

## Chapter 20

GAVIN

I don't think training her on the training ground with the rest of the warriors from both our packs was a good idea. I couldn't fucking concentrate because I had to keep mindlinking my own men to restrain Alpha Caspian's warriors from ogling my mate and concentrate on their own training.

It was complete chaos.


I had no idea she was sought after in her own pack, probably because she wasn't the type that go around and mingle with everyone. A rare sight plus the fact that she was fucking attractive and sexy, especially in her tight fighting training attire today.

I tried to go subtle but possessive by having her in my arms or around my body for most of the training but it doesn't help at all. Their warriors were still eyeing her in every way they could and I was already tempted to bring her somewhere with no audience at all.

But I might try that tomorrow.

"Okay, sounds good. I think we're done for the day, go back to the packhouse now." I told her. I wanted her out of this place as soon as possible.

"Okay, but I think I'll stay here for a while..."

She wasn't even finished with her sentence when a growl erupted from my chest. 

I wasn't a fan of growling, I tried not to do it even before. I always kept

my cool all the time, but she was slowly messing up my mind and my control. 1

"Go now," I told her in a cold voice, my eyes shifted to black letting her know I was serious.

I saw the pain flash in her eyes before it change to anger. Without a word, she turned around and walked away.

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I stayed for another 30 minutes after Alia left. I was almost done instructing Timothy, Aaron's second in command about the training workflow when Beta Paul approached me.

"Hey, are you done? Should we head off to the packhouse? Time for breakfast, I think they started eating already."

I actually don't have any plans of joining them today after I just growled at Alia but I couldn't make up any excuse now especially after Timothy made his exit as soon as Beta Paul started talking.

"Yes, ready to go now." He nodded at my response and we started walking towards the packhouse about some pack-related concern. 2

As soon as we entered the house, Alia's scent swirled around me and I knew that she was already at the dining area, and the absence of sweat in her scent tells me that she was able to freshen up already prior to breakfast.

Lately, her scent has started to become stronger, that I could tell where she was despite the great distance. I don't know if it has something to do with the delay of the marking or I was just more attuned to her at this point.

"Alpha Caspian," Both me and Beta Paul acknowledge the Alpha as soon as we entered the dining area to which the Alpha replied with a nod, while still chewing his food.

My eyes darted to Alia who didn't even throw a glance at us but I could tell by her posture and her shoulder that she was tense.

As soon as I was seated, she stood up and for a second I thought she was about to leave but she went to the fridge and took a new box of milk, pouring some on her glass before leaving it on the middle of the table, in front of us. 1

I ignored the milk and started to eat while listening to Beta Paul and Gamma Carlos as they conversed with Alpha Caspian until I felt something hitting my knee under the table. I suppressed the smile itching to come out of my lips as I looked at Alia in front of me, her lips pursing as she shifted her gaze between me and the milk box.

Was she silently nagging me for not drinking milk?

I grabbed the box and poured it on my glass, drinking it all at once before refilling, all the while still suppressing my smile. I saw her smile and bit her lower lip as she forked the egg on her plate before seductively putting it in her mouth. 1

I felt my d\*\*k twitch in my pants. I cleared my throat as I moved to adjust something inside my pants when Alpha Caspian's voice took me out of my reverie.

"So how was Alia's training this morning?" He asked, his eyes on me and I felt my d\*\*k go limp immediately. 6

I shrugged my shoulder before answering. "It went well, however, I was

about to ask you if there's any place where I could train her privately."

I saw his forehead creased, and Alia's mouth opened, her fork hung at her mouth for a second before she put it down. "Not that it's crucial, I was just thinking it'll be best if she doesn't get distracted by all the other warriors training with her," I explained calmly, while Alia's eyes widen as she looked at her brother who was already looking at her, but she didn't say a word.

Instead, I felt a kick on my leg.

The Alpha didn't say anything to his sister, he just shook his head and looked back at me. "We have an indoor gym, it has enough space for personal use. However, there are few people using it from time to time and I don't think I would want to order them out of that place while you used it."

I nodded. "That won't be a problem," I answered as I continued to eat. I know the Alpha doesn't want to leave his sister alone with me. But if he only knew. 5

This was getting harder to fix. We're fucking mates and I couldn't wait to let everyone know about it. I should be setting things straight with Alia, I don't like that we're still hiding who we were to each other. 1

The only problem was, how do I fix this? 4

How could I tell her everything when anything that starts with Clair and the Claiming sets her off right away?

"Alpha, Gavin, and I were just talking on our way here that maybe it's about time we start training our females as well. Not that we'll have female warriors but just like Alia, just for them to be equipped to fight if

needed." Beta Paul explained, taking me out of my own thoughts.

I nodded and added, "It seems that there are many females who wanted to be trained. Just today, Carrie and one more female with her, I forgot her name," I turned to Beta Paul for help.

"Stacey," He replied.

"Yes, Stacey. Carrie and Stacey went up to me and asked to be trained like I did for Alia but I'm not equipped to train a group of females who are not warriors. I..." I stopped myself just in time, I was about to say that the only female I trained was Luna Clair but then I knew it wouldn't help now. "I... was training Alia based on what she needed and I don't think I could handle all 3 of them at the same time." I smiled sheepishly, my eyes going back to Alia.

I saw her scrunched up her nose, an annoyed look flashing on her face.

Alpha Caspian nodded, "And it's not your job to be bothered by them. I apologize, Beta Gavin, training Alia was already a big thing but I will look into this matter with Paul."

I nodded in return. "But just to add, some of my men that are here were training females in our pack, so they have experience for regular female training and can be of assistance in case you would roll it over while we are still here."

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#### ALIA

I left the dining area as soon as I was done with breakfast. I was pissed off that Gavin made it appear to my brother that I was watching those warriors when in fact, he was the only one I was paying attention to. And



I was more pissed off to find out that Carrie approached him again. Looked like my friend was falling head over heels with my mate.

And I couldn't do anything about it. 3

One thing was for sure. I like Gavin. I like him so much but I couldn't get over the fact that I was just an option, maybe the only option left for him. That I would never be his first choice.

And it hurts.

I grew up fantasizing that the moment I would meet my mate, everything else would be grey and he would be the only pop of color in a dull surrounding. Well, it did happen to me, but not for him.

I thought it would be like love at first sight where we would rush into each other's arms and I would cry 'MATE' and he would growl 'MINE' like those other fated stories I've heard growing up. I thought it was the only way to go. 1

No one prepared me for the other side, the one where your mate doesn't want you. 5

I wondered if things would turn out differently if he won the challenge and had Clair for his mate. Then I would be out of the picture, right? But now he was here because she was the one that got away and I was the girl that got left behind but still hopelessly devoted to him. 4

Damn Alia! You deserved better.

So here I was, torn between rejecting him and accepting him despite just being the second choice, a rebound.

Oh, Goddess, it would be easier if he was ugly, or he stinks. Or if he doesn't

t have any tooth at all or he was old and bald but he wasn't. He was perfect and the more I spend time with him, the more I kept falling for him. 1

Screw you, mate bond. 1

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I didn't see him for the rest of the day and I was itching already to ask Caspian where he was but I couldn't.

After dinner, I stayed in the kitchen and started baking some brownies to buy time. I don't have anywhere to go and I wanted to wait for him. I must admit, I was already losing this battle against him and if he doesn't make any move to claim me, I would do it myself. 1

However, I wasn't sure if I could take it if he rejects me.

I hope it doesn't come to that.

The ring of the oven timer snapped me out of my thoughts. I glanced at the clock on the wall and sighed deeply. 8 o'clock and he was nowhere in sight. I felt like a disappointed housewife waiting for her husband who was never home on time. 1

I think I just wasted my time baking here when he didn't show up at all.

I took the baking pan out of the oven and carefully placed it on the counter. After discarding the oven mitts from my hand, I transferred the brownies to the serving plate. 1

I might as well give some to Caspian and the boys since I don't think I could eat all of this.

Just as I was about to close the lid for the food container where I placed Caspian's portion, I heard the front door opened and I smelled him.

I swallowed hard and poured all the brownies back to the serving plate and threw the container on the cabinet below the counter.

"Something smells good." He came forward and leaned by the entrance pillar that separates the kitchen and the dining area.

I smiled widely, too widely I guess because I saw his eyebrow hiked up at my gesture. "I baked some brownies. Would you like to try?"

He scrunched up his nose and shook his head. "I'm allergic to chocolates."  
1

My shoulder dropped together with my whole mood but before I could throw an inner tantrum, he swiped one piece and shoved it to his mouth, a sly grin plastered into his mouth as he winked at me while walking on the way to the fridge.

I stayed in my spot, trying to figure what just happened.

He came back with two empty glasses and a box of milk.

"I didn't have dinner, do you mind if I eat some more? It tastes really good!" He asked coyly, taking another piece into his mouth before pouring milk into the glasses, and sliding one of them in front of me. He then continued eating as if he just didn't say anything that broke my heart.

My eyes followed his movement, I still couldn't believe he would joke about this.  
1

"Hey!" He waved a hand in front of my eyes.



I felt my eyes water but then I looked up at the ceiling to fight the tears from falling. I didn't take his joke lightly, I almost believed I spent too much effort just to find out he was allergic to it. 2

"Are you mad?" He bit his lower lip, his eyes turned soft as he tried to catch mine.

"No. I just thought you were allergic to it." I smiled, not reaching my eyes.

"I'm sorry, I'm lousy when it comes to jokes." He scratched his head before he let out a deep sigh. 6

Nobody said anything for a minute. He was just looking at me while I fidgeted with my fingers.

"Would you like to run? Tonight." He asked in a soft voice. 1

"What?" I scowled at him. "Run? In the oval? At night time, after you almost gave me heart failure with your I'm allergic to chocolate joke? You're really lousy when it comes to jokes!" I snapped at him. 1

"Run with me, with our wolves." He answered calmly. "I really wanted to meet Sky."

Sky whimpered at my mind upon hearing her name. She wanted to come out.

She wanted to run with our mate and I think it would be a good idea since I haven't let her out in a long time. And I needed air. But before I could say my response, Carrie walked in.

"Hey! I've been looking for you!" Her eyes directed at Gavin, flashing him a seductive smile and ignoring me as if I don't exist at all. 2