

Chapter 11

ALIA

I squinted my eyes as the sun's rays touched my face through the window. I groaned and flipped to my stomach, wanting more time for sleep when my mind was invaded by my brother.

'Come on, Alia! I've been trying to wake you up for an hour now. We need to get going. Get up!' I could hear the panic in his voice, which was unusual. Something was wrong.

'Coming.' I replied and rose from my bed, only to stop when I realized I wasn't in my room. Memories of last night came flooding back, and I suddenly felt the need to sit down.

Oh, Goddess! What have I done? Did he... did he?

I looked down at my body and saw I was wearing Gavin's shirt. I lifted the shirt and looked at my sex. I didn't have any underwear. Did he take my virginity? I couldn't remember. All I remember was him touching me and then...

Oh my Goddess, he actually went down on me. I could feel my face burning and my core getting wet again.

Shit! I ran to the bathroom and looked at the mirror, wanting to see if he had marked me.

I sighed in relief as I saw my neck unmarked, but there were

faint hickeys everywhere, even on my breasts. But I could easily hide them. My mate did ravish my body last night. Except he didn't take me fully and he didn't mark me.

But I won't deny that although I felt relieved, there was a part of me that was disappointed that he didn't consider marking me. Or even have sex with me.

Wasn't I tempting enough?

Come on, Alia, you don't want this guy, right? Why were you disappointed?

I had no idea how I got back into the guest room because I knew I was at his room last night, but I didn't have time to investigate since my brother was already looking for me. 5

After a quick shower, making sure I didn't smell anything like the Beta, I put on a pair of black tight jeans and a tight-fitting white turtleneck, making sure that no hickeys were visible. Good thing the weather wasn't sunny, so it wouldn't be odd that I had this on me.

After I packed my things, I looked at the Beta's shirt that I had thrown in the hamper next to the toilet. Without really thinking, I grabbed it and pressed it into my luggage. I don't think he would miss one shirt. Besides, if he asked, I would tell him that I threw it away.

As soon as I was done and the room was back in order, I took a last glance in the mirror and headed out of the

guestroom.

I was hoping I wouldn't see the Beta because as much as I wanted a glimpse of him, I don't know how I would react if I saw him.

But the Goddess knew how to mock me. Instead of the Beta, she made me bump into the female that I dreaded the most, the Luna of the Black Shadow Pack. She was descending from the floor above as I turned to the hallway leading to the stairs.

We both stopped on our track, our faces showing two different emotions.

A friendly smile curved on her lips while my face was scowling.

"Hi! I think we weren't introduced last night. I'm Clair." She offered her hand, the friendly smile still on her lips.

Instead of taking it, I looked at her hand with disgust before shifting my eyes back to her face. "I know who you are," I said coldly, turning on my heels to walk away.

"Excuse me!" She called me out in a cold tone.

I stopped without turning back to her.

"Do we have a problem here?" She added.

I flipped my blonde hair before turning around to face her while my arms crossed against my chest. "I think we do," I

answered aggressively, my brow hiking up. 2

She frowned at my response. "What's your problem with me? I don't even know you."

I scoffed with a laugh before stepping forward, her face paralleled to mine. "As I said, I know who you are. You took what was rightfully mine!" I spat those words laced with anger before turning towards the stairs, leaving her dumbfounded.

I didn't care if I disrespected the Luna of this pack, she didn't deserve my respect. I didn't care if, in turn, it would lead to problems with my brother. I didn't care anymore. She took what was rightfully mine, and I would never forgive and forget. 3

Screw her and her pack!

I rushed outside of the packhouse, not minding the tempting smell of breakfast as I strode past the kitchen alley. As soon as I saw Caspian, I nodded at him and went directly to the car parked at the front.

"Alpha Jacob is coming out soon, and then we'll go. Have you eaten breakfast?" His face was stoic, with no friendliness or smile, which was unusual.

"I'm not hungry. I could grab something along the road later."

He nodded as I opened the car door. "Caspian, tell Alpha Jacob that I'm not feeling well. I don't want to pay any courtesy right now." 1

His eyes widened before glaring at me. "Alia!"

I just rolled my eyes and slipped inside the car, slamming the door shut.

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GAVIN

I was in a meeting with Alpha Jake and Gamma Aaron regarding the contingency plan for the Blue Meadow Pack. Last night, during the full moon, their pack was attacked by several rogues, and they had another high number of injuries. Alpha Caspian had requested to move the training schedule to an earlier date than what was previously agreed upon.

Alpha Jake agreed and was just telling us that by tomorrow, Aaron and his second in command, together with sets of warriors, would travel to Alpha Caspian's territory for their up-training, as well as to provide additional security if another attack occurs.

Just as we were about to wrap up the meeting so we could formally inform Alpha Caspian as well as send them off home, Luna Clair barged in, slamming the door open and starting throwing accusations at her Alpha. She was under the impression that Alpha Jake had an affair with Alia before their union.

It looked like my little mate did something to piss off Luna Clair, but I wasn't expecting that she would bluntly say that

Luna Clair took something from her.

This was a lot more messed up than I initially thought. 2

In the end, Alpha Jake forced me to clear the confusion to appease his Luna. 2

I ended up confessing to them that Lady Alia was my fated. And I abandoned her on the Claiming because I had to enter the arena to hold off Alpha Aeon until Alpha Jake arrived. And now my mate thought I never wanted her, and that I wanted Luna Clair.

And she wanted nothing to do with me now.

Much to my relief, we had to cut off the conversation because we needed to send off Alpha Caspian and his team.

And the moment I stepped out of the packhouse, behind Alpha Jake and Luna Clair, my eyes wandered immediately, looking for my little lamb. She was nowhere in sight.

"Alpha Caspian, I apologize if we kept you waiting. We just finalized the contingency for your request." Alpha Jake started as he stopped in front of Alpha Caspian, his arm still snaked around Luna Clair, pulling her closer to his side.

"Of course, I understand. I should be the one apologizing for messing up the original plan. You know, I would not intentionally disturb you given that the Union was just last night, but I'm left with no other options." I could see the heaviness in his features.

"My Luna doesn't have a problem with that, so don't think about it. Anyway, my Gamma and his second-in-command will be there in two days' time, together with some of our warriors. They would start traveling tomorrow. Unfortunately, I couldn't send them with you today since I needed to make sure we were also equipped in their absence."

Alpha Caspian nodded, a smile of relief on his face. "That would be great and thoroughly appreciated. Let me know if there's anything I could do on my end to make it easier for you, or if you have any requests."

"Couldn't think of anything right now, but we do appreciate your presence in our ceremony last night." Alpha Jake replied. 2

"Yes, nothing right now. But maybe someday?" Luna Clair added an open request. 1

"Of course, just say it and I will do my best to make it happen." Alpha Caspian nodded at her. "Well, I guess we better get going. Thank you again for your hospitality. And unfortunately, my sister hadn't felt well since last night, so she was just resting in the car."

"I see. Have a safe trip then. And my men will see you in two days." Both Alphas extended their hands for a handshake. Alpha Caspian bowed his head to Luna Clair before turning around towards his car.

No one moved, even after Alpha Caspian and his men left. We stood outside the packhouse and no words were spoken. Until the Alpha broke the silence and pulled his mate towards the packhouse.

"Come, let's have some breakfast." He whispered to his mate.

"Wait." Luna Clair let go of his hand and turned to face me and Gamma Aaron.

"We're sending Beta Gavin to the Blue Meadow Pack tomorrow, not Aaron."

"What?" Gamma Aaron asked his sister, his brow hiked up and an imminent scowl on his face, while the Alpha squinted his eyes and shook his head. I remained emotionless.

"No, Clair, that's Aaron's job." Alpha Jake contested it.

"I don't care whose job it is. Gavin needs to fix this thing with Alia, and he can't just sit here and watch her leave and not do anything."

"You don't understand, Luna. She wants nothing to do with me. I can't just go there and push myself on her." I told her, pursing my lips.

"Besides baby, if Gavin wanted to go there, he would just need to say..." The Alpha wanted to say more but stopped when his mate turned around with a scowl on her face.

"Stop, Jake. Stop." She glared at her mate before facing me again. "Look at me, Beta. My own mate didn't want me. Did you forget that?"

"Clair..." Alpha Jake's voice croaked.

"Stop, Jake. This is not about you or us. Relax." She smiled sweetly at him, and then faced me again.

"Jake didn't want me. But you pushed me and told me to be patient. Where am I now? I'm with Jake now because I didn't give up on him. And you should do the same thing. Remember, you told me you refused to have another Luna except for me. Well, let me tell you, I refused to have another Beta Female except for Alia. So get yourself together and bring your mate home here!" She said it in one breath, smiling deviously before facing her mate.

"And Jake, baby, please, don't tell me that the pack cannot function without your Beta. You know fairly well that you can! It's just a week or two. I don't want to babysit a Beta who would keep sulking around here. So better kick him out so he can fix his damn mood."

"How about me? You just kicked me out of my job?" Aaron frowned at her sister.

"Don't worry. I missed you so much, I'll be trailing behind you every day to keep you occupied." Luna Clair chuckled and inched up to her brother beside me, wrapping her arms around his waist.

★ +25 BONUS

"Should you be doing that with me? I'm your mate..." Her mate started to sulk as a smile tugged on my mouth. Who would have thought the tough Alpha could look like a lost puppy?

Don't worry, baby, you've got me attached to your hips, so you'll help me keep Aaron entertained until we find him his mate." She winked at him before trotting inside the packhouse, leaving the three of us dumbfounded.

Women. You will never know how much of a hold they have on you until you fall in love with them.

I will see you soon, little lamb.

I smirked despite myself and followed the rest into the packhouse for breakfast, but I knew I wasn't hungry. I had my fill last night, but I hoped it would suffice until I saw her again.

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