

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Something About Micah

Alexis walked over to Bella and patted her shoulder. “Bella, I want you to meet two men who are like brothers to me. This is Micah, my guardian, and Brian, the dragon prince of the west.” She lifted her gaze up to Brian and Micah. “This is Bella the crystal dragon, who removed my curse. She will be coming to stay with us.”

“If that’s okay...” Bella whispered quietly as she glanced up awkwardly at the two men.

“Of course it is okay.” Alexis waved her off. “Shiva has agreed to help you, Brian. Her only demand was taking Bella with us.” She motioned with her eyes over at Bella for him to greet her.

Brian stepped forward and then stopped. “I was going to at least shake your hand, but I better not. I don’t want to hurt you.”

“You mean because of the heat?” Bella looked up at him beneath her eyelashes and watched him nod his head. “You don’t need to worry about that.” She stepped forward and held out her hand. “Nice to meet you.” She looked at him expectantly.

Brian reached out cautiously taking her hand in his. The moment he did he felt frost travel up his arm layering his skin with ice crystals. “You are an ice dragon too?” His eyes looked over her fully seeing her for the first time. She was shorter than him with a delicate frame. Her silver hair shined as it rested on her pale skin. But what really captivated him were her piercing grey eyes.

Bella released her hand from his grip and shook her head. “I’m a crystal dragon, remember?”

“What exactly is a crystal dragon?” Micah asked reaching his own hand out to shake hers. He grabbed her hand and enfolded his fingers around her delicate wrist. There was a warm almost serene energy that flowed from her. It relaxed him and he took down his guard. This was not someone who was a threat. He released her hand bringing his back to his side. Her grey eyes were still meeting with his making him swallow uncomfortably. “Is there something on my face?” Micah chuckled. “Or have you not seen someone as good looking as me before?”

“She saw me already. And I’m more attractive than you.” Brian smirked and tilted his head to Micah.

“Nice try Brian but my ass is more attractive than you.” Micah grinned widely flashing his pearly whites at Brian.

“The dingleberry growing on my ass is more attractive than you!” Brian shot back with a chuckle.

“Bella?” Alexis asked and watched the girl blink a few times and shook her head.

“It’s nothing.” Bella cleared her throat and smiled. “A crystal dragon is a dragon that learns its abilities over time. They are only born with the ability to purify. But as they age they develop other skills. I have learned the elements wind, fire, lightning, water, and ice. I suspect as I continue to grow older I will continue to learn more. I am especially interested in darkness and flare. Shiva said I have the potential to master them.”

Brian now looked at Bella with more interest. “You can fight with all of those elements? That is amazing! A dragon like you...” He suddenly got quiet and shook his head. “You would be safe in the dragon kingdom though. We would never exploit or use you. I would personally see that you would be treated with the utmost respect.”

“I bet you personally would. Even offering to give her a personal sponge bath.” Micah chuckled as Brian’s eyes bulged open.

“You’ll get used to them. They are always joking like this.” Alexis shook her head rolling her eyes. She glanced around the area as Brian and Micah continued to tease each other. She wondered what Shiva wanted to talk to Aken about. To be honest she was slightly annoyed at the goddess for how she poked fun at her mate. He couldn’t help what his beast looked like. She didn’t see how any of that mattered. No matter what his other form looked like he was hers. All of him belonged to her. And soon she would put her mark on his neck permanently claiming him as her own. The question was... what kind of mark would it be?

Would the mark belong to her wolf or her dragon? Although Alexis had a wolf she never belonged to a wolf pack. She was brought up in the dragon kingdom and naturally related more to them. Not that she didn’t relate to her wolf or relatives but just she had more of a dragon connection. However, Yuki

was not a weak or timid wolf. She was a dominant dire wolf and it was likely she would want to assert her dominance. Perhaps a mark on each side of his neck would be best? One to appease both of her beasts.

Aken rubbed his forehead and closed his eyes. “You are quite certain?” He was standing in a green circular room. It was a place where deities often met that was considered neutral ground.

Shiva scoffed and clicked her tongue in agitation. “Who do you think you are talking to? Of course I am sure. I am shocked you didn’t realize it.”

“I felt the one thing but... I knew there was something else there...” Aken groaned and leaned his head into his hand. “What was her father thinking?”

“I was curious about that as well. So, I’ve summoned him.” Shiva smirked and shrugged her shoulders.

“Why are you prying into this? What interest is this to you?” Aken lifted his head up shooting a dark glare at Shiva.

“Well obviously I care. I am sending my sweet Bella there. This is vital information.”

“As a spy?” Aken said coldly.

“Tsk. You are such a crude creature. I actually love those I take care of. I wonder if you can say the same.” A smug grin rose over Shiva’s face as a man with dark hair and blue eyes appeared.

Levi looked around and his eyes met with Aken. “Where is Alexis? Why was I summoned?”

“Alexis is safe. Her curse has been removed.” Shiva immediately answered as Aken snorted in agitation.

“Safe. Is she though?” Aken now shot an icy glare at Levi. “You know about her guardian?” He watched as the man sighed and nodded his head. “What in the hell are you thinking endangering my mate?!”

“He would never hurt Alexis!” Levi growled angrily. “I trust him. I have watched him grow. I wasn’t sure of him in the beginning, but he has worked very hard at controlling himself. I trust him with Alexis.”

“How? How can you trust him?” Shiva tilted her head to the side as she looked down at her fingernails. “He is a bomb waiting to go off. Surely you know this?”

“He is her guardian!” Levi growled and watched as Shiva shrugged.

“Why didn’t you insist to have another guardian chosen?” Aken asked pinning his gaze on Levi.

“I did.” Levi exhaled loudly and slowly shook his head. “Rhea insisted that the fairy magic chose him for a reason. It was a battle I couldn’t win against her.” He turned and looked at Aken. “I’m sure you can understand this more now. You wouldn’t want to upset Alexis either. So I watched him and kept an eye on him. And he has never given me a reason to worry.”

“He doesn’t know though.” Shiva shook her head. “You never told him.”

“It is best he doesn’t know. He had a rough start in life. He doesn’t need another blow like this. He doesn’t need to have any doubts.” Levi inhaled slowly turning his gaze back to Aken. He could see the Kraken had knitted brows as his lips curled downwards. His body was tense and he looked conflicted. “It would hurt Alexis, Aken. This information can’t get out.”

“It is Alexis getting hurt that I am afraid of.” Aken snarled and shook his head.

“You’ve met him. Do you think he would hurt her?” Levi’s voice had a bite in it as he snapped at the man.

“I don’t think he would... willingly. But what if he loses his temper? What if he can’t control himself? What if he can’t control the bloodlust that will more than likely grow?” Aken felt conflicted about the situation. Levi was right this knowledge could end up hurting Alexis the most because of how Micah would take it. He couldn’t bear to see her heartbroken.

“That would never be directed towards Alexis.” Levi insisted. “With Erebus around, we need someone like Micah protecting her.”

Aken's eyes widened, and his lips parted in shock. "You are using your knowledge about him to protect Alexis... even knowing what this can do to him? If something bad happens to Alexis, he will be unmanageable. Will you be the one to put him down?"

"If I have to, yes." Levi's voice was quiet and low. It would be painful but it was a decision he already came to.

"And what about Alexis then?" Aken shook his head. "I won't see this type of pain on her face."

"Well then, I guess you better make sure nothing happens to her. Of course your track record there isn't the greatest. We all watched her get marked by the dragon prince in your absence." Levi shook his head and rolled his eyes. "Of course, that isn't exactly how all of that went down. And I need to have a few words with my daughter about keeping her mother and I out of the loop." He had turned his head from the scene during the marking, but Rhea's discerning eye captured the moment with her front row view of the event. It wasn't something everyone would be able to notice. The Great Sage noticed as well that a real mark had not taken place.

"A few words? They better not be harsh words." Aken glared at Levi who raised his brows up at him.

"Careful. She is my daughter."

"My MATE. That trumps your daughter." Aken growled as he faced Levi fully.

"Really? You two aren't marked yet. Right now she is under my jurisdiction."

"I don't care what mumble jumble crap you want to spout off. You upset my mate and we will have a problem." Aken watched as the cool eyes of Leviathan studied him quietly.

"She might be your mate but she will always be my baby."

Aken smirked and folded his arms over his chest. "Well, your baby will eventually be carrying my baby."

Levi's dark eyes settled on Aken as a low snarl escaped his lips. "I'll support my daughter no matter who she chooses as her mate. I know you'll protect her... But she can't escape being reprimanded when the moment calls for it."

“I see. And what about your mate? Would you let her father upset her?” Aken raised his brows as he saw the dragon’s eyes twitch. He knew perfectly well there was no way Levi could stand for someone to upset his mate.

Shiva clicked her tongue loudly, “Well if you two are quite done I have a suggestion.” She watched as green and blue eyes stared intently at her. “Doesn’t this sound like something Kali would have information about? If there is a solution she would know of it. If not her Endymion...”

Levi groaned lowly and then slowly nodded his head. “I know. But Selene and Kali aren’t exactly easy to get a hold of anymore. Selene interferes popping in and out. But she has covered Kali in a shield where I can’t find her or Endymion.”

“I guess I can help. It may take me some time but when I find her, I’ll see what she knows. What about the other part of him?” Shiva studied Levi as he shook his head.

“I think for now it is best that Micah doesn’t know anything about himself. His heritage and problems...” Levi shook his head. “I will talk to him about it after we find Kali and have more information.”

Shiva yawned and then looked at the two men like they were a nuisance. “Anyways, we can leave now.”

“About the dragon prince-” Levi started and Shiva snorted loudly interrupted him.

“For heaven’s sake that’s all you guys think about. I’ll take care of it. Well... Bye!” Shiva gave him a fake smile.

“A pleasure as always Shiva.” Levi rolled his eyes as he turned to look at Aken.

A smirk played on his Aken’s lips. “Don’t worry ‘dad’ I’ll bring her back safely.”

“Don’t call me that,” Levi growled. “Just get her back home safe!” He snorted disappearing just as quickly as he came.

Aken chuckled and prepared to teleport back to Alexis. He disagreed with the blue whale, but he had a point. Micah as a person wasn’t a bad guy. In fact, he liked him. And it was obvious he was important to Alexis. As Alexis’

guardian, she was probably the one person he could never hurt. With that in mind, she would be safe with him. He could see the logic to keeping Micah with Alexis. But that didn't mean there wasn't danger. Someone could get badly hurt or killed if Alexis got hurt. It would be out of Micah's control. He had to hope that the dark priestess would have a solution. He would do anything to make sure Alexis didn't get hurt both physically and emotionally.

He knew there was more to Micah, and he had one part right. But there was still something that bothered him, and he now knew what it was.

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 27

Chapter 27 The Future

Alexis made little ice chairs for the four of them as they waited for Aken and Shiva to return. They were telling Bella about the dragon kingdom and what to expect there. And that right now there was the big dragon party going on.

"There sounds like there are a lot of people there," Bella said in a nervous whisper.

"Don't worry. You'll be safe there." Brian's hazel eyes smiled at her gently.

"You'll be staying in the castle with us. There is no safer place. You'll be right under the dragon deity's watchful eye." Alexis watched as the girl nodded her head.

Bella's eyes lifted up looking at Micah. He was fairly quiet, and his arms seemed tense. She bit her inner lip and frowned. "Are you okay? It's my aura, isn't it? I'm sorry if it is bothering you."

Micah looked up at her in shock before a wide white grin spread over his lips. "Your aura isn't bothering me." He chuckled and shook his head. "I'm just working on calming my beast down. After Alexis was taken..."

Bella stood up keeping her grey eyes fixated on him. She walked up to him staring into his green eyes. "Is it agitated?"

Micah swallowed as the young lady invaded his personal space looking into his eyes. He could feel her breath hitting his skin. "Uhm... yeah." He muttered as he kept his eyes on hers.

Bella reached her small hands out and cupped his cheeks. She leaned forward and pressed her forehead against his. Her cheeks turned to a slight shade of pink as she blushed from being so close to a man. And an attractive man at that.

Micah tensed at first, but then a warm soothing sensation rushed through him. He felt his whole body relax and he sank deeper into his icy seat. It was like he was just given a sedative and his beast was now calm. He looked up at her as she stepped away dropping her hands from his cheeks.

“Better?” Bella asked shyly as she stepped backwards to her seat.

“That’s incredible. Yes, I feel completely calm now. Thank you.” Micah sighed with relief from not having to control the tension building up inside of him.

“Let me know and I can help you with that again.” Bella had a faint smile on her face as she settled back into her seat.

“I have tension too.” Brian sat with a funny grin as he pointed to his forehead.

“You do?” Bella asked innocently and went to stand up but Alexis’ hand shot out and stopped her.

“He is fine. He just thinks you’re cute.” Alexis giggled as she watched Bella turn a dark crimson shade over her face.

“Okay, that is just too adorable.” Brian’s lips curled up as he stared at the blushing beauty.

Alexis’ eyes glanced between the two men whose eyes were looking at Bella differently than she had seen them before. Brian had yet to find his mate and Micah claimed he didn’t want a mate. But their eyes seemed captivated with Bella. She was a very beautiful young woman. She had an air of elegance about her but also needed protection. Maybe it was the part of her seeming vulnerable that made their beasts interested? Maybe they were both curious and fascinated with the unique dragon, but she had never seen either man look at someone like that before.

Alexis watched as Bella covered her face with her hands trying to hide her rosy cheeks. This was when Micah chuckled and a soft smile spread on his lips. Micah sat relaxed in his chair. His arms were not tense and he had a gentle look in his eyes. It was a rare moment to see him so relaxed.

Alexis stood up to look around. There were a couple of darkened openings and she was curious about where she was at.

“Alexis.” Micah suddenly said standing up from his seat.

Alexis turned to look at him. His serene look was gone and he was back into protection mode. He really needed to have more time when he wasn’t constantly worrying about her.

“I’m just going to walk around. Sit down Micah, and relax. We are in Shiva’s domain. It is safe, right?” Alexis looked over at Bella, who nodded her head.

“She is very safe,” Bella said sweetly.

“It doesn’t matter. I will get anxious with you out of my sight.” Micah went to take a step towards her but Alexis’ eyes widened with an idea.

“Oh, let’s try something. I’ll walk away and let’s see if Bella is able to keep you calm.” Alexis could see the disapproving look on his face.

“Why? What is the point of that?” Micah didn’t like to play these types of games.

Alexis clicked her tongue. “Because I want to know. I’m curious.”

Brian chuckled and stood up. “I’ll go with her, Micah. Humor her before we have a temper tantrum on our hands.”

Alexis grinned and shrugged. “I’m not opposed to it to get my way.” She took a couple of steps away and froze. High pitched screaming pierced her ears. She looked back at the others who didn’t seem to hear it. Then everything shifted and the air changed.

Alexis looked around her. There were children running down the dirt street laughing and chasing each other. She could see people buying produce from stands and there were people playing music. It looked to be some sort of celebration that everyone was enjoying. Her gaze traveled beyond the buildings that were surrounded by a tall rusted steel wall. There was a blurry aura around the colossal walls that she assumed was a fortified barrier of sorts.

The village looked like it had been through a previous tragedy before. It reminded her of the movies she watched that were during an apocalypse. The buildings looked like they had seen better days. She tried to get a grasp on when this was happening on the timeline. It was hard to tell exactly but seeing how natural this looked for everyone they had been living like this for quite a while. Which would mean this was years and years away from happening. Centuries away... maybe longer. It was hard to tell since the world looked like it was recovering from a catastrophe.

The laughter changed to shrilling screams that cut through her. The wall shattered open and creatures, like she had never seen, began entering the village. They were mountainous grotesque creatures that seemed to have a menacing bloodlust. They ripped the people to shreds mercilessly. Blood painted the walls as panic filled the air.

Several people rushed towards the beasts, and just like Raine, they had swords magically manifested in their hands. The enemy numbers continued to pour in overwhelming those standing to protect it. A young woman went flying through the air hitting her head on a steel pipe. As she lay there unconscious, Alexis saw a familiar creature leap out in front of her protectively.

It was a lycan and at first, Alexis thought it was Aiden. But the closer she looked at the beast she could see that this was not her cousin.

“Get her out of here!” A man with a sword yelled as he was overwhelmed by the horrifying creatures.

The lycan grabbed onto the young woman gently holding her by her shirt as another body rushed over helping to put her on his back. The lycan paused for a brief moment before he fled with the woman on his back. The sounds of fighting and screams echoed loudly as the monsters captured the village. Through the dust and destruction, a single red eye glowed. The body was hidden by the debris but the red eye seemed as if it was fixated on her. She felt his animosity and evil in her chest.

Alexis had never felt true fear before. However, at this moment her body froze. Her heart raced as she gulped for her breath. The rapid thudding echoed in her ears as she swallowed hard. Her body trembled and no longer obeyed her as a deep sense of dread held her captive. The fear developed a life force of its own that was devouring her body like the savage beasts in the village. Terror washed over her, as the hopelessness of this situation sank in.

The color drained from her face as her eyes darted over the c****e. The children that were once laughing now lay lifeless as their blood covered the ground. This wasn't a battle between warriors. This was a s*****r. These were people trying to live their lives and were massacred. Her eyes scanned back as one of the men protecting the village was stabbed.

“How could you betray us like this?” The man choked out gurgling on his own blood. The sword he clutched in his hand flickered with light as his own life began to go out.

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“Alexis!” Micah growled and grabbed her unresponsive body. It was as if she was in a trance. He stood there looking into her eyes as water began to pool from them. He felt her body tighten as it began to tremble. She was afraid. “Lex.” Micah whisper out. He wrapped her in his arms and leaned his head on hers. “You are okay Lex.”

“What happened to her?!” Aken yelled as he made quick strides over to her. He grabbed onto her shoulders as Micah growled at him menacingly. Aken narrowed his eyes at Micah and reached his other hand out to grip the bear's shoulder. “Micah... be careful.” He took in a deep breath to steady his own emotions. Their eyes clashed against each other in an unspoken battle. Bella reached up and grabbed onto Micah and Aken watched as the feral look diminished. Micah released his grip and slowly nodded his head allowing Aken to take Alexis into his arms.

Her body was trembling as her tears continued to pool. He looked over her and glanced back up to Micah. He had never seen something like this before.

“She is having a premonition. It's the first one she has had.” Micah shook his head and gripped onto Bella's hand to control his emotions. “She is scared. I've never...” Micah's voice cracked and he couldn't finish talking. He had never seen her this afraid before. And it broke him. Thank goodness for Bella's calming energy. It was the only thing keeping him sane.

“Lex, can you hear me? I'm right here. You are safe and in my arms.” Aken cooed and kissed the tears that fell from her eyes.

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The red eye came closer as he made his way to the dying man. Alexis could almost see the man's face as his sinister laugh filled the air. Her heart was breaking for the man who was dying on the ground.

"It's time for a new order." The cruel man with a red eye grinned down at the fading man. Alexis watched as the man with the red eye bent down to the ground. He reached his hand out to grip the neck of the dying man squeezing it.

SNAP

Alexis gasped and panted heavily as her sight came back into focus. Her shoulders heaved as liquid streamed down her face.

"Lex, baby I'm here. You're okay."

No. She wasn't okay. What she had just witnessed... She shook her head as she struggled to breathe. The flashbacks of the premonition flickered through her mind. The eyes of the lifeless children, the defenseless people that were brutally ripped apart, and the sinister red eye of the man behind it all. Was this the inevitable future? Could they not prevent this from happening?

"I'm okay." Alexis wiped her eyes and stepped away from Aken. She didn't want to cry. She could handle this on her own. She wasn't a cry baby. She wasn't a weak sobbing little girl. She needed to get ahold of herself. She took a few steps away from everyone as she tried to stop the uncontrollable shaking.

Alexis felt Aken's heat from behind her back. His hand gently spun her back around to face him. His green eyes met with hers as his hand slid around her back.

She tried to control her emotions and reel them back in but she couldn't. The emotional vision was traumatizing. She leaned her head into Aken's chest as a soft sob escaped from her throat. Her fingers curled into his shirt as his strong protective arms held her tight pulling her the rest of the way in.

Alexis was given a premonition yet she had no idea how to fix it nor how far away it was in the future. Premonitions sucked. Why give her a vision like that? How was she supposed to change that future... or was this the future Selene was working on behind the scenes.

Selene saw premonitions like this all the time. Terrifying futures that she was constantly trying to stop from happening. Plus, her visions were much more vivid and in-depth. Alexis had a newfound respect for the Moon Goddess in this aspect. She couldn't imagine the burden of having this weight on her shoulders all the time.

Alexis has only had one premonition. But what it had done to her just now... it must be hard on Selene. Selene has the power to stop these futures but can't because of the repercussions. Instead, she manipulates the events and people in order to try to change the future.

There wasn't anything Alexis could do about this future, but maybe that wasn't the point. Just with the knowledge of this, she could understand Selene better. The strong mates getting pulled together were not just a coincidence but were strategically happening. And maybe this was the future Selene was desperately working on behind the scenes.

Readers please remember this chapter for the future. This vision is an important part that will be reflected upon later in the series... There is also a premonition in The Vampires Promised Bride Chapter 27 that connects to this timeline

Taming Her Beastly Mate Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Planet Aken

Aken looked down as his mate quietly cried in his arms. Her body was shivering and she looked broken. Damn fairies and their premonitions. He wanted to rip the fairy right out of her and remove that piece of herself. He ran his hand over her hair soothingly and kept her body flush against his. He looked up at everyone who was anxiously watching Alexis. They wanted to know what she had seen. Behind them, Shiva stood watching over Bella keeping Micah calm.

Alexis didn't need to play twenty questions right now.

Micah. I'm signing her out on the sign out sheet. I'm going to help her. Do you want to head back to the dragon kingdom?

No, I am not going anywhere without her. Micah met with Aken's gaze. His eyes flickered slightly but instantly returned back to normal. Thanks to Bella's

calming touch. His eyes rested on Alexis as his lips curled down. Please... help her.

Aken nodded his head to Micah and curled his arms around Alexis tighter as he took her away from everyone.

Alexis felt the air change around her and then her body was hoisted up in her mate's arms. She opened her eyes as he carried her to a chair in the familiar log cabin she had visited before. He sat down keeping her connected to his body. He reached his hand up holding her head to his chest as his other hand rubbed her thigh in a soft caress.

She remembered the way her mother's touch could calm her father no matter what he was feeling. Now she could understand it. When she was being cocooned in Aken's arms there was no evil in the world. As if this was the real world. She lived on the planet Aken where it was warm, safe and she was loved. She curled into him and breathed in his amazing scent. He just quietly held her rubbing her in soothing motions. He didn't talk or try to make her speak. It was as if he knew exactly what she needed. Maybe he did. They were soul mates after all. And after they marked each other they should be able to know each other's feelings and thoughts clearly.

"Aken..." She whispered out. She felt his head dip down and his nose nestled in her hair. She felt his lips lightly brushing over her.

"I'm here my love."

"I've never... I've never felt that afraid before. It was horrible." She felt his hand run through her hair as his cheek rested on her head. His touch sent light sweet tingles over her body.

"I'll never let anything happen to you. There is nothing you need to be afraid of."

Alexis trailed her finger absentmindedly over his chest as her mind wandered over what she had seen. That future was frightening. This is something that would never happen with her father and now Aken around. Unless they couldn't fight in it. Was the lycan she saw a member of her family? And were the sword wielders like Raine, Justice, and Destiny? She had so many questions but there were no answers.

“There is a terrifying future. It was awful. A village was massacred by creatures I have never seen before. And there was this man with a red glowing eye...” Alexis let out a shuddering breath. “What happened to the world...? It looked completely different. And-”

“Shhh. Lex, this isn’t your burden.”

“Premonitions are shown to us for a reason. So that we can change the outcome.”

“The future is something that continually changes. But you can be certain that your future is by my side. I’ll be here to take care of you.” He brushed his lips over her head and buried his nose in her hair taking whiffs of her scent. “I’m going to love you for eternity. And when humans become fairytales that are told to unicorns at bedtime I’ll still have you by my side giving you my everything.”

Alexis sat up and looked into his green eyes. “And what about now? Will you be around to take care of me now? Or are you going to continue to be away from me chasing Erebus?”

“Lexi-”

“You’ve only been looking for him forever and haven’t caught him yet. You know what he is after. He is after me. So let him come for me and you can catch him then.” Alexis watched his eyes grow dark as a low growl reverberated from his throat.

“Are you suggesting I use you as bait?!” His voice raised slightly as his gaze remained fixated on her.

“I’m suggesting we work as a team like the one we are meant to be.” She watched as he shook his head with his lips pursed tightly.

“Not a chance am I allowing you to be bait for that psycho. I’ll catch him.”

“After how long?” Alexis reached her hands up placing them on his cheeks. She brushed her thumb softly over his skin making his eyes close in response. “Please don’t leave me alone again. Aken... I need you.”

“My love I’m not going to leave you alone. I’ll stay with you every night. I’ll be beside your bed protecting you.”

“Only beside my bed and not in it?” Alexis quirked her brow up at him as a light shade of red crept over his cheeks and down his neck. Even his ears were turning red.

“I don’t want to be presumptuous. I know we have a lot of things to talk about.” Aken cleared his throat as she continued to pin him down with her captivating eyes.

“We have a lot of things we need to do and it isn’t just talking. I’ve had to wait until I was twenty for my first kiss Aken! All because I have been waiting on your stubborn butt to show up. You aren’t making me wait for everything else. And that includes sharing my bed.” Alexis watched as the shade of red darkened as Aken smothered in embarrassment.

“Lex...” Aken whispered out closing his eyes. “Don’t think for a minute that... I mean the thoughts I have of you... but we do need to talk. I want you to know about me and my beast-”

“You talk, Aken, and I will listen.” Alexis let a sly grin spread over her lips as she leaned forward. She nuzzled her nose into his neck and began to lightly nibble and tease his skin with her tongue. A low growl of approval rippled through him as his hands wandered over her body. “So talk...” She whispered against his neck as she began to suck on his marking spot.

“Mmmm Lex...” His chest heaved as his breathing became ragged. “Lex... wait.” He entangled his fingers in her hair and gently held her away from making contact. He at least wanted her to know what his other form looked like. He wanted her to know about his past. But he listened to her seductive purr as she tilted her head to the side to grin at him.

“You like to pull hair? We can add that to our bedroom routine.”

He growled loudly and instantly lifted their bodies up as he carried her to the bed. He eased her body down onto the mattress and brought his own body on top of hers. He supported his weight with his elbows as he hovered over her looking into her eyes. Her arms wrapped around his neck as she tried to bring him down to her face.

He panted heavily as he battled against himself and everything he wanted to do. He needed to be in control of this moment. He didn’t want to risk accidentally marking her. His mate just had a very emotional moment and he

didn't want to take advantage of her heightened emotions. And he wanted her to know about him.

"Alexis there are things about me-"

"I don't care." Alexis tugged on his neck trying to force him down to her.

"But my beast-"

"I don't care!" She insisted with minor agitation.

"Everyone cares." Aken finally blurted out. He watched as her gaze soften as her hand came around to trace over his lips.

"I love you. I'll love your beast because it is you." Alexis watched as he closed his eyes. His shoulders were rising and falling heavily.

"You don't know that." He said in a barely audible whisper.

"Yes, I do. Aken, you are mine. Is there anything that would make you not want me?"

"No!" He said instantly as his eyes flipped open to watch a smile spread over her lips.

"Exactly." Alexis brought her hand down and leaned up on her elbows so that her lips barely touched his. "So now what is the problem? Unless you don't want me..." She let her lips brush over his as she spoke. To her surprise, he pushed his lips into her gently. He leisurely took her bottom lip into his mouth as he leaned her back down onto the bed.

"Lex, I don't want to take advantage of the moment. After everything, you have been through. I don't want to cause any emotional-"

"Damn it Aken. Do I seem like the type of woman who gets taken advantage of during a weak moment? I am all but seducing you! Not you seducing me. But it seems like I'm doing a poor job at it-"

This time his lips crashed against her roughly. It was soul-shattering madness as he growled into her lips. He gently traced his tongue over her mouth and growled lowly.

"Your wish is my command, princess."

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