

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya the Author

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 221

221 Ayla

He stormed out of my office, and without knowing if he was happy or worried, I followed him. Dean like every pack member was a lot taller than me. He was practically running down the hallway. With my huge pregnant belly, it was almost impossible to keep up with him. Just as we turned the corner I noticed Griffin walking towards us Mike right next to him. Mike was one of the guys that lived close enough to come here by car. He wasn't supposed to arrive for another hour.

"Mate, finally my mate" Dean said grabbing Mike's hand in his. I know the feeling of smelling your mate for the first time. Hell. I experienced it twice, and you can not even think for a few moments. The only thing on your brain is the fact that you found your mate. Taking all that into consideration I don't think Dean is aware of the fact that he has a human mate. Mike seems to be equal parts elated, equal parts confused and equal parts worried. Dean and I never spoke about human mates. Mike told me he wished he was a wolf too so that he would have a fated mate.

With how happy Dean was at this moment I really hoped he would not mind a human mate because it would break Mike's heart. But I tried to tell myself that Dean was far too good of a person, far too kind to reject his mate for something so superficial.

"B-b-b-but I am a human" Mike managed to get out. He never pulled his hand out of Dean's hands. In fact, the two of them were so wrapped up in their little bubble that they did not seem to notice the fact that I had sidled up next to Griffin. And that the two of us were watching the interaction.

221 Ayla

288 Vouchers

"I don't care, Moon Goddess you smell amazing, like freshly cut grass, and rain on a hot summer day," Dean exclaimed, I was happy to hear he did not care his mate was human. I just thought they needed to talk things through. I would be the last person to say there was something wrong with having a human mate. It was just different from

being with a wolf' mate. Most humans do not know the ins and outs of living in a pack and being a wolf.

"Guys maybe we can?" Griffin tried, seemingly thinking the same as I was thinking.

"Is that what I smell like to you, that sounds amazing you smell good too but I can't tell what it is exactly. My sense of smell isn't as good as yours" There was a tinge of sadness in Mike's voice. Dean must have heard it too because before Griffin and I were even able to try to get them to go to an office so we could all have a talk. Dean pulled the collar of his shirt down inviting Mike to smell him.

It is funny to see Mike, blush all while eagerly smelling Dean's neck. "M-m-maybe you don't like it, because it's not the most manly scent but you smell like bergamot orange. It is my favorite scent, it always calms me down" Mike confesses.

"GUYS" Griffin ends up shouting, finally drawing the attention of the two guys back to us. "I am loving all of this that is happening here. But wouldn't it be better to discuss this in an office? My office is two doors down the hall" Griffin shrugs, like he doesn't understand why we are not in his office by now.

"Oh yes, of course, let's go," Mike tells Griffin only pulling one hand out of Dean's grip. Seeing the two walk to the office hand in hand shows me things will work out in the end. As is the whispers they share between

221 Ayla

288 Vouchers

them. Coming down to the fact that Dean is proud he smells like the one thing that makes his mate feel calm.

Once in the office, Griffin begins to talk explaining all about the choice the two of them have to make now. About rejecting and accepting your mate, how a human mate needs to be approved by the pack, the royal family and then the Council of Elders to be able to get marked.

"Are you going to reject me for being human?" Mike breaks the silence it's funny how he seemingly thinks being rejected by Dean is worse than being scrutinized by a bunch of werewolves.

"No, never you seem to be perfect, I want to get you a little better, and I want to kiss you. Like so bad, but I am not rejecting you. I know being a mate and changing your life like this will be hard on you. But if you want to take that leap with me, I promise you I will do all that I can and more to be the best mate I can be and to make you feel welcome. Like asking my super nice, super kind boss to give me the afternoon off" Dean smiles at

me, shaking my head I give in. There is a lot he and Mike need to discuss and I am sure he isn't going to be able to get any work done

anyway.

"Thank you, Ayla. And well you never told me your name, but I'm Mike and I wouldn't mind if you kissed me. But I think that might be awkward for you with your Crown Prince and Princess in the room with us." I shake my head because I know what is going to happen next.

Dean gently grabs Mike's chin, and whispers; "It is so good to meet you sweets, I am Dean" before pulling Mike's face and pulling him into a deep kiss. Mike blushes so brightly that he could act as a reading lamp. Regardless he wraps his arms around Dean's neck and kisses him back.

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221 Ayla

*288 Vouchers

"Wolves are different sweet, we don't care who sees, how attracted we are to our mate"

"Damn, that is going to be a lot of extra work for us isn't it?" Griffin chuckles the second the door closes. Dean is taking Mike out on a date now, then they will meet Dean's parents. I could see that is the thing Mike is the most nervous about. Not surprising with how his parents reacted to him coming out. The only thing Dean's parents want for their kids is to find their fated mate and be happy together. They will accept Mike into their family with open arms. Mike immediately told Dean he would never want Dean to leave his pack behind. But he asked for some time to experience how living in a pack is. So now we need to extend his stay and let the Council of Elders know. Host a meeting so that Dean can explain to the pack why a human is staying at his place for nobody knows how long. I just hope we can get it done in a month before I will go on maternity leave. With slowly taking over, we would handle situations like this, with all new members who wanted to become part of our pack or all human mates. Again this was something that would all be worth it though. Not only could I keep Dean as my Gemma if all went well. I liked Mike from the start, and I was happy for him he had a chance at that fairy tale love he wanted. Even if a matebond is hard work like any relationship is. I am sure they both are willing to put the effort

in

77.74%

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222 Ayla

Tomorrow is the day of my wedding, it has been a few hectic weeks. Yesterday Griffin confessed to me that for the past few weeks, he had kept an eye out for Hannah, He was not completely sure that she was innocent. Suspecting she and Cynthia were scheming something together. Hannah and Cynthia never met up, however. Hannah seemed to live a boring life now. One where she would work go home and then would go home to watch TV and go to bed early. In the end, he stopped watching her and told me the truth.

I couldn't even be mad with him, he told me before our wedding day, all so we would not get married with a lie standing between us. And he was worried about me and our pups, as much as I did not feel the same fears as he did. I could not blame him. We had some arguments about it months ago. In the end, I decided it was not worth arguing over.

Not that we would have had the time, because to no one's surprise Mike wanted to become a part of the pack and to see what it was to be Dean's mate. The two were perfect together, so we set things in motion to make sure Mike could become an official part of the pack. Rodrick and Isabella had easily agreed. In a few hours, we would have the meeting with the rest of the pack if they were willing to accept him into our pack. Mike had met most of the pack members, Dean made sure of that. Of course, he knew how important it was for the pack to like Mike, It had been successful and we expected every pack member to vote for letting Mike into the pack. Tomorrow the Elder Council would be here for the wedding, and the reason we rushed Mike's process was because we wanted to ask the Elder Council to go over their case when they were

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222 Ayla

still here.

1288 Vouchers

Later that night a little after the pack meeting to see if we would be willing to welcome Mike into our pack with open arms the first guests for the wedding would arrive. I hadn't even gotten out of bed yet and I already longed for the day to be over so that I could sleep. This

pregnancy was tiresome. To the point where Griffin had to get up at 7 AM and I told him not to wake me for coffee. If he didn't I could sleep in until eight thirty as I had my appointment for the last dress fitting and to take it home. Normally I would start working at eight but that would be useless when I had to leave the pack ground at nine to be able to get to my appointment in time.

I smiled to see a neatly folded card resting against my night lamp where Griffin would normally place my coffee cup.

“Darling, I want to make you feel special, and make it up to you, that I forgot your coffee the other day. Please meet me at the clearing by the lake when you are done with your last dress appointment.” It wasn't signed and it was a printed-out piece of paper. Different from the notes he would normally write me. But he was busy and this was probably quicker. And regardless of the note, it was very sweet of him. When I got to the kitchen I found he left me some freshly squeezed orange juice and two pastries. I really do love this guy.

I contemplated if I would take the dress with me to meet up with Griffin. I hated leaving it in the car like it was just another bit of luggage. But I had no idea what Griffin had planned for the two of us. So hauling around a huge wedding dress for what might be the rest of the afternoon. made no sense.

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222 Ayla

288 Vouchers

“Wow you're smiling like crazy Ayla” Mike commented as we passed each other in the main street.” He was a lot more confident now and I

loved it for him.

“Yes, Griffin left me a note to meet him at the clearing in the lake, he is going to make me feel special. So I am excited” I beamed at him, he looked a little confused, and I realized I had made it seem like I would just meet Griffin at the lake to get a little freaky with him. But we both kept walking as we talked to each other so now he was too far gone for me to shout after him.

The closer I got to the clearing the more nervous I got, it didn't make any sense. I knew any date with Griffin would be a good one. It must be the nerves for our wedding day tomorrow it was the only thing that made sense. Ignoring my feelings I just kept walking ahead Until I finally did. reach the clearing. But it was not Griffin waiting for me. It was Cynthia, she was smiling at me with a smile so wicked it made me want to shudder. I knew I couldn't because she could never know I was scared of her. The entire atmosphere told me this would go far beyond her normal bullying. She had distanced herself from the pack, not because she was feeling guilty about what she had done. No, it was because she no longer wanted to be a part of this pack. And a wolf choosing to be a lone wolf is a scary thing.

"Did you leave the note in my bedroom, Cynthia?" I said straining to keep my voice even.

"Of course, I did Griffin is too busy for you, how does that make feel?" She smirked.

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222 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

"I am not bothered by your lies just tell me why you tricked me into coming here?" I replied, I hoped knowing what and why she was doing would make it easier for me to escape her.

"I am waiting for someone else, they are running a little late so you have to be a little patient with me Princess" Her tone and smile were venomous and it only contributed to feeling uncomfortable with what she was planning to do. I tried to mindlink Griffin but I could not reach

him.

"And that glass of orange juice? It was wolfsbane infused so good luck. try to mindlink your lover now" She smirked just as the grass rustled, signalling someone coming to us. It could be someone who was going to help me out. But Cynthia told me she was still waiting for someone. Changes were that this would not be positive for me. And the voice that called out to Cynthia chilled me to the core.

"Cynthia, I got your message but I told you I don't want to be involved and being here is dangerous for..." I could tell when she noticed I was there too.

“Finally I can come out to play” David smirked as he stepped from his hiding place in the bushes to the clearing.

“You won Ayla, I don’t want you anymore, not when you’re damaged goods. You know who still wants you, who will want you more than he will want his kingdom? That is right that weak mate of yours”

Everything after that happened in a second, David shifted and jumped towards me mid-shift. Just like me, the pregnancy stopped Hannah from shifting still she jumped in between us. Mike came running out of the bushes screaming carrying a large rock in his hand.

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223 Griffin

I hated having to leave Ayla in bed without giving her, her coffee first. She asked me to though and I got she wanted to get as much sleep as she could. That is why I called the coffee shop she would always go to after going to the bridal store. To tell them to prepare her something special, giving my credit card info so they could charge me for it. I was a little taken aback when the coffee shop told me they did not charge my credit card because my fiancé never came in. I was going back and forth about calling the dress shop to see if she left there on time. Maybe something happened causing her to be delayed. When I decided I would call just to be sure. Especially since Ayla wanted to go to the final fitting on her own so everyone would be surprised by how the dress looked on her. I heard Dean’s panicked voice over the mindlink.

“Crown Prince Griffin are you on a date with Ayla right now?” My knees buckled, and I could swear the floor beneath me opened up to swallow me whole and sent me to the deepest pit of hell. This can’t be happening to me not anymore. “No, why” I manage to croak out.

“Mike run into her she is going to the clearing by the lake because you left her a note. He is going there but he is only human. I am shifting now” He tells me and I know the fierce determination in his voice is not just about rescuing his mate. He loves Ayla too, as his future Luna and Queen and as his friend. So I mindlink my parents, Dillion, Gerald and the lead warriors so they can send their teams to the clearing. And then I shift too, running to the clearing faster than I have ever run before.

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223 Griffin

288 Vouchers

Just as I skid to a halt at the edge of the clearing I see a wolf, who I can smell is David jump up ready to attack Ayla. Hannah throws herself between them. David must smell that she is pregnant with his pup, still, he bites at her throat tearing her windpipe. The mother of his pup falls to the floor in a mess of limbs and blood. Whimpering clutching her belly like she is trying to find a way to protect her unborn pup. At the same time Mike, who came running out of the bushes slams the rock he was holding against Cynthia's head knocking her out.

I am about to jump in because there is no way a human and a wolf who cannot shift because she is pregnant can win a fight with David. Dean. has just arrived too, Ayla made her way over to Hannah. I cannot hear what she is saying over the blood rushing in my ears. It doesn't matter, Hannah sadly is a lost cause and I am going to make sure Ayla and Mike won't be. I want to run towards her and just attack David. But there is no telling what he will do. So that would only risk my mate and our unborn pups.

After shifting back I calmly approach David in my human form. Hands raised showing him I mean no harm. Even if I would definitely do him harm if I was able to. Now I need to know what he is planning to do and find a way to get the love of my life and my friend out of there.

"He is distracted I am going to get them out okay" Dean mindlinks me and all I can do is give an almost invisible nod.

David doesn't pay me any attention, he runs to Ayla who doesn't seem to notice too busy stroking Hannah's hair that's now turning red and tangled together. He yanks her up by her hair snarling only then he looks

at me.

"I need you to resign your title to me. And your mate here will get to

25.47%

223 Griffin

1288 Vouchers

live. The two of you will move out of the castle and make sure my mate gets the medical attention she requires seeing as your human knocked her out" He growls, panic claws at my frantically beating heart. There is no way out, I would willingly give up everything I have to save Ayla and my pups. But I don't think he understands this is not how it works. My parents are still the rulers of the country and it's not like they would let him get away with it. I am confused about him calling Cynthia his mate, but I cannot even focus on that.

“Griffin, she is marked, she has his name as a mark, she is his chosen mate. Dean says in confusion” David looks at Dean who is pulling down Cynthia’s collar, I can’t make sense of what’s happening. Ayla smiles and jams what looks like a hairpin in David’s chest. He falls down onto the grass convulsing.

Ayla runs to me, hands covered in blood, and I can’t tell if it’s hers, Hannah’s or David or from all of them.

“Baby I am okay, Hannah kept a sharp silver hairpin in her hair, David has been threatening her. She was innocent in all of this she...” But she ran out of steam unable to tell me what happened in the minutes I was not there. Unable to tell me what Hannah told her. All she can do now is bury her face in my neck sobbing uncontrollably.

By now all of the warriors, even the ones not on duty, and our closest friends and family have arrived at the scene.

“Griff, I hate to have to do this but we need to get a clear story of what happened here we are going to need to talk to Ayla and Mike” Dad tells me when I am still comforting Ayla who clings to me like a baby would to its mother.

52.74%

223 Griffin

“I can tell you Alpha, I ran into Ayla and she told me she was going to meet Griffin here. But Dean told me he was supposed to go into a meeting with Griffin at the same time. I didn’t trust it so I followed her and texted Dean. Cynthia and that one were working together and tricked Hannah into coming here too. So they planned to threaten Crown Prince Griffin so he would give David his title. They wanted to be the new King and Queen. That is all I know.” He sighs, before he falls to his knees trembling I hurt one of the wolves from your pack now they will never accept me.

Mike’s crying seems to snap Ayla out of it. “No, Mike you saved their Princess, you stopped two mentally ill wolves from threatening the pack. And I will make sure everyone will know what you did. Rodrick, I am willing to talk to you of course, but not here, not like this. Can you give me thirty minutes to go back home, shower and come to the meeting room? I feel like more people need to hear what happened today.” Dad just nods, he is as much in awe of her strength as I am.

“Please come with me Griffin, I don’t want to be alone now please?” I would have never left her alone. Not after all of this but I am scared at how calm Ayla is. And I just hope this doesn’t ruin the progress she made in therapy. But even if it will, all is finally over now and we will get back to where we need to be

78.49%

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224 Ayla

Hannah saved my life, she sacrificed herself and her pup to save me and mine, and I killed David. I don't know how I feel about that. For most of my life, David was one of my best friends. One of the only people I would feel the safest with. The man I dreamed would be my mate. Until he was and he rejected me broke my heart. Only to want me back when I finally moved on and kidnapped and tortured me, to make me crawl back to him in such a vile sick way that I will never stop hating him. Still shouldn't I be a little more upset that I just killed the man in cold blood?

It was just when he was threatening everything good I had going on, when he was threatening the people I loved, including my little pups. was so sick and tired of being scared of this man. Of needing to be careful, of needing to be scared for when he would come back again. The silver hairpin Hannah told me to get out of her hair to defend myself had become heavy in my hands. It made me realize that the only way we would ever be free of this man was to kill him and so I did. Still, I don't feel any remorse for doing so. My only fear is that not being mad or sad about killing him means that I am a bad person. Because I don't want my pups to be raised by a bad person.

"Are you okay, Darling, tell me what I can do for you?" I forgot where I was until Griffin stepped in the shower with me.

"I am a bad person, Griff, I am not even upset about killing David, Hannah died to protect me, to protect us. She asked me to forgive her for **all** she had done to me. And I said yes, and I want to but I don't think I can. There is still so much resentment." I couldn't stop crying, I couldn't

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224 Ayla

288 Vouchers

find the strength to wash myself. And I don't know what I would have done if it wasn't for Griffin. He comforted me, washed me, and helped me get into comfortable clothes. He knew all the right words. Telling me that I did not have to process all the emotions today. Suddenly the realization that this meant we needed to postpone our wedding hit me like another tidal wave.

All I ever wanted was to be happy, and I did not understand why the whole world seemed dead set on stopping me from finding my happiness. But now I had to go talk to Rodrick and Isabella to tell them that Hannah had sacrificed her life to save me. Because living as a rogue amongst humans reminded her how she let one man who did not love her back control her life. That she would never be a good mother when she still found it hard to not get caught up in his crazy ideas. His plan was just to take over the title from Griffin. Then still using me as a hostage he would force Isabella and Rodrick to abdicate giving the rule of the Silver Moon Pack and the country to him. He had planned to wait. until after we were crowned King and Queen but for some unknown reason the new laws almost getting implemented made him rush his

plans.

“Thank

you for being open with us and so quickly too Princess Ayla” One of the Elders from the Council spoke to me. When shit went down they just arrived at the Silver Moon pack in time for our wedding celebrations tomorrow. Due to the circumstances, their verdict was quick, what I did was self-defence, and defend the pack. They agreed that this is what being a ruler means, to make the hard decisions to be sure the pack is safe. Mike was immediately approved as a human mate. The council praised his bravery and loyalty to the pack he wanted to be a part of. Cynthia was badly injured, Sam begged the Council not to

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224 Ayla

288 iVouchers

execute her, so they sentenced her to be committed to a mental health facility for werewolves. Where she would have to live out the rest of her life. A place she would never be able to escape from and that was it. The hardest period of my life. All wrapped up in a neat little package of sentences and praises. A half page full of scribbles, and signatures that declared it over and dealt with. But it would be my and my pack that would have to start facing the consequences and rebuilding what we

lost.

And rebuilding we did, but I could honestly say that as a couple, a family and as a pack we grew stronger from this experience. It had only been a month and one day. We were not done yet, every day we needed to heal. Not just me and Griffin, but everyone around us. What happened had hit the pack and the country at its core. It was part of why we only postponed our wedding by a month. People needed something to look forward to. People needed something to celebrate, something that would close the chapter on the last few months. A new beginning of

sorts.

Of course, I could not wait to be Misses Taylor either. Last week I had taken the dress back to the bridal store. Where I readjusted it so it fit my even bigger frame. This time I walked into the coffee shop, finding out Griffin had them make a surprise for me. When I got home I walked straight to our bedroom putting the dress away. Griffin and I had promised each other to never leave each other a letter we did not sign. Other than that life went back to normal. I would even dare to say that we grew even stronger as a couple now that we didn't constantly have to worry about what was threatening us.

"You are dreaming again, want me to do your make-up or do you want

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224 Ayla

288 Vouchers

me to take a nap with you?" Mike joked. Before he moved in with Dean he had been a successful make-up artist. Not one of those famous one who works with celebrities. He mostly did bridal make-up as he was romantic at heart. Now he works as a make-up artist here. He would always give a huge discount to pack members and prioritize our make-up appointments over those of humans. But there are only so many times in a year when the pack needs a MUA so he had a little studio in the city where he worked with human clients. Dean and him were happy, marked and mated and I knew for a fact Dean was about to propose

soon.

Today was my day though and when I walked down the aisle watching. tears form in Griffin's eyes as he was waiting for me. I felt that life finally was good, it was safe, we were happy and loved, and the future was full of exciting plans.

It wasn't the foolish notion that we were perfectly safe and life would be smooth sailing from here on out. As I would so often think, or make myself believe just after being kidnapped. No, I felt certain now that we would never know what was going to happen.

All we knew was that as we were together, in the end, we always would be safe and happy. And that it was all we could ask for.

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The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 225

225 Epilogue Ayla

I woke up to Griffin gently kissing my pregnant stomach, this was my third pregnancy in five years and every new one he was as excited as the first one. And like he did when he slept over at my grandparent's place for the first time. He brought me a cup of coffee every morning. A year ago we took over as King and Queen. Even with three young children and another one on the way. Why never lose sight of each other and what we needed to feel seen and loved in our relationship ever again.

Granted it was easier now that we really weren't under constant threat anymore. Sam had left the pack because he wanted to be closer to Cynthia. While it was a shame to see him go we understood. And in the end, it was better for the pack too. What his daughter did, impacted the pack and some of the members couldn't help but blame him. It cost him. his new relationship. He, on the other hand, couldn't stop blaming Mike for hurting his daughter. It had made for a fair few awkward moments during pack meetings. That is why in the end we let him move to another pack. One that was a lot closer to the mental institution. We knew the Alpha of the pack and he let Sam in as a favor to us.

"Good morning, Darling, did I wake you?" Griffin laid back down next to me facing me and not just my stomach.

"No, baby, your child did" I teased him because I didn't mind waking up to our pup kicking so hard that it woke me up. It was a sign that this pup was thriving too. Even now as a Queen, I got to go on maternity leave. Today was the last day I would need to work. It would basically consist of setting Krystel and Dean up with all the tools to make sure that they

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225 Epilogue Ayla

could keep my work up in the time that I was on leave.

288 Voucher

They would continue helping out the pack members I was helping with something. Answer my emails and phone calls. A new royal baby was big news, in the pregnancies before this there had hardly been correspondence. Every wolf in the country knew I was pregnant, so they knew I would not be able to reply to their messages. Usually the first week I would still get some messages. Mostly from packs, we weren't in touch with. One we didn't consider as personal friends. Or packs that we did not form an alliance with. Krystel and Dean would let them know I was on maternity leave. They would answer the ones that could not wait, and they let the others know I would get back to them when my leave

was over.

This was my first pregnancy as the Queen though, and I had been a little worried that it would be different now. That the packs could not wait for my answers for all my answers for about twenty weeks. Only this time I did not stew on the worries that I had. No, instead I had come out to Griffin and told him what I was worried about. And that I did not want him to take on the extra load. Not just because it was not fair on him, but because I wanted him to be able to bond with this pup as he had done with our older children. Unsurprisingly Griffin was an amazing dad, he would always make time for our pups.

We managed to keep up with the rule not to work on the weekends. Of course, as pack leaders, and now as the King and Queen there were exceptions to be made. But they were rare, and we had an amazing support system of Aunts and Uncles, both by blood and by choice who loved to babysit our kids during those times.

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225 Epilogue Ayla

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"Mommy, Quinn and I can't sleep anymore can we get in bed with you and cuddle" My amazing four-year-old boy asked me. Rubbing the sleep from his eyes. I smiled as I told him "Sure Rodrick, go get your brother. and come cuddle with Mommy and Daddy.

It was all it took for him to run to the bedroom he still shared with his twin brother. We had enough room to give them both a separate room but they refused. The first time we mentioned it they had gotten upset and cried for an entire afternoon. Until they were completely sure that we would not separate them.

“Look who wants to join us” Griffin said smiling down at me as he carried Isme on his arm. Our two-and-a-half-year-old named after my grandmother and Isabella was still sleepy but she clung to her daddy. She would never say no to cuddling with either of us. Her grabby hands pointed to me when Griffin laid her down on the bed. He left us behind in bed to go make me my morning coffee. Before he was back the boys had found their way to our king-size bed too.

“It’s weird they call this a king-size bed you know, since you lot did not leave any space for the king to lay back down. You are all hogging your Mommy.” Griffin feigned to be upset when he saw the kids had completely taken over the bed. And when I said up straight to be able to drink my coffee I noticed this time he brought an entire tray. It had our coffee mugs on it, a sippy cup of milk for Isme and two plastic mugs with milk for the boys. I realized that all the dreams for my future I didn’t dare dream anymore when my world came crumbling down seven years ago did not get fulfilled.

The dreams I wanted to have were dull and boring compared to the life I

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225 Epilogue Ayla

288 Vouchers

was living now. Never in a million years would that sad, scared, withdrawn girl. Convinced that something was wrong with her, have believed it if someone told her this was her future. And here I was now. living a life better than I ever expected and enjoying every day of it.

“I love you baby” I told Griffin before kissing his cheek when he handed me my coffee. “I know Darling, you have been telling me every day for the last five years.” He smiled at Isme helping her with her sippy cup. Even when he was not looking at me, even when he was busy with work or our kids he was able to make me feel heard, seen and above all so very loved. That is why I told him; “I know and I will tell you every day for the rest of our lives, so you will never forget it”

“I won’t, but I love hearing it, and I will tell you how much I love you back every morning for the rest of our lives.” He told me as he settled back into the bed cuddling with me and our beautiful offspring. It was another perfect morning and I was happy to be blessed enough to know I would get a thousand more mornings like this.

“The End”

81.98%

10:57

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 226

001 Ayla

"Ayla, honey, can you come sit down with us? We want to talk with you." Dad called out for me. Hopefully, they finally decided I could go and live with Dad's parents at the White Oak pack. I had been begging them to let me go for a year after all. I started asking them the day after David rejected me for being the runt of the pack.

I remember smelling him and recognizing him as my mate, I was beyond happy. Grandma's words rang in my mind. "The Moon Goddess does not make mistakes in whom she pairs together."

me, 5 ft 3.

David is right. I have been the runt of the pack. Dad's great grandmother is a rare human mate. Grandma is a werewolf as is my dad, his brothers. and sister. She was mated to my Grandpa Alpha Quinn and a very powerful werewolf. Dad is big even for a wolf. Everyone else in my family is either big or average-sized for a wolf. Then there is me, After shifting, I can pass for a regular wolf. I always know that some pack members are whispering behind my back. But I get lucky, Mom is the only pack doctor and after refusing to be Uncle Cedric's Beta to move in with the Bloodtail pack, Dad became the pack's lead warrior. They are well-respected. And the Alpha's son and future Alpha is one of my best friends.

It at least stops the other pack members from gossiping too much. So when I found out the morning of his eighteenth Birthday that he indeed was my mate, like I had been hoping for most of my life, and even more

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001 Ayla

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288 Vouchers

when I didn't find my mate when I turned eighteen, nine months before he did, I was over the moon. I remember Willow my wolf going crazy when we sensed David walking up to us. And when he spoke the thirteen words no wolf ever wants to hear, I felt my heart shatter as Willow closed herself off from me.

"I, David Birch, reject you, Ayla Hemmig, as my mate and future Luna.

Rejecting me in the pack kitchen, so that everyone could hear. To make matters worse, he felt the need to explain why he would reject his best friend.

"You're a sweet girl, Ayla. You would make an Omega very happy. But how could the runt of the pack ever be the Luna we need?"

Soon after, he started avoiding me, being short with me like it was my fault that his mate was the runt of the pack as he put it. Of course, this caused the other members of my pack to bully me. They respected my family too much to get physical but their words hurt too. That was why I wanted to live with my grandparents. Their pack was different. They would all accept me. As a small unmated wolf, because I was sure I would never want a chosen mate. Second-chance mates are for those who lost their mates. Not wolves that got rejected like me.

Deep in thought, I made my way to the kitchen to join my parents at the kitchen table. Mom looked sad and Dad looked conflicted. He held a letter in his hand. Instantly I recognized the royal seal. So the rumors were true Crown Prince Griffin would pick a chosen mate. On his first

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001 Ayla

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Birthday, he got the mark showing his fated mate died before they met. In four years, he was supposed to rule the land and all the werewolf packs taking over from his father and mother. He needed a Queen by his side to do so. Rumors had been spreading he was inviting all unmated she-wolves from eighteen to thirty to come to a ball, where he would choose his chosen mate.

"The rumors are true. Prince Griffin is inviting all the unmated she-wolves between eighteen and thirty to the ball. We know you want to live with Grandpa Quinn and Grandma Emmy, Sweetheart." Dad started confirming what I was thinking as soon as I saw the letter.

"If you go to the ball, we will grant you permission and we will convince Alpha Phillip to let you move in with the White Oak pack."

This was the best news ever. If I was not suitable as a Luna even as a

fated mate, there was no way the Crown Prince would select me as his chosen Queen. The royal family lived closer to the White Oak Pack, so I might as well pack all of my belongings. Maybe I could convince Mom and Dad I could stay at the White Oaks a few days before that. After all, it was only a few hours by airplane to get to SilverCreek where the Royals lived. I had never been there before and I was excited to go. I would be able to taste some new foods, and maybe even get some new recipes.

"You're not saying anything, honey. Do you agree?" Mom's voice pulled me back to the here and now.

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001 Ayla

288 Vouchers

"Sorry, Mom, I was daydreaming. I just got a little excited. Of course, I agree. I cannot wait to see SilverCreek." I honestly told her.

My parents' wide smiles hurt me a little. They were excited and happy because I seemed so open to giving this a chance. But all I could think of was going over to Jessa, so I could tell her. She was twenty like me and unmated too. My sister Kate named after our human great-great

grandmother was nineteen and unmated. We would probably go together, the three of us.

Before I even asked, Dad chuckled telling me I could go and visit Jessa. Jessa and her parents were the only pack members who never treated me differently aside from my family of course. I would miss them when I moved, but they could always come over and see me.

I rushed over to Jessa's house and was welcomed by Jessa and her father

Theo.

"Got the letter too, I see?" Jessa greeted me with a warm smile.

Unlike me, Jessa hoped to be picked by Crown Prince Griffin. Even when I pointed out that I doubted the future Queen of all the werewolves got to get away with her country-rock aesthetic.

“So are your parents going to take you? I doubt my parents can travel with us. Would they mind if we traveled together?” I asked her about traveling instead.

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001 Ayla

288 Vouchers

“Siveety, your parents, James, and I already discussed it. Of course, we are not letting two young she-wolves travel alone. We will go together, the four of us. And yes. we will stop at the White Oak pack.” Theo smiled at us.

“Wait. Mr. Silver, you said 2 unmated she-wolves. Do you not mean 3? Isn’t Kate traveling with us, too?” I had not seen Kate in the last 2 days, which was unusual, but if something happened to her, Mom and Dad would have surely told me. All the faces around me fell, and I knew something had happened to my dear sister.

“Oh sweetie, has nobody told you why Kate hasn’t been home?” Theo said avoiding making eye contact.

“No, what are you guys talking about?” All kinds of scenarios flashed. through my mind.

“Ayla, come to the packhouse now. It’s urgent.” My father mindlinked. me, rousing me from thoughts.

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002 Ayla

002 Ayla

288 Vouchers

Saying goodbye to Theo and Jessa, I raced to the packhouse.

“Of course, Kate can move into Crescent Moon pack with her mate Tim.” The moment I walked into the packhouse, I heard Alpha Phillip happily permit Kate to leave with her mate.

Kate rejoiced at the great news, arm in arm with the man standing by.

Knowing my sister was fine, I sighed out of great relief.

“Wait, you’ve found your mate?” With a questioning gaze, I mindlinked Kate.

Kate turned to me, nodding. Her face blushed with sparkles in her eyes

“Thank you, Alpha Phillip.” Father bowed. He gestured for me to come over and added, “And Ayla is intended to go to the royal ball. Would you mind she moving to the White Oak pack after that?”

Alpha Phillip thought Father’s words over and looked at me. My heart skipped a beat under his intimidating gaze.

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002 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

Finally, he shrugged his shoulder and broke the silence. “Honestly, I have no issues with Ayla going to the royal ball. But we all know the likelihood that the Prince will choose her as the Luna of all Luna’s is

extremely small...”

Just like his favor for members of the pack going to live in another pack to form an alliance, Alpha Phillip was very interested in the prospect of one of the pack’s unmated she-wolves becoming a chosen mate to the royal family as well. For him, it would be the ideal alliance, though he deemed me unworthy of being the future queen. He didn’t even try to hide his disbelief..

“But tell me how it would benefit our pack if Ayla was not to return to us after the ball?” Alpha Phillip questioned Dad’s words bluntly. “There is already an alliance between the BloodMoon and White Oak.”

That was the problem. Alpha Phillip would never let pack members move to another pack if it didn't benefit him. In most cases, forming or strengthening an alliance would suffice. But I wasn't about to move to my mate's pack. I was about to move to family, so no new relationships were built.

"Alpha Phillip, some pack members were laughing at Ayla after David rejected her." Dad tried to reason with him. "It's hard to see my daughter suffering."

"And how would the future Luna feel if she noticed that David's fated mate was still living in the pack?" Dad added.

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002 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

"No worries. My son has already made the greatest sacrifice known to wolves. He has selected Hannah as his chosen mate. Hannah is a fine she-wolf, strong, poised, graceful, and kind. She will treat Ayla exactly like she has been doing ever since the rejection." Alpha Phillip told us like he was reassuring a toddler that there were no monsters under the bed.

Was he that unaware of what was happening right under his nose or was he that uncaring? Hannah had always been jealous of my friendship with David. She claimed David was her mate and seeing David hanging around me made her crazy. She kept making troubles for me. Hearing David reject me thrilled her. She rejected her mate, an Omega, a sweet guy, instantly and was determined to be the pack's Luna. She started to try and hit it off with David. The fact that I was David's fated mate was enough for her to bully me with her minions.

Not screaming about everything Hannah and her flying monkeys had done to me so far was already taking all of my self-control, Willow was, already itching to take over control. I knew I shouldn't.

I had been enduring the bullying, the beating, and the abuse for two years. Now so close to escaping was not the time to mess it all up.

Easier said than done when David smirked at me, licking his lips before addressing his father like a good little Alpha in training.

"Can I give my opinion, Father?" He asked politely, and of course, Daddy dearest let him.

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002 Ayla

288 Vouchers

His pride over his son starting to pick up Alpha duties was all over his face.

With an evil smile, David started talking again.

"I do think the Hemmings put too much weight on my decision to reject Ayla. Every wolf with a sense of self-preservation would want a more suitable Luna. Pack members applauded me for the sacrifice I made in recognizing the Moon Goddess' only fault. Many seemed to thank for the mate bonds between me and Hannah."

Right away, the air was thick with tension. Mom and Dad stiffened at the insult. His blatant disregard for me, my wishes, and the matebond we once shared set everyone off.

"I guess she is allowed to stop by the White Oak before going to the royal ball then..." Dad pled. I knew there was nothing else he could do.

Alpha Phillip smirked. "Make sure Ayla comes back home after that."

Father's silent and quick acceptance of my fate hurt me.

"What's the point of going to the royal ball if I can't go to White Oak and get away from all these forever?" I murmured to myself in desperation and anger.

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002 Ayla

288 Vouchers

Yet Alpha Phillip sat there with a straight face telling me I was the she-wolf who made troubles to the pack.

My anger was taking over, and I needed to get these emotions out before they would get the better of me. Willow hadn't stopped fighting to take control and it would be better to shift when I was still in control. My wolf tended to react more primal and I had no doubt she would go over to David and fight him the second I was no longer in control.

Too upset with my parents, I mindlinked Kate where I was going, so that my family would not worry about me. Then, I walked out into the forest, to one of the empty tree trunks where we could keep our clothes after shifting.

After checking no one was there, I shifted into my wolf form and just took off running. I've always loved running and it was the one thing I was better in because of my size. Being small made me faster and a lot more agile. I could outrun every wolf in my pack and most in the White Oak pack too.

The feeling of the wind rushing through my hair, the whizzing in my ears drowning all the other sounds out always made me feel peaceful. Feeling peaceful, calming down, and collecting myself was exactly what I needed now. The first few minutes it felt like someone was watching me. Once I got deeper into the forest, the feeling faded. It must have been my illusion.

Sun was already setting. I had ignored every single family member that

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002 Ayla

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reached out to me over the mindlink. Now my limbs were aching, I was hungry, thirsty, and honestly exhausted.

When I finally reached the tree trunk where I stored my clothing, and was about to shift back to my human form, a huge wolf ran into me, throwing me onto the ground.

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003 Ayla

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003 Ayla

And of course, it is Hannah and her little band of bitches.

"What is it this time, Hannah?" I asked.

Not wanting to shift back to my human form, because I stood a better chance like this.

"I heard you are going to the ball hosted by the royal family. Do you really think you are fit to be the queen, the Luna of all Luna's, if you are unfit to be the Luna of our pack?" Hannah scoffed.

I should have known it was her jealousy again. As I heard that David had told her he wanted to have her as his chosen mate. However, Hannah did not want to complete the mating process. Because she wanted to be unmated for the prince's ball, hoping she would either be his second chance mate or his chosen mate, fully delusional that she had all it took to be the next Queen.

While I was not looking forward to this event, and I knew the Prince would never choose me. I did know that the royal family is seen as kind and fair. I imagine the future queen has to possess those same qualities, meaning it could never be Hannah. The smart thing was to keep my mouth shut. Not egg her on more. Shame, that I wasn't wise, I was stubborn and I would never let anyone get away with offending me.

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003 Ayla

288 Vouchers

"You've got a lot of lips for someone who the Moon Goddess herself deemed barely worthy of an Omega. You think the royal family won't see you for the garbage you are?"

In an instant, all five of them were on me, head-butting me and biting me. Scratching me with their paws. I tried hitting them back with my paws, but they were all over me and I could not defend myself sufficiently.

My body grew limp, but they didn't stop. Their growls and snaps told me I was about to get more beating.

"What the hell do you think you are? Doing five against one?" An unfamiliar voice boomed through the forest.

I looked up to see someone wearing the royal sigil on his jacket.

Everyone shifted back to their human forms. Awkward tension filled the air. I was the only one who brought my clothes with me. So I quickly got dressed again.

Ignoring the royal sigil, either out of pure stupidity Hannah still bucked naked in front of the man.

or pure arrogance,

"F*ck off! Who do you think you are? Even if you are a servant of the royal family, you have no right to interfere with our pack business." Hannah warned the man.

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003 Ayla

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"No wolf should deem themselves worthy enough to attack a single wolf in a group. Honestly, I don't know if I am praying to the Moon Goddess that you are mated, so you won't come to the royal ball. Or to pray you are unmated to spare other wolves from having a mate as horrendous as you are." He scoffed.

The authority in his voice was not that of a low-rank wolf. In fact, it terrified Hannah. She faded away with her minions quickly.

"Are you okay?" He walked to me and helped me up, his eyes focused on me with kindness.

"I think so..." Gasping in pain, I slowly rose to my feet.

"Are you sure?" He asked, worries visible in his eyes.

"Yes" The next second, I stumbled and fell back to the ground.

"No, you are not." He chuckled, "Come on, let me walk you home."

"Thank you...Um..." I stammered.

"Call me Dillion." He introduced himself, holding me up and walking me out of the forest.

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003 Ayla

288 Vouchers

"Nice to meet you. Dillion. I'm Ayla. Thank you for saving me back there." I smiled.

"No a big deal. As a return, would you please tell me how to get to Alpha Phillip? I am here to hand deliver the invitation for the Prince's ball." He asked.

“No problem. It’s just a few blocks ahead.” I replied.

“And I know this is an offensive question in most cases, but I don’t see a mark on you. And you seem to be of age. Are you unmated or have you not completed the mating process yet?”

There was no malice in his questions. I could tell that from his gentle. voice.

“I have been rejected by my mate. So I won’t be completing a mating process ever.” I answered immediately cursing myself.

Always speaking my mind had put me in trouble before. That is why some of the pack members believe me to be unfit as a Luna. They want someone poised and gentle, and Hannah does a far better job pretending she is than I do.

“Never say never. “Dillion winked and handed me the invitation.

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003 Ayla

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I accepted it with a bright smile, not for the reason he might think. I was not excited to meet this Prince. But going to a fancy ball where I have to overdress at least present me with a small break from the bullying and pain. It might be a good getaway.

I think I like Dillion. He seemed to be very down-to-earth. He reminded me of my great-uncle Nicholas. Funny, spontaneous but fair. When he walked me home, we chatted a little about the BloodMoon pack. He asked me how I had been treated here. No wonder he would do that after seeing all the bruises on my body when saving me from the five pack members. He picked up on most of the pack members whispering on our way to the packhouse as well.

I didn’t tell him anything. It was still not worth the trouble that would come from revealing this.

“Sis, I am worried. Where are you?” Daniel sounded agitated, so I excused myself to Dillion and mindlinked my brother back.

“Ran into Hannah but we got interrupted by a messenger of the royal family. I’m walking him over to the packhouse and will be home soon.”

“You’re close to your family. I take it. Would you ever be able to move to a different pack for a chosen or second chance mate?” Dillion asked me.

If it wasn’t for the beautiful intricate mark on his neck I would think he was flirting with me. Maybe he was just being nice, making me aware of

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288 Vouchers

the fact that I can find another mate. Or maybe he wanted to see if I had honest intentions in coming to the ball. Either way. I did not know him well enough to let him in on my plans or feelings.

“Part of being a wolf is the potential of needing to move to a new pack. I always know and I still do.” I gave the most non-committal answer I could think of before telling him the exact location of the packhouse and saying my goodbyes.

Coming home indeed exhausted the last bit of my energy.

My mother gasped the second I opened the front door, Kate and her mate ran to catch me, to stop me from falling over. Dad was growling about to shift when Daniel stopped him.

“This is what you allow to happen. She tried to protect all of us, but this is what you’re letting them get away with?!”

Daniel has never screamed at either one of our parents, I was about to tell him not to, but the second I opened my mouth, blackness overtook

1. me.

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004 Ayla

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004 Ayla

When I woke up, I was in my own bed, dressed in a set of PJs.

Mom sat at the end of the bed reading. It was a love we both shared but I could tell from her body language now that she was just skimming over the pages. Not really reading even though it seemed like she was trying

1. to.

As soon as the sheet rustled as a result of my movement, she looked up with tears in her eyes. By now it was completely dark outside, so I must have been out for at least an hour, maybe even longer.

“Baby, are you okay? Why didn’t you tell us before?” Mom asked me while hugging me tightly.

I knew Hannah’s lashing out at me wasn’t their fault. I knew that if I had told them about what Hannah was doing, they wouldn’t have let her get away with it.

“I am okay, Mom. It’s all healing. I could not tell you and Dad because it would get you into trouble with Alpha Phillip. It is not your fault.”

She hugged me a little tighter, whispering how sorry she was in my hair.

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004 Ayla

Burying my head in my arms, I started to cry.

288 Vouchers

And then two more strong arms wrapping around me. The two arms I least wanted to comfort me now but still I could not help but sink into the embrace. Unable to keep on fighting because I had been doing that for too long now.

“Oh, sweetheart, I am so so terribly sorry for not seeing what was happening to you. Please forgive me.” Dad kept apologizing as he hugged me.

I knew I shouldn’t be angry with him. It was not his fault after all. It was my own choice to hide the truth from him. However, I was disappointed at the fact that he did not fight harder for me. He just shrugged and gave up when Alpha Phillip told them I could not change packs. That was why I didn’t want to talk with him now.

"Is that why you want to move to White Oak to live with your grandparents?" He hugged me tighter.

I nodded and tried to comfort Dad, "I know. Dad. But the least thing I want to see is you arguing with David and Alpha Phillip and leaving the pack. Alpha Phillip would never allow that. It will risk a war. Your know Uncle Cedric would go to war over protecting his family."

"He would, and you're his favorite niece who would have made it worse. Still, we could have talked about it as a family. Do you really think we

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004 Ayla

288 Vouchers

wouldn't be able to calm down and think this over before jumping into action?" Dad asked me, the hurt clear in his voice.

Making me feel worse, now I felt like I didn't give my parents enough credit.

"So what? You would just keep living here with Alpha Phillip after you know what he allowed. You would accept Hannah as your Luna when she is the one who keeps beating our beloved daughter up so severely?" Mom's voice got louder.

"No, I will never accept her, nor will I accept David. He isn't going to be a better Alpha." Dad said with a stern look.

"He is a coward. Without a lead warrior and a pack doctor, a young wolf like him would be very less likely to go to war with an experienced Alpha like your Uncle Cedric. But your cousin Sebastian is only nineteen. Your Uncle Cedric and Aunt Katrina have to wait until we all move into the White Oak pack safely before changing the leadership within the pack." He continued.

"I have discussed with your mother, Ayla." Dad looked into my eyes. "We will play the waiting game."

Playing the waiting game? What did that mean? Moving back to the White Oak pack when it would be safer or easier to do so? But I didn't understand because Alpha Phillips had already denied me.

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004 Ayla

288 Vouchers

“For now, you will go to the royal ball first. After that, you will go. visiting your grandparents and stay with them there. And when the Silver’s come back, they will explain you got injured and need to rest at your Grandparent’s place. By then, he will know what his son and possible future Luna did and allowed. I will give him the chance to keep it under the rug, as long as he allows you to stay with your Grandparents. for as long as you need.” Dad explained.

“What if Alpha Phillips doesn’t allow me to?” I asked back.

“He will and he has to, Sweetheart.” Dad locked his eyes with me.

Moving to the White Oak pack seemed to be within reach now, and I hugged Dad happily, grateful for his decision.

“This might not be necessary if the Prince is smart enough to see how amazing you are, sweetie.” Mom cut in.

I rolled my eyes. Deep in my heart. I know this would never happen. Hannah was right. How could I become the Luna of all Luna’s after I was rejected to be David’s mate?

With all those old memories flashing in my mind, I felt my head spinning.

Mom and Dad had noticed how dizzy I was. They settled me on my bed and forced me to take a good rest. It did my body good but I still had

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004 Ayla

288 Vouchers

bruises and scars that hadn’t healed yet because my body was always busy healing fresh injuries. Now that everybody in my family knew I wasn’t worried about keeping them hidden anymore.

The last week of staying with the BloodMoon pack has been weird. Even after I was getting much better, they hardly let me go out alone.

Getting bored, I started to pack my belongings. Sadly, I couldn't pack a lot. Dad told me to pack only the essentials in toiletries and clothing so I could take more small personal things with me. Mom promised me she would at least send all my books out in pairs of two. And she insisted. me taking the ball gown Grandma sent to me.

"Your Grandma said you should not hide yourself in those black things. If not to find a mate, then to show the other she—wolves, especially those of Blood Moon, that you are a queen in your own rights. And she would love to see this dress get used one last time. What do you say, Ayla?"

Caressing the beautiful gold dress on the mannequin, I recalled it was the dress my Grandma wore when Grandpa introduced her as his Luna to the pack. Thinking of it, I nodded in assent.

When both my suitcases were packed, I looked around my childhood room in the house where I grew up. It seemed like I was still living here. because I was running away from home like an over-emotional teenager. To avoid being beaten daily, I pretended to be interested in marrying a

prince.

"Ayla, time to go." Mom's voice came downstairs. "You won't want to

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005 Griffin

For the last few days, I had been waking up achy like I have been training too hard: Mom had noticed and she was worried about me. She thought I might have been overdoing myself in preparation for the royal ball. Probably because this was the first event I had gotten personally involved with.

I clung to the hope of finally finding her at this ball. I did more than hoping though. Just as I did the very first night after finding out that I had one final chance of meeting my second chance mate. I had been praying to the Moon Goddess every night, bringing her offerings. And I had sent every staff member available, whom I fully trust to bring the invitations personally. To both get as many she-wolves to come to the ball as possible, and to scope out the packs.

Slowly but surely I was getting sure of the fact that I would find my mate. Everyone around me said I had my head in the cloud. That I was a hopeless romantic and that I needed to consider the possibility of choosing a chosen mate. I had promised my parents and I am not someone that goes back on his word. But I will wait until the clock strikes midnight I do not find my fated mate before that time. Thinking, of it, maybe I should stop thinking about her as my second chance mate. Maybe I should just refer to her as my fated mate. To not make it sound like she was second best, or a second choice.

I hated how I was reconsidering everything. It was just the pressure of finding her. Normally when you find your mate, you have the time to get to know each other before you complete the mating process. My parents wanted me to complete the mating process within a month. Meaning I

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had to convince a girl to move in with me, leave her own pack behind, and fully accept me as her mate within a month. Come to think of it with all of the stress about this, and all the extra work I was taking on. Maybe Mom was right. Maybe I was waking up sore and achy because of all I was doing.

It didn't stop me from giving my all though. I nervously looked around in my room. I was wondering whether I would just pick a different room. for me and my mate to move into. Or should I move some of my personal belongings, so my mate could have her personal stuff and make it our

room.

"Your room is empty enough as it is, your highness.

I turned around happy to hear Dillion's voice again. He could read me like an open book. He just got me, just how seeing my back. He knew I was doubting my room being

ready enough for my Luna, my mate. He also was the last of my messengers returning from hand delivering the invitations to my ball.

“So, how was it?” I asked him, sitting down on the bed and signalling for him to sit down next to me.

“Words had spread quickly. All Alphas confirmed that there were quite a few unmated she-wolves from their packs and they were more than happy to attend the ball.” Dillion briefed the situation to me. “The number of guests that we expect will be nerve-wracking.”

“It would be all worth it if I can find my mate.” I scratched my head,

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laughing.

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“I know you are praying for a fated mate, and you know I hope you find her, Griff. I want you to have the same happiness as I have.” He stated and I knew what he was going to say.

Dillion recently found his fated mate, a guy. He had confided in being attracted to both male and female wolves before. That never stopped him from being faithful to his mate. To wait until he met them. But it had made them nervous not knowing what he needed to look out for. Until he met Collin he had the moment I was dreaming of where he instantly knew who his mate was. Luckily Collin didn't have an issue with moving to the castle. They had completed their mating process and were as happy as could be. Now that happily mated wolf sitting on my bed. was about to tell me I should not hope to find what he had and choose a

random mate.

“Moon Goddess knows that I want you to find her. But if you don't meet a girl and I wouldn't mind her being our queen. She seems right up your alley, too.” He teased me.

“By the way. I met a small yet brave she-wolf at BloodMoon. She never backed down though being attacked by five other wolves. And the royal emblem on my coat didn't change her attitude towards me at all.” He chuckled. “She is a little firecracker though. You need someone who helps you get your head out of your own ass sometimes.”

"The girl sounds like a fun person to be around. You know how much I

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hate wolves ganging up on others." I commented. "Will she come to the ball?"

"Yes, I'd given her the invitation and she seemed to be interested in being part of it." Dillion replied.

"Good. Don't forget to point out who she is at the ball. I'd like to meet her."

"Okay, but only at the end of the night." Dillion continued, "And one. more thing, she has been rejected by her fated mate."

Dillion's words surprised me. I could not help wondering the reason behind her rejection. I could not imagine someone being rejected by the person the Moon Goddess arranged for her. Being rejected by her fated. mate? She might have done something terrible.

"Imagine getting rejected, that must be the worst feeling in the world, even worse than finding out your mate has died before you've met them." I said out loud.

More to myself than to Dillion. It gave me another thing to worry about..

"What if I find my fated mate at the ball but she rejects me?" I asked. Dillion, worries all over my face.

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12.00

005 Griffin

288 Vouchers

Dillion shook his head, chuckling. "Stop panicking, Griff. Everything will be fine. You could not be praying to the Moon Goddess while doubting her picks for you!"

“Yes, you’re right.” I tried to calm myself down. “But what should I do now?”

The rest of the day, against Dillion’s advice, I cleared out more personal stuff from my room, hoping my mate will feel welcome enough to put her own stuff in our room. It was the last thing I needed to settle before the ball. So now, all that was left to do was count down the last five days until the ball, praying and bringing my offers to the Moon Goddess. Selene.

Finally, the day arrived. It seemed that I underestimated the number of unmated she-wolves willing to come to the royal ball to be picked by me. It was a good thing though. The more she-wolves here, the bigger the chances were that I realized my dream of finding my mate amongst them.

When I entered the ballroom, I caught a wisp of one scent. A scent that was so enticing that it stopped me from thinking of anything else. A scent that woke my wolf up. The smell of a lilac on a summer night.

My mate was here.

Tracing the scent, I felt my heart pounding.

82.31%

12:01

006 Ayla

288 Vouchers

006 Ayla

James escorted me to the ballroom, as his mate and husband Theo escorted Jessa to the ballroom. There must be over a hundred she-wolves here. How is the Crown Prince supposed to choose between all of us? There is no way he is going to be able to see all of us let alone speak with us. One of the many reasons I do not want a chosen mate. Look at the Prince now. He is supposed to announce his chosen mate today. Out of all the she-wolves here, but as of yet he doesn’t know any of us personally. He doesn’t even know why we do not have a mate yet. What if he steals another wolf’s mate? Or what if he likes Hannah. Would he know she has got her first mate killed by rejecting him because she is a power-hungry hussy?

Just as I was about to ask Jessa whether we had to disclose why we hadn’t had a mate yet, I saw her face twist into something. Confusion; followed by happiness. Following her gaze, I saw she was staring at the guy who stopped Hannah and her minions from

attacking me. He was standing next to the Prince and seemed to be a high-ranking wolf. At first, that made me chuckle. Hannah would be so embarrassed knowing she had shown her true colors to someone close to the royal family, someone of high-ranking. Jessa looked smitten, the face of the wolf who found her mate but I remember that wolf Dylan or something told me he was happily mated.

Suddenly the man on the other side of the prince walked up to us in big strides. I breathed a sigh of relief. This made far more sense the mark on Dylan's name was beautiful and intricate indicating it wasn't a chosen

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006 Ayla

285 Vouchers

mate but a fated mate. Maybe I was just too worried, now that I lost the absolute fate of fated mates instantly loving each other.

"Hi, my name is Gerald, and you're my mate. Wow, you're breathtaking. I mean. I am sure you are kind too, but euhm..."

Theo giggled and it was obvious that this Gerald guy was a nervous wreck. Jessa introduced herself. She wasn't nervous but she seemed just

as awestruck. It turned out that Gerald would be the Crown Prince's

Gemma. He now works as an assistant to the Crown Prince as he has

more work than a regular Alpha to be like David has.

"Does that mean that guy Dylan is working directly for the Prince, too?" I asked, hoping to find out just how bad Hannah messed up.

"Dylan? You mean Dillion, the one next to Prince Griffin?" Gerald ● asked me without taking his eyes off Jessa.

And when I looked up to see if I indeed meant Dillion, it happened. I. was hit by a smell that was even better than the smell when I found out David was my mate.

I smelt cedarwood, cinnamon, and citrus. To my absolute horror, it was the Crown Prince himself who smelt like that. Willow was going crazy, howling out for our mate. But it could not be. We found our mate he rejected us, humiliated us. My fated mate didn't pass away, so it was not like I was getting a second chance mate. Everything that happened next

26.05%

12:01

006 Ayla

seemed to be happening in slow motion.

288 Vouchers

The Prince pointed to me with an unreadable expression, Dillion whispered in his ears, motioning in the general direction where Hannah was standing. He recognized me, and he must have told him that I was rejected.

My heart was pounding, blood rushing so hard that I could not hear what the others were talking. Only one thing was going through my mind right now. I was going to be rejected for a second time.

The Moon Goddess did make mistakes and with me, she kept messing up. I wondered if it hurt just as bad when you got rejected a second time. Even if it was not truly my fated mate, because that couldn't be. I had one but he gave up on me. He gave up on the girl unworthy to be a Luna let alone the Luna of all Luna's.

Attracting everyone's attention the Prince strode over to me. With even more purpose in his steps than Gerald had in his. Even the King and Queen were looking up to see what was happening. From a distance, I heard Jessa say something about our wish coming through. Her voice was far away and I didn't really understand what she was talking about now. I just didn't want the humiliation of being rejected out in public again.

With nothing else to do, I started running. Running like my life depends on it. Running as fast as these idiotic heels could carry me. Guards were about to close in on me, to stop me from running away. Panic settled

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12:01

006 Ayla

1288 (Vouchers

into my chest. There was no way I could outrun the entire royal army. There were even some attendants that started to make their way to me. No doubt trying to get into the Prince's good book.

"Let her go. Nobody stop her! Nobody touch her!" A deep voice boomed. through the ballroom.

The voice itself was soothing, but the words that were signalling he didn't mind me running. The words proving that he didn't want to meet me as his mate. Hurt me, like a stab to the heart but even with this pain I could not stop running. There was no way I could keep outrunning him, I knew that. My plan was to run to the beautiful fountain I saw on the royal grounds. At least this would give us some privacy. That way I wouldn't get rejected in public again. Even if it will be big news amongst werewolves.

Poor Crown Prince Griffin, first his fated mate died when he was only one year old. And then he mistakenly got bound to a useless she-wolf. Making him believe he had to reject his second chance mate who was the runt of the pack. This time it isn't real, because I won't have a second' chance mate not as long as David is still alive.

"Please stop. I just want to talk." The same booming voice called after

1. me.

"I just want to talk" were the exact same words David used to reject me. We were still far too close to the castle with everyone walking outside to get a good view of what was happening. Jessa tried to calm me down and tried to get me to stop throughout our mindlink. If I wasn't this

71.62%

12:01

006 Ayla

#288 Vouchers

winded from being panicked and running around in high heels, I would have reassured her about where I was going. Now all I could do was focus on the fountain that was getting closer and closer with every step I

took.

96.26%

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12.01

007 Griffin

1288 (Vouchers

007 Griffin

“You’re my second–chance mate. Dillion recognized you, so I know who you are. Why did you run away? Did you not realize what I am to you?” Terryfying my mate was the least thing I wanted, but I had to raise my voice to attract her attention and stop her. Keeping up with her was a little bit hard. She’s such a good runner.

When I finally caught up to her, the scent of lilac overwhelmed me. I had caught a wisp of it the second I entered the ballroom. I tried to trace it, but unfortunately, I lost it soon since it wasn’t strong enough.

Then my Gemma and one of my best friends Gerald sniffed the air. When I looked at him the look on his face said it all. He had found his mate, and I wanted to be happy for them. I wanted my best friends to be happy. Still, I couldn’t help but feel a bit sad that he is the one to find his fated mate at an event hosted for me to find mine. He walked over to her not really saying much to us. If I were to find my mate I was not so sure I would be able to calmly explain to the others what was happening. Now that it was happening to Gerald I had to look away if only for a moment. Only for one second, I need that second to compose myself. To plaster another fake smile on my face. In a minute or so I would walk up to the girl and greet her. I would tell her she was most welcome in our pack. I would pretend like it was lovely meeting her even if my mind, heart, and soul were all just focused on my last desperate attempt to find HER.

“Poor Gerald, by the look of what I suspect is her father poor Gerald is messing shit up already.” Dillion chuckled earning him a chuckle from his mate. In turn, forcing me to look up and see what they were talking

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007 Griffin

288 Vouchers

about. And when I did, it was here. The moment I'd dreamed of since I was fourteen. Lilac flooded all my senses. I heard a giggle and it sounded like summer raining.

"Dillion, her friend, the short one. She is my mate." I whispered more to myself than to Dillion even if I just addressed him.

Was

Finally having my dreams come true felt unreal. Moon Goddess, she worth the wait though. Even if she wasn't my mate she stood out amongst the sea of almost desperate she-wolves. She was wearing a gold dress, not as cheap-looking or revealing as most of the others are wearing. It was alluring hugging all her curves, her fit body. She was on the short side which I never knew was so beautiful. I am a good eleven or twelve inches longer than she is. She will fit right into my arms, and I am already imagining falling asleep with her small frame all snuggled up

to me.

"I'll be damned that's firecracker." Dillion muttered, successfully drawing my attention away from my stunning mate.

"Do you know her?" I asked him, forcing myself to look at him for a second.

"Yes. She is the she-wolf attacked by five other wolves. Some of them were over there." He said, pointing to a group of she-wolves that oozed desperation from their very pores.

It was all I needed to know to look back at her. At the exact same moment, she looked at me. Eye contact like I had always dreamed of, but what I never dreamed about was my mate taking off running. It was almost as if she was scared of me. I didn't know what had happened to her before. Quite frankly, I did not care either. I didn't care about the

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007 Griffin

1208 Vouchers

guests, my parents, or the gossiping that happens. All that mattered to me now was stopping her, begging her to talk to me and to explain why she was running away from me.

My guards were closing in on her, and even some bystanders were about to intervene and stop her from running away. Panic took hold of me, as much as I wanted to get to her. Imagining other wolves touching her was pissing me off. Imagining her getting ever more upset because she was caught like a common criminal made me feel even more unsettled. It's that same fear—that panic—that made me use my Alpha voice without even thinking about it. Ordering everyone in the room to let her go, to not stop her or touch her in any way. Perfect! This meant my parents knew it all now. I never used my Alpha's voice before. As far as I was concerned, an Alpha should only use that as a last resort.

Damn, my mate was fast. Up until now, I figured I was in good shape with how much I train but keeping up is hard. Let alone gain on her. I called after her, she faltered for a second, so I knew she heard me. Still, she kept up running, going even faster before she came to a full stop in front of the fountain had custom-made for my mother: Oh the irony in that, maybe I will tell her later. There were other things more important things for me to focus on. Talk to her, show her that she didn't have to fear me. I slowed down, attempting to walk up to her casually. Before I could even reach her she spoke to me. Her voice was a sweet melody but her words were like an ice pick stabbing my heart.

"I am done running. I just didn't want to be rejected in public again."

Dillion mentioned something about her telling him she was rejected.

Wav

But it was the sadness in her voice that seemed about to break. The way her eyes were downcast, she was not even willing to make eye contact.

44.09%

12:02

007 Griffin

1288 Vouchers

And my heart ached for my poor mate. The wolf rejecting her did me the biggest favor of my life. To do so, he clearly hurt my poor mate immensely and for that, I wanted to punish him,

“Why in the hell would I reject you when the Moon Goddess herself blessed me with you? Not to mention the fact that you are stunning, and an amazing runner. I come up to you because I am dying to learn every little detail about you.”

She looked up at me, tears filling her eyes. If it weren't for her pretending to not be bothered, they would have streamed over her beautiful face already. Her face was littered with the most beautiful freckles I had ever seen. To just lay under the moon, counting her freckles and kissing every single one as I imprinted them on my brain to never forget them. It sounded like a dream come true. All I had to do first is show her how serious I was about not rejecting her. Only a fool would receive such a blessing from the Moon Goddess herself and reject it. Reject her. I got lost in my own thoughts making my way to her slowly. Unsure of what to tell her, of where to start. She took a tentative ● step back and answered the question I didn't need to answer.

“Because you are a Prince, the Crown Prince to be exact. Your mate will eventually be the Queen. The Luna of all Luna's. I've been told once before that I am unfit to be someone's mate because one day he will be an Alpha. So I know I am even more unfit to be your mate. Besides, I don't think it is possible for me to have a second-chance mate. My mate is not dead. He is very much alive planning to choose my tormentor as his Luna. This is all just a mistake because the MoonGoddess does make mistakes and she keeps on making them with me” She told me, looking deflated.

All I needed to do was show her I was not going to reject her. The

68.81%

12:02

007 Griffin

problem was that it just became painful civious that this wouldn't be an easy task.

“He was a fool. Just don't make any declaims vet, okay? Give me a chance to get to know you. And let you get to know me, I'll make it work with my parents. Your friends, the girl you came here with, she is my Gemma's mate. You can stay here for a few days or weeks, as long as you want to give me a chance. Give us a chance, please “I almost whined as Conan wanted to take over, before holding my breath and waiting for her answer.

93.08%

008 Ayla

288 Vouchers

008 Ayla

Shit Jessa, her father's I just walked out on her. She has just found her mate, and now I—am ruining it for her by running away. Not to mention that I made myself look like a fool in front of her mate. Before I can decide anything I need to talk to her. Or well before I decide how to let this man down easily. I wonder if it is even legal to refuse a member of the Royal family. Judging by how everyone tried to stop me from running away from him. It would be just my luck.

“Why did you stop the guards from capturing me?” I asked because it was the only question I felt I could safely ask.

Without revealing all the things running through my mind right now.

“You seemed scared, I didn’t want to scare you more. Besides, I didn’t love the idea of others getting their paws all over my mate” He rubs the back of his neck as he is saying the last part.

It’s the kind of statement a possessive Alpha Mate would make. Something I always figured I would hate. Now my heart was betraying me as it fluttered at this comment. As I was still cursing my heart for betraying my mind he spoke again.

“If you do not believe you are my mate, then why did my Alpha voice not work on you?” He looks so sincere when he asks me.

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12:02

008 Ayla

288 Vouchers

But it cannot be, it would mean I truly am his fated mate. A second chance mate but that doesn’t matter it would mean he is my second chance mate too. Another Alpha and not just anyone, not the King the Alpha of all Alpha’s to be. Not wanting to believe any of it I shrug and mumble a vague reply.

I

saw he was clenching his fists already, getting frustrated at me. The bright glowing rings around his eyes telling me that his wolf was begging to take over. This was normal after finding your mate your wolf was always extra excited, wanting to be in charge. Another bit of proof to a fact I cannot believe. For I know what will happen when I do. Even if he

is as willing to accept me as his mate as he says he is. I highly doubt his parents are. For now standing outside in this ridiculous dress is making me feel cold. I need to go back to Jessa, beg her to forgive me. Make a better impression on her mate than the one I just made.

“Okay, listen I get this is a lot, with your history and all. Let’s go inside please grant me one dance. After I will leave you alone if you want me to. Just enjoy the ball, get to no Gerald what ever you decide your friend seemed happy to have met her mate. Since everyone is staying for the lunch tomorrow I will come back you up after breakfast we can talk then and see how things will go from there?” He was pleading with me again.

In response Willow cried out to atleast give him that chance. Feeling cornered and tired of fighting with Willow, I just nodded. Trying to ignore the pit of warmth forming in my heart at the bright smile he gave

1. me.

16.03%

12:02

008 Ayla

288 Vouchers

“First of let me introduce myself then, I’m Griffin and my wolf’s name is Conan. He is dying to meet your wolf by the way” He smiled at me, extending his hand.

It’s weird he is introducing himself like I do not know who he is. Even if it is nice to know his wolf’s name now. But his smile could get me into a lot of trouble. Shaking my head to rid myself of these thoughts I take his out stretched hand and introduce myself.

“I’m Ayla, my wolf’s name is Willow nice to meet you” I said, purposely not telling him Willow was chomping at the seems to meet Conan too..

Giving him more hope when I am still not sure about us being mates would be unfair. It’s not like I didn’t notice how elated he looked when

the sparks of our supposed matebound crawled over our arms the moment we touched. He doesn’t let go of my hand though. Instead placing it on his arm as he guides me back inside. All eyes are on us, Jessa shoots me a thumbs up with a questioning look so I nod at her. Reassuring her, so she can focus back on her mate. Which she instantly does, I couldn’t focus on Griffin even if I wanted too, because I hear all the whispering. I see all their nasty, judgemental looks. Hannah stands out the most she is glaring at me and I will no doubt be getting another beating for this before the night is over.

Griffin mindlinked someone so maybe he was noticing the looks we were getting too. He didn't address them though and he didn't Say anything about it to me. Instead he looked at Jessa and her mate smiling.

008 Ayla

288 Vouchers

"Gerald looks happy, you know at first I was a little jealous of him." he said still starring at the pair of them.

There it is, he will tell me Jessa would be a far better candidate to be his queen. And the only way he backed of is because he is loyal to his friend.

"Ever since I found out about second chance mates when I was fourteen I

was dying to meet mine. This ball was my last attempt to find her. So when it seemed like only Gerald would find his I couldn't help feel jealous. I know it is a bad trait but I never said I was perfect" He joked trying to ease the tension.

He took the hand that was still resting on his arm in his hand and placed the other hand on my waist. I appreciated he wasn't trying to hold me as low as possible just to cop a feel. And then he continued talking.

"I am happy for him, I was from the start but finally looking at his mate was the reason why I recognized you. So actually Gerald finding his mate was the second best thing to happen to me" He said, swaying me around the dancefloor.

I hardly notice he is saying that finding me was the second best thing to ever happen to him. Maybe I should pry him for more information. Ask him what the best thing to ever happen to him was. I am to busy to stop. my body, my heart from giving in to how amazing his touch feels. How much dancing here with him feels like an absolute dream.

008 Ayla

288 Vouchers

Dillion and what must be his mate were walking over to us. Causing us to stop dancing, to tone down the physical touch a bit. And it suited me, it's a nice breather from the feelings that were gotten way to

overwhelming.

"Spitfire it is so nice to meet you again. After meeting you I told Griff here he should pick you as his chosen mate but he refused" Dillion. blabbers, ignoring the angry glare Griffin was shooting him.

He kept talking and talking but all I could hear was the pounding of my own heart. And the meaning of his words rang through my mind. He didn't want me as his mate only now that the MoonGoddess has forced him too he is about to accept me. Or is he? He is so very willing to suggest we wait, see how things go between us. Maybe he is trying to find out if there is another she—wolf here he likes that would be more suited to be his queen. Or maybe he just wants to reject me in privacy so that it doesn't reflect on him poorly.

“Prince Griffin, I have promised you one dance. I think I fulfilled my promise, Dillion it was nice meeting you again but I have to go to my friend now” I told them curtly, trying to hide that I was already getting hurt because of this man's decisions.

Why can't the Moon Goddess bless me with a simple mate, an omega for all I care. Just one that would love me unconditionally not judged on the fact if I am fit to be a Luna or not, based on nothing but my size.

“It is nice to meet you I am Gerald, do you want me to address you as

74.41%

12:04

008 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

Princess now or can I still use your first name? I know Griffin is very laidback, but I have already made a lasting impression on my fathers in law. I hope to make a better one on my mate's best friend and my future Queen.” In my misery, I hardly noticed I had already walked up to the Silvers until Gerald spoke to me.

“Just Ayla is fine” I managed to croak out and when Theo put his hand. on my shoulder all my emotions threaten to spill out of me here on the dancefloor.

93.78%

12:04

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 227

002 Ayla

288 Vouchers

Saying goodbye to Theo and Jessa, I raced to the packhouse.

“Of course, Kate can move into Crescent Moon pack with her mate Tim.” The moment I walked into the packhouse, I heard Alpha Phillip happily permit Kate to leave with her mate.

Kate rejoiced at the great news, arm in arm with the man standing by.

Knowing my sister was fine, I sighed out of great relief.

“Wait, you’ve found your mate?” With a questioning gaze, I mindlinked

Kate.

Kate turned to me, nodding. Her face blushed with sparkles in her eyes

“Thank you, Alpha Phillip.” Father bowed. He gestured for me to come over and added, “And Ayla is intended to go to the royal ball. Would you mind she moving to the White Oak pack after that?”

Alpha Phillip thought Father’s words over and looked at me. My heart skipped a beat under his intimidating gaze.

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11:59

002 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

Finally, he shrugged his shoulder and broke the silence. “Honestly, I have no issues with Ayla going to the royal ball. But we all know the likelihood that the Prince will choose her as the Luna of all Luna’s is

extremely small...”

Just like his favor for members of the pack going to live in another pack to form an alliance, Alpha Phillip was very interested in the prospect of one of the pack’s unmated she-wolves becoming a chosen mate to the royal family as well. For him, it would be the ideal alliance, though he deemed me unworthy of being the future queen. He didn’t even try to hide his disbelief..

“But tell me how it would benefit our pack if Ayla was not to return to us after the ball?” Alpha Phillip questioned Dad’s words bluntly. “There is already an alliance between the BloodMoon and White Oak.”

That was the problem. Alpha Phillip would never let pack members move to another pack if it didn’t benefit him. In most cases, forming or strengthening an alliance would suffice. But I wasn’t about to move to my mate’s pack. I was about to move to family, so no new relationships were built.

“Alpha Phillip, some pack members were laughing at Ayla after David rejected her.” Dad tried to reason with him. “It’s hard to see my daughter suffering.”

“And how would the future Luna feel if she noticed that David’s fated mate was still living in the pack?” Dad added.

13.24%

11:59

002 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

“No worries. My son has already made the greatest sacrifice known to wolves. He has selected Hannah as his chosen mate. Hannah is a fine she–wolf, strong, poised, graceful, and kind. She will treat Ayla exactly like she has been doing ever since the rejection.” Alpha Phillip told us like he was reassuring a toddler that there were no monsters under the bed.

Was he that unaware of what was happening right under his nose or was he that uncaring? Hannah had always been jealous of my friendship with David. She claimed David was her mate and seeing David hanging around me made her crazy. She kept making troubles for me. Hearing. David reject me thrilled her. She rejected her mate, an Omega, a sweet guy, instantly and was determined to be the pack’s Luna. She started to try and hit it off with David. The fact that I was David’s fated mate was enough for her to bully me with her minions.

Not screaming about everything Hannah and her flying monkeys had done to me so far was already taking all of my self–control, Willow was, already itching to take over control. I knew I shouldn’t.

I had been enduring the bullying, the beating, and the abuse for two years. Now so close to escaping was not the time to mess it all up.

Easier said than done when David smirked at me, licking his lips before addressing his father like a good little Alpha in training.

“Can I give my opinion, Father?” He asked politely, and of course, Daddy dearest let him.

34.67%

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002 Ayla

288 Vouchers

His pride over his son starting to pick up Alpha duties was all over his face.

With an evil smile, David started talking again.

“I do think the Hemmings put too much weight on my decision to reject Ayla. Every wolf with a sense of self-preservation would want a more suitable Luna. Pack members applauded me for the sacrifice I made in recognizing the Moon Goddess’ only fault. Many seemed to thank for the mate bonds between me and Hannah.”

Right away, the air was thick with tension. Mom and Dad stiffened at the insult. His blatant disregard for me, my wishes, and the matebond we once shared set everyone off.

“I guess she is allowed to stop by the White Oak before going to the royal ball then...” Dad pled. I knew there was nothing else he could do.

Alpha Phillip smirked. “Make sure Ayla comes back home after that.”

Father’s silent and quick acceptance of my fate hurt me.

“What’s the point of going to the royal ball if I can’t go to White Oak and get away from all these forever?” I murmured to myself in desperation and anger.

57.23%

11:59 m

002 Ayla

288 Vouchers

Yet Alpha Phillip sat there with a straight face telling me I was the she-wolf who made troubles to the pack.

My anger was taking over, and I needed to get these emotions out before they would get the better of me. Willow hadn't stopped fighting to take control and it would be better to shift when I was still in control. My wolf tended to react more primal and I had no doubt she would go over to David and fight him the second I was no longer in control.

Too upset with my parents, I mindlinked Kate where I was going, so that my family would not worry about me. Then, I walked out into the forest, to one of the empty tree trunks where we could keep our clothes after shifting.

After checking no one was there, I shifted into my wolf form and just took off running. I've always loved running and it was the one thing I was better in because of my size. Being small made me faster and a lot more agile. I could outrun every wolf in my pack and most in the White Oak pack too.

The feeling of the wind rushing through my hair, the whizzing in my ears drowning all the other sounds out always made me feel peaceful. Feeling peaceful, calming down, and collecting myself was exactly what I needed now. The first few minutes it felt like someone was watching me. Once I got deeper into the forest, the feeling faded. It must have been my illusion.

Sun was already setting. I had ignored every single family member that

73.59%

11:59

002 Ayla

298 (Vouchers.

reached out to me over the mindlink. Now my limbs were aching, I was hungry, thirsty, and honestly exhausted.

When I finally reached the tree trunk where I stored my clothing, and was about to shift back to my human form, a huge wolf ran into me. throwing me onto the ground.

95 65%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 228

003 Ayla

And of course, it is Hannah and her little band of bitches.

“What is it this time, Hannah?” I asked.

Not wanting to shift back to my human form, because I stood a better chance like this.

“I heard you are going to the ball hosted by the royal family. Do you really think you are fit to be the queen, the Luna of all Luna’s, if you are unfit to be the Luna of our pack?” Hannah scoffed.

I should have known it was her jealousy again. As I heard that David had told her he wanted to have her as his chosen mate. However, Hannah did not want to complete the mating process. Because she wanted to be unmated for the prince’s ball, hoping she would either be his second chance mate or his chosen mate, fully delusional that she had all it took to be the next Queen.

While I was not looking forward to this event, and I knew the Prince would never choose me. I did know that the royal family is seen as kind and fair. I imagine the future queen has to possess those same qualities, meaning it could never be Hannah. The smart thing was to keep my mouth shut. Not egg her on more. Shame, that I wasn’t wise, I was stubborn and I would never let anyone get away with offending me.

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12.00

003 Ayla

288 Vouchers

“You’ve got a lot of lips for someone who the Moon Goddess herself deemed barely worthy of an Omega. You think the royal family won’t see you for the garbage you are?”

In an instant, all five of them were on me, head-butting me and biting me. Scratching me with their paws. I tried hitting them back with my paws, but they were all over me and I could not defend myself sufficiently.

My body grew limp, but they didn’t stop. Their growls and snaps told me I was about to get more beating.

“What the hell do you think you are? Doing five against one?” An unfamiliar voice boomed through the forest.

I looked up to see someone wearing the royal sigil on his jacket.

Everyone shifted back to their human forms. Awkward tension filled the air. I was the only one who brought my clothes with me. So I quickly got dressed again.

Ignoring the royal sigil, either out of pure stupidity Hannah still bucked naked in front of the man.

or pure arrogance,

“F*ck off! Who do you think you are? Even if you are a servant of the royal family, you have no right to interfere with our pack business.” Hannah warned the man.

18.24%

12:00

003 Ayla

1 288 Vouchers

“No wolf should deem themselves worthy enough to attack a single wolf in a group. Honestly, I don’t know if I am praying to the Moon Goddess that you are mated, so you won’t come to the royal ball. Or to pray you are unmated to spare other wolves from having a mate as horrendous as you are.” He scoffed.

The authority in his voice was not that of a low-rank wolf. In fact, it terrified Hannah. She faded away with her minions quickly.

“Are you okay?” He walked to me and helped me up, his eyes focused on me with kindness.

“I think so...” Gasping in pain, I slowly rose to my feet.

“Are you sure?” He asked, worries visible in his eyes.

“Yes” The next second, I stumbled and fell back to the ground.

“No, you are not.” He chuckled, “Come on, let me walk you home.”

“Thank you...Um...” I stammered.

“Call me Dillion.” He introduced himself, holding me up and walking me out of the forest.

35.48%

12.00

003 Ayla

288 Vouchers

“Nice to meet you. Dillion. I’m Ayla. Thank you for saving me back there.” I smiled.

“No a big deal. As a return, would you please tell me how to get to Alpha Phillip? I am here to hand deliver the invitation for the Prince’s ball.” He asked.

“No problem. It’s just a few blocks ahead.” I replied.

“And I know this is an offensive question in most cases, but I don’t see a mark on you. And you seem to be of age. Are you unmated or have you not completed the mating process yet?”

There was no malice in his questions. I could tell that from his gentle. voice.

“I have been rejected by my mate. So I won’t be completing a mating process ever.” I answered immediately cursing myself.

Always speaking my mind had put me in trouble before. That is why some of the pack members believe me to be unfit as a Luna. They want someone poised and gentle, and Hannah does a far better job pretending she is than I do.

“Never say never. “Dillion winked and handed me the invitation.

49.42%

A

12:00

003 Ayla

288 Vouchers

I accepted it with a bright smile, not for the reason he might think. I was not excited to meet this Prince. But going to a fancy ball where I have to overdress at least present me with a small break from the bullying and pain. It might be a good getaway.

I think I like Dillion. He seemed to be very down-to-earth. He reminded me of my great-uncle Nicholas. Funny, spontaneous but fair. When he walked me home, we chatted a little about the BloodMoon pack. He asked me how I had been treated here. No wonder he would do that after seeing all the bruises on my body when saving me from the five pack members. He picked up on most of the pack members whispering on our way to the packhouse as well.

I didn’t tell him anything. It was still not worth the trouble that would come from revealing this.

“Sis, I am worried. Where are you?” Daniel sounded agitated, so I excused myself to Dillion and mindlinked my brother back.

“Ran into Hannah but we got interrupted by a messenger of the royal family. I’m walking him over to the packhouse and will be home soon.”

“You’re close to your family. I take it. Would you ever be able to move to a different pack for a chosen or second chance mate?” Dillion asked me.

If it wasn’t for the beautiful intricate mark on his neck I would think he was flirting with me. Maybe he was just being nice, making me aware of

64.54%

12:00

003 Ayla

288 Vouchers

the fact that I can find another mate. Or maybe he wanted to see if I had honest intentions in coming to the ball. Either way. I did not know him well enough to let him in on my plans or feelings.

“Part of being a wolf is the potential of needing to move to a new pack. I always know and I still do.” I gave the most non-committal answer I could think of before telling him the exact location of the packhouse and saying my goodbyes.

Coming home indeed exhausted the last bit of my energy.

My mother gasped the second I opened the front door, Kate and her mate ran to catch me, to stop me from falling over. Dad was growling about to shift when Daniel stopped him.

“This is what you allow to happen. She tried to protect all of us, but this is what you’re letting them get away with?!”

Daniel has never screamed at either one of our parents, I was about to tell him not to, but the second I opened my mouth, blackness overtook

1. me.

85.39%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 229

004 Ayla

When I woke up, I was in my own bed, dressed in a set of PJs.

Mom sat at the end of the bed reading. It was a love we both shared but I could tell from her body language now that she was just skimming over the pages. Not really reading even though it seemed like she was trying

1. to.

As soon as the sheet rustled as a result of my movement, she looked up with tears in her eyes. By now it was completely dark outside, so I must have been out for at least an hour, maybe even longer.

"Baby, are you okay? Why didn't you tell us before?" Mom asked me while hugging me tightly.

I knew Hannah's lashing out at me wasn't their fault. I knew that if I had told them about what Hannah was doing, they wouldn't have let her get away with it.

"I am okay, Mom. It's all healing. I could not tell you and Dad because it would get you into trouble with Alpha Phillip. It is not your fault."

She hugged me a little tighter, whispering how sorry she was in my hair.

0.00%

12:00

004 Ayla

Burying my head in my arms, I started to cry.

288 Vouchers

And then two more strong arms wrapping around me. The two arms I least wanted to comfort me now but still I could not help but sink into the embrace. Unable to keep on fighting because I had been doing that for too long now.

"Oh, sweetheart, I am so so terribly sorry for not seeing what was happening to you. Please forgive me." Dad kept apologizing as he hugged me.

I knew I shouldn't be angry with him. It was not his fault after all. It was my own choice to hide the truth from him. However, I was disappointed at the fact that he did not fight harder for me. He just shrugged and gave up when Alpha Phillip told them I could not change packs. That was why I didn't want to talk with him now.

"Is that why you want to move to White Oak to live with your grandparents?" He hugged me tighter.

I nodded and tried to comfort Dad, "I know. Dad. But the least thing I want to see is you arguing with David and Alpha Phillip and leaving the pack. Alpha Phillip would never allow that. It will risk a war. Your know Uncle Cedric would go to war over protecting his family."

"He would, and you're his favorite niece who would have made it worse. Still, we could have talked about it as a family. Do you really think we

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004 Ayla

288 Vouchers

wouldn't be able to calm down and think this over before jumping into action?" Dad asked me, the hurt clear in his voice.

Making me feel worse, now I felt like I didn't give my parents enough credit.

"So what? You would just keep living here with Alpha Phillip after you know what he allowed. You would accept Hannah as your Luna when she is the one who keeps beating our beloved daughter up so severely?" Mom's voice got louder.

"No, I will never accept her, nor will I accept David. He isn't going to be a better Alpha." Dad said with a stern look.

"He is a coward. Without a lead warrior and a pack doctor, a young wolf like him would be very less likely to go to war with an experienced Alpha like your Uncle Cedric. But your cousin Sebastian is only nineteen. Your Uncle Cedric and Aunt Katrina have to wait until we all move into the White Oak pack safely before changing the leadership within the pack." He continued.

"I have discussed with your mother, Ayla." Dad looked into my eyes. "We will play the waiting game."

Playing the waiting game? What did that mean? Moving back to the White Oak pack when it would be safer or easier to do so? But I didn't understand because Alpha Phillips had already denied me.

36.11%

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004 Ayla

288 Vouchers

"For now, you will go to the royal ball first. After that, you will go. visiting your grandparents and stay with them there. And when the Silver's come back, they will explain you got injured and need to rest at your Grandparent's place. By then, he will know what his son and possible future Luna did and allowed. I will give him the chance to keep it under the rug, as long as he allows you to stay with your Grandparents. for as long as you need." Dad explained.

"What if Alpha Phillips doesn't allow me to?" I asked back.

"He will and he has to, Sweetheart." Dad locked his eyes with me.

Moving to the White Oak pack seemed to be within reach now, and I hugged Dad happily, grateful for his decision.

"This might not be necessary if the Prince is smart enough to see how amazing you are, sweetie." Mom cut in.

I rolled my eyes. Deep in my heart. I know this would never happen. Hannah was right. How could I become the Luna of all Luna's after I was rejected to be David's mate?

With all those old memories flashing in my mind, I felt my head spinning.

Mom and Dad had noticed how dizzy I was. They settled me on my bed and forced me to take a good rest. It did my body good but I still had

55.84%

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004 Ayla

288 Vouchers

bruises and scars that hadn't healed yet because my body was always busy healing fresh injuries. Now that everybody in my family knew I wasn't worried about keeping them hidden anymore.

The last week of staying with the BloodMoon pack has been weird. Even after I was getting much better, they hardly let me go out alone.

Getting bored, I started to pack my belongings. Sadly, I couldn't pack at lot. Dad told me to pack only the essentials in toiletries and clothing so I could take more small personal things with me. Mom promised me she would at least send all my books out in pairs of two. And she insisted. me taking the ball gown Grandma sent to me.

"Your Grandma said you should not hide yourself in those black things. If not to find a mate, then to show the other she-wolves, especially those of Blood Moon, that you are a queen in your own rights. And she would love to see this dress get used one last time. What do you say, Ayla?"

Caressing the beautiful gold dress on the mannequin, I recalled it was the dress my Grandma wore when Grandpa introduced her as his Luna to the pack. Thinking of it, I nodded in assent.

When both my suitcases were packed, I looked around my childhood room in the house where I grew up. It seemed like I was still living here. because I was running away from home like an over-emotional teenager. To avoid being beaten daily, I pretended to be interested in marrying a

prince.

"Ayla, time to go." Mom's voice came downstairs. "You won't want to

75.42%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 230

005 Griffin

For the last few days, I had been waking up achy like I have been training too hard: Mom had noticed and she was worried about me. She thought I might have been overdoing myself in preparation for the royal ball. Probably because this was the first event I had gotten personally involved with.

I clung to the hope of finally finding her at this ball. I did more than hoping though. Just as I did the very first night after finding out that I had one final chance of meeting my second chance mate. I had been praying to the Moon Goddess every night, bringing her

offerings. And I had sent every staff member available, whom I fully trust to bring the invitations personally. To both get as many she-wolves to come to the ball as possible, and to scope out the packs.

Slowly but surely I was getting sure of the fact that I would find my mate. Everyone around me said I had my head in the cloud. That I was a hopeless romantic and that I needed to consider the possibility of choosing a chosen mate. I had promised my parents and I am not someone that goes back on his word. But I will wait until the clock strikes midnight I do not find my fated mate before that time. Thinking, of it, maybe I should stop thinking about her as my second chance mate. Maybe I should just refer to her as my fated mate. To not make it sound like she was second best, or a second choice.

I hated how I was reconsidering everything. It was just the pressure of finding her. Normally when you find your mate, you have the time to get to know each other before you complete the mating process. My parents wanted me to complete the mating process within a month. Meaning I

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12:00

005 Griffin

288 iVouchers

had to convince a girl to move in with me, leave her own pack behind, and fully accept me as her mate within a month. Come to think of it with all of the stress about this, and all the extra work I was taking on. Maybe Mom was right. Maybe I was waking up sore and achy because of all I was doing.

It didn't stop me from giving my all though. I nervously looked around in my room. I was wondering whether I would just pick a different room. for me and my mate to move into. Or should I move some of my personal belongings, so my mate could have her personal stuff and make it our

room.

"Your room is empty enough as it is, your highness.

I turned around happy to hear Dillion's voice again. He could read me like an open book. He just got me, just how seeing my back. He knew I was doubting my room being ready enough for my Luna, my mate. He also was the last of my messengers returning from hand delivering the invitations to my ball.

“So, how was it?” I asked him, sitting down on the bed and signalling for him to sit down next to me.

“Words had spread quickly. All Alphas confirmed that there were quite a few unmated she-wolves from their packs and they were more than happy to attend the ball.” Dillion briefed the situation to me. “The number of guests that we expect will be nerve-wracking.”

“It would be all worth it if I can find my mate.” I scratched my head,

25.26%

12:00

005 Griffin

laughing.

288 Vouchers

“I know you are praying for a fated mate, and you know I hope you find her, Griff. I want you to have the same happiness as I have.” He stated and I knew what he was going to say.

Dillion recently found his fated mate, a guy. He had confided in being attracted to both male and female wolves before. That never stopped him from being faithful to his mate. To wait until he met them. But it had made them nervous not knowing what he needed to look out for. Until he met Collin he had the moment I was dreaming of where he instantly knew who his mate was. Luckily Collin didn't have an issue with moving to the castle. They had completed their mating process and were as happy as could be. Now that happily mated wolf sitting on my bed. was about to tell me I should not hope to find what he had and choose a

random mate.

“Moon Goddess knows that I want you to find her. But if you don't meet a girl and I wouldn't mind her being our queen. She seems right up your alley, too.” He teased me.

“By the way. I met a small yet brave she-wolf at BloodMoon. She never backed down though being attacked by five other wolves. And the royal emblem on my coat didn't change her attitude towards me at all.” He chuckled. “She is a little firecracker though. You need someone who helps you get your head out of your own ass sometimes.”

“The girl sounds like a fun person to be around. You know how much I

46.15%

12:00

005 Griffin

1288 Vouchers

hate wolves ganging up on others.” I commented. “Will she come to the ball?”

“Yes, I’d given her the invitation and she seemed to be interested in being part of it.” Dillion replied.

“Good. Don’t forget to point out who she is at the ball. I’d like to meet her.”

“Okay, but only at the end of the night.” Dillion continued, “And one. more thing, she has been rejected by her fated mate.”

Dillion’s words surprised me. I could not help wondering the reason behind her rejection. I could not imagine someone being rejected by the person the Moon Goddess arranged for her. Being rejected by her fated. mate? She might have done something terrible.

“Imagine getting rejected, that must be the worst feeling in the world, even worse than finding out your mate has died before you’ve met them.” I said out loud.

More to myself than to Dillion. It gave me another thing to worry about..

“What if I find my fated mate at the ball but she rejects me?” I asked. Dillion, worries all over my face.

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12.00

005 Griffin

288 Vouchers

Dillion shook his head, chuckling. “Stop panicking, Griff. Everything will be fine. You could not be praying to the Moon Goddess while doubting her picks for you!”

“Yes, you’re right.” I tried to calm myself down. “But what should I do now?”

The rest of the day, against Dillion’s advice, I cleared out more personal stuff from my room, hoping my mate will feel welcome enough to put her own stuff in our room. It was

the last thing I needed to settle before the ball. So now, all that was left to do was count down the last five days until the ball, praying and bringing my offers to the Moon Goddess. Selene.

Finally, the day arrived. It seemed that I underestimated the number of unmated she-wolves willing to come to the royal ball to be picked by me. It was a good thing though. The more she-wolves here, the bigger the chances were that I realized my dream of finding my mate amongst them.

When I entered the ballroom, I caught a wisp of one scent. A scent that was so enticing that it stopped me from thinking of anything else. A scent that woke my wolf up. The smell of a lilac on a summer night.

My mate was here.

Tracing the scent, I felt my heart pounding.

82.31%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 231

006 Ayla

James escorted me to the ballroom, as his mate and husband Theo escorted Jessa to the ballroom. There must be over a hundred she-wolves here. How is the Crown Prince supposed to choose between all of us? There is no way he is going to be able to see all of us let alone speak with us. One of the many reasons I do not want a chosen mate. Look at the Prince now. He is supposed to announce his chosen mate today. Out of all the she-wolves here, but as of yet he doesn't know any of us personally. He doesn't even know why we do not have a mate yet. What if he steals another wolf's mate? Or what if he likes Hannah. Would he know she has got her first mate killed by rejecting him because she is a power-hungry hussy?

Just as I was about to ask Jessa whether we had to disclose why we hadn't had a mate yet, I saw her face twist into something. Confusion; followed by happiness. Following her gaze, I saw she was staring at the guy who stopped Hannah and her minions from attacking me. He was standing next to the Prince and seemed to be a high-ranking wolf. At first, that made me chuckle. Hannah would be so embarrassed knowing she had shown her true colors to someone close to the royal family, someone of high-ranking. Jessa looked smitten, the face of the wolf who found her mate but I remember that wolf Dylan or something told me he was happily mated.

Suddenly the man on the other side of the prince walked up to us in big strides. I breathed a sigh of relief. This made far more sense the mark on Dylan's name was beautiful and intricate indicating it wasn't a chosen

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12:01

006 Ayla

285 Vouchers

måte but a fated mate. Maybe I was just too worried, now that I lost the absolute fate of fated mates instantly loving each other.

"Hi, my name is Gerald, and you're my mate. Wow, you're breathtaking. I mean. I am sure you are kind too, but euhm..."

Theo giggled and it was obvious that this Gerald guy was a nervous wreck. Jessa introduced herself. She wasn't nervous but she seemed just

as awestruck. It turned out that Gerald would be the Crown Prince's

Gemma. He now works as an assistant to the Crown Prince as he has

more work than a regular Alpha to be like David has.

"Does that mean that guy Dylan is working directly for the Prince, too?" I asked, hoping to find out just how bad Hannah messed up.

"Dylan? You mean Dillion, the one next to Prince Griffin?" Gerald ● asked me without taking his eyes off Jessa.

And when I looked up to see if I indeed meant Dillion, it happened. I. was hit by a smell that was even better than the smell when I found out David was my mate.

I smelt cedarwood, cinnamon, and citrus. To my absolute horror, it was the Crown Prince himself who smelt like that. Willow was going crazy, howling out for our mate. But it could not be. We found our mate he rejected us, humiliated us. My fated mate didn't pass away, so it was not like I was getting a second chance mate. Everything that happened next

26.05%

12:01

006 Ayla

seemed to be happening in slow motion.

288 Vouchers

The Prince pointed to me with an unreadable expression, Dillion whispered in his ears, motioning in the general direction where Hannah was standing. He recognized me, and he must have told him that I was rejected.

My heart was pounding, blood rushing so hard that I could not hear what the others were talking. Only one thing was going through my mind right now. I was going to be rejected for a second time.

The Moon Goddess did make mistakes and with me, she kept messing up. I wondered if it hurt just as bad when you got rejected a second time. Even if it was not truly my fated mate, because that couldn't be. I had one but he gave up on me. He gave up on the girl unworthy to be a Luna let alone the Luna of all Luna's.

Attracting everyone's attention the Prince strode over to me. With even more purpose in his steps than Gerald had in his. Even the King and Queen were looking up to see what was happening. From a distance, I heard Jessa say something about our wish coming through. Her voice was far away and I didn't really understand what she was talking about now. I just didn't want the humiliation of being rejected out in public again.

With nothing else to do, I started running. Running like my life depends on it. Running as fast as these idiotic heels could carry me. Guards were about to close in on me, to stop me from running away. Panic settled

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12:01

006 Ayla

1288 (Vouchers

into my chest. There was no way I could outrun the entire royal army. There were even some attendants that started to make their way to me. No doubt trying to get into the Prince's good book.

"Let her go. Nobody stop her! Nobody touch her!" A deep voice boomed. through the ballroom.

The voice itself was soothing, but the words that were signalling he didn't mind me running. The words proving that he didn't want to meet me as his mate. Hurt me, like a stab to the heart but even with this pain I could not stop running. There was no way I could keep outrunning him, I knew that. My plan was to run to the beautiful fountain I saw on the royal grounds. At least this would give us some privacy. That way I wouldn't get rejected in public again. Even if it will be big news amongst werewolves.

Poor Crown Prince Griffin, first his fated mate died when he was only one year old. And then he mistakenly got bound to a useless she-wolf. Making him believe he had to reject his second chance mate who was the runt of the pack. This time it isn't real, because I won't have a second' chance mate not as long as David is still alive.

"Please stop. I just want to talk." The same booming voice called after

1. me.

"I just want to talk" were the exact same words David used to reject me. We were still far too close to the castle with everyone walking outside to get a good view of what was happening. Jessa tried to calm me down and tried to get me to stop throughout our mindlink. If I wasn't this

71.62%

12:01

006 Ayla

#288 Vouchers

winded from being panicked and running around in high heels, I would have reassured her about where I was going. Now all I could do was focus on the fountain that was getting closer and closer with every step I

took.

96.26%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 232

007 Griffin

"You're my second-chance mate. Dillion recognized you, so I know who you are. Why did you run away? Did you not realize what I am to you?" Terrifying my mate was the least thing I wanted, but I had to raise my voice to attract her attention and stop her. Keeping up with her was a little bit hard. She's such a good runner.

When I finally caught up to her, the scent of lilac overwhelmed me. I had caught a wisp of it the second I entered the ballroom. I tried to trace it, but unfortunately, I lost it soon since it wasn't strong enough.

Then my Gemma and one of my best friends Gerald sniffed the air. When I looked at him the look on his face said it all. He had found his mate, and I wanted to be happy for them. I wanted my best friends to be happy. Still, I couldn't help but feel a bit sad that he is the one to find his fated mate at an event hosted for me to find mine. He walked over to her not really saying much to us. If I were to find my mate I was not so sure I would be able to calmly explain to the others what was happening. Now that it was happening to Gerald I had to look away if only for a moment. Only for one second, I need that second to compose myself. To plaster another fake smile on my face. In a minute or so I would walk up to the girl and greet her. I would tell her she was most welcome in our pack. I would pretend like it was lovely meeting her even if my mind, heart, and soul were all just focused on my last desperate attempt to find HER.

"Poor Gerald, by the look of what I suspect is her father poor Gerald is messing shit up already." Dillion chuckled earning him a chuckle from his mate. In turn, forcing me to look up and see what they were talking

0.00%

12:02

007 Griffin

288 Vouchers

about. And when I did, it was here. The moment I'd dreamed of since I was fourteen. Lilac flooded all my senses. I heard a giggle and it sounded like summer raining.

"Dillion, her friend, the short one. She is my mate." I whispered more to myself than to Dillion even if I just addressed him.

Was

Finally having my dreams come true felt unreal. Moon Goddess, she worth the wait though. Even if she wasn't my mate she stood out amongst the sea of almost desperate she-wolves. She was wearing a gold dress, not as cheap-looking or revealing as most of the others are wearing. It was alluring hugging all her curves, her fit body. She was on the short side which I never knew was so beautiful. I am a good eleven or twelve inches longer than she is. She will fit right into my arms, and I am already imagining falling asleep with her small frame all snuggled up

to me.

"I'll be damned that's firecracker." Dillion muttered, successfully drawing my attention away from my stunning mate.

"Do you know her?" I asked him, forcing myself to look at him for a second.

"Yes. She is the she-wolf attacked by five other wolves. Some of them were over there." He said, pointing to a group of she-wolves that oozed desperation from their very pores.

It was all I needed to know to look back at her. At the exact same moment, she looked at me. Eye contact like I had always dreamed of, but what I never dreamed about was my mate taking off running. It was almost as if she was scared of me. I didn't know what had happened to her before. Quite frankly, I did not care either. I didn't care about the

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007 Griffin

1208 Vouchers

guests, my parents, or the gossiping that happens. All that mattered to me now was stopping her, begging her to talk to me and to explain why she was running away from me.

My guards were closing in on her, and even some bystanders were about to intervene and stop her from running away. Panic took hold of me, as much as I wanted to get to here. Imagining other wolves touching her was pissing me off. Imagining her getting ever more upset because she was caught like a common criminal made me feel even more unsettled. It's that same fear—that panic—that made me use my Alpha voice without even thinking about it. Ordering everyone in the room to let her go, to not stop her or touch

her in any way. Perfect! This meant my parents. knew it all now. I never used my Alpha's voice before. As far as I was concerned, an Alpha should only use that as a last resort.

Damn, my mate was fast. Up until now, I figured I was in good shape with how much I train but keeping up is hard. Let alone gain on her. I called after her, she faltered for a second, so I knew she heard me. Still, she kept up raining, going even faster before she came to a full stop in front of the founad had custom-made for my mother: Oh the irony in that, maybe I will tell her later. There were other things more important things for me to focus on. Talk to her, show her that she did. not have to fear me. I slowed down, attempting to walk up to her casually. Before I could even reach her she spoke to me. Her voice was a sweet melody but her words were like an ice pick stabbing my heart.

"I am done running. I just didn't want to be rejected in public again."

Dillion mentioned something about her telling him she was rejected.

Wav

But it was the sadness in her voice that seemed about to break. The w her eyes were downcast, she was not even willing to make eye contact.

44.09%

12:02

007 Griffin

1288 Vouchers

And my heart ached for my poor mate. The wolf rejecting her did me the biggest favor of my life. To do so, he clearly hurt my poor mate immensely and for that, I wanted to punish him,

"Why in the hell would I reject you when the Moon Goddess herself blessed me with you? Not to mention the fact that you are stunning, and an amazing runner. I come up to you because I am dying to learn every little detail about you."

She looked up at me, tears filling her eyes. If it weren't for her pretending to not be bothered, they would have streamed over her beautiful face already. Her face was littered with the most beautiful. freckles I had ever seen. To just lay under the moon, counting her freckles and kissing every single one as I imprinted them on my brain to never forget them. It sounded like a dream come true. All I had to do first is show her how serious I was about not rejecting her. Only a fool would receive such a blessing from the Moon Goddess herself and reject it. Reject her. I got lost in my own thoughts

making my way to her slowly. Unsure of what to tell her, of where to start. She took a tentative ● step back and answered the question I didn't need to answer.

"Because you are a Prince, the Crown Prince to be exact. Your mate will. eventually be the Queen. The Luna of all Luna's. I've been told once before that I am unfit to be someone's mate because one day he will be an Alpha. So I know I am even more unfit to be your mate. Besides, I don't think it is possible for me to have a second-chance mate. My mate is not dead. He is very much alive planning to choose my tormentor as his Luna. This is all just a mistake because the MoonGoddess does make mistakes and she keeps on making them with me" She told me, looking deflated.

All I needed to do was show her I was not going to reject her. The

68.81%

12:02

007 Griffin

problem was that it just became painful civious that this wouldn't be an easy task.

"He was a fool. Just don't make any declaims yet, okay? Give me a chance to get to know you. And let you get to know me, I'll make it work with my parents. Your friends, the girl you came here with, she is my Gemma's mate. You can stay here for a few days or weeks, as long as you want to give me a chance. Give us a chance, please "I almost whined as Conan wanted to take over, before holding my breath and waiting for her answer.

93.08%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 233

08 Ayla

Shit Jessa, her father's I just walked out on her. She has just found her mate, and now I—am ruining it for her by running away. Not to mention that I made myself look like a fool in front of her mate. Before I can decide anything I need to talk to her. Or well before I decide how to let this man down easily. I wonder if it is even legal to refuse a member of the Royal family. Judging by how everyone tried to stop me from running away from him. It would be just my luck.

"Why did you stop the guards from capturing me?" I asked because it was the only question I felt I could safely ask.

Without revealing all the things running through my mind right now.

“You seemed scared, I didn’t want to scare you more. Besides, I didn’t love the idea of others getting their paws all over my mate” He rubs the back of his neck as he is saying the last part.

It’s the kind of statement a possessive Alpha Mate would make. Something I always figured I would hate. Now my heart was betraying me as it fluttered at this comment. As I was still cursing my heart for betraying my mind he spoke again.

“If you do not believe you are my mate, then why did my Alpha voice not work on you?” He looks so sincere when he asks me.

0.00%

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O

12:02

008 Ayla

288 Vouchers

But it cannot be, it would mean I truly am his fated mate. A second chance mate but that doesn’t matter it would mean he is my second chance mate too. Another Alpha and not just anyone, not the King the Alpha of all Alpha’s to be. Not wanting to believe any of it I shrug and mumble a vague reply.

I

saw he was clenching his fists already, getting frustrated at me. The bright glowing rings around his eyes telling me that his wolf was begging to take over. This was normal after finding your mate your wolf was always extra excited, wanting to be in charge. Another bit of proof to a fact I cannot believe. For I know what will happen when I do. Even if he is as willing to accept me as his mate as he says he is. I highly doubt his parents are. For now standing outside in this ridiculous dress is making me feel cold. I need to go back to Jessa, beg her to forgive me. Make a better impression on her mate than the one I just made.

“Okay, listen I get this is a lot, with your history and all. Let’s go inside please grant me one dance. After I will leave you alone if you want me to. Just enjoy the ball, get to know Gerald whatever you decide your friend seemed happy to have met her mate. Since everyone is staying for the lunch tomorrow I will come back you up after breakfast we can talk then and see how things will go from there?” He was pleading with me again.

In response Willow cried out to atleast give him that chance. Feeling cornered and tired of fighting with Willow, I just nodded. Trying to ignore the pit of warmth forming in my heart at the bright smile he gave

1. me.

16.03%

12:02

008 Ayla

288 Vouchers

“First of let me introduce myself then, I’m Griffin and my wolf’s name is Conan. He is dying to meet your wolf by the way” He smiled at me, extending his hand.

It’s weird he is introducing himself like I do not know who he is. Even if it is nice to know his wolf’s name now. But his smile could get me into a lot of trouble. Shaking my head to rid myself of these thoughts I take his out stretched hand and introduce myself.

“I’m Ayla, my wolf’s name is Willow nice to meet you” I said, purposely not telling him Willow was chomping at the seems to meet Conan too..

Giving him more hope when I am still not sure about us being mates would be unfair. It’s not like I didn’t notice how elated he looked when

the sparks of our supposed matebound crawled over our arms the moment we touched. He doesn’t let go of my hand though. Instead placing it on his arm as he guides me back inside. All eyes are on us, Jessa shoots me a thumbs up with a questioning look so I nod at her. Reassuring her, so she can focus back on her mate. Which she instantly does, I couldn’t focus on Griffin even if I wanted too, because I hear all the whispering. I see all their nasty, judgemental looks. Hannah stands out the most she is glaring at me and I will no doubt be getting another beating for this before the night is over.

Griffin mindlinked someone so maybe he was noticing the looks we were getting too. He didn’t address them though and he didn’t Say anything about it to me. Instead he looked at Jessa and her mate smiling.

008 Ayla

288 Vouchers

“Gerald looks happy, you know at first I was a little jealous of him.” he said still starrng at the pair of them.

There it is, he will tell me Jessa would be a far better candidate to be his queen. And the only way he backed off is because he is loyal to his friend.

“Ever since I found out about second chance mates when I was fourteen I

was dying to meet mine. This ball was my last attempt to find her. So when it seemed like only Gerald would find his I couldn't help feel jealous. I know it is a bad trait but I never said I was perfect” He joked trying to ease the tension.

He took the hand that was still resting on his arm in his hand and placed the other hand on my waist. I appreciated he wasn't trying to hold me as low as possible just to cop a feel. And then he continued talking.

“I am happy for him, I was from the start but finally looking at his mate was the reason why I recognized you. So actually Gerald finding his mate was the second best thing to happen to me” He said, swaying me around the dancefloor.

I hardly notice he is saying that finding me was the second best thing to ever happen to him. Maybe I should pry him for more information. Ask him what the best thing to ever happen to him was. I am too busy to stop. my body, my heart from giving in to how amazing his touch feels. How much dancing here with him feels like an absolute dream.

008 Ayla

288 Vouchers

Dillion and what must be his mate were walking over to us. Causing us to stop dancing, to tone down the physical touch a bit. And it suited me, it's a nice breather from the feelings that were gotten way to

overwhelming.

“Spitfire it is so nice to meet you again. After meeting you I told Griff here he should pick you as his chosen mate but he refused” Dillion. blabbers, ignoring the angry glare Griffin was shooting him.

He kept talking and talking but all I could hear was the pounding of my own heart. And the meaning of his words rang through my mind. He didn't want me as his mate only now that the MoonGoddess has forced him too he is about to accept me. Or is he? He is so very willing to suggest we wait, see how things go between us. Maybe he is trying to find out if there is another she-wolf here he likes that would be more suited to be his queen. Or maybe he just wants to reject me in privacy so that it doesn't reflect on him poorly.

“Prince Griffin, I have promised you one dance. I think I fulfilled my promise, Dillion it was nice meeting you again but I have to go to my friend now” I told them curtly, trying to hide that I was already getting hurt because of this man’s decisions.

Why can’t the Moon Goddess bless me with a simple mate, an omega for all I care. Just one that would love me unconditionally not judged on the fact if I am fit to be a Luna or not, based on nothing but my size.

“It is nice to meet you I am Gerald, do you want me to address you as

74.41%

12:04

008 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

Princess now or can I still use your first name? I know Griffin is very laidback, but I have already made a lasting impression on my fathers in law. I hope to make a better one on my mate’s best friend and my future Queen.” In my misery, I hardly noticed I had already walked up to the Silvers until Gerald spoke to me.

“Just Ayla is fine” I managed to croak out and when Theo put his hand. on my shoulder all my emotions threaten to spill out of me here on the dancefloor.

93.78%

The Prince’s Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 234

009 Ayla

“Gerald. I am so sorry I need to be here for Ayla now, give me a minute okay” Jessa told her mate.

No doubt showing my weakness, driving the point home I am truly unfit as a Luna. More and more I came to the conclusion that David was right. For some weird reason mine and Hannah’s matebounds got crossed. I wondered if this meant that Griffin was actually her second chance mate. After all if she lost out on her matebond with David because of that mistake she lost her true mate with out it being her fault. Meaning that she was worthy of a second chance mate atleast in the eyes of the Moon. Goddess. For some reason the idea of her being with Griffin upset me and Willow more than knowing she would soon be the Blood Moon’s next Luna if this weekend didn’t work out for her.

Jessa had led me to the bar and found us a somewhat secluded corner to talk. Of course she figured I was happy about finding a second chance. mate. She loved me and because of it she was blind to the fact that if I was unworthy of David, I would be even more unworthy of Griffin. She listened to me but couldn't stop herself from interrupting trying to convince me I was more than capable of becoming a Luna.

"Well his Beta to be just told me he didn't want to have anything to do with me before. Only when he found out that the Moon Goddess paired. us together. It's just a waiting game before he rejects me too" I sighed looking into my glass which I had drank far to quickly.

0.00%

12:04

"I'm sorry to interrupt you guys and I never meant to eaves drop but that is not what he meant" The guy who walked up to me and Griffin with Dillion had walked up to us.

Up close I could see the beautiful intricate mark baring Dillion's name. Showing me I was right and that this guy was indeed Dillion's mate. Which he confirmed when introducing himself.

"I'm Stanley, Dillion's mate. He has told Prince Griffin a little about you. How he figured you were the perfect chosen mate for him. Prince Griffin did say he was not interested, not in choosing a mate when there was still time left to find his fated mate. He had not seen, smelled or heard you in that moment. We figured out you were his fated mated seconds. before you started running away. I don't know what happened before butt Griffin said you were thinking about giving him a chance. If so you atleast need to know the truth okay" With that he left us after giving one last gentle smile.

I was reeling with all the new information. It made it hard for me to know what I was feeling. Deep down I knew the easiest thing was to walk up to Griffin and ask him to talk to me. Tell him about all my doubts and asking him to be honest with me about what he was feeling. And I would later tonight, I needed some time to process all this. I wanted to get to know my best friends mate better. Most of all I wanted **to** know what their plans were. Only now the knowledge that my friend might move in with her mate right away was settling in.

"Let's enjoy our night for a bit, and I promise I will talk to him later

18.75%

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12:04

288 Vouchers

okay?" I told Jessa.

She knew me better than anyone so she was a bit hesitant at first but finally agreed with me. When we walked back to Theo and James Silver, Gerald was deep in conversation with them. They all seemed to instantly hit it off and it made me smile.

Now Gerald focussed his attention on me, asking about me getting to know me. He obviously avoided the mates topic and Griffin. It made the conversation feel a bit awkward and forced but through it all, I could feel he was a good guy. One that was over the moon with having Jessa as his mate and it was all I could wish for my best friend.

"I will be traveling to your pack Ayla, I want to do things properly so I will ask Alpha Phillippe if it is okay for Jessa to move in with the Silver Moon pack," Gerald explained.

For a moment I was confused but then it dawned on me, we had been telling everyone I would travel to the BloodMoon Pack with the Phillips.. To make sure we didn't raise suspicion about my plans for after the ball. Finding out that Jessa was going to move here eventually was a double- edged sword. I thought the world of her, so naturally I wanted her to have the world. Gerald could no doubt give it to her. But how awkward would it be to visit her after Griffin had rejected me? She wouldn't just be one of his packmembers. Her mate is one of his best friends and would be his Gemma.

"He is not gonna you know," Gerald said shooting me a look I could only

38.87%

12:04

009 Ayla

read as pity.

288 Vouchers

"Don't tell him I said that he mindlinked me not to try and sway your mind either way. He wants you to give him a chance because you want to. Not because others have convinced you" Gerald continued smiling at

1. me.

"Thank you, I just need to go outside for a minute. I will be right back" I

told the others.

Gerald saw this as the perfect moment to ask Jessa for a dance and Theo and James soon followed suit. No doubt excited to be able to share a

dance too.

Not me, because I had to decide what I was going to do. I could travel back to the Blood Moon pack with Gerald and the Silver's tell Alpha Phillip I would be staying at the castle for a few weeks before coming back here and giving him a chance. I had to stop at the White Oak pack on the way there. To tell my family what was happening, and to ask Aunt Lina about second-chance mates. She was one of Grandma's closest friends, Daniel was named after her mate. Apart from their friendship Aunt Lina's knowledge about werewolves, our traditions, and the MoonGoddess made Grandma choose her as her Gemma. She never stopped learning new things either. If there would ever be anyone who could tell me if you can get a second chance mate after being rejected it

would be her.

Giving Griffin a chance was scary, but I know how it feels to be rejected.

57.41%

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12:04

009 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

for things you cannot help. And I would never wish for someone to

undergo that same pain as I had. Not without giving them a chance first. The Silver's were easier to find and when I told them to switch the plane tickets to a direct flight home. Explaining I decided to give Griffin a chance. And how I planned on doing that made them happy. Like I expected to I knew they all just wanted me to be happy. Somehow they were convinced that giving Griffin a chance was the way to find that happiness.

"I saw him slink off with his parents, there is a door at the end of the room. Just go through there the King and Queen will be most happy to meet you" Gerald's words were reassuring.

Taking a deep breath I made my way toward the direction he pointed in. Sure enough, there was a door there. Just as I put my hand on the doorknob to enter I heard voices, one I recognized as Griffin's I could only catch the last bit. He said something about fated mate.

This was it he was talking about me, it would be the right time to introduce myself to them. I second-guessed my resolve to just walk in and figured I should knock first. Just as I raised my hand another voice boomed from behind the closed door.

“No way, I will not allow it. You will need a Luna, a Queen, the Luna of all Luna’s”

As I suspected the King and Queen were not accepting of a weak small werewolf as their future Queen. Who knows with BloodMoon pack

74.39%

12:04

009 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

members present they might have heard some rumors too. Even if I could not hear what the Queen was saying as the voices quieted down a bit I knew it wasn’t anything good. Desperate to hear more, to try and find information to prepare for my second rejection I pressed my ear against the door. It was Griffin who spoke again and what he said gave me the strength to know what I needed to do.

“Then I will choose a suitable mate and marry her.” He said, before I heard footsteps heading to the door I was currently pressed against to eavesdrop on a private royal conversation.

92.60%

The Prince’s Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 235

010 Griffin

I wanted to smack Dillion, I wanted to hurt him. It felt like minutes ago that I had to talk Ayla into trusting me enough for one dance. I had mindlinked Dillion to alert all the guards who her bullies were. To make sure that they couldn’t get to her. I wanted her to trust me and throwing them out of the ball on the grounds of them hurting my mate would only cause her to freak out again.

Everyone could see that something had deeply hurt her. She had practically no self-esteem left. She had a bite mark scar on her right shoulder. Something that should have healed on a healthy wolf already. That and all that Dillion told me made me think she had been receiving beatings for a long time. Causing her body to be unable to heal scars. So. when she visibly relaxed while dancing with me I felt like the happiest wolf on

earth. It gave me hope that I would be able to convince her to give me a chance. As soon as she would I would spend all of my time. showing her I would be the best mate she could have wished for.

Now Dillion's comment about me not wanting her made her run away from me. Towards Gerald who no doubt would gush about his mate and her moving to our pack. Moving to the palace, losing control, and using my Alpha voice for the second time tonight I ordered him to not speak about me, her first mate or anything even remotely related to it. His short shy answer after she and her friend walked off showed me he had already said something. All I wanted was to bask in the fact that I finally found my mate. I wanted to spend the rest of this evening getting to know as much about her as was humanly possible. Not keep putting out.

0.00%

12:05

010 Griffin

fires that my friends caused.

1288 Vouchers

Not long after Stanley came back, after Dillion made Ayla run away there was a lot of tension. Which Stanley had tried to diffuse by offering to get us drinks. I wasn't really in the mood to talk to either of them but boy could I use a drink. That was the only reason I accepted his offer and not told Dillion to piss off. Even if I didn't say a word to him as we were waiting for our drinks.

"I had the chance to explain to her you never saw her in saying you weren't interested in her. Because you wanted to find your fated mate. It's not much but still" He told me awkwardly giving me my beer.

Mom and Dad were watching me, they saw me run after a she-wolf only for me to come back inside to dance with her. Now even as she left my side I did not interact with any of the other's. All I did was stand here. watching her. Unable to take my eyes off her, and unable to just go and talk with her. As I didn't want to overwhelm her. I told her I would let her think about it until tomorrow. I had to keep my promise but this was the first time I wanted to break it.

"Nothing is going on she needs some fresh air. She promised Jessa she would be back in fifteen" Gerald's voice rang out through the mindlink.

It partially settled my nerves now all I had to do was convince my parents to be patient. All so I could be patient with her. Walking over to talk to them I was praying to the Moon

Goddess they would understand why I needed some time. Surely my parents would be happy that I finally

21.49%

12:05

010 Griffin

found my fated mate.

1288 Vouchers

"We noticed a lot happening tonight son, and we saw it all had to do with one girl. Want to tell us about her?" Dad says but he is smiling so, so far so good.

"The girl is Ayla, and she is my fated mate," I tell them and for a second I feel so proud that it is all I say.

"I am so happy for you baby, so where is she? When can I meet her? What pack is she from?" Mom was as excited as I was, asking me all kinds of questions.

Sadly I cannot give her answers. And the fact that I do not know the most basic things about my mate will raise more questions. Wanting to rip the bandaid off I just tell them she hasn't accepted me yet. That she was rejected before, and how Dillion walked in on her being ganged up by five other wolves. It's obvious that they pity her so this might just work. Taking a deepbreath I ask them to give me a few more months. before I announce who my mate, my Luna is.

"No way, I will not allow it. You will need a Luna, a Queen, the Luna of all Luna's" Dad shouts at me.

Mom crossed her arms disappointment clear on her face. For a moment I consider how far I am willing to go to convince my mate to give me a chance. Would I risk the throne for her? Mom wasn't able to conceive

41.40%

12:05

010 Griffin

after me. If I abdicate the royal lineage will cease to exist.

288 Vouchers

"It's a disappointment to know that if I had some struggles you would have just moved on to a chosen mate Roderick," Mom says flatly and I need to bite my lip not to grin at her.

Dad is strict, a stickler for the rules but he loves my mother more than anything in the world. He doesn't even stop to think about what he is saying. He doesn't realize he is walking right into the trap she set up for him.

"Don't be silly Isa, I would have moved heaven and earth to be with you. Meeting you truly was a blessing from the MoonGoddess herself. You're worth everything to me" He tells her, all his attention on her.

"Okay, so you just don't care for Griff then?" Damn, she is really going for the jugular here.

Again Dad falls over himself to tell us he loves me he wants me to be happy. Which I know, he is a good father. I got lucky with my parents. The second mom told him she knew he would have left her if she would have had struggles he stopped shouting. Mom is the only person in the world who can make my Dad into a soft-spoken guy. Now allowing me six months to convince my mate. To get her to accept me he is practically whispering.

"You can do everything you need to convince her but if she doesn't

57.51%

12:05

010 Griffin

accept you six months from now" He warns me.

288 Vouchers

"Then I will choose a suitable mate and marry her." I practically shout at him relieved I have the time to prove to my mate that I will be a good and kind mate.

I think I sense her close to the other side of the door so I rush to open it. What if there is anything she wants to talk to me about? When I open the door there isn't anyone, so I must have imagined it. I go back to the party, to see if I can find Ayla. Maybe she is even willing to dance with me a second time. Soon Gerald and his mate approach me, and who I still believe her two fathers to be in tow. Of course, I would have always wanted to make a good impression on Gerald's mate. Now it's even more important after all this girl is my mate's best friend.

We chat for a little bit, Jessa is a funny girl, and I can see how well she and Gerald fit together. Her dads are kind and they obviously care for Ayla too which makes me happy. They told me she was tired so she went to bed. With Ayla no longer here, and the need to find a chosen mate I wanted to go to my chambers too. Mom and Dad told me they would announce we decided to officially announce my choice in six months, to give me and my new mate some privacy. I see them climb up the stage in the ballroom and after they announce exactly that, telling our guests they are welcome to go back or stay and enjoy the party a little longer. Whispered voices are everywhere, everyone is questioning who I chose, and why we decided last minute to have some more privacy. Unsurprisingly a lot of the guests have picked up on everything happening between me and Ayla, and I don't want to any questions I do not have the answers to. Excusing myself with Jessa, and her parents I go home and leave for my chambers, excited for the next morning when

74.23%

12.05

010 Griffin

288 Vouchers

I can finally talk to my mate. The last thing I do before going to sleep is praying to the MoonGoddess one last time thanking her for blessing me with such a perfect mate.

97.72%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 236

011 Griffin

I woke up at 5 AM too excited to sleep, in a few hours I would get to finally talk to my mate. I still have to wait until after breakfast. I'm restless and so is Conan, so I decide to go on a run. Getting the energy out, and giving Conan some control should help me. I have this weird. empty feeling in the pit of my stomach. Which I try to ignore, it's probably just the nerves. Everyone is still asleep except for the few guards that are on the night shift. A little over an hour later I returned to my chambers. I was right the run helped me get out some of this pend up energy. It didn't help with the weird empty feeling. I just keep on ignoring it and go for a quick shower before getting some breakfast. I normally eat in the castle's diningroom with all the other packmembers who live in the castle or come over to the castle for breakfast. Seeing as it's still way too

early for most members, and since I am so nervous about seeing Ayla in a few hours I decide to make some breakfast and eat it in my personal living room:

We never set up an exact time, another thing that makes me nervous. I don't even know how late she usually has breakfast. I don't want to be too early making her uncomfortable, neither do I want to make her wait. too long. Giving her the impression she wasn't important to me. We haven't mated yet, so since she is not a member of my pack I cannot mindlink her. Yesterday I never thought about asking her for her phone number, if I did could just text her to let me know when she was ready. In the end, I decide to take a longer shower and get dressed so I can see where to go from there.

0.00%

12:05

011 Griffin

1288 (Vouchers Another two hours later I am finally dressed, I look at the pile of clothes I tried on and decided against, on my bed. And I chuckle to myself, this girl thought I was about to reject her when I spent over an hour picking out an outfit that makes the right impression. My wardrobe is a bit of everything. For royal events is suits, or at the very least slacks, a dress shirt, and a tie. I know I look good in them, all the suits are tailor-made Most she-wolves seem to like it when I dress up like that. It would be an easy choice to wear a nice suit, but it's not me. When not on official business I like wearing shirts or sweaters, preferably hoodies and jeans. Paired with sneakers and not my shiny dress shoes. Mom ended up coming to my rescue saying I should dress like myself, not as the Crown Prince. Still wanting to make an impression, and show her I put effort into getting ready for her. I decided to meet halfway. Wearing I nice dress shirt over a pair of jeans without rips in them. After doubting myself a little more I wear some nice dress shoes. It's still a lot more dressed up than I prefer, but it's not as official as the stuff I wear to meetings.

Mom was the one who suggested asking Gerald if his mate knew when she was ready. Or to ask her friend to give her my phone number so I do.

"Jessa and me are just on our way to you Griffin, we'll see you in your office" Gerald mindlinks me back.

Now the worry is getting worse, he clearly said Jessa and me. Meaning, Ayla isn't joining them. Why would they need to come over to see me if I just wanted to know when I can go and visit my mate? I don't need to wait too long and Jessa's deflated face tells it all. Something is terribly wrong with Ayla.

21.11%

12.05

011 Griffin

#288 Vouchers

"I am so sorry I didn't know none of us did." She says handing me an envelope with shaking hands.

"Is she okay?" I ask Jessa, as I take the envelope addressed to Crown Prince Griffin from her.

"Just read the letter. Griff" Gerald warns me, and I can't make out if it is worry or pity etched on his face.

"Dear Crown Prince,

When you read this you will know I have left the SilverMoon Pack grounds to go home. Yesterday after speaking to Stanley, Gerald, Jessa, and her dads I decided to agree with giving this a chance." I was

standing up reading the letter Ayla left me but reading this I had to sit . down.

Knowing I had been so close, still not knowing what happened for her to change her mind. Making her run away from me again was getting to me. I needed to know exactly what happened. Determined to not let this be the end for us, she was about to give me a chance. And I would like my father said yesterday "Move heaven and earth to be with her" In order to do so I needed to know what made her change her mind, so shaking I continued reading.

"In fact, I came to introduce myself to your parents. Gerald told me

43.43%

V

12:05

011 Griffin

288 Vouchers

where you were. Please trust me when I say I never meant to eavesdrop on your private conversation. I did hear it though, or parts of it. What I heard was enough I heard your father tell you he wouldn't accept me. It happened to me before as you know I've been rejected. My human heritage (which I am proud of FYI) makes it so that I am small and short for a werewolf. It is why my first mate rejected me, as the son of my Pack's Alpha he was about to follow suit and needed a stronger Luna." This information left me

reeling yet again and I couldn't stop Conan from taking over any longer. Tearing up the clothes I so carefully picked out for our date as I shifted into my wolf form.

Gerald wasted no time in undressing and shifting to, bearing his neck. showing his submission but he was no doubt ready to protect his mate. Who made no attempt to shift to her wolf. She mindlinked someone and watching Gerald's eyes gloss over I knew she was asking him something. She wasn't a member of our pack yet so she couldn't mindlink me She must have accepted Gerald as her mate for them to be able to mindlike so soon.

yet.

"Listen, Prince Conan, I get why you are upset, but not all is lost yet. I know Ayla and Willow. If you truly care for her you need to calm. yourself down. If you hurt anyone she cares for she will never speak to you again do you want that?" She told me calmly squatting down in front of me.

Showing me as much submission as she could in her human form. Conan reluctantly let me take back control. It mindlink Gerald to get met my robe from my bedroom. He was as reluctant as Conan had been in giving me back control. In the end, he still shifted, got dressed, and

58.18%

12:05

011 Griffin

1288 Vouchers

walked over to my bedroom. He was back soon like he had rushed to get me my robe. Once dressed I continued reading the letter again.

She had heard part of the conversation including me saying I would find a suitable mate to be my queen, my Luna. Mostly because of her past. and the insecurities stemming from it she drew the conclusion my parents considered her to be unfit to be my queen. What hit me the most was her kindness even after thinking she wasn't enough. She told me she realized I didn't want to reject her, and that is why she just left to go home. Asking me to let the matebound fade away. So I could be happy. with a chosen mate, she preferred the pain over feeling your mate being with someone else. Over inflicting the pain of a rejection on to me, adding that she wasn't sure if she could physically overcome another rejection herself.

I have never been so angry in my life, and I needed a way to get it all out. I want to walk up to her tormentors and severely punish them. I wanted to hurt them how they hurt my beautiful, kind mate until she was too broken to believe she was loveable. Sadly I

couldn't do that, word about the Crown Prince losing it would spread like wildfire. If what Jessa was saying was true and I still had a chance, then I wouldn't want her to hear nasty rumors like that about me. However, there was one person who I could take my anger out on, one person who deserved it. With only one thing on my mind, I stormed out of my room to find the one person who would have to deal with my anger now.

80.01%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 237

012 Griffin

"Why are you still in your robe Griff, didn't you plan to see your maa.. Dad started but he fell quiet as he saw the look on my face.

His desk cracked under the force as I slammed Ayla's letter on his desk. Screaming at him that his shouting had cost me everything. That he was the reason my mate ran away from me. Just after having decided to give me a chance. My screaming had alerted Mom, but she didn't speak as she walked into Dad's office. Just taking in the scene. Dad kept weirdly relaxed, this was the first time I shouted at him. The first time I showed him any kind of disrespect at all. I expected him to blow up at me, and it would cause us to physically fight, so I could get all that overwhelming anger out.

"First of all, I am terribly sorry for shouting, even more now knowing what it caused. So you have two choices, you either fight with me since that is what you came in here to do. It will damage our relationship beyond repair. And it will tarnish our reputation, which you might not care too much about now. Or you go pack a bag and go to the

Blood Moon pack she belongs to and you explain what happened. If you choose the latter I will write her a letter personally with my apologies, explanation, and the royal seal to prove its authenticity" Dad tells me in the same voice he used to comfort me when I was only a pup.

It feels as if I've been held up by an invisible thread, and it snaps at the pity in his voice. I sink into a chair and bury my head in my hands.

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012 Cuttin

17 288 Vouchers

Because honestly I keep on messing up and because I do I am unsure if she is ever going to give me another chance. Unaware that I was so emotional that my parents could hear my thoughts through the mindlink.

"I'm going to refrain from being that Mom, so I am not going to tell you that every girl refusing my precious boy is an idiot," Mom tells me, and despite everything I smile at that.

"So I will just ask you, is she worth trying? Do you think she might be worth groveling for most of if not the eternity of the six months you have until you have to make an announcement?" She continues.

I nod before I can even form the words. I know nothing about her, so maybe it is stupid to be so obsessed with her already. It's just that I want to find a fated mate, it is all I ever wanted. So when I found out she is this beautiful, knowing from Dillion she is brave, fierce, or a firecracker as he calls her. A nickname he is going to have to drop the second she gives me a chance. All made me want to get to know her. Realizing the MoonGoddess did really bless me with my mate.

With my new resolve, I get up and apologize to my dad telling him I am going to pack a bag. He agrees I take Dillion, Stanley, and Gerald with me. Since Gerald was already traveling to the Blood Moon pack with his mate and her family. I love how he forgives me telling me he would have reacted the same if anyone would have come in between him and my mom. Rushing back to my chambers I mindlink Dillion and Stanley. As I suspected Gerald and his mate are still in my study.

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012 Griffin

288 Vouchers

"Jessa you can cancel your plane tickets, were flying to the BloodMoon. pack with the Royal jet. If you really feel like I still have a chance with Ayla then I am not going to give up on her" I tell her trying my best to keep the anger and panic out of my voice.

I smile when Jessa doesn't cower, instead, she stands a little straighter.

"Can I speak freely with you Prince Griffin?" She tells me clearly sure of herself.

“Of course, and just call me Griffin your mate is one of my best friends, and my mate is your best friend so if everything goes as planned we’ll be seeing a whole lot of each other” Just saying so is comforting me.

The small reminder that there is a chance things work out too. Because there are things I have working in my favor. And when Jessa urges me to be patient with her. But only if I genuinely want to make her happen and be the mate her best friend deserves. My promise is a genuine one I make from the depths of my heart. It is also the moment I’ve grown to love Jessa as one would a sister. Or a sister-in-law. She cares for my mate that much is clear, she had on multiple occasions today gone against common survival instincts to help her friend. I understand the proud smile on Gerald’s face.

Dillion and Stanley come rushing to my studies, I give them a quick rundown of what happened asking me if they want to join me. I could. have easily ordered them to, but in my experience, people work harder for you if they do it out of love or respect and not fear. Even as my Beta

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012 Griffin

288 Vouchers

and his mate they have lives of their own. And I would never willingly interfere with that if it wasn’t life or death. Luckily as expected they don’t even have to consider for a second. And a minute later I am all alone as everyone is packing their backs. Aside from Jessa who has convinced me not to let Alpha Phillip know ahead of time and now is warning her parents about the change in plans. She also told me Ayla turned off her phone.

There is no time to anxiously go over my wardrobe now. So I just packed everything I tried on this morning. Just as I am putting the last bits in my suitcase Dad walks into the room. In his hand a thick cream colored envelope with silvery wax stamped in the royal seal.

“This is my letter to your mate, the letter itself has the royal seal too. I hope you trust me enough to let your mate open it. If not you can break the seal and still have the royal seal on the letter itself” He tells me.

Already regretting lashing out early I smile at him before putting the envelope in my suitcase and zipping it shut. I know my father well enough to know he would never write something in his letter that would hurt my chances. Or hurt Ayla, he can be a little strict sometimes but he would never be cruel. Let alone just to be cruel. He hugs me before letting me know the plane is ready and waiting for our departure.

I heard about the BloodMoon pack before, and I have visited once. Three years ago, it was one of the first packs I visited when I turned 18. In retrospect that didn't do me any good. Ayla was still too young to

recognize her mate at that time. And even if she was she hadn't been rejected yet and I am not her first mate. Something I am only realizing

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012 Griffin

1288 Vouchers

now, she had another mate. Someone who is still alive, someone I am going to meet in a few hours. All I remember is that the flight to the BloodMoon pack was long and boring. Alpha Phillip didn't stand out much. My parents couldn't tell me a lot about him either when I asked. yesterday. Meaning he didn't offend my parents, **or** did things that caused us to doubt his leadership. He never did anything memorable in **a** good way either. Father considers some of the Alpha's as allies. Close friends even, others he sees as just subjects. Alpha Phillip is firmly placed amongst the latter.

And it makes me wonder why Jessa was so adamant about not contacting him before. During our flight. I tried to pry her for more. Both she and her fathers told me they could not tell me. As it is part of Ayla's story. I respect their decision. If anything I love that they are so respectful of her. It does raise suspicion that he has not been a good Alpha at the very least not to Ayla. And with her first mate being an Alpha's son and living in the BloodMoon pack it is obvious his son rejected her, for not being fit to be a Luna. It's going to be a struggle to, keep Conan in check. I just hoped my friends would help me if they noticed he was trying to take control. Because the moment we land and rent cars to drive to the background the atmosphere has shifted. One look at Dillion and Gerald tells me they feel it too. So with a heavy heart we drive to the BloodMoon pack

81.16%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 238

013 Griffin

I was nervous on our flight here, so I didn't speak that much but the others had all been happily chatting amongst each other. Now three of the wolves I was travelling with were about to get home again. A pack is the second most important thing to a wolf. Your

mate, and later on your family being the most important thing. So the fact that nobody felt the need to speak was a bit unsettling.

Arriving at the packground only strengthens the feeling. After seeing who we are the guards let us walk in without questions. Even the fact that I see one of them mindlinking doesn't set me off. I knew they would, as would our guards if someone entered the castle or even the packground. It's the quietness on the grounds. There are some people milling around and they seem healthy and happy enough. It's just not a bustling pack, like most of the other packs I've visited during the past! three years.

As soon as we walk into the packhouse Alpha Phillip comes running up to us. His son and what must be his mate hot on his tail. Both Alpha Phillip are dressed in suits, and the she-wolf behind him. Who turns out to be his Luna as I expected is dressed in a cocktail dress. Which is weird, it's something I wouldn't have even expected for an officially announced visit. So they are either always this dressed up, or they had. rushed to get dressed after being told about our arrival throughout the mindlink. The guard must have told them who walked in exactly, so Ayla is probably here already. No good Alpha or Luna would prioritize getting dressed over finding out what had happened if one of the wolves

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013 Griffin

who had to come didn't

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"Crown Prince Griffin it is so good to see you Sire, to what do we owe this immense pleasure? Did you choose one of our lovely she-wolves as your chosen mate? Perhaps our lovely Jessa Siler here" He asked me in the sliciest voice I've ever heard.

As if on cue both me and Gerald growl at him. He pales but quickly composes himself. He asked us to join him **in** his study. We've hardly sat down when Gerald speaks, not giving me the chance to do so. I don't blame him, infact I love the confused look on all three of their faces the moment a subordinate spoke before I did.

"You would be wise to not assume things Alpha, neither would I advise you to pressure the young she-wolves in your pack to attend meetings so they can be a chosen mate. Before they had the chance to meet their fated mate" He spits out the word Alpha taking Jessa's hand in his. His eyes flashed to his wolf's Creed's light grey.

This so called Alpha pales again nervously playing with his tie. His office reeks of his fear but again he composes himself quickly.

“Apologies sir, I assure you Jessa was very willing to be a chosen mate to the Crown Prince. So upon seeing her in the company of the Crown Prince, I jumped to conclusions. I should have known our Crown Prince is the type of man who would come down to request a mate to join his pack personally” He practically purrs.

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Now it is not just Gerald who is losing his calm, Jessa and her fathers

too. And I still get it but I am not getting any closer to finding Ayla. This time I am still in control enough to not use my Alpha's voice. Still, the room goes silent when I shout

“Enough! Ayla Hemmings is my fated mate. Due to complications, she traveled ahead and I need to speak with her. I only came along with my Gemma Gerald and his mate as a courtesy to you.”

David the Alpha's son and Ayla's fated mate rolls his eyes. And ignoring all the disrespect to not only my friends but my amazing mate too is getting harder and harder by the second. Especially now that Alpha Phillip tries to pawn this Hannah girl off to me instead of Ayla. Stating she isn't as flakey and has a normal build. This is the moment David scoffs that only Ayla could think she was worthy of becoming the queen. He goes on to spout some nonsense that she is responsible for some poor omega's death. Because the MoonGoddess messed up, causing a perfect she-wolf like Hannah to be fated to an omega. Leaving Hannah with no choice but to reject him even if it caused him to die. The door flies open and the young man just running inside unknowingly saved David's life.

“Daniel Hemming, how dare you interrupt an official meeting” Alpha Phillip barks at the teenager who just stormed into the office!

In what is obviously a failed attempt to assert some dominance. All I can focus on though is his last name. He has the same last name as Ayla, now that I look at him his eyes are the same color. Jessa told me Ayla lives with her younger brother and parents now that her sister is recently mated.

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013 Griffin

288 Vouchers

"Hemming as in Ayla? I'm Griffin her fated mate did something happen?" I ask hoping I don't come off as angry with the panic rising.

"Yes, I heard you're her fated mate and" Before he can finish now that Luna is interrupting him.

Pushing formalities onto him, snapping at him that he needs to address me by my titles. Meanwhile, I don't give a rat's ass about what he calls me. He considers me Ayla's fated mate. I can't think of a better future than celebrating Christmas with this man because we are family. After quickly correcting the Luna, since family can refrain from titles. I ask Daniel if we could talk at his home. He just nods, obviously holding back from speaking to his Alpha and Luna. I haven't seen my beautiful mate angry before, but just the look on Daniel's face now shows me he is as much of a firecracker as Dillion says Ayla is.

Nobody speaks for the first five minutes, maybe it is a coincidence but I am starting to think not all wolves in this pack trust their Alpha. But just as we're out of earshot from the pack wolf. Daniel starts talking. He turns to me eyes burning with anger he asks me if I am about to reject her too. Stating he doesn't care for titles when his sister is concerned. Telling me he won't help me break her heart again.

"No it is the very opposite of that, I have begged the MoonGoddess to bless me with a second chance mate. So after finding out she has blessed me with someone as perfect as your sister. I would be insane to reject her" I tell him, the others immediately backing me up.

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013 Griffin

288 Vouchers

Including Jessa, whether it's my sincerity or the others vouching for me Daniel visibly relaxes. He holds out his hand for me to shake as he formally introduces himself. Then he starts to tell me he has received one text from Ayla saying she is coming home. Because I was her second chance mate but my parents did not accept her. Since then she has not returned her, and her phone has been shut off. He is training to be a lead warrior so one of his buddies told him I just walked into the Alpha's office. Then he admits he stormed into the office to give me a piece of his mind. I explained to him Ayla overheard a conversation and jumped to conclusions. Seeing as I flew here with my

beta and gemma to be, the Silvers in our royal jet he has no issues in believing my parents fully support me now.

Hopefully, his parents are as willing to hear me out and help me as he is. Because all I can think of now is the fact that my mate is possibly out there hurting because I messed it up. And when we enter the large cabin the Hemmings come home I find her mother sitting on the couch crying Her father's face is twisted with worry. I'm not even sure if they notice me but the words her mother utters chill me to the core. As she is repeating "It's my fault, it's my fault my baby got hurt" crying in her hands. Her mate hopelessly trying to comfort her despite his own worry tells her "We're too late because we didn't know if only she told us" over and over again. My legs are about to give away under me so I blindly sit- down on the chair someone offers me. So I asked her parents if there was any news on what had happened to her. Or where she is now. I prepare myself to hear the single worst thing any wolf can ever hear about their

mate.

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 239

014 Griffin

"Mom, Dad, Prince Griffin is here, Ayla's second chance mate. There is a misunderstanding he doesn't want to reject her. And his parents. support him" Daniel explains and luckily it causes her parents to finally sit up and look at me.

Not that I want them to out of respect but we need to be able to talk to them to find out what happened. I don't feel any pain so I've been telling myself she is okay. Even if we haven't mated yet. Even if she hasn't even accepted me, we've seen each other. We touched each other and felt the matebond. If something serious would happen to her. Hoping to reassure them a little bit that is what I tell her parents. Wanting to be honest I tell them all about how the ball went. The mistakes I made, the things she overheard that got pulled out of context because of the circumstances.

"I promise you, I want to be the best mate there is to your daughter. I want to give her everything she could ever wish for. And my parents fully support me I have a personal apology from my father for her in my suitcase." I end my story, hoping her parents are willing to give me a chance.

Her father lays his hand on my shoulder, telling me he trusts me. How it's not my fault his daughter is reacting as she is now. His wife gets up to make us all lunch saying we have a lot to talk about. I don't like the sound of that at all. But with nothing to do then to wait around, I looked around the house where my mate grew up. It's spacious and clean, her

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014 Griffin

288 iVouchers

parents clearly adore each other and their children. The walls are filled with framed pictures of them all. With family and friends. About half of the pictures are of BBQS in the backyard. I'm pretty sure the few scars I saw had nothing to do with her parents. Leaving me to wonder why they let it continue for as long as it did.

The answer to that question comes quicker than expected. It is Ayla's mother who starts explaining everything went downhill after David rejected her. Telling me how they used to be childhood best friends. How up until the day he found out she was his fated mate he had always defended her for her size. Ayla had stopped dressing and undressing in public. But she never told her family why, all they could do was guess. Since her physical appearance was the reason for her getting rejected, they all kinda suspected she was insecure. Hearing she was about to move to the WhiteOak pack because she wanted the escape all the misery here. And all the events that led to her parents finally agreeing and letting her go. I got livid with this so-called Alpha. I was about to tell strip him of his title and power him and his entire family. The reason Ayla had never told anyone except for her brother Daniel was that she wanted to avoid a war happening between the Blood Moon pack and the WhiteOak pack,

I chuckled humourlessly, this dumb bitch reject the most perfect mate a wolf could ever find. Because he was unable to see what a formidable Luna she would make. In response, she sacrificed both her happiness. and her health to protect to pack from going to war. Whilst the Blood Moon pack was small and seemed to always struggle with filling the needed positions in a pack. Meaning her new pack, her family's pack would win the war. Every war comes with victims on both sides. Ayla knew as much, she was aware that her leaving would cause the pack she

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014 Griffin

1288 Vouchers

grew up in to lose their pack doctor and lead warrior. This pack was not worthy of my amazing mate at all. I was not even sure I was worthy of her with how I had been behaving after finding out about her.

Unlike her packmembers though I would spend the rest of my life proving her I was worthy now. That is if we could find her, the only thing we had to go on now was that she wanted to move in with her Grandparents and that she wasn't critically hurt. She said in her letter she would never reject me because she knows the pain it causes. I believed her even before I met her family but hearing them tell about her only made me more secure in this belief. Not to mention that she needs to be face to face with me to reject me. All in all, we could be sure I would pick up if she was in danger or in great emotional distress. More than life had caused her to be in at this moment. After the weird text and the Hemmings finding out the Silvers had returned home without her. Jay Hemming had contacted his parents only to find out she hadn't arrived at their pack either.

The last they had heard from her was a message saying something good happened during the ball. But how it caused her to not know when she was coming back to the WhiteOak pack. Her grandparents were just happy for her. They knew meeting your mate if they lived in a different pack could cause some chaos deciding who to tell first and where to live. So when she didn't arrive at the time she was expected to they thought nothing of it. Those texts were sent yesterday evening minutes before she walked up to me to try and give me a chance. There is not a lot I can do now and with all the traveling it's gotten late. It would not be fair for my pilots to fly back home now. Still, I absolutely despise the idea of sleeping in the pack house close to that Alpha.

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014 Griffin

As if she reads my mind Ayla's mother speaks to me.

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"You can sleep here Griffin in her room, and no I am sure she wouldn't mind. Dillion and Stanley, you can just sleep in Kate's old room we've been meaning to turn it into a guestroom" She tells us smiling.

Gerald was already planning to stay the night with Jessa, which only left my pilots. Luckily the Silvers have a spare room and the room Jessa's brother used to sleep in. He still lives on the packground but has found a mate and lives in his own home with her and their kids now.

With that all settled I decided to take everyone out for dinner in the nearby town. I can hardly expect our hosts to cook for 6 extra adult wolves. We could always go to the pack house and have dinner there. Not only should it always be plenty to feed the whole

pack if needed. I had no doubt in my mind that Alpha Phillip would use every excuse possible to show me what an amazing host and Alpha he was.

And I couldn't sit there laughing and joking with the people who broke my mate. Because that was what all of this had told me. She wasn't just rejected. Her mate the person who would treasure you above all. Was someone she had trusted long before she knew they were mates. Jessa told me how Ayla always had a crush on David, so for a moment it felt as if all her dreams came true before being rejected in the most humiliating way possible. That would have been enough for most she-wolves to just break. Not my mate though, not my Ayla she was stronger than that. So she held her head high and kept doing what was best for the pack. Even when that pack never respected her, even when some of the members from that same pack hurt her.

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014 Griffin

288 Vouchers

Alpha Phillip had forced all unmated she-wolves to attend my ball. All of them except for Ayla, he had scoffed and mocked her for never being good enough for me. That is why she ran away. It was ingrained in her mind that she would never be good enough. It hurt knowing that the thing that broke her. The straw that broke the camel's back was thinking my father was shouting that she was not good enough for me. Suddenly I remembered I told my parents I would keep them posted. Ever since I landed I hadn't as much as shot them a text. They were no doubt worried about me. Excusing myself I walk outside to make a quick phone call before I get changed to go out to dinner.

"Is everything all right son, we got some disturbing news concerning your mate. I think you might need to sit down for this one" Father's words and his serious tone chilled me to the very core.

I had been leaning against the cabin's wall now I just slid down until I was sitting on the grass squeezing the phone to my ear. Anxious to hear what my father was about to tell me.

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 240

015 Griffin

"I didn't get around to checking my emails before you left the castle. The Alpha of the BloodMoon pack sent us an email, letting us know she is no longer a part of his pack.

Stating she chose to do so. Which means you're mate is about to become a rogue." Dad told me and I could tell he was worried.

I knew if she just came home, I could offer her to join my pack. I understand she wouldn't want to come and live in my pack as my mate just yet. We would find a solution to that problem. Also, this means she can live with her grandparents if she is not ready to come and live with the SilverMoon pack. She won't become a rogue and lose herself right away. But with no one knowing where she is, it is an extra cause for worry. To think that, that slimy piece of shit Alpha acted like he did. Trying to pawn off one of his other she-wolves to me. Knowing he made my mate homeless. He won't be an Alpha much longer if it was up to me I would just run into his office now and rip his throat out. If dad hadn't told me he was going to visit the pack as soon as everything with my mate got settled to appoint a new Alpha of the Blood Moon pack. I would have lived out that fantasy, I would have killed him without any

remorse.

Dad was right though handling this the political way was smarter. Not just for us but this way the pack would benefit from it too. As royals, we have a duty to uphold, a duty to protect our people. Killing this pack's Alpha would just mean his son was going to take over. Under his

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015 Griffin

288 Vouchers

command, the pack would probably be worse off. Besides, even as a prince, I wouldn't be able to just get away with killing another wolf. I would need to have a strong reason to do so. Hurting one's mate usually is deemed as a good enough reason but it would mean I needed to air out Ayla's business and I know she would never want that. After spending a few minutes trying to regain my composure I go back inside. I need to tell my future parents-in-law exactly what their Alpha has done.

"This does not change anything darling, we will stick to the plan. We just need to make sure we can reach out to Ayla in time" Jay tells his

mate.

At first, it confuses me but I soon find out that after the day they found out Ayla was being attacked and beaten to the point her body had trouble recovering. They formed a plan to make sure Ayla was able to find a way to go and live with her grandparents. The fact that my mate already had a backup plan so she wouldn't become a rogue was

comforting. I didn't even care about the fact that coming to my ball was merely a decoy. But I did worry that she still hadn't reached out to anyone. Her phone was still shut off and she never arrived at her Uncle's. pack.

Dad knew the Hemmings as I did not know her name until Jessa told me on the flight here, I never told him. Now Alpha Phillip's email had mentioned Ayla's full name. It made me happy to hear that Dad spoke very highly about both the WhiteOak pack and Ayla's direct family. In all honestly if it had not been for the worries about my mate now, I would have loved my time here. Sure I could never come back to this pack not without hurting the Alpha and his son. Still, I hoped that I

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015 Griffin

288 Vouchers

could get to know my mate's family a little better. All during dinner they kept staring at their phones. Probably hoping to get a message from their family to tell them Ayla was with them. That she arrived at the

WhiteOak pack, the atmosphere was tense even if we went outside of the background to eat.

In an attempt to lighten the mood a little bit, Tessie told us more about Ayla. What she liked, what she was like when she was just a little pup. By the time we were all walking back to the Hemming's home, we were all smiling and chatting. Up until I noticed a familiar silhouette standing in front of their front door. It seemed like Phillip and his family were deadset on setting me off. Like they wouldn't give it a break until I snapped at them. After his only weaseling and ass-kissing. With his son as a backup, it now was his mate, his Luna who was waiting for us. Instinctually I knew this wasn't about Ayla or not in the sense that the Luna of the pack had heard something disturbing she wanted to alert us

about.

"Crown Prince Griffin, could I please speak to you for a moment" She asked me in a sugary sweet tone.

Stepping away from the Hemming's porch to make it clear she intended. this to be a private conversation between the two of us. Sending his mate was the only smart thing I think Alpha Phillip has ever done it was far less likely for me to attack a she-wolf. That didn't mean I wanted to listen to her tell me what was wrong with my mate, how they knew of a better chosen mate than her. She was as stubborn as her mate. She refused

to walk away or walk inside so that we all could hear what she had to say. Jay was the one to tell me to just go and listen to what she

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015 Griffin

288 Vouchers

had to say. I still wasn't thrilled about the prospect but the events of the past two days had worn me out. And I would be sleeping in my mate's room. Meaning I would be surrounded by her scent. I would be able to learn more about her. See what she likes. The sooner the conversation.

with this so-called Luna was over the sooner I could retire to bed.

As I expected nothing good came from the conversation with Luna Jenna Birch. She had the audacity to suggest I would choose Hannah as my mate. Everyone in her family knew how much Hannah had hurt my mate. Just as they were all very aware that it was my mate she had hurt that badly. And that I wanted to be with my fated mate above all. I not longer had the energy to keep up appearances with this woman. I snarled at her, telling her I knew exactly what vile bitch she tried to pawn off to

inc.

"I know what she has done, what you let happen to your future queen. You and you're family are the reason I know have to prove that I am not like that bag of shit you call your son. By the MoonGoddess I promise you I will make you pay for all you have done to my mate. My family-in-law resides here. And as such I will be visiting this pack whenever I see fit. You are my subordinate so you have no say in the matter. As a matter of fact, you and your family will not speak a word to me when I am here" I tell her, my voice rough and hoarse from Conan taking part of our

control.

Finally, I stunned the bitch as she seems to be gasping for air or maybe for words. Before she says or does anything else I storm into the house. Slamming the door with such force that I rip it off its hinges.

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015 Griffin

“Fuck” I scream

1288 Vouchers

It all suddenly collapses on me. Having to make up for all the mistakes I made with Ayla, having to fight the traumas others inflicted on her. Just so she could see I am not like them would already be hard enough. Now I have the family of her first mate trying to make things more difficult. Causing me to lash out and damage her childhood home. This was something that could easily be fixed. That wasn't the issue, her parents would most likely be disappointed in me now. Ever since meeting them, I liked them. I would have loved for them and me to become friends, even if it wasn't for Ayla being so close to them.

“Son, I get that she got on your nerves, but Prince or not in this family we fix our own mistakes and you're family now. So let's go to get my tools from the garage and fix this door before we can go to bed” Jay said.

I would have agreed with everything for him to still tell me I am his family. But fixing the door with him. Talking like I would have done with my own Dad while working with my hands was soothing. Almost as soothing as finally getting to fall asleep surrounded by my mate's scent and belongings. I slept like a baby until Daniel shook me awake.

“Griffin it's Ayla” he whispered and the rest of his words got drowned out by the frantic beating of my heart and Conan's howling.

82.99%

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The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 241

016 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

It had been 24 hours before I finally decided to turn my phone back on. Just like I thought there would be. I had received about a hundred frantic texts and missed calls. They ranged between wanting to know what happened and pleading with me to talk to them. I just needed to put some distance between me and everything that had happened. By now Prince Griffin would have moved on. I clearly heard him say he would find a suitable Luna. All I did was make it easier on him.

I planned to move to my grandparents like I said I would, but instead of catching a flight, I would drive up there. I found a car lease company that had an office close to the WhiteOak pack. It would cost me three days instead of a two-and-a-half-hour flight but it was worth it. The last 24 hours had been a rollercoaster, and I just needed some time to myself. I hated that I could not stop thinking about Griffin. Even if it was just a lasting effect of the matebound. He had been kind to me in the few hours we spent together. And even if I knew we could never be together, I was curious to see if you could even find a second chance mate if you've been rejected before.

"Grandma, don't worry I am fine. I'll be home with you in two days. Can you ask Lina if we can meet up I have some questions" I texted my grandma who had been worried sick according to her texts.

There was no doubt she would tell my parents about the text, so this one text was enough to reassure everyone. Her answer was swift, telling me

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016 Ayla

288 Vouchers

to be safe. And that she would make sure Lina was available for a chat. Before going through the rest of my messages I decided to take a long hot shower in the motel room I planned to stay the night.

The shower had helped make me feel a whole lot better, now I was on my way to a nearby diner for a late dinner. Nobody had to know it was my second dinner of the night. I needed to be careful nobody picked up on what was weird behavior for humans in this human city. All this time. I avoided reading my text messages. For the sole reason of not wanting to find out how much I had hurt my family and friends by leaving them in the dark. Jessa had to go home and introduce her mate to the pack without me. Without her best friend after I had told her I would go home with her. She believed I would end up living in the same pack as her.

My parents and brother had already been nervous when I left. They had risked a lot to go against Alpha Phillip to help me. Only for me to first text them it wasn't needed and that I was coming home to discuss something with them. Mom started prying so I told her about Griffin. They must have been so happy for me but woke up to a text message. saying I wouldn't be coming home because he was about to reject me.

Two hours later I got back to my motel room I had spent enough time. avoiding my phone. I was planning on getting up early tomorrow so I could get enough miles in during my road trip. With a heavy heart, I read through all the text messages. Never did

I expect to find numerous texts from Daniel about my mate, and how amazing he was. How he traveled down to the Blood Moon pack to come and find me and

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016 Ayla

#288 Vouchers

apologize. Clearly, he had my entire family wrapped around his little finger. I wondered why he was doing that, when he promised his parents he would find a more suitable mate.

Suddenly I remembered something, a rumor that had spread around all the wolfpacks. About an Alpha that found his fated mate. But she was deemed unfit to be a Luna. The rumors differed about what made her so unfit. The end conclusion was all the same though. The Alpha mate got a chosen mate and he kept the poor fated mate too. She lived in the packhouse with them. Every morning and night he would spend some time with her. Mating, without completing the process, using protection so she could not bear his pups. She loved her mate so much that she kept agreeing to it. Growing weaker and weaker from heartbreak every day. She could feel every time her fated mate. Mated with his chosen Luna, she could hear them in the room next to her. In the end, it broke her, and she died, it was said she died when her mate was mating his chosen Luna. What if Prince Griffin wanted something similar from me? He had been adamant about not rejecting me. Still, he easily agreed with his parents to find a more suitable Luna.

I figured he was smart enough not to tell my family what he was planning. They would never agree with it and so they would never tell him anything about my whereabouts. Of course, as a Prince, he could force them but that would hurt his chances of me agreeing to this plan. Little did he know I would never agree to it. If he tried to force me I would have no other choice than to reject him. I still had a bunch of unread messages left, my family had sent me some more after I texted Grandma. No doubt since she told them I had my phone on again.

But I could not bring myself to read them. And I had trouble sleeping

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016 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

that night, I kept having nightmares about Griffin wanting me to be something like a royal consort. After a few hours of interrupted sleep, I decided to get out of bed and made my way to the motel breakfast buffet. It was

anything special and I felt a pang of sadness thinking about mom's breakfast. It was a Sunday today and every Sunday Mom would make mascarpone-filled croissants with fresh fruits, fresh juices, eggs and bacon, french toast, and waffles. As a kid, I loved sitting in the kitchen with her reading. She would hum along with the latest song while cooking up a storm.

The fact that Prince Griffin was not most likely enjoying that breakfast. When I didn't know when I was going to be able to have her breakfast. again. In an attempt to distract myself from everything that was going on, I decided to finally read my messages. A lot of them were either praising Prince Griffin, then some worried messages. Jessa had sent me some messages explaining in detail how both Gerald and Griffin tore Alpha Phillip and David a new one. Daniel had something similar about. the time when Luna Jenna had tried to talk to him. He sure was doing a great job in convincing my friends and family he was serious about me. All he was doing now was causing trouble when I had gone to all the abuse for two years just to make sure there wouldn't be a war between the WhiteOak and BloodMoon pack.

The thing that shocked me most, that scared me more than becoming Prince Griffin's royal consort was the last message dad had sent me. Telling me Alpha Phillip had cut my ties to the pack. How he had already alerted the king, meaning that if I didn't get to the WhiteOak pack and officially tied to the pack as one of its members I would become a rogue. And I would rather die, my grandparents had a lot of trouble with a pack of rogues. I planned to drive around for a few more days. Making

63.79%

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016 Ayla

288 Vouchers

enough stops on the drive. Prince Griffin had messed that all up for me by causing problems. So now I would have to hurry home to the WhiteOak pack. Because of a man who planned to treat me even worse than David had done. I could no longer stop the tears from flowing down my cheeks as I burst out sobbing in the motel's dinghy diningroom. Tears spilled down on my burned toast and cold fried egg Once again I was forced to change my life because the MoonGoddess kept messing up. I had completely lost my appetite so I made my way back to my room to back and go home. I wondered if I would be able to get there before the end of the day if I didn't take any breaks. I was

unsure how long it takes for a wolf to become a rogue after they have been banned from the pack they used to live in. Alpha Phillip had made sure I already lost some precious days. Realization set in that he was never going to tell me, he wanted me to become a rogue.

87.93%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 242

017 Griffin

"I truly hope things work out between the two of you. Don't give up on my sister okay? She is stubborn as hell and has been through a lot the last few years" Daniel told me as he helped me load my bag and some boxes into the plane.

Today I would be going home to the castle, after listening to her family and friends I would not wait for her at the WhiteOak pack. She had to deal with a lot of stuff right now. And while I wasn't about to admit defeat lying down. I was not going to make her feel uncomfortable. In two weeks' time, I would travel down to her to give her the boxes of books Jay and Tessie told me to pack, stating she would miss her books the most. Of course, I was happy to do something that should give her some comfort in the coming weeks.

Jessa was flying back with us, in the past two days she and Gerald had completed the mating process. And I hated feeling jealous of the beautiful intricate mark that decorated Gerald's collarbone now. Without thinking about it my fingers brushed my empty collarbone again. Like I had done so often for the past two days. With everything I had learned about Ayla even without actually talking to her, I was getting more and more impressed by her. Making it harder to think about the possibility of her rejecting me and settling with my chosen mate. Everything had left me a little nervous about going home and facing my parents again.

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017 Griffin

1288 (Vouchers

I had been worrying about nothing. The minute I set foot on packground, a servant came running up to me. Telling me my parents wanted to see me right away. My

stomach twisted in knots. I was willing and ready to fight them if all the trouble Ayla was in would cause them to come back on their decision to support me in trying to convince her to accept me as her mate. When I walked in they both sat behind Father's desk with wide smiles on their faces. Scaring me into thinking they were proud of hand-selecting a chosen mate for me.

"Sit down, son we just wanted to go over this whole business with your mate," Dad said.

The fact that he still referred to her as my mate was the first reassurance. And when they told me they were proud of me both for keeping my cool for as much as I did and because I was not willing to give up on what I believed in so easily. I felt myself slowly relax. Sure we needed to come up with a plan on what to communicate when the people of our pack would see I was traveling a lot more than I used to. We also needed to come up with a plan for how to deal with the BloodMoon situation.

"I have a plan for the latter matter, but one that I cannot execute without having spoken to my beautiful mate first," I told them.

Mom softly smiled at me as they agreed with me. I never thought about it but she was Luna, dad had been the Crown Prince just as I was. She

was he met her. So she could relate to Ayla. She knew

an omens when

what it was to think you were not good enough and then end up being the Luna of all Luna's. The next time I would see Ayla I would tell her that. Tell her my Dad would never take someone's physical appearance

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017 Griffin

1288 jVouchers

or rank into account. Since he himself mated an omega. For now, we agreed I would keep focussing on my work and my training to take over as a king. We would just say visits to other packs to strengthen our political connections were part of the training. Giving me an excuse to travel as lot as I had to. Even if I hoped it wouldn't be long before Ayla agreed to at least come and live on the SilverMoon packground. Preferably in my chambers with me, but I kept telling myself I should take it easy. And accept we would probably move slower than most mates did.

Today was the day when I finally got to see Ayla again. The day after I arrived home Jay had texted me Ayla was now officially accepted as a member of the WhiteOak pack. So there was no longer a threat of her becoming a rogue. Which had been wildly reassuring, as was working in my office surrounded by six boxes full of books. On some days, I had caught myself daydreaming about turning one of the walls, into custom-made bookshelves. Reading didn't really appeal to me that much. But if my mate loved it as much as she seemed to, if she had as many books as she had I would be honored to give up most of my room to store her books. Jessa had told me she had always wanted one of those huge. bookshelves with a rolling ladder attached to it. I had gone as far as to google some bookshelves, and I asked one of the pack's carpenters if making bookshelves like that would be doable. Acting like Jessa was the one who loved to read. Not only did he tell me it was very much doable. He seemed excited at the prospect of such a huge project. Mom had warned me not to go ahead with it just yet. It could give off the wrong idea to Ayla, and if she ended up not accepting me the bookshelves would be a constant reminder of what I lost. Deep down I knew she was.

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017 Griffin

1288 jVouchers

right but I couldn't help myself wanting to do something for my mate.

I was still mulling all of this over when Dillion and I were packing the boxes into the trunk of my SUV. I would not fly to the WhiteOak pack it was only a four-hour drive. Making flying there a bit excessive. It would draw more attention. And most of all it felt good to know my wonderful mate was close enough I could just drive up there. During the entire drive there my stomach was in knots and I kept over what I was going to tell her over and over again. But first I would need to speak with the WhiteOak's Alpha. Her Uncle Cedric Hemming, I told myself I would never go as bad as it did with her former Alpha, still it was a daunting thing to do.

I arrived at the pack and I immediately noticed this pack was far more lively. It bustled with life just like the BloodMoon pack had been. Now however I could hear laughter and kids playing. People stopping to chat with each other saying goodbye with hugs. The guards who watched the pack's entry had offered to walk me to the Alpha. It never felt like they were guarding me or keeping an eye out. In fact, you could see the pride radiate of the guard as he pointed out some of the shops telling me a little about it. About his pack, even the packhouse seemed to be warmer, more homely right away.

Alpha Cedric greeted me with a broad smile and a warm handshake. He was dressed in jeans and a knit sweater. Nothing too fancy and he didn't even seem to be bothered by it. He did mindlink someone, apologizing and explaining he asked his mate to come on over. Soon his mate and

63.44%

12:07

017 Griffin

288 Vouchers

son joined. Just like Alpha Cedric, they were dressed casually. Even the atmosphere was different with the three of them around.

"Let's go and talk in my office instead of standing here in the hallway," Alpha Cedric tells me before leading me to a spacious homely-decorated office.

"It's good to meet you again Crown Prince Griffin, it has been a while, and from what I understood things have changed a lot," Cedric tells me still smiling brightly as he sits down.

Things feel almost too good to be true, and then I realize Ayla isn't here. I get that I came over unexpectedly so she couldn't have been here waiting for me. But when he mindlinked his mate he could have, mindlink Ayla too. So there is an issue why he didn't call her over, or he did, and for whatever reason she had decided not to come to me regardless. Dread settled in as I focussed back on the wolves on the opposite side of the desk. He picked up on my worries and started to explain why we were all sitting in his office without Ayla. What he told me made me feel hopeless, it had me questioning if it was worth it to keep trying for this girl. The thing is now that I've met her I don't think I will be able to let her go that easily.

84.26%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 243

018 Ayla

"Ayla, sweetheart Griffin is here to see you" Uncle Cedric mindlinked

1. me.

I rolled my eyes before telling him I knew what he wanted and that I was not interested. Uncle Cedric knew better than to argue with me. A part of me felt bad that Crown Prince Griffin had traveled all the way here. for nothing. Especially after my talk with Lina. She told me that the only wolves who weren't eligible for the second chance mates were those who had hurt their first mate. Either by a rejection on shallow grounds, like me not being large enough to be a Luna. Or by physical hurt, or wolves that got rejected because their mate was left with no other option. Like a wolf who had cheated before the mating process was completed. Or a wolf that had murdered innocent wolves or humans. before. I didn't quite know what to feel about that. Sure it was nice to know the MoonGoddess really saw me as someone capable of being a Luna. Only she paired met with two mates who clearly disagreed with her. Being rejected for a second time after the physical trauma my body had been through in the past year would most likely be the end of me.

And I was far too headstrong, I had far too much self-worth to be the side piece. Even more to be the side piece of my fated mate, because hist parents deemed me unworthy. Not wanting to put Crown Prince Griffin through the same pain as I had my only option was to avoid him. Hoping that the matebound didn't have enough time to fully develop so with time, his being with someone else wouldn't hurt as much.

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12:08

018 Ayla

288 Vouchers

"Are you sure you don't want to at least hear him out, honey?" Grandpa asked me.

Just as I was about to answer him there was a knock on the door. The smell of cedarwood, cinnamon, and citrus reveals it is Crown Prince Griffin who is at the door. I want to ask my grandparents to lie and tell him I am not home. He would smell I was though, and I love my grandparents but they would meddle and tell him exactly where I am. Just as Uncle Cedric did. Very reluctantly I go to open the door, and the words "What are you doing here?" Die on my lips I can't see his face. He is hidden behind a pile of tree boxes he is carrying. That wouldn't bother me if wasn't for the words "Ayla's books" written in my mother's swirly handwriting on them.

"Hey Ayla, can I come in and set these down this is a little awkward" Griffin's words pull me back to the present.

Fuck, how can I be rude and refuse him entrance now? Taking the top box of the stack so he can see something. I nod and step aside so he can come in. He takes a deepbreath before he does. After placing the boxes on the floor next to the stairs he greets my grandpa and grandma. Telling them to just call him Griffin as he hopes they

will become his family. They both seem so pleased **with** this, he impressed them with his charms. To make matters worse Grandpa informed Griffin he could make himself at home here. As he and Grandma had an errand to run. Grinning from ear to ear. When I knew for a fact they didn't have any errands to run. He just wanted to give us some privacy, privacy I didn't

want.

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12:08

018 Ayla

208 Vouchers

"I have a friend who bakes the best cookies in the world, her red velvet cookies helped me win her grandma over. Ayla's favorites are Snickerdoodle cookies though" He whispered just loud enough for me to overhear.

Why was my entire family obsessed with me giving this man a chance?

The hind him and the tension between me ME OS

Prince was palpable.

Crown

"Before we continue, I have a letter here from my father, an apology about what you overheard. Please read it so you can decide if you want to talk to me after"

He makes his way to the kitchen in what I figure is his way of giving me privacy. I stare **at** the envelope in my hand. It has the royal seal stamped in the wax. Whatever the king wants to tell me with this letter. He wanted to be very sure I was aware it was an official letter. Sighing I; open the letter, it's not like you can ignore a royal letter addressed to

you.

"To my hopefully soon-to-be daughter-in-law,

I am incredibly sorry for what you overheard, first of I should have never shouted at my son. Especially not since I wanted him to rush to

announce the next Queen.

Believe you me his mother my wonderful mate chewed me out for it.

40.39%

12:08

018 Ayla

288 Vouchers

She once was an omega by the way It didn't matter to me from the very second I laid my eyes on her I was smitten and I would have moved heaven and earth to be with her. For that reason alone I would never tell my son his fated mate wasn't good enough. Not to mention the Hemming name is well known amongst wolves. I know of your human ancestor as I do about the bravery that led to her untimely demise.

As to what you overheard my dear son say. After being severely chewed out by my mate. And rightfully so I told him if in six months' time you would still not accept Grillin as your mate. He would have to find a chosen mate. He agreed because he couldn't wait to get ready to find you and see if he could introduce us.

I do hope you will accept my apology and not hold Griffin accountable for my actions. This letter is also a standing invitation to join my family for dinner. Not a fancy royal affair though. Just two parents getting to meet their new daughter, we Taylor men are quite the cooks I would have you know,

All best,

Roderick"

I had to read the letter twice, I wish it didn't but I felt a spark of hope. When I read the king brag about his and his son's cooking skills I finally noticed the scent of cinnamon had changed. It had been about twenty minutes since he walked into the kitchen. Just as I was about to call him he came walking into the living room. He had a bit of flour on his cheek, if I didn't know better I would have said he was baking cookies. But who

55.89%

12:08

018 Ayla

would do such a thing in the home of two wolves you just met?

"So have you read it?" He asked almost painfully shy.

288 Vouchers

I nodded unsure of what to say at this point. Until he tried to tell me his mom was an omega before she mated with his father. I stopped him pointing out that I already knew, and that I wanted to know why he was here

“To beg for another chance, I know you were about to give me one. So what can I do to make up for messing up so much?” He said, voice still unsure but he looked me straight in the eyes as he told me why he was here.

“How dare you come here to ask me for another chance when you have not respected my wishes one bit. At the ball, I tried to get away from you and you chased after me. Your father might accept any wolf as your mate but he still wants to rush me. So what I overheard would have put me off either way. Hence why I left you a letter I would not accept you as your mate. Asking you to leave me alone, so you traveled to the Blood Moon pack and now you came here? What can I do to make you leave me alone” I told him although at the end of my little speech, I was just screaming at him.

“I won’t give up on us Ayla, I still truly believe with everything I have the MoonGoddess blessed me with you as my mate. So I won’t stop trying to prove to you I can be the best mate you ever seen. Up until the very second you reject me.” He told me, his royal aura, his Alpha aura surrounding me.

75.35%

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018 Ayla

1288 (Vouchers

He was no longer insecure like he meant everything he told me with every fibre of his being. Sadly I meant everything I said too and I was not ready to accept him as my mate. His pushing has left me with only one option, and as much I would feel guilty, as much as I had wanted to avoid this. I knew what I had to do. So I started speaking again.

“Fine, if that’s what it takes here we go. I Ayla Hemmings, rankless of the WhiteOak pack hereby...”

94.09%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 244

019 Ayla

288 IVouchers

Then the beep of his voice interrupted me.

“Shit, I made you snickerdoodle cookies, they’re ready to go out of the oven now,” He said and I could hear the hurt in his voice.

He told me he would be back to finish me rejecting him. This led me to be a little shell-shocked but soon I figured he didn’t want to burn the house down. It was very kind, but because he never asked me and just started baking cookies without asking anything. Now a good batch of cookies would go to waste, a silent reminder of my second ruined matebound. Only it took him far too long to come back if he had just got the cookies out and turned the oven off. He was still in the kitchen I could sense him and when I peeked through the open door I was met with a sight I never expected to see.

There in the kitchen was the Crown Prince of all Werewolves in the United States, in my Grandma’s bright and frilly apron. Pushing the center of the cookies down with a spoon, royally sprinkling them with the cinnamon sugar after. All while he was furiously wiping his eyes. As I paid more attention to him, I noticed he was actually crying, no doubt about the upcoming rejection. Wanting to know why he was doing this I walked into the kitchen. I suspected he wanted to delay the inevitable, but that couldn’t be further from the truth. He heard me walk into the kitchen and he looked up at me. With his deep brown eyes still glistening with tears.

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019 Ayla

288 (Vouchers

“I’m sorry Ayla! I am sorry if this is weird. I am sorry I keep messing up. I am sorry that I got so excited to know my dream of finding a fated mate came through with someone as insanely beautiful as you that I made you uncomfortable. I just wanted to finish these cookies before you reject me. Do one sweet thing for you as your mate” He told me.

Poor guy, I wish he hadn’t pushed me this far, I wish I had met him before, I wish he was my first fated mate. That we’ve met when I still had the trust in matebounds that I had growing up. Things would have been so different between us then, now I was about

to reject a man giving him the same pain as I had experienced myself. Not saying anything about his apologies, I opened my mouth to reject him. But I couldn't the words seemed to be lodged in my throat. Looking around I saw my favorite cookies he had made me. The boxes of books he brought back to his home and then to me without a promise I would accept him as my mate. And I couldn't anymore I could not reject him and I could not keep telling myself he was just like David.

"Since you seem so eager to put timelines on our mating process, I will give you one chance," I told him.

Was

The only reply the spoon he was using clattering as it slipped from his hands and fell on the floor. He watched me intently, waiting for me to finish what I was telling him before he would answer me.

"The six months you and your parents agreed on, I'll give you those but I have been through the wringer and I want to take it slow. Slower than any wolf in the history of our kind have ever gone. I'm not accepting you

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019 Ayla

288 ;Vouchers

yet and I can't make any guarantees I ever will." I told him crossing my arms.

"Yes, of course, whatever you need, I just want to show you I am

nothing like him. I actually want to make you so happy. Can I take you out on dates, and come to see you? Can we exchange phone numbers? Anything really" He mumbled the last bit.

I couldn't stop myself from smiling, it was cute. And if I were to give him a chance, an honest chance I would have to spend time with him too. The first step would be to just talk with a cup of coffee and freshly made snickerdoodle cookies. After all, it would be a pity to let those go to waste. The first thing he told me was about Jessa, how she was settling in how she had yet to find an occupation. Until Gerald asked if she would just want to be a homemaker. Since they both wanted a lot of pups it made sense. I smiled

the Jessa I know would love to be just a stay-at-home mom. Taking care of her pups and mate.

Then we chatted a bit about his, baking turned out a pinch of cinnamon in the dough was his secret for Snickerdoodle cookies. Which happened to be his favorites. He was so excited about it that he couldn't be making it up just to please me. We never breached the big topics. I wasn't sure if I avoided them on purpose, to not upset again. Or if this was his way of talking it slow. Regardless of that it suited me, it was nice just chatting. with him and getting to know him better. How he was an introvert, and that after his parents spent thousands and thousands of dollars on mentors and tutors he still hated social interactions. He would prefer to go to his bedroom and play some games. Or just go to the woods on the packground so he could go for a run. Preferably alone or with his closest friends, I learned about his general plans for the future of our people.

39.52%

12:08

019 Ayla

288 Vouchers

An hour had gone by and we were still chatting, and above all I was still enjoying. Still, I couldn't help to look at the boxes filled with my books. I was dying to see which books Mom packed me. Three boxes would never be enough to carry them all.

"You know, we can get the other two boxes out of my car if you want to. And I'll even help you put them away?" Griffin offered.

And I wish I could take him up on it, I already got up to get the other two boxes out. It meant I probably had all of my books here now. I never expected them to be here this fast and that's why I hadn't bought bookshelves now. There was a bookshelf hack I had seen going around on social media. People turned cheaper IKEA bookshelves into these built-in floor-to-ceiling bookshelves that I adored. I wasn't great at building things, and I would start my new job on Monday. Sure I still had my parent's credit card but I wasn't going to use that on anything else but the bare necessities.

"What's the matter did I say something wrong? You can just say know if this is going too fast but I saw you eyeing up these boxes" Griffin asked awkwardly rubbing his neck with his hand.

"No that's not it," I confessed.

I went into more detail as to why I could not fully take him up on his offer. Secretly I loved the interest in what job I got in the pack. Never looking down on the fact that I chose to be a librarian. For me being

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12:08

019 Ayla

surrounded by books was the dream.

288 Vouchers

"I'll tell you what, we get the last two boxes out of my car. We'll clean the kitchen and then we will drive up to the IKEA and get some bookshelves. I'll pay for them as a gift to my mate. And if you decide you will not accept me at the end of the six months you can pay me back. okay? He asked me.

I tried to protest and tell him I could never accept this. But he wasn't having any of it.

"Please Ayla, how can I prove to you just how happy I can make you if you won't let me do the things I want to do for you? And before you say something along the lines of me not respecting your boundaries. That is why I said you can pay me back if it doesn't work out. I'll call my father now and have our lawyer draft up a contract" He said already getting his phone out of his pocket.

I couldn't imagine how embarrassing it would be if the king would have his finest lawyer draft up a silly contract. I didn't know what to think of this guy, but still despite rolling my eyes. I agreed to go to IKEA with him. I was sure to mindlink my grandparents, and boy were they happy. More so when Griffin told me to let them know to help themselves to some Snickerdoodles. If anyone had told me at the end of the afternoon I would be sitting in the Crown Prince's SUV to go get lunch and shop for bookshelves, I would have laughed in their faces but here I was. Hoping this didn't turn out to be a huge mistake.

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 245

020 Griffin

I didn't even know what I did, I wasn't even sure if she would accept the cookies as my last gift. When she opened her mouth I expected her to reject me before I could even finish the cookies. Not that she would give me a timeline to convince her. Sitting at her kitchen table chatting, and seeing her enjoying the cookies I made her was amazing. It was enough, but I noticed her eyes drifting to the boxes full of books every few seconds. And I realized I could do something to make her happen. More so when she told me she didn't have the means yet to buy herself bookshelves. On my way here I saw an IKEA and I was so happy she finally agreed.

As she was putting away some stuff I quickly mindlink Gerald offering him a month-long vacation. So that he can take Jessa on a mate-moon with the royal jet. If he gets Jessa to tell him what bookcases Ayla likes. he can let me know. Minutes later I get a few TikToks with a message stating that is what she wants. They're all the same IKEA bookcases and some small cabinets. Made to look like built-in bookcases with some crown molding and some additional wood. Gerald definitely deserved. his holiday. While driving to IKEA I can not hide the groovy smile from my face. Ayla seems happy too, maybe I can even get her to go out for dinner with me.

We arrive at the Ikea and I can't help hoping that the people looking at us see us as a couple. It's a stupid thing to hope but to me, this feels like a date. If only I could I would hold her hand, kiss her, and wrap my arms around her waist. But I know that would be too much, too soon. Instead,

0.00%

12:09

020 Griffin

288 Vouchers

I just walk next to her, she clearly enjoys just walking around looking at all the displays. Everything she picks up and smiles at before putting it down with a wistful sigh. I get it and put it in my cart. It takes her a little while to notice.

"Griffin what are you doing?" she hisses at me.

Dillion was right she is a firecracker and I love it. I would never want a meek and docile mate. We need to be equal partners like my parents are. Like my grandparents are and

it is the only way to be good rulers. You can't be equal partners if one does not have an opinion or doesn't dare to give it.

"It's the same as the bookcases, Ayla, just let me spoil you. Let me make you happy!" I carefully say, not to give anything away to all the humans surrounding us.

"You should be happy your boyfriend, is so loving Sweetheart. You can be independent, and still, let the man who loves you spoil

u every once in a while" An elderly woman who walks past us with her husband.

tells us.

I could kiss that woman, both for thinking I am Ayla's boyfriend. And for convincing my stubborn mate to accept my gifts. She smiles and nods, telling the woman I am trying to make up for making a huge mistake. The elderly man now tells me to be prepared to drain my account. I could never do so in the IKEA, but I won't tell him that. There is no need for me to brag, instead, I wrap my arm around her waist and

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020 Griffin

288 Vouchers

kiss her cheek. After telling the man she is worth it. Reveling in the fact that she didn't pull away. She just smells and tells the couple she will make me pay before we go our separate ways.

"You enjoyed that didn't you?" She asks me chuckling.

So I'm honest and agree I did. I enjoy everything about this outing. She does not stop looking at things, and I don't stop putting everything I think she might like or enjoy into my cart.

"Okay Big Spender, let me buy you a snack then. I am dying for some Swedish meatballs. If it was up to me I would buy her lunch too. With Ayla, I already know she wouldn't want that. And with me still wanting to buy her so much stuff. I cannot risk offending her or making her unhappy. I need to keep in mind that she is already putting so much trust in me. I went from being seconds away from being rejected. To being able to get her a bunch of gifts and buy her bookcases. That is enough for me to muster a genuine smile as place the cart in the waiting area and tell her to lead the way.

It feels oddly satisfying, to have my mate buy me food. It feels like she cares too. Or at least enjoy all of this enough to do something kind for me. During eating we're chatting again and it just feels good. We're already able to talk like we have known each other for years. Then it is time to finally get the bookcases. She seems surprised at the amount of bookcases I am getting. Or the fact I know exactly which ones to get. Same with the smaller cabinets. I don't want to ruin the surprise yet. On one hand, I wish I could tell her just to see her smile. Because even with the very few times I had seen it. I was already addicted to it. Still, I

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020 Griffin

figured surprising her would be even better.

288 Vouchers

And it was, all from the confused look on her face when I drove us to a

nearby hardware store, to the look of disbelief on her face when I asked her to pick out some crown molding and a can of paint. To her whispered?

"How did you figure out exactly what bookshelves I wanted"

To the genuine chuckle, shaking her head when I told her all about Gerald and Jessa's mate-moon. But the best of it all was how she jumped in my arms thanking me for everything when she realized what I was getting her. Sure she immediately stiffened, like jumping into my arms was a mistake. I could see the regret of letting her guard down so soon etched into her beautiful face as she took a shy step back. For me, it had been worth it though, for the obvious reason of how good it felt to have her in my arms. Of feeling the sparks of the matebond warming my heart body and soul. And for the hope it gave me. It had been only one afternoon and she had already warmed up to me.

At some point today it had looked utterly hopeless. To the point where she had already started to reject me. As happy as I was with the 13th chance. I knew it was a small one and she hadn't sounded very happy to give me said chance. So her opening up to me so much now made my day. This must have been the most money I have ever spent on anything other than I car or anything for our kingdom ever. It was simultaneously the best money I had ever spent.

When I was younger I hated it when Dad told me I should be able to

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288 Vouchers

cook and clean. And do woodwork and home improvement. As I pup I figured we had staff so to me they were unnecessary skills. Adding more workload to my already overflowing schedule. When I got back home I needed to thank him. Because at some point after carrying all the newly bought stuff inside her home, I noticed Ayla was about to mindlink someone just as we sat down with the coffee her Grandmother made us. Feeling brave, feeling sure of the day we just had I asked her if something was wrong. She told me there wasn't. the firecracker was

gone as she told me she was about to mindlink her Great Uncle Nicolas. He had almost promised her he would help build the bookcases. There was no way I would try and come between Ayla and any relative. Neither was I going to assume as she-wolf she would not be able to do some woodwork. All I considered was what a great opportunity this wast to spend more time with her.

"If he needs a hand. I can stay a little longer to help build the bookcases," I told her.

She was about to agree but stopped herself wondering if a Crown Prince like me could even build anything. I reassured her that I did telling her about the time her dad had me fix the door I ripped off its hinges. Which meant I had to tell her who had pissed me off that badly and how she did

1. it.

"Griffin, last chance are you sure she isn't a better fit for you?" She asked me in a pained voice. And I knew the only way to stop her from overthinking was telling her the truth.

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The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 246

021 Ayla

I didn't know if I regretted giving Griffin a chance or not. Not because we didn't have fun today. Or because he proved to not be worthy of that chance. No, it was the complete opposite. He was sweet funny and attentive. And when he put his arm around me at the

IKEA I could feel the matebond spark between us. Now he offered to help Great Uncle Nic and I to put the bookshelves together. He didn't even assume as a short she-wolf I would be unable to help. At first, I laughed when he told me how Dad had him fix the door he broke. But the fact that Luna Jenna was actively pushing Hannah on him made me think.

"Griffin, last chance are you sure she isn't a better fit for you?" I asked him scared he was going to reconsider.

Because if he kept being as good of a mate as he was now. 'It would still break my heart if he decided to leave me. I was aware of how hypocritical it was seeing as I hadn't decided if I would not leave him.

He took my hands in his and looked me deep in my eyes.

"I already resent the idea of having a chosen mate, so no as long as you are giving me a chance I will take it. And not waste it on any other she-wolf. That being sad when push comes to shove and you do not want me as your mate anymore. Forcing me to pick a chosen mate it will never ever be Hannah or anyone like her. Every Alpha is different as is every

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021 Ayla

288 Vouchers

Luna. What I need is an equal partner one that holds the same values. Ganging up on other wolves, going after someone's mate. And seeing lesser ranked wolves as lesser beings is all the complete opposite of my values" He pleads with me.

I can't help being drawn in by him, his aura, his scent, his eyes. So when he speaks to me again I can't do anything else to nod again. He is right I need to give him an honest chance and if he tells me he is interested in me. I either have to believe him or flat-out reject him. I see how happy it makes him and maybe that's why I forget to tell him I already mindlinked Uncle Nic who was happy to come over to help right away. Probably because he is excited to meet my mate. The moment I dropped that information, I could hear him getting dressed to go out.

My bedroom door bursts open, reminding me of his arrival and that I am too late to tell Griffin he will be here.

"Wow Ayla, your new mate is a step up from that slime David. This man really is a royal snack" Uncle Nic bursts out before wrapping me one of his bear hugs.

Only then he turns to a slightly embarrassed Griffin. I know Uncle Nic never meant to. But this serves as a test to me. I know his Beta had a male mate but Dillion seemed less flamboyant than Uncle Nic is. And not all straight guys can handle that. Griffin however is brightly smiling. after he was a little shocked for half a minute. Which makes sense as much as I love my Great Uncle he is a bit much. He still is despite being in his late sixties.

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021 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

“Hi, my name is Griffin it is nice to meet you. Especially after hearing you tell my breathtaking mate I am better looking than David” He introduces himself with a cheeky wink. The two laugh and immediately go over what we need to do to get the bookshelves set up. First things first we need to get the IKEA bookshelves and open cabinets together and line them up against the wall. Since three people working on the bookshelves in my fairly small room is a little overkill. So I decided to head out of the room and make them a few snacks. Getting them some. cold drinks.

Back in the kitchen, I realize I know nothing about Griffin. I don't know. what he wants to drink. Or what snacks he likes. It makes me nervous he has done so much for me and now I cannot return the favor. Grandpa. walks in and he sees the doubt written all over my face. The two of us have always been close. I could never hide anything from him, so I should tell him all about what is on my mind. And hope he can give me some solid advice.

“You know of the start between me and your Grandmother. At first, she did not know what mates were. What she was, so I fell for her faster and harder. That never mattered to me every little thing she did for me was amazing. It soothed my soul because it showed me that it wasn't hopeless” He told me.

Giving me some more practical advice on what to eat and what drinks to take up. He was right Griffin loves it his eyes light up as he sees me walking back into the room with some cookies, his cookies. Some chips, beers, and cokes. Telling me to just sit on my bed to guide them and be ready to jump in when I need to. He is not being as subtle about just wanting me close. But I decided to let this one go. I just sat on my bed.

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sorting the first box of books out so I could start putting them away as soon as the shelves were done. I kinda liked watching and hearing Griffin and Uncle Nic chat and joke about as they were setting up the bookshelves. My small room soon felt warm and Griffing was the first to take off his sweater. He was wearing a tight white shirt under it. I knew it wasn't fair of me to just oggle but I couldn't help it either.

Everyone who was attracted to men would say Griffin is a handsome man. I had to cope with the additional matebond. I don't think Griffin ever noticed. Uncle Nic did however he made it clear by shooting me at sassy wink before going back to setting up the bookshelves. I was surprised at how quickly they had managed to put together all the bought bookshelves and open cabinets. Uncle Nic suggested he would cut the panels of plywood in the arch shapes I wanted them to be. Griffin and I would place the crown molding and then we had to paint it all with primer. Grandma had made it very clear she did not want me to sleep in my bedroom when there were so many paint fumes hanging in the air. It was a shame as it meant I had to take the guest bedroom. Leaving no space for Griffing to sleep. He was welcome at the packhouse. It is where all the guests of the pack would sleep. Unless they were visiting a direct relative or a close friend. Or in the very rare case where mates would not be able or willing to complete the mating process. In cases like that the guest would just sleep with the wolves hosting him.

That would be us now and I knew Griffin would have loved to have breakfast here. Or just a coffee since I don't even know if he likes to eat in the morning. Maybe he is one of those guys who wants to go on a run first I had been thinking about it all while installing the crown molding. And when sanding down the IKEA cases. There was only one thing I

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288 Vouchers

could do about it. Even if I was sure not everyone was going to like it. After all, I had promised myself after being rejected for things that were completely out of my control, that I would no longer decide how to live my life. Because of the opinions of others and so I did. First pizza though, time had flown by with making the bookshelves. So we decided just to get something quick. Grandma loves cooking but cooking for the five of us when we hardly have the time to sit down for a good meal would be unfair. Griffin seems to fit right in with the family. Then again so did David, I wasn't the only one who hoped David would be my mate, So no matter how much it made me smile now it wasn't a guarantee for the future. Realizing that made me see just how much I had let my guard down in the past few hours just because he tried to win me over by spending a whole lot of money on me. What if he thought I was a gold digger now? Or that he could convince me to be his mate just by showering me with gifts. The idea alone was suffocating. I didn't know what to do, but I had to do something about it.

85.55%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 247

022 Griffin

Building the bookshelves with Ayla's great-uncle had been a lot of fun. He was a good guy reminding me of Dillion. That combined with the fact he very loudly told Ayla I was the better-looking one compared to David made me like him already. Because of the way he looked up and winked, I noticed Ayla couldn't keep her eyes off me the moment I took my shirt off because it was getting hot. It felt like this had been the right thing to do, she even brought us snacks. The best moment had been when Nic left the room though and Ayla and I worked together to place the crown molding. Now we were eating some pizza with her great-uncle and grandparents. Nic and Quinn kept teasing each other, and I missed having a large family like Ayla has. What I also missed was the chance to properly introduce my mate to my family. I just know that they would love her. Ayla never really introduced me as her mate she wou

would just say. My name, here he is, or something along those lines. Now dinner was almost over and I still didn't know where I stood. What would happen after this, Nic and I said we would give the bookshelves the first coat of paint before calling it a night. And I hated the idea of having to go back to the packhouse to sleep there.

"I'm sorry you have to go back to the packhouse son, but I can't have Ayla sleep in the paint fumes. I'm sure you get it. I cannot tell her to share the guest" Before Emmy could finish talking, Ayla interrupted her Grandmother asking her not to.

She wanted to talk to me in private so I agreed. Wondering if she was going to pull back again. Even in the few days we had spoken to each

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022 Griffin

288 Vouchers

other she already had done that enough to make me worry. Now I could feel how nervous she was, I wish I knew what was going on through her mind. All I should have been sensing throughout the matebound this first few weeks should be joy and love.

"First off, I just got so excited about the bookshelves and all the pretty little knickknacks and lights. But spending the day with you today is not about the fact you bought me a

shit ton of stuff. I mean it, I want to know if you even considered the possibility it was all about the money” She told me and I hated she doubted my intentions, or what I would think about hers.

It was still a step up from her just pulling back so I did all I could to reassure her. Telling her, I never thought about the monetary worth of what I bought her. I just wanted to make her happy, so I could prove being a good mate to her. How she didn’t ask for anything, that I remember that I almost had to beg her. With a legally binding contract, she would pay me back. I was still listing off all the reasons as to why I would never think such a thing about her when she smiled at me. Interrupting me.

“Good then you understand that doesn’t mean a lot, and there will be no funny business not even some innocent spooning. But if you want we can sleep in the guest room together it is a king bed so it wouldn’t be too cramped. I know you wanted more from this matebound than I am ready for. Sleeping next to your mate is supposed to give you the best sleep of your life so let’s. Let’s sleep together I mean sleeping in the same room without any expectations.” Her cheeks blushed a bright red and halfway through her little speech, she started to mumble.

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022 Griffin

She shouldn’t have, I would love nothing more than to just spend the night sleeping in the same room as her. An air mattress would be enough. There was just one little problem how on earth was I supposed to sleep next to her and not cuddle her? And she made it sound like she would have preferred me to not sleep next to her. Like it was a sacrifice she made as a thank you for all that I had got her. Finding your mate shouldn’t be this hard, this was the first time since I had found out about Ayla that I questioned if it all was really worth it.

If just picking a randomly chosen mate based on her looks and the little bit of background knowledge I had about her and her pack. Then I remember how she had looked in the sea of fit, tall, slender she-wolves at the ball. Who had all seemed so naturally at ease in their ballgowns. Most of which were designed to show a fair bit of skin. While being obvious about it. She had grabbed my attention even before I smelled her. Dillion loving her had spoken volumes. So when I looked up to find, the most breathtakingly beautiful she-wolf I had ever seen made me consider picking her if I did not find my second chance mate. When It found out only a second later she was my fated mate I had been elated. Now I was about to mess it all up by questioning if this was all worth it.. It was because it was Ayla and I already knew she was worth it all.

“Only if you are fully, one–hundred percent sure you would like me too. If you are just doing this for me. As some kind of thank you then I won‘ t” I told her holding her hands in mine.

Because A she seemed to like it very much and B it was an excuse for me to touch her.

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And I would take any excuse I could to do so. After we went back in Ayla told her grandparents that we would just sleep in the guest bedroom together if they wouldn‘t mind. Since they were just excited things were settled soon so the three of us made our way upstairs to give. the shelves a first coat of paint. When we finished Nic just drank one last beer with us. Eager to go home to see his mate, and I could not help but wonder if I would ever get to the point with Ayla. Would I ever be able to go home to her? Would she ever mindlink me out of the blue telling me she missed me? Just like Nic’s mate had done right before he went home. Hell as of now I didn’t even know when I was going to see her again after going back to the castle when the weekend was over. I pushed the idea to the back of my mind. Tomorrow I would talk to her, and see if we can come up with a solution where we still get to see each other on a regular basis. Without making it feel like too much for her. I was worried it might cause us to get into an argument. Or more likely for Ayla to feel insecure again so for tonight I just let it go. I was about to watch a movie in bed with my wonderful, beautiful, funny mate and then fall asleep in the same bed as her. There was nothing I was going to do.

to risk that.

When I woke up the next morning I was still on my side of the bed. Unsurprisingly, I had been feeling so anxious about making the wrong move that my body had felt a bit stiff. All the tension from not wanting to make the wrong move. Keeping myself from snuggling into her in my sleep had made my body feel sore. It was all worth it though because my beautiful Queen had not done what she said we would do. No, she was snuggled all up to me, her head on my chest and one arm around my waist. Her scent surrounding me was overwhelming, Conan was singing

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022 Griffin

288 Vouchers

in my head about our mate cuddling us. And I was just overjoyed. She did feel it too, she was drawn to me as much as I was drawn to her and it felt amazing. With my heart overflowing with happiness I bent down a little bit and kissed her on the top of her head, thumbs brushing over the collarbone I hoped would soon have my name carved into. Whispering sweet nothings in her ear. Only when I felt her body stiffen and he breath quickening I realized just how much I had messed up.

93.40%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 248

023 Ayla

I woke up feeling more refreshed than I ever had. Which was weird since I was not sleeping in my bed. It took me a while to realize why I had slept like a baby. And only because Griffin kissed my head. Telling me how happy he was I finally gave him a chance. But what got to me was him telling me he would never let me go. I tensed up because I wasn't sure if I should say something about it or not. It could be just the cute couply things people said. It could also very well be that as an Alpha as the Crown Prince. He was willing to go back on his promise to force me to accept him as my mate. I convinced myself he would never do that he has already made too much of an effort. He had to feel me stiffen, and so I awkwardly shifted back so I could face him instead of being cuddled up to him. I brushed the corners of my mouth to try and check I had not drooled on him. It would be the only thing that was worse than sleeping on him after telling him we couldn't even spoon. Sleeping on him and drooling on his chest.

His rockhard chest, because boy this man was muscular even for a werewolf. I should have said something when he came to bed dressed in just a pair of low-hanging pajama pants. But what was I going to say, I pride myself on being independent to the extent I actually want to build a life without a mate in it. Only to tell my mate he is so good-looking he needs to sleep fully dressed. So I can control my hormones? No, I wasn't about to. I dressed in a baggy shirt and a pair of sweatpants. It didn't make him reconsider his outfit to sleep in. Come to think of it, it didn't stop him from keeping his eyes on me all the time. Like he was drinking in the sight of me.

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“Are you okay. I am sorry if I went too far. It’s just waking up next to you made me so happy. Especially since I don’t really know when we will see each other again.” He apologized.

Shit. I never considered it because the day sorta got away from us. Of course, he came over to try and work things out between the two of us. And since I had decided to give him a chance he was bound to want to take the chance and try to see me as often as possible. As much as I was trying to convince myself I wasn’t feeling anything yet. But I was and I kinda did not want to leave our little bubble in my Grandparents bedroom.

“Maybe we should talk about it then, come up with a plan?” I suggested.

Again Griffin’s face split open in a wide grin. If this man was planning on being so charming every day. I was bound to give in long before the six months were over. That idea scared me to the very core of my being I couldn’t get rid of the feeling that something was wrong with me. That David and the others were right about the fact that I was not suitable to be a Luna Griffin was cute and all to say he wanted an equal partner. But he knew nothing about me. And no matter how you spun the story about me and David. Our paring had been a mistake, if not he wouldn’t have rejected me Maybe I needed to talk to Lina about this She had been so helpful about the second chance mate thing. I was sure she had more information about rejections too.

“Ayla, darling, did you hear what I said” Griffin’s voice snapped me back to reality.

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023 Ayla

288 Vouchers

A reality where I managed to make myself look like a fool in front of my mate. Who I might or might not accept. There was no way I could lie to him and answer a question he had asked me without knowing what the question was. Especially not with things being a bit rocky between us. As we both wanted fastly different things at this moment. I admitted to zoning out and luckily enough he just chuckled at me.

“I suggested we would only meet on the weekends. It’s a four–hour drive. I can probably manage to get the Fridays off early. But I totally understand that you might not be able to **with** your new job and all. Honestly, I wouldn’t mind being the one to drive up here all the time. Or most of the time but my parents are dying to meet you. They know about our situation so no pressure.” He told me

It was fair his family wanted to meet me too. My family had met him, or most of them had and they all love him. When he explained his younger cousin was about to turn 18 next Sunday. I knew what was coming and it did make me feel a bit pressured. It would mean I either go over there, meet his parents, and attend that party after. Or not see him for two weeks. Something I would be fine with but it would hurt him. It would also reflect poorly on him. And I had a solid excuse, so I tried not to worry about that too much.

"I would have come to you next weekend if I could. But I don't have a car and I have no means of flying there. Which poses a bit of a problem." I told him in all honesty, figuring he would be disappointed but

understanding.

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023 Ayla

288 Vouchers

Seeing him beam at me like I just made him the happiest wolf on earth. Thoroughly confused me. Because for a moment I forgot who he was. Everyone knew the royal family had a private plane. One they did not need very often, especially not when there was a party in their own pack. Griffin didn't say so but he promised he would make sure I would be there in time. After telling me he wouldn't be able to pick me up some of his staff members would. I figured out that was the only thing he could mean. With me telling him my lack of a means to get there was the only reason holding me back from being there. Suddenly I accepted an invitation to the castle. To a royal party, I might as well agree to see each other every weekend. Committing to giving him a chance to prove himself to me and all that.

There was nothing wrong with this conversation. It had been pleasant and lazy which I loved. Still the sudden realization of who he was, to the kind of life he led, and my place in it if his wish came through. It burst the bubble we were in, not wanting to end this weekend on a sour note. It feigned being hungry and eager to get started with painting. Being the sweetheart he was Griffin agreed and got dressed quickly. He was about to peck me on the cheek before slipping out so I could dress in private. Things like that happened a lot in the past 24 hours. Times when he was about to reach out to me. Only to stop himself. Leaving me to wonder how long he would be willing or able to keep restraining himself from touching his mate.

Even with all my doubts and insecurities, I felt it too. That need to reach out to him, to touch him. Just something simple like a hug or holding his hand for a bit would be enough. Unlike me, Griffin wasn't trying to fight the matebond. So for him, it would no doubt be worse. That need would be so much more intense for him. That was another thing I needed to

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push back to the back of my mind though. Trying not to stress out too much about everything I hurried to get dressed in just a pair of jeans and a knit sweater my grandmother had made me. To find out Griffin had been standing outside of the door all this time to walk to the kitchen with me. Hopefully, Jessa will be able to talk to me tonight when he is home. Hopefully, her being on a mate-moon wouldn't stop her from FaceTiming with me. Because I desperately needed someone to vent to and some advice on what to do. For now, I was just going to make the best of today. I would just consider him a friend today and treat him as such. After all Uncle Nic would be here too. And what could go wrong with two friends painting some bookshelves together all day?

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 249

024 Ayla

Painting the shelves was fine, we did just act like two friends. As long as you ignored the secret glances I shot Griffin every now and then. Judging from how his eyes burned holes in my back he was doing the same. But even Nicolas was kind enough not to mention it. The real issues started when the shelves had gotten their second coat of paint. They looked great and didn't need a third coat of paint. Nic stayed around and chatted for a bit. His mate Lucas came to pick him He

1. up. came in for a drink and chatted a bit with Griffin and me. Then we were all alone. There was no reason for me to be this nervous about being alone with my mate. Hell, it was something most mates would want. Including Griffin, to me, it was like all these conflicting feelings were put in a pressure cooker.

Still, I had told Griffin I was giving him an honest chance, and I was going to make good on my promise. Especially when he asked me what, my favorite spot in the pack was. Every time I talk about the Great White Oak tree in the center of the packground I get excited. This time was no different.

“It sounds like a beautiful place one that Conan would enjoy. Maybe our wolves can finally meet each other? Or well finally, not that I meant to say that you’re taking too long. I meant it when I said I was going to respect how slow you wanted to take it. It’s just tha...” Griffin stuttered and stumbled

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024 Ayla

Honestly, he was kinda cute when he did. I always thought girls were cute not men. But he was proving men could be cute too. Especially when I shut him up with a kiss on the cheek. Maybe it was mean he had to hold himself back and I just kissed him. But he could be the one kissing me back on my cheek too I wouldn’t mind that at all. Hopefully, he was just happy to see I was actually giving him a chance.

“I get it let us go to the forest we can shift there and then I’ll bring you to the oak. Willow is excited to meet Conan too.” I answered his unasked

question.

I came to find out I loved it when I did something simple for Griffing, only to be met with the biggest smile in return. During the walk to the forest, we just chatted still just getting to know each other. He loved Mexican food like I did, he took after his mother more. And he didn’t have siblings. An odd thing for wolves, usually we are big on huge families. It felt like there was a story there. If he didn’t tell me right away I was not going to pry. Griffin did not tell me anything about why he didn’t have siblings. Focussing on me again, asking me about Kate. He had heard that I was the one who brought Kate to her new pack. Having met Daniel he was curious about my other sibling. Before I knew it I blurted it out.

“Well in four weeks we will all go over to her mating ceremony. You can come along as my plus one if you want to” It just slipped out because it felt so good to just be here with Daniel.

Just the two of us, of course, Daniel immediately agreed to it. Arriving

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024 Ayla

288 Vouchers.

at the edge of the forest saved me from further embarrassment. I just hid when I undressed. Griffin looked pained. He probably thought I did not trust him enough to get undressed close to him. Little did he know I was still hiding the scars that finally started healing. When I stepped out from behind my hiding spot I saw Conan for the first time. Griffin's wolf

was not only beautiful he was huge too. I was a little scared to show

al

Willow to him, with her being a werewolf the lack of size was even more noticeable than when I was in my human form. Conan looked far from disgusted though. For the first time, I was a little disappointed that we could not mindlink. Determined to show Griffin I wasn't useless even when I was this small. I sprinted ahead and took off as fast as I could. Glancing over my shoulder every now and then I saw Griffin was getting behind more and more. Unless he was a sore loser this first time. seeing each other in our wolf forms was amazing.

By the time he caught up to me, he was panting and he just let himself fall to the damp grass. He then looked up at the Oak tree. Even without being able to talk, I could see just how much he admired it. White oaks aren't that common and this one was age-old. The very first Alpha of our pack saw the tree and took it as a sign from Selene the Moon Goddess. herself that this ground was suitable to house his pack. I wasn't sure if I still believed in blessings given by the Moon Goddess but I couldn't deny the fact that the White Oak pack had always thrived. We had overcome a lot and always remained one of the biggest healthiest packs in the states. For me, it was the Alpha's and the Luna's of the pack that kept us thriving. Maybe I was biased because it had all been my ancestors. It did make me be more critical of my own capability as a Luna. Only this time. sitting here looking up at the Oak Tree I did not feel that doubt. Laying her with him was just peaceful.

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024 Ayla

268 **VOUC**

Soon Griffin had rested enough and he was getting playful. Gently tugging on my tail with his teeth. Head butting me and softly smacking me with his paws. It made me smile internally because if he was being this playful now he couldn't be all too mad about me running so much faster. By the time we were heading back to the edge of the forest so that we could shift back. I was sad our time ended so soon. Griffin had to go back to, he

still had a four-hour drive ahead of him. This week apart. would do me a world of good. I knew he would just miss me. If I was being honest I would miss him too. But not being around him not being surrounded by his scent. Not having to fight this pull to touch him. Would at least provide me with a clear mind.

“Thank you for this weekend Ayla, I cannot wait to see you again next week. Feel free to text and call me anytime even if it is in the middle of the night okay.” Griffin said when it was time for our goodbyes.

Even though I wouldn't just call Griffin, and even texting would be sparse I promised him anyway. He said to feel free to text and call him and I would. There just wouldn't be a need to do so. I was going to be busy with my first day working at the library. Catching up with my family since I hadn't been a member of the White Oak Pack for long. His next question caught me off guard. Forcing me to really think about what I wanted.

“Can I kiss you or maybe hug you? What ever you feel comfortable with”

he asked.

Wolf was screaming at me that I had to kiss him, she was dying to touch her mate. Feel the matebond spark and warm our bodies. Deep down I

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wanted that too but I got in my own head. Wondering if it would be giving Griffin false hope. Doubting if I would be able to keep a clear mind if I opened up to him this much. Griffin's face fell again. Just how his smile would warm my heart. His sad downcast look and his frown tugged at it. A kiss was a bridge too far for me at least for now. I had to stick to some semblance of taking things slow. Friends hug friends. though. We couldn't deny that we were friends at the very least. Wrapping my arms around him I pulled him closer. He melted into the hug and there was something nice and comforting about him being so much bigger than I was. With him, it didn't make me feel crowded when his whole body encased me. With one last pack on my cheek, he got into

his SUV and drove off.

Ignoring the slight pang in my heart, the pain of seeing my mate leave. I took out my phone and texted Jessa. Let's just hope she has some time. for me after this afternoon's events I needed my best friend more than

ever.

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The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 250

025 Griffin

On the drive home I had been on cloud nine, this weekend had been perfect. She was willing to take it slow. And it wasn't even as slow as I figured it would be. Actually, it was okay we slept in the same bed. She kissed my cheek, hugged me and she even showed me her wolf. The thing I loved most though was that she promised me she would come to me next weekend. Not even putting up much of a fight when I told her I would make sure she was able to travel to me. For a second I had been scared that she was just using it as an excuse. Mindlinking while driving. was dangerous because it would make you lose your vision for a bit. As soon as I had to stop for gas I did mindlink my parents.

"Mom and Dad, I am coming home now, the weekend has been amazing. And the best thing is you'll get to meet her next weekend she is coming. to Krystel's party" I told them.

Their answer not only was quick it was excited too. Dad was clearly relieved that Ayla had accepted his apology. They told me to come to their lounge as soon as I was home.

"No need to rush though, Sweetheart, just drive safely okay" Mom added. through the mindlink making me smile.

This woman will never stop worrying about us. About her family, Dad and I loved her for it. No matter how often we would tell her to stop

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025 Griffin

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worrying. No matter how much we would act like it was bothering us because she had no need to worry for us. It always made us feel very loved. A plan formed in my mind as to how I could make Ayla feel just as loved hopefully. All while we couldn't mindlink yet and with being miles apart. First step was shooting her a text now letting her know I was still thinking about her.

“Just stopping for gas and if I was one of these clingy mates, I would be texting you to tell you that I miss you.” I text hoping she likes my joke, since we both know I would love to be the clingy mate.

Still after this weekend, I am less scared to scare her off. In order for her to fall for me the real me I need to be able to show the real me. A Crown Prince who rather spend his time in his personal chambers gaming than go to parties. She loves to read obviously there is no way getting new bookshelves would make someone this happy. Not unless books are their life. Building the bookshelves with her put an image of the future in my mind. I could see myself sitting on the couch gaming her feet in my lap as she was lying down reading her book. Every now and then I would just stroke her legs. My current couch was very sleek and modern and probably not the best for cuddling up on it. That was fine though I would just get another one. Maybe she would even be willing to go furniture shopping with me.

“You look like a man in love,” the Cashier told me.

She was right I hadn’t even noticed that it was my turn to pay. Ayla had texted me back teasing me. She had sent a second text right after thanking me for letting her friend go on a mate-moon.

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288 Vouchers

“I am actually we just spent the weekend together. She was just video. chatting with her friend. Still, she texted me I’m sorry for being a bit distracted” I apologized, feeling the need to gush about my wonderful

mate.

“Ohh you made an impression if she is this quick to gossip about you with her bestie” The girl behind the counter chuckled at me as she rang

me up.

Her comment made my night, I never realized it but she might have actually been talking about me with Jessa. Gerald was with her and I had to stop myself from calling him to ask what he knew. He was too far away to mindlink. I could only mindlink other members of the royal family from this distance. That’s why I still had a smartphone. And the only thing stopping me from texting or calling Gerald was knowing that Ayla wouldn’t want me to. Or so I thought I convinced myself I knew what she liked already. Now I just

wanted to go home and talk to my parents. I was sure that if they heard me gush about her. Seeing how happy I was after just spending a weekend together. Surely they would, be so happy that they decided to be patient with her. And they would look forward to meeting her so much next week.

The drive home seemed to be going faster than driving up to her was. Seventy-two hours ago I was driving up there, gut twisting with nerves. Six hours later I was standing in her kitchen about to get rejected. To think that a bunch of Snickerdoodle cookies saved the day. Thinking of

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025 Griffin

#288 Vouchers

it I should make sure I have a fresh batch ready when she arrives here Friday. I need to get her some toiletries too so that she doesn't have to bring a lot of baggage every time she will spent the weekend here. It would also be a small step to making my rooms feel less like a bachelor pad. It would feel more like I was about to have my mate move in. When I finished talking with my parents I would make a list of things to do and buy to prepare for her coming here. I also needed to get started on getting her a means of transportation to the castle. I parked the car and got out and marched over to my parents' living room.

In the wing of the castle where I grew up, we still tried to sit down and have at least one meal together as a family. There were always some royal events we had to attend. After turning 19 I got my own wing in the castle. With a bathroom, a living room with an open-plan kitchen, and a few empty rooms. They could be turned into private guestrooms or bedrooms for my pups. I never got the chance to ask Ayla if she wanted pups. Seeing her big loving family and how close she was with all of them. I was pretty sure she wanted a huge family for us too and it made me so happy. No matter how much she doubted it still, no matter how insecure she was. With everything she said and did, with every little piece of information I found out about her I was sure the MoonGoddess had blessed me with the perfect mate.

"Have a seat son tell us how was it, did you give her my letter?" Dad bombarded me with questions as soon as I entered the room.

Mom was a lot more chill she handed me a cup of coffee and a slice of pound cake. I shot her a grateful smile. Not that Dad's questions bothered me. On the contrary, I was more than happy to tell them all

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025 Griffin

288 Vouchers

about my weekend. The only thing I did not tell them was about to get rejected. Partly because I was ashamed I had messed up so much she was willing to. Partly because my parents loved me too much. They would blame Ayla for wanting to reject me. My parents thinking badly about her was the last thing I wanted before they got to meet her. Or ever for that matter, but I was so sure that after they've met her once they would be charmed by her too.

Finally, it was Friday the day I would be seeing Ayla again. I was up at six am to make sure everything was in order for my chauffeurs to make sure she could come to the castle. I finished most of the things I had on my to-do list. Mom had been more than willing to go shopping with me and Krystal to get some of the things Ayla would need when staying over. In moments like these, I missed having a sister. I would endlessly bug her, and ask her tips about what to do to make sure Ayla's stay here) would be perfect. Mom was trying to but she was a bit older than Ayla which is why I ended up asking my cousin whose birthday it was this weekend. Hours later my phone buzzed, and even if I was in an important meeting. The time suggested Ayla had just gotten her gift so I couldn't help sneaking a look at the text. Sure it was my beautiful mate but what she texted me wiped the smile right off my face.

"How could you Griffin, I have half a mind to not come and visit your this weekend"

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