

## Chapter 26

Tess

Holt and Val leave to visit Trisha and the new baby Trenton, Trent for short. We grab our training gear and head inside. "Why don't you two go get cleaned up, Ben invited us all over," Dad tells us. "I want to go too," Willow whines at us with her big eyes bright and a pouty lip.

Cody gives her that smile only she can pull from his lips. "You are coming too. Mommy and I just need to clean up. We're sweaty from training."

Willow's face gets excited. "Really?"

Grandpappy picks her up. "I'll tell you what, little one. You can ride over with me and Grampy. If you're a good girl tonight and you eat your dinner, we can go for a run in our wolves. How does that sound? "Yippee!" She wiggles out of his arms and rushes off to her bedroom, I'm assuming to change her clothes, again.

Cody pulls me into his bare chest and whispers. "I guess that leaves us alone for a little while." Now I'm the one thinking 'Yippee!'

"You kids take your time. We can handle the little tyke." My dad offers. "Tess you're back on training tots tomorrow. Cody, you can help Justin out at the hospital for the time being while Willow is with Tess and Indy." "Sounds good. Thanks, Micco." Cody answers.

"Yes, Dad. Thank you both." I give them both a hug then pull Cody to our room so we can get ready to go.

I'm picking out an outfit when he wraps his arms around me from behind. "I need a shower. Care to join me?"

He kisses my neck and I'm already melting for him. Yippee!  
"Absolutely."

Cody scoops me up and I giggle then lick his mark. My fingers glide through his smooth beard. He shudders with a hum. He doesn't let me go and holds me with one arm as he turns on the water. He sets me down then helps me out of my clothes. He takes a moment to appreciate my body with his hands softly caressing my skin. "Perfect."

I bite my lip and push his shorts down. His erection springs to life. I grip him in my hands and he grunts. My thumb grazes his tip collecting a bead of pre cum before stroking down and up.

He lifts my chin to make me look up at him and steps closer to press his lips to mine. His finger spread into my hair then reach up to pull my elastic out. "I love your hair." He tells me as he gets a healthy grip then smashes his lips against mine again. I moan as he presses his tongue into my mouth.

Cody gets us both in the shower, under the hot spray. His mouth migrates to my neck where he sucks on my mark and my body reacts, making my core drip with need. "Cody," I whisper. He hums then moves his kisses down my body. His hands cup my breasts as he kisses my opening. His tongue works so well, my head falls back on its own.

One hand moves down my side then to my hip until he grips my leg and settles it over his shoulder so he can penetrate me deeper. I look down and his lust-filled eyes look up to capture mine. I grip his hair as he ravages my sex. "Oh, goddess!" I cry out before I come undone.

Gripping his hair, I pull him up to his feet. He wipes his mouth with that sexy smirk on his face. I pull him closer so his mouth crashes against mine. He lifts me up and, in one smooth motion, enters me. My legs wrap around him as he moves me up and down his shaft. "Fuck, Tess. I love being inside of you." He purrs.

"I love you inside of me, Cody. Ah." I hold tight to his strong shoulders as I near my second climax. My mouth seeks his mark and I nibble softly.

"Tess, fuck." He moans and I lose control. My body plummets into oblivion and I feel him expel his seed. Once we regain our senses, he stills breathlessly and rests his forehead on mine. His eyes burn with passion. "I love you, Tess. With all that I am."

My fingers score through his beard. "I waited my whole life for you, you're more than I ever dreamed of. I love you, Cody."

He kisses me gently then lets me to my feet. He holds me all the while we wash then he wraps a towel around me. Now clean and dry, and our bout of pleasure concluded for now, we return to a mundane conversation "I don't know about you, but I'm pretty hungry. Ben is the Beta, right?" He asks me.

"That's right. Dress casual." I pull on my denim shorts and a tank top. Cody dresses in his sexy jeans that hug tight to his thick legs and a navy t-shirt. I slip on my gladiator sandals and run a brush through my hair, leaving it down for him. After sending a quick text, Cody and I climb into my SUV and we head out. "I've met the Beta, but only briefly. Should I be nervous?" He asks.

"Not at all. Well, not of him anyway. Indy and Leslie don't know about you being human. Indy is my best friend and Leslie is like a second mom. She makes the best-pulled pork ever." I tell him just before pulling up to Beta Morris's house. "They're not going to like me. I have to prove myself to everyone I meet." Cody says skeptically.

I take his hand before he can open the door. "I'm sorry this is so hard for you."

He places a soft kiss on my knuckles. "You're worth it. I meant what I said to the Elders; I want the best life possible for you and Willow."

I lean in and kiss him softly. "We're going out after we're finished here. I want to show you some of the territory. Is that alright?" "Of course, Darlin'."

As soon as we hold hands in front of the car we hear. "Bitch, this one better be your fucking mate." Indy calls from inside the screen door.

I laugh with a roll of my eyes "Of course he is, cow. I brought him to meet you. Other than the elders, you're the first on my list."

"I better fucking be." Indy steps out to meet us but stops in her tracks, mouth open and looking between me and Cody. "No. Fucking. Way."

I laugh at her shock. "Indy. This is my true mate, Cody. Cody this is Indy. We've been friends since we were in diapers and we always call each other names." Cody reaches out for a handshake, but Indy has yet to move. "Indy!"

She snaps out of her stupor and takes his hand, still too dumbfounded to say anything coherent. I roll my eyes and drag Cody up the steps and into the house, leaving Indy stewing. "Leslie! I broke Indy." I announce. Leslie comes out of the kitchen wiping her hands on her apron. "That's a first. How did you manage to..." She stops in her tracks with her mouth open. "Oh."

"I think I should get used to this, huh, Darlin'?" Cody asks before Leslie has a chance to regain any composure.

I nod. "Probably. You are the first human to set foot in our territory that wasn't by accident." I look back to Leslie. "Leslie, this is my true mate, Cody."

Leslie actually does respond with a sweet smile. "Welcome, Cody. I take it you're here for dinner?" She asks me and I nod. "Tess is a glutton when it comes to my pulled pork. Come on back, meet the rest of the family." She turns to lead the way, but Indy grabs my arm, stopping me from following Leslie. "Go ahead, Cody. You already know everyone

else. I'll be right there." Cody gives me a quick peck on the lips then follows behind Leslie. "Oh, my fucking Goddess! That's why you couldn't say anything because your mate is a fucking human. How did... You're sure... Oh, my fucking Goddess!"

I cock a brow, hand on hip jutted out. "Do you have a problem with my mate, Indy?" I know it's not very tactful, but I'm on the defensive.

"He's, he's..."

"My mate." I cut her off. "Or were you thinking more along the lines of huge, fucking hot as hell, sexy, nice ass? Those would all be acceptable."

"No, Tess. I, I mean yeah. Okay, he is hot and... huge. But you're the Luna. You can't have a human mate. You're supposed to take over the pack. I mean how did that happen? And, and, and... his daughter. She's not human. How is he human?"

"My guess would be he was born that way. Human parents and all."

Indy huffs. "You know what I mean, cunt."

I relax now that her brain has caught up with her mouth. "I know what you mean. I don't know how my mate is human, but he is. I just thank the Goddess for letting me finally have a mate. I'm lucky that he's as amazing as he is. He's my perfect match."

Indy's eyes soften. "I'm glad you finally found your mate, Tess."

"Great, whore, I'm glad you finally caught up. Can we go eat now? I'm starving and I miss my mate and my daughter." I turn without waiting for an answer and walk straight to the backyard. "Mommy! Where were you?" Willow rushes up to me.

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I pick her up and kiss her cheek. "Hi, sweetie. Are you having fun?"

Willow nods. "Yep. Auntie Leslie said I can have ice cream, but Grampy said I have to finish my dinner first."

"Did you eat all of your food?" Willow shakes her head, no. "Let's go see what you have left." I place her down and she takes my hand to drag me to her half-empty plate. "I think you're doing a great job, but you haven't tried your sandwich. That's my favorite part."

"It is?"

"Oh yes. Auntie Leslie is a really good cook. That looks really yummy, I think I'm going to get one." I kiss her head then help her sit back between my dad and Grand Pappy. Cody is across from her. He looks up to give me a wink. I smile then go fix a plate of my own.

When I return, Holt is beside Cody. He pulls Val into his lap and moves over to make room for me. "Thanks." I look at Willow's plate to find her sandwich half-eaten. "Is it yummy?" I ask her. She nods with barbecue sauce smeared across her face. Cody kisses my cheek. "You're very good with her." He whispers.

I kiss his cheek and whisper back. "Thank you. Just so you know, everyone here can hear you even when you whisper."

Cody looks around to nod of agreement. He shakes his head. "I'm never going to get the hang of this." He mumbles "I'm sure you will," Leslie tells him. "So, Cody, how did you two meet?" Everyone perks up and looks his way awaiting the story.

"I came to her rescue." My cheeks color and I bite my lip embarrassed. "I own the hunter's cabin. I was there fixing it up and training. I was chopping wood when I heard a scream. I found Tess caught in a bear trap that my uncle had left behind."

Holt laughs loudly. "That's what happened to your leg!"

I smack him. "Shut up." Other people are laughing as well. I roll my eyes.

"How the fu.... dge did that happen?" Holt asks, peeking over in Willow's direction. "I was hungover and I smelled him. I was focused on his scent and wasn't paying attention. I stepped right into it. I even have scars." I hold up my left leg for all to see. Holt laughs loudly again.

"Why did you scar? You should've healed right away." Justin asks from beside Indy.

I clear my throat. "Well, Cody's human. I couldn't heal regularly or he would've found out that I'm not human. I re-cut it with my claw, then I used my kunai." Everyone winces. Cody and I tell everyone about our relationship including his training and his fight in Vegas. Leslie, Indy, and Val are cleaning up dinner. Willow finished most of her food, which she did really well. Daddy actually gave her a lot. I think he might have forgotten how five-year-olds eat. I take the plates from the table. "Come on, sweetie, let's get you your ice cream and help out Auntie Leslie," I tell her leaving the males at the table.