.” “Am not!” “You love me.” Alec gave me a look. “Not right now!” Huffing, I stomped to the bathroom to shower. His annoying laughter followed me whole way. However, I refused to shower with him so I made sure mine only lasted a few minutes be getting out. He had just walked in as I stepped out. “That was a quick shower.” Alec raised an eyebrow at me.

“Got things to do today.” I shrugged as I walked pasted him. “Really? Going to have this petty sarcastic attitude all day?” Alec was still trying not to laugh. There was nothing but amusement coming from him. “I have no idea what you mean.” Glaring, I picked out some spandex and a lightweight workout shirt. My mind was made up, I was going to tease the fuck out of him all day to make him the clingy one tonight. Putting my hair in the side braid he likes best, I left my face bare. However, I did put on the necklace he gave me. By the time I was putting on my shoes, he was out of the shower. The towel sat low on his hips, forcing me to look away. I couldn’t crack already. 2/2

## Chapter 163

Alec slipped on a pair of gym shorts and a tank. He had sat down to put on his shoes, giving me the perfect opportunity. As I walked by, my phone happened to slip out of my hands and fell to the floor. Completely bending over in front of him but just outside his reach, I fully bent over to get it. Giving him a good view of my ass. I knew he saw me by the shot of arousal I got from him but it was quickly replaced. by amusement again. “Ready?” I asked as I stood back up and walked to the bedroom door. Alec stood up and walked over to me. His eyes landed on the necklace before going back up to mine. “Oh yes.” His face was passive. Damn, this might be harder than I thought. Walking into the hall, Alec shut the bedroom door and locked it. “We have time to get breakfast before going to the store.” I said. “You want breakfast?” Alec seemed surprised. “Maybe a muffin or something. Why?” It surprised me that he was surprised. “You’re not exactly a morning person. You don’t eat much breakfast and lately your appetite has been that

of a bird.” Alec shrugged. Well, shit. When did he learn all this about me? “Maybe I am tired of being mopey and I want to feel happy.” The sarcasm was thick. “I would like you to be happy too but life has been rough lately. I half expected you to be kind of glom.” “It’s nice to know I can still surprise you after all these days of being together.” I nodded as I opened the kitchen doors. Alec gave me a look that told me he wasn’t buying it. Thankfully, he didn’t argue as we went to the buffet.

As I had said, I grabbed a chocolate, chocolate chip muffin and a water. Sitting down, I waited for Alec to get done. By the time I finished my muffin, he still hadn’t sat down. Looking over, a couple girls had stopped him and by the look of his face, he wasn’t too pleased. Jasper and Emmy made their way over before he even sat down. “Hey girl. What are you up to today? Kind of early for you to be awake.” Emmy looked at me funny. “First off, don’t say that in front of Alec. I’m trying to prove a point. Second, I got an email that the order is being delivered today and they need a signer so we are headed over there when he gets done eating. However, by the looks of it, he may never get to eat.” at do they Jasper asked. “No clue. They walked to him and I wasn’t too worried to go figure it out.” Shrugging, I sat back in my chair. “You really don’t get jealous do you?” Emmy shook her head. “Not usually. Maybe I am weird like that.” “Don’t worry, I love it when you get jealous over me.” Jasper ran his finger down her cheek. Emmy blushed as he kissed her nose. “Gross. Literally gross.” Finally, Alec sat down as I spoke. “What’s gross?” “Them. Just them.” “Don’t hate on us because you are incapable to being a loving mate!” Emmy said in her own defense. “Alec, am I a loving mate?” “Sure are.” He said as he took a bite of something.

“See?” “Why don’t you k\*ss him then? Show me you love him!” Emmy pushed. “It’s like you don’t even know me.” Shaking my head in disapproval. I will not be giving in to her pressure. “Alec, does it bother you she doesn’t get jealous?” Emmy was getting annoyed now. “No. Why would it? That isn’t who she is.” Alec shrugged. “WE are not the strange ones. It’s you two who are strange.” She crossed her arms and sat back as she pretended to glare at us. “Are you the jealous type Alec?” Emmy was switching tactics.

## Chapter 164

“She hasn’t given me a reason to be jealous.” Alec said after a moment. “So, you would be okay if a random guy came over here and gave her a hug?” Emmy pushed. “If a random guy tried to touch her, she would probably throat punch him.” Alec said, without even thinking about it. Emmy grudgingly had to agree to that. “Whatever. One day, one of you will get jealous and I will be here to laugh and say I told you so.” Emmy stood up and pointed her finger at us. “It will happen and you two.... will have it coming.” She stormed out as Jasper tried to hide his smile but went after her. “When was the last time she got laid?” Alec asked me. “Apparently, Jasper isn’t holding up his end of the bargain.” I laughed as Alec finished eating. “Do you get jealous?” I asked. “Only before we were mates. You didn’t want to open up to me and I had a hard time reading you.” Alec shrugged. I knew there was more. I’m sure he would never admit it but I think Ace made him really jealous.

“Hmm...” That almost sounded like a challenge but I had more respect for him than to make him jealous. “Don’t you f\*cking dare try.” Damnit, he caught on. “ME? I would never do that to you.” I faked being hurt. Alec rolled his eyes at me as he got up and too. our trash to the trash. I heard some girls giggling a table over, I didn’t realize we had an audience. “Ready?” Alec asked as he came back and pushed in his chair. “Yeah. I am.” Standing up, I walked in front of him the whole way to the car. Part of me wanted to take our bikes but if we needed to bring anything back with us, that wouldn’t be good. However, I would be able to

tease him this way too. As he pulled out, he floored it, making me toss my phone in the back. “Really?” Alec asked. “That was a tad dramatic.” “Oh, sorry.” I said as I turned around to grab my phone. Shoving my ass over at him, I made it look difficult to get my phone. “Do you need help?” Alec asked after a minute. “Nope. I got it here.” Sitting back up, I got comfortable again. “Good.” Alec moved his hand to rest on my thigh. 1/2 “Have you seen my Tor “No, why?” “Just curious” “You’re talkative today.” Alec muttered. “Sorry?” Slightly hurt, I looked out the window. “I’m not saying it’s a bad thing but you’re acting strange.” “Stranger than Emmy?” “No one is stranger than Emmy.” Alec concluded. “True.” Feeling slightly defeated, I just looked out the window and tried to act sullen and moody like he thought I should be acting. We didn’t talk the rest of the way to the my store. Which, surprised me. I was feeling rather hurt and annoyed but he didn’t comment. Instead, I just kept my mouth shut and when we got there, I went inside without waiting for him. Everything was there but still wrapped up. The chairs

needed assembled, my office laptop was still in its package and there was a layer of dust around everything. Taking a moment to look around, I started with

the front. The front desk was taller. Penny got it right with how it would allow me to see the entire shop and still have privacy. Behind it, was my office. It wasn't large since we didn't have much room to sta\* with but it was private. A small desk sat against the wall. What surprised me was a blanket covering something in the car corner. It was larger but a sign on it said, 'Ice-Keep out'. Moving on, there was a built in 360 mirror beside the bathroom. They had indeed created more room i the bathroom but kept the layout the same. The sage green I had picked was amazing. It was honestly everything I envisioned this being. The cabinets looked great. The ink room was slender but had a ton of shelves. A single countertop was waist high so I could lay out what I needed. This was perfect. Just what I wanted and needed.

## Chapter 165

As I looked around. Alec stood and watched me. "What do you think?" "It's amazing." I said before I grabbed some scissors and started cutting the plastic off the tattoo chairs. "Just amazing?" "Perfect? Everything I wanted? What adjective did you want?" "Your moods are all over." Alec rolled his eyes at me. Slamming down the scissors, I stood up and laid into him. "You know what? This is f ucking bu lls hit. I just had to sign my father's will, got told he could very well die on Sunday and within this last week, my shop was destroyed, one of my best friends died, I've been in two separate rogue attacks and car crashes. Not to mention the crazy guy that thinks he has dibs on me. I think I am holding it all together nicely. I f ucking tried to have a good attitude and you got annoyed at me for that. Now, I am back to being sulky and you are pis sy with that. What can I do to make you f ucking happy? I gave you my heart, my b\*d\*y and you are

going to tell me how I am suppose to reach to all this? You have been incredibly supportive this entire time... until now. What do you want from me?" My wolf was getting worked up. I knew my eyes had changed by the look in Alec's face. The anger was building. How does one shift between all these feelings? I wasn't someone that crawled under the covers and ignored the world. "You're right. I'm sorry." Alec held up his hands as he walked towards me. "I don't want to hear, I'm sorry. I want to know how you think I should respond to all this?" Crossing my arms, I dared him to speak. "I just..." Alec came up to me and placed his hands on my shoulders. The calming affect was instant and that partially annoyed me. "I just want you to be okay. I want you to feel these emotions so you can work through them. Hiding behind humor or S\*\*ual feelings isn't going to change what has happened or what

could happen. Holding it all in isn't healthy." "I'll process them in my own time, not when you think I should do it." I said stubbornly as I pulled away from him. "Did you not see how stressed out Colt was? He has always been the emotionally level twin. For him to be this stressed out is a big f ucking deal. He has always been someone that I counted on to be level headed and to see things clearly. For him to be

like this, I can only imagine what is going on over there. Selfishly, I refuse to go over there. Next time I see An n, she will be ash. You want me to f ucking feel things? FINE! I feel guilty I am not over there helping him. I feel s hitty that Penny has basically replaced me as An n's punching bag." I started assigning feelings to each finger. "I am heartbroken my dad might die on Sunday. Confused as to what is in Florida. I am unbelievably pis sed off that Darin has f ucked up De goes your b\*dy would y gualty that Ace died to protect the One of my best trends died for much makes me fa dys for being so happy with your stugad as s F ucking scared that all of this has kept you fr coming ache Your own mother told us that because of me you don't get the just yet are could challenge you at any moment and while I believe you will win The thought of having our bond transfer so "I couldn't even find the words to describe that "And finally, I have to still be happy for the pack, happy this place is getting done, happy for Emmy and everyone I honestly don't know what you want from me. I am literally giving you all I have to give. There is nothing left in me right now" There wasn't even tears to spilt

## Chapter 166

Alec didn't move but just stared at me. It was hard to read him as I wasn't getting much emotions from him. After a minute of just staring at eachother, I just sighed and got back to work. Getting on my hands and knees, I pulled out the instructions and started unwrapping it all. As much as I tried to ignore Alec, he stood there and watched me until finally he walked away. He picked up some rags and started wiping everything down. We worked for close to an hour before there was a knock at the front door. I had just finished the one chair before I realized my order was here. Alec had set his stuff down and went to answer it. After signing for it, three men started pulling out different boxes and placing them in the middle of the store. This was much more than just some ink. After they left, I just looked at everything. "What did she all buy?" I whispered to myself. Grabbing the scissors, I started opening it all. There was a mirror for the bathroom, a toilet paper holding and other bathroom accessories. There was a book stand for my non-existent portfolio. Penny basically furnished my entire office. While Alec put away the ink, I kept breaking down the boxes and cleaning up. At one point, Alec stepped outside to make a phone call. I wasn't sure what to fell towards him but I was started to feel lonely. Like I wanted to make up with him and get a hug but I was being too stubborn to just make the first move. Once all the items were opened and the boxes were broken down, I carried them all to the back to put

into recycling. By the time I got back into the store, Colt was standing in the middle of my shop. "Colt? What are you doing here?" I asked as I glanced at Alec. Neither man gave anything away a closer. "This isn't good." "Nothing is wrong." Colt gave me a little smile that did nothing to change how I felt. "Then why are you here? Is Penny okay?" "She is fine. I actually sent her to live at our mother's house. She isn't permitted to leave and I visit her

when I can. This way, she is out of the packhouse and she isn't far so my wolf isn't going crazy." I had so many questions but none would actually come out. Instead, I looked at both guys, trying to figure this out. "I am literally the smartest person I know and I am so confused right now. Someone better start talking." "You're not okay." Colt said finally. My eyes instant went to Alec. "You called my brother

because I blew up at you?" "It isn't me that you need comfort from right now." Alec said slightly annoyed and partially accepting acceptance. are all official and copies were prepared. Nothing else to do. Now, it's a waiting game. Until saturday, the only thing we have to look forward to is thursday when we take our tests." Colt's arms dropped at he spoke to me but didn't make a move to me. "Penny is safe?" I asked. "Yes, she is under guard but the house is amazing. I can't wait for you to see it. It is two stories with a full basement. A little outdated but it's what we pictured our mom to be like. Remember as kids we would make a pretend mom and design her? Well, that house is what we thought it would be." Colt gave me a small smile. "And dad?" Mrs. Smith Author Thank you everyone for your support. I am posting this early due to today is my wedding anniversary and we are going out! I hope everyone has a good weekend!

## Chapter 167

"Dad has been cleaning his office. Creating files with passwords for me to have. Basically preparing to switch over alphaship. He is actually the happiest I have seen him in years." "Happy?" "Yes, Ice. Dad is happy. He is finally free of An n. I got more of the story. An n and dad used to date as kids but when dad found out he was actually mated to mom, he dumped A nn. An n obviously never got over it so when mom died, guess who was there to help dad? His wolf was suffering and she was there. One night, when things got really bad, dad agreed to mate with An n so he would still be around to raise us. A nn was doing everything for us at that time so he thought she would be a good mate. When we got older and it was evident she held a grudge for us not being her biological kids, that's when he started investing. Since he barely survived because of mating with A nn, he didn't want to die and leave us as orphans. Now, we are fully capable of taking over and he is happy to finally be free of An n. Dad is ready to go or to accept whatever is will happen." "But earlier, you said..." "I know what I said but dad and I had a long conversation last night. He told me all that and told me this wasn't a choice he didn't want to make but one he has been looking forward to. I think he will be seeing him smile as he dumps An n." My eyes looked down as I digested what he said. It made sense. Not that it made it easier but I didn' so guilty. "And saturday?" I asked looking back up at him.

"We don't f ucking scare easily. We will attack and enjoy every minute of it. You have a part you have play though. Darin won't have any idea what is happening so we will all have to tread carefully but I thin saturday will end up being a great night." Colt said with a smile. He rocked back on his heels as he looked at Alec. Alec nodded in response but kept looking at me. This was a hard pill to swallow. I could see why he would be happy to escape her but I still would never

understand why he stayed unhappy for 18 years. Maybe when I have kids I will understand but right now, my heart hurts for him. "Did you ever find out anything with the cell phones?" I asked. "They are linked to a building in the city. We don't have confirmation about it yet but it was one of the buildings we have been watching for any connection with Alpha Rip. The messages are clear, they wanted to kidnap you." "So, I was right." I clarified as I looked between the two most important men in my life. "You were. Your life is in serious danger." Colt agreed. "Still, you can finish up here. We aren't asking

you to put your shop on hold..." but it would put myself and others at risk for unnecessary harm." I finished for him. "Correct." Colt put his arms in his pockets. After a few minutes, I sighed. "I'll hold off until this is finished." "I think that is smart of you." Colt had to get a dig in. I returned his smile with a frown of my own. "This place is really starting to shape up nicely." "Thanks to Penny. She really came through." I agreed as the fight was leaving me. Colt walked up to me and put his arms around me. "Everything will be okay. Sometimes, it is okay to be selfish and worry about yourself. The one reason I am able to handle what I have been is because I know you are safe here. Are you happy here?" I peaked around at Alec. "Mostly." Alec rolled his eyes. "Ice?" Colt pushed me in my side a little. "Yes, I am happy." Colt pulled my face back towards him. "Do you feel safe?"

## Chapter 168

"That is all I care about. I have spent 17 years of my life watching out for you and making sure you were as safe as possible. I love you but you really took up a good chunk of my life." Colt joked. "Jeez, how nice of you." I tried not to smile. "Knowing you are safe and happy here is allowing me to do what I need to do on my end. Yes, I was upset, frustrated and stressed but as you can see, I am good now. Twelve hours later and I am back to my old self. All problems solved. You just need to worry about you and passing your test on thursday" "I could have past them when I was ten." I said slightly annoyed but trying not to smile. "If you would have done that, you wouldn't have met Alec." Colt pointed out. "I met him here, not at school." I reminded him. "But it was school that he heard about you." "That's a stretch but since I'll get a better grade than you, I'll give it to you." I said as I patted him on the arm. "What a good little sister!" Colt patted the top of my head before he forced me into a full hug. "Can't breath!" I faked after a few minutes. "Do you feel better now?" Colt asked as he pulled me away but kept his hands on my arms.

"I do." "You could try to have a little more faith in me." Colt faked looking hurt. "I get frustrated one time and this is how you respond?" "Hey! It wasn't just you but everything. A lot has happened these later two weeks." I said in my defense as I slapped his arm. "I'll give you that but you need to remember it is okay to not be okay. I do need you to be strong in public but it's okay to not be okay behind closed doors. I would say cry but..." Colt trailed off.

"Alright. I'm done talking about it." I said as he was starting to hit too many emotions after he fixed my broken ones. "I love you, sis." Yean, Colt gave me a look. "I thought you were past that?" "Past what?" "Not liking saying I love you." "I reserve them for true heartfelt moments." I gave him a 'I don't know what to tell you' look. "This isn't a heart felt moment?" "You were always the cheesy one." I laughed. "Alright well, I love you but I got to go." "L-love you too." I said sarcastically. "Needs some improvements but I'll take it." Colt shook his head at me. "Good, because that is all you are getting." Colt smirked before turning and shaking Alec's hand. They even did a little bro hug before Colt walked out of the shop. I just stood there and looked at Alec awkwardly for a second before he sighed and walked up towards me. "Feel better now?" "Maybe." I said as I looked down and away from him. A little growl escaped Alec as he bent over and grabbed the back of my thighs. He picked me up a wrapped my



legs around him before he carried me to a counter top and set me down. I was comp pinned. His hand cupped my neck before grabbing some hair and forcing me to look at him. A soft mo escaped my lips as I looking into his eyes. "I'll never understand the power Colt has over you but this body is mine to work." He said huskily as he lowered his lips against mine. My hands slipped under his shirt to his bare skin. Too soon, he moved his head back to look into my eyes.

"I'm sorry." I said without thinking. "You have nothing to be sorry for." Alec searched my eyes. "Feels like I do." "Are you happy with me?" Alec asked. "What kind of question is that?" I was a little taken aback. "After all we have been through, you are

## Chapter 169

"No, not questioning it, just wanted you to say it." "Alec, you make me the happiest girl in the world." My hand slipped out of his shirt to touch his face. "You are my mate, the other half to my soul and the love of my life. You get every part of me, the good, the bad and the ugly. You're the lucky one that gets to deal with my mood swings." Alec's hands were on either side of my face as I spoke. "You know I will die before anything happens to you." I said as if he was trying to reassure me. "You took a bullet for me. I know that." Pulling his face down to mine, we kissed softly for a few minutes. "We should get back to work." Alec said as he broke free. Grabbing his shirt, I helped him take it off. "That's better." "Me shirtless is better?" He asked confused. "Yeah, I get some eye candy as I work." I smiled up at him. As much as he tried to hid it, it was smiling. "Get your ass back to work." Alec said as he helped me down. "Yes, alpha." I said as I walked away from him and swayed my hips. Alec's eyes narrowed but he went

back to cleaning up the dust. After another fifteen minutes, one tattoo chair was put together. "Only three more to go." "That looks good." Alec came over and looked at it. "Thanks. This one is mine. I still have... the bell on the door dinged as some teenagers came through. "We heard you were working here today and I was wondering if you needed help." Calvin smiled at me as his posse of friends looked around in awe. "That would be great. You guys can put together these chairs!" I said instantly relieved. "That should be easy enough." Calvin said looking at it. "That chair took me an hour and fifteen minutes." I said as Alec helped me stand up. "Damn. Okay." The kids instantly got to work, allowing me to put the rest of the store together. Alec

hung all the mirrors for me and any decor Penny had bought. Although Alec set up all the ink, I reorganized it how I liked it before moving to my office. As I opened the laptop box, I accidentally hit something over. "What was that?" I whispered as I reached around and picked up a picture frame. It had Alec and I, "I had that printed. Figured it would make a good decor in here." Alec was standing in my doorway. Leaning against the frame, he had his arms folding and looking like a snack. "Thank you, that was really sweet." I set it back up before continuing to open my laptop. "Everything is cleaned. I have the bathroom set up as well." Alec didn't move as he watched me start the computer up. "You are amazing." I gave him a smile. "Can we talk for a minute?" Alec asked as he came inside and shut the

door. My office wasn't the biggest but since I enjoyed being close to Alec, it wasn't stuffy. "Uh oh." I said as I glanced at him. "Next monday, I want to go to Florida for a week." My b\*dy froze. The computer dinged, asking for permission to continue on. Instantly on guard, I pressed okay before answering him. "Why?" "Everything has been incredibly stressful for you. You can't even argue with me." It was like he knew what I was going to say before I did. "Sunday might be really struggling. If your dad ends up passing, I want to go to Florida. If he doesn't, then we hold off." I was quiet for a few minutes as I followed the steps my laptop asked of me. "Why are you wantin this now? I thought it was my choice if I wanted to travel or not."

## Chapter 170

"It's not exactly a vacation or what I would consider relaxing regardless. I think your dad left you stuff there. I looked up the address. It's a storage unit. I honestly think he took all your mother's possessions and hid them there. With An n gone, you would finally be able to have them. I think it would be a good idea to go and get them or whatever is in there." "It's a storage unit?" I asked as I turned to look at him. He got down on one knee and looked at me. "It is. It's not about getting you away or anything. Whatever is in the storage unit, you dad felt it was important enough to hide there. Somewhere A nn obviously didn't know about. If he left it for you, I think he wants you to get it and cherish whatever it is." "I guess I assumed my mother's stuff would have been in her house." I said as I thought about it. "I don't. That house is on her territory. She is luna. She can do whatever she wants and if she ever found out about that house and set fire to it, all the stuff would have been gone too. This way, he saved the stuff, even if the house is destroyed." "That would make sense, I guess."

"Will you just think about it?" Alec asked softly. "I will." "Thank you. How close are you to being done?" Alec stood up. "Yeah, why?" "I was thinking we could go for a bike ride this afternoon." Alec raised his eyebrows at me. "I like the way you think." Smiling, I stood up and closed the computer. Alec had opened the office door for me. "We are finished!" Calvin yelled as I walked out. "Those look great!" They had all three chairs done and was tightening them to the floor. A few of the

other kids had gathered all the trash and took it out while another one swept all the dirt and dust up. "Thank you!" Calvin stood up and admired his work. "Everything is about ready to go." I said looking around. It was getting late and I hadn't ate anything since breakfast. "When are you opening?" Molly asked. Alec grabbed his shirt to put it on. Not sure yer Alec walked over to the door and held it open for them. "Anytime! Glad to be able to." Calvin and his gang walked out the store. We followed them out before! locked it tightly. "I think that is a nice thing you are doing for him." Alec said once we were in our car. They had drove off as Alec started his car. "Someone has to replace Penny." "Is that even possible?" Alec asked as he drove down the street. Rolling the window down, I let my hand hang out the window in the breeze. "Nope. She was truly one of a kind. What ever happened with who her dad was?" "Nothing yet. We stopped looking openly. We wanted to lay low until after Saturday." Alec put his hand on my thigh. "I'm hungry." I said to Alec. "That's a first. Want to get bbq?" "Yes, please!" "Okay, we can get changed and then head there." Alec agreed. "Do you want to invite Emmy and Jasper?" I asked. "We

haven't really hung out with them in a long time." Alec frowned. "We did piss Emmy off this morning so it would be a good makeup thing."

"Emmy pissed herself off this morning." Alec grunted. I died laughing as Alec started laughing beside me. "You're not wrong." I said after I caught my breath. We had pulling into the garage as I dried my eyes. "Are you going to ask them since I am still incapable to mind-linking someone?" I asked as we went inside. 1 "We really need to fix that." Alec muttered. "Well, your mother is handling that. You will have to ask her when you finally get to claim me." I muttered as we walked up the stairs. Stopping on the second floor, we walked to Jasper's room.