

Chapter 4

I sat there motionless and barely breathing. I could feel the twins' gazes on me as I waited for their dad, the Alpha, to begin speaking. My father seemed a bit nervous as well, but he was obviously trying to hide it under a facade of condescence. That's normally how he reacts when it comes to something dealing with me and all of the incidents I've been involved in. He either defends me and believes I wouldn't do such a thing, or he sits there immobile and undetectable of any emotions while I'm being given a punishment. Usually the punishment is from mom though, not the Alpha of our pack. This makes the situation one hundred times worse for both my dad and me.

"Alyssa," the Alpha started to speak while looking straight at me, "What you've done is a very bad thing...something I wouldn't normally expect someone your age to do even. Can you explain yourself?"

I forced my gaze to meet his barely, feeling the intense aura lling up the room as he spoke. I didn't really know how to reply. If any random person in the pack would immediately think I'm lying about the twins being a part of the problem, their dad denitely would. There's no way he would believe me. And two of my bullies are in the room right now...standing behind me at this moment! Who's to say what they would try to do to me if I started blabbing about everything them and their two friends have done since I came to Winterpaw? At this point, I wouldn't doubt that they would physically attack me at this point. They have made it their mission to make my life H**l since I got here, for some unknown reason. I'm sure they wouldn't accept me making theirs the same.

"Alyssa!" my dad scolded me when I didn't answer the Alpha right away.

I looked between both of the adults, trying to ignore the snickering I could hear behind my seat, "Sorry, Alpha. I don't have anything to say for myself. I sincerely apologize for vandalizing the girls' bathroom at the school. I didn't mean to and will try my hardest not to make a mistake like that again."

I could see the worry on my dad's facial expression now, realizing that I didn't deny anything even to the Alpha. I could feel the irritation from the Alpha. At this point, I was sure that my dad had tried to tell the Alpha he didn't believe I had done it. They were likely hoping I would deny leaving the faucet on in the bathroom. I couldn't do that, especially with the twins so close to me. Alpha Felix stayed silent for a few minutes, just studying my expression, so I kept it emotionless.

Finally, he sighed and spoke to me again, "Alyssa, vandalism is a big crime. If you were over the age of eighteen, I would have a right to kick you out of the pack for it if I wanted to. You're only eleven though...so I have to decide what to do. I just got your family here to be my Beta family, and I don't want to lose your dad as my second in command...I would rather not kick out your whole family due to this incident and others Principal Jones has brought to my attention concerning you. Honestly, I'm stuck. I don't know what to do."

Everyone in the room was silent, just waiting for the Alpha to make his decision on my punishment. He continued to talk to himself about different options...nothing sounded like it would be appealing for me to do in any way. I just sat in the chair, looking at the ground and wishing it would just swallow me up whole. Finally, someone cleared their throat to get our attention. I thought it was the Alpha, so I raised my visage to look at him; however, he was looking behind me at one of the twins instead.

"Yes, Elliot? Did you have something you wanted to say?" Alpha Felix asked one of his heirs while folding his hands together above the desk and resting his chin on them.

Elliot walked forward some, to the point that his hip was brushing the armrest of my chair. This made my breathing quicken in fear. He had his arms dangling at the sides of his body as he stood beside the chair, but he eventually folded them across his chest to appear more mature, maybe.

He took a breath in before replying to his dad, "Um yes. I was thinking. You don't want to kick the family out because you want to keep them as the Beta family, but something has be done to teach her a lesson for everything that's happened...especially the vandalism. We can't let other pack members see her get away with something like that, so we have to do something."

Elliot paused for a minute to gather his thoughts before continuing, but Ezra walked up closer to the back of my chair and interrupted his sibling, "I think I know where you're going with this, bro. She needs to be punished in a way that is public enough where the rest of the pack can see that she didn't just get away with vandalizing our school. Something that could be a good idea as her punishment could be for her to help out the Omegas in the packhouse."

"Great idea, brother," Elliot complimented his twin before continuing on with the idea as if they had one mind. "She is a member of the Beta family, which means she doesn't have to help out with things like packhouse cleaning and such normally. If you had her come over in the afternoons, maybe after school or something, she could help out with some of the chores as her punishment. It would allow the Omegas and other pack members to see her being punished, but isn't something overly physical that could hurt her or anything."

I noticed how he didn't specify that I'm an Omega-ranked wolf within the Beta family, just that I'm part of the Beta family. My father has had to deal with some people criticizing me before because of that issue, and it never went well, so I silently thanked Elliot for not mentioning it. He had said it before as a degrading comment during their bullying, so I had expected it. My dad likely would have own off the handle at the boy if he said it here though. Then, we would've been kicked out of the pack for sure.

"That does sound like a decent punishment for a young lady in the Beta family. What do you think, Thomas?" Alpha Felix asked my dad. "Do you think that is a good enough punishment for your daughter? Or too harsh?"

"No, sir! It's not too harsh at all. You boys did good to think of that for the punishment," my dad replied to his boss.

The Alpha nodded his head and clapped his hands together, "Good then! Let me mindlink an Omega and get your daughter started then, since she won't be going to school today anyway most likely. The principal asked me to also have her be suspended for a few days, so I suppose that will start today since you're out of school already, anyway."

"Dad, wait!" Ezra said before his father had a chance to mindlink anyone. "We can take her to meet with the head Omega, if you'd like?"

"You two have to get to school, or you'll be late," the Alpha said, making my heartbeat steady a bit at the thought of not having to deal with the twins right now.

Elliot and Ezra laughed a bit as if they had made a joke before Ezra spoke again, "We have time, dad. We can show her to the head Omega and then head off to school. It won't take any time really, and that way you don't have to interrupt any of the Omegas who are already at work. For real, it's no biggie!"

"Okay then, if you two insist. Go ahead and show her to the head Omegas oce, so she can get settled in her punishment," Alpha Felix said. "Then you two need to get to school. I don't want anyone to think you're getting special treatment just cause you're the heirs of the pack.

I would have laughed out loud about that statement if I wasn't currently in a state of overwhelming panic. Sure, I made it through getting a punishment from the Alpha of our pack. Sure, I didn't cause my entire family to be kicked out and uprooted once more. But now, I am about to have to trust the twins to take me wherever I need to go. I never go into the packhouse...not since that rst month that we moved here before we got our house built. I don't know my way around the packhouse, since I just stayed in our rooms when we lived in it. I'll likely get in more trouble if I don't make it to the head Omega's oce or whatever...but, can I trust the twins to take me there? They are the ones who came up with my punishment after all, so they likely had some reasoning in their twisted little minds for me to have it. They likely had some unknown plans to go along with my punishment, which is why they decided when their father couldn't. I closed my eyes and took a breath in as I felt their presence even closer to me than they were, if that were somehow possible.

"Come on, Lyssa," Ezra said to me as he put his hand on my shoulder and patted it, trying to seem friendly and familiar to me with the nickname he called me. "Let's go, so we can get you to your new job. That way we can get to school on time."

The way he spoke to me was nice, nicer than either of the boys had ever been before. If I were one of the typical pack members, I'd probably swoon at how his hand was patting my shoulder and how he was speaking and smiling at me. The view of the pack would be. But I know better. I know that no matter how nice he or his twin act towards me, neither of them are truly that way. Elliot turned towards me as well and held out his hand as if he was going to help me up from the chair. The proximity I was in with the boys had me leaning backwards some towards my dad's chair. I could feel my dad and the Alpha staring at me, wondering why I wasn't getting up from my chair to follow the boys. I knew at this point that I needed to suck up my feelings and just follow them, so I put my hand in Elliot's and let him help me stand up.

"Thank you," I mumbled softly to him, knowing it would seem rude of me if I didn't say it.

Elliot smiled at me and gestured for me to walk to the door of the oce, "Of course. Now let's get going!"

I noticed how the smile he had changed as we started walking out of the view of the adults. It went from a genuine, friendly smile to one that was more mischievous. My hopes that maybe the boys were actually just going to show me to the head Omega's oce dropped dramatically as each boy grabbed one of my hands and started basically dragging me down the hallway. Instead of keeping me on the main oor of the packhouse or going to the door to go downstairs, where I would have thought the Omega's oce would've been, they led me towards the stairs going to the second oor. My breathing picked up as I was being dragged up the stairs. Luck seemed to be in the twin's favor, since we didn't pass anybody on the stairs or down the hallways while I was being pulled by my hands and wrists. I didn't know what they had planned, but it denitely wasn't to take me to the oce.