Chapter 11

When I heard the eight girl being marked I stoped and leaned against a tree. My feet were covered in wounds, big sores opened up on my soles and when I looked over my shoulder I could see the trace of blood that I had left behind.

The pain when I picked out the sticks and rocks and the thorns from the goddamn vines was excruciating.

Trixy was tired and hungry and I was down on my last ounces on internal energy supplies.

I was preying that they all stayed busy with the other girls and left me be.

The last hour counted down and it was the only thing I needed to get through this.

I couldn't hear them so that was a good sign. As long as no grunting big shadow showed up, I would make it to the end of the Hunt.

Oh to be so lucky.

My head rested against soft pile of leaves on the tree behind me and I laughed through the pain.

My legs felt like jello and my stomach was louder than any Alpha could ever be, it wanted food- I needed food.

There had to be something around here that was eatable. The bushes were filled with wild flowers, pretty petals and gutting thorns but nothing I could eat. I brushed my fingers through the thick branches and shook my head at the realization – the berries were all closer to the house where it allowed for more sunlight.

I looked back when I heard another girl scream and now was when my nerves started acting up. Up until right this moment I had been on autopilot, running for miles on end with no pause to stay ahead and stay away.

This was it, the last moments and my whole body was reacting to the final hour.

I looked toward the creek and decided to keep running the little time that I had left, better to be safe than sorry.

The leaves were slippery beneath my bleeding feet and just as I reached the edge of the creek and was about to jump, my feet slid back and I fell head first down the edge.

My face was the first to bite it and my jaw hit ground with a thud slamming my teeth shut on my lip. I tried to make as little sound as possible but the grunts from having my head slammed against the ground were quite involuntary and I tasted the blood that filled my mouth.

When I finally came to a stop at the bottom of the creek I spit out the leaves that were stuck to my face using my blood as their glue. My arm was stuck under my body and the only thing left was for a tree to fall over me and end this once and for all. A choked whimper left my lips when I gave up and let my body sink down to the ground.

"Ten points for execution." Said a dark, detecting voice behind me.

I scrambled myself up on all fours and fumbled like a deer on ice to stand.

I turned around and tried to see him but the light wouldn't reach down to expose his face, and whoever he was he decided to stay hidden.

"Who is there?" I asked. It pained me to hear the fear in my voice and I could still taste the dirt from the leaves and the grass when I spoke. My whole body was covered in damp residue and the pain in my feet disappeared when fear took its place- and moved up to consume my thoughts.

"Turn around." He ordered.

I did, I spun around to see him but there was no one there. The voice sounded like it came from every corner of the creek. It was all around me.

A gust of wind blew against my back and I turned on my feet.

"Show yourself!"

Ask and you shall receive.

I fell back, slammed into the side of the stone being us and my arms were pinned to my sides.

His yellow eyes glowed beautifully and his lips pulled up in a cocky grin.

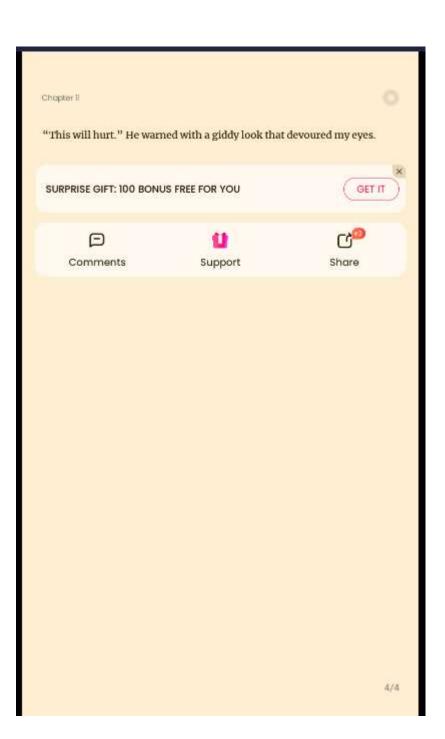
I normally slapped those grins away easily, but I had never experienced it with an Alpha and I was to preoccupied with the relief that washed over me.

"Emanuel," i breathed.

My arms were pressed against the sharp surface and he slowly raised them over my head and rearranged his grip to hold my wrist with one hand.

The other one graced down my neck and I cocked my head. If I had to be marked I was glad it was he who did it.

"This will hurt." He warned with a giddy look that devoured my eyes.



Chapter 12

I touched the mark that Emanuel so insensitively put on my body. A forever type of mark, tying me to him for all eternity.

I was his now.

An Alpha could, and often chose, to have multiple chosen mates - some even took mistresses on the side but they weren't marked and would never step out from the shadows with the Alpha. It was something they agreed upon before the affair ever began. A girl, however, could have only one mark on her body and therefor only one mate. Til this day I have yet to hear of an Alpha that has only one mate - wether chosen or destined. To find your destined mate was rare, many believed it was just a myth, but I've heard of instances where they really have found their destined mates and forsaken all other desires for that one person. Never had I heard it happen to an Alpha though. They much preferred the rows of women at their disposal and it was normal for us, it was nothing you frowned upon or batted your eyes at.

My Alpha back home, Cristian, took his fourth last year during the Hunt. She bore him a child, the first son of the Alpha was born this year which was why he chose to stay back and live the family life for at least a year. We would see what happened next year, or the year after that when he got bored of the mundane day-to-day. I could bet my wolf that he would be back here again to Hunt another girl and bring her home.

As i drifted away in thought I accidentally dragged my nail into the fresh wound and winced when I scraped of the healed skin.

"How does it feel?" He asked.

Emanuel grabbed my hand and graced my fingers softly as he touched his

masterpiece.

"Healed," I answered.

His face hovered by my neck and I felt the warmth of his lips as he pressed them just below the mark.

He slid his tongue over my skin and licked the wound shut, sealing the mark and aiding the healing process.

"I like it one you." His golden brown eyes glimmered subtly as they gazed with a softness at my tired face.

"Do you like it as much on me as you do on the others?"

Emanuel had eight girls, I was now the ninth.

He grinned and pulled my chin up.

"It just gets better and better." He said huskily.

"Maybe the tenth time's the charm."

"Are you planning to make an honest man out me, Hazel?"

I laughed at the amusement I saw in his eyes and his lips that he pulled back in a bright smile.

It took a toll on the body to be marked and also the fact that I hadn't eaten and that my feet were open wounds made it even harder to walk. As thought he saw my pain, Emanuel lifted me up and cradled me to his chest as he began walking through the woods.

I rested my head against him and from time to time I looked up and caught the proud expression cast on half his face while his eyes sparkled Chapter 12

under the streams of light that started shining down.

His heart was beating in a normal pace and I knew that this was nothing more than a game for them... for him. It was a show of power and agility, stamina and dominance. He's proud to walk home with yet another girl to add to his collection and a successful hunt where he won over another respected Alpha. Many girls fooled themselves into thinking it was love and devotion that they were receiving with the mark but the truth was that the mark was like a branding—a proof of ownership that you belonged to him.

I looked up at Emanuels face, gazed at his thin lips that curled in a grin when he saw something further ahead. His broad shoulders and big arms shielded me from the winds that were coming in from behind us and I knew that whatever happened now, at least I would be with a good man. I just had to share him.

