

Chapter 11

Chapter 11

Third Person

After what occurred in the dungeons, Eddie stormed into his mate. The one thing he never wanted in his life. A mate. Mates were nothing but a weakness, in his opinion. He refused to be weak. Though he could understand the appeal of having one, he didn't want one, not after witnessing what the loss of his mother did to his father. The mate bond was a sick joke to Eddie. The Elders, unfortunately, believed in Alphas maintaining their purity until they found their fated mates. It was something they wanted all Alphas around the region to emulate after learning the King of Werewolves maintained abstinence until he met the Queen. The same was also said about the Crown Prince. Yes—Eddie was a twenty-year-old virgin.

His plan upon his return to the pack was to relax, get reacquainted with pack members, unwind, eat, drink, and fuck as many single females as he could; that was of age, of course. However, the sudden appearance of his mate, who also appeared to be wolfless, destroyed every bit of his homecoming plans. Eddie still had it in him to do all of the aforementioned items on his agenda, but Durango was practically barking at him not to bed anyone other than his mate.

Durango was hellbent on maintaining their purity for Kalea when she was ready. Unfortunately, the biggest issue Eddie had with that idea was that he didn't want anything to do with her. Eddie refused to succumb to the mate bond, especially with someone who didn't have a wolf.

Do NOT reject her! She's not what you think!

Durg, you're not making any sense! She doesn't have a wolf! You saw the injury on her head! She's not healing!

Her wolf just hasn't shown herself yet. But I can feel her inside of her human. She's not an ordinary wolf. And if you reject her, not only will you be losing the best gift our mother goddess has bestowed upon us, but you will also lose me!

Are you threatening me, mutt!?

No. You know what the loss of one's destined mate can do better than anyone. It doesn't just have to be in death. But rejection can be just as painful as death, if not worse.

Eddie couldn't fathom what Durango was telling him. They had trained for years to be the strongest Alpha to the strongest pack in the region, and yet, here was Durango, disregarding all they had trained for, all because of a wolfless bitch who had nothing to offer. Eddie rubbed his face furiously as he grumbled in utter dissatisfaction. Why did this have to happen now?

"Hey, you alright?" Eddie heard someone. He looked up to see Kurt staring at him blankly.

"What do you think?"

"I mean, dude, you practically tried to kill Stevie and Hanson after you got a look at the girl's face. I know they're assholes for what they did, but your reaction was on another level. You weren't just angry; it was, how you say, protective?" Kurt raised an eyebrow at Eddie, who hated how perceptive Kurt was.

"I don't know what you're talking about. I was pissed off because she's obviously not a rogue. And rather than follow our laws and do the proper due diligence, they strangled her, bashed her head in, and left her completely malnourished and dehydrated for days on end!" Eddie replied sternly and slammed his fist on the desk. Kurt couldn't deny that what Stevie and Hanson did to Kalea was beyond inhumane. Durango was foaming at the mouth and was after blood after seeing what they had done to Kalea. Eddie found it difficult to control his wolf, which was why he had to leave the dungeons.

"Don't feign innocence with me, man. You're a shitty liar, and we both know it. That girl. She's your mate, isn't she?"

"No," Eddie quickly answered.

"Oh, okay. So then, do I have your permission to get her medical aid and then woo her sweet little pussy into my bed when she's better?" Durango took over without even a warning and rammed Kurt into the wall, leaving a gaping hole in the shape of Kurt's body behind him. "Why are you so mad? If she's not your mate, you shouldn't care who I try to fuck, right?"

"KEEP YOUR FILTHY MANGY PAWS AWAY FROM MY LUNA!!!" Durango snarled at Kurt. If Eddie could mentally kick Durango's nuts, he totally would. But then, that would be considered animal cruelty. Kurt smirked and gave him a knowing look. Eddie took control back from Durango and shook his head a few times to get rid of the vertigo the sudden takeover had given him. Kurt shrugged off the attack.

"Dude, it's really fucking obvious that Durango wants her. He's already claimed her. But you? Why are you denying your mate bond?" Just as Eddie opened his mouth to answer him, he was cut off with, "And don't tell me it's because you think having a mate weakens a man." Eddie's lips were in disparagement when he had nothing else to counter with.

"Seriously? That's what you think about the mate bond?"

"Look what it did to my dad after my mom died!" Eddie snapped.

"Your father died from the loss of his mate because that's how much he loved her, you fucking doofus. She made him the strongest Alpha in the region because she was made for him and only him. Your dad chose to leave to be with her in the afterlife because that's how much he couldn't stand to be without her. That didn't make him weak. You know as well as I do that if your mom were here, she'd smack you upside the head for thinking that way."

"Are you telling me that you would accept a rogue as your Luna, even after what happened to this pack all those years ago?" Eddie hit him.

"I thought you said she wasn't a rogue," he countered, silencing Eddie in the process. "Look, man, you're my boy. My brother. I'll always have your back, but not when it comes to something like this. The Goddess has given you a precious gift that many of us are still hoping to find one day. And to be quite frank, the Goddess doesn't take rejections lightly."

"What do you mean?"

"Rumor has it the Silver Moon pack was attacked for no reason. They had zero time to prepare. More than half of their pack perished in the attack—the majority of their ranked members and elders. More Omegas than anything else survived the attack. According to the rumor mill, people think the goddess punished them."

"For what?"

"Their young Alpha supposedly had rejected his fated mate and took a chosen one but lied about it."

"Oh, come on, you don't seriously believe that, do you?" Eddie questioned.

"I don't know what to believe, but I do know I wouldn't want to test that theory either." Eddie rolled his eyes. He felt that Kurt was being overly dramatic. "If you want to test the goddess' wrath by rejecting your fated mate, then that's on you."

"What the fuck, Kurt. Are you telling me you're going to abandon me because of her?"

"Yes."

"Dude!"

"Don't, dude, me, Eddie. The Beta's job is to protect the rightful Luna, and it just so happens she's in the dungeon right now. Even if you don't want to accept her as your mate, it doesn't mean I won't accept her as my Luna. So, with that being said, I'm going to go down there and make sure she gets medical attention."

"She's still a prisoner!"

"Be that as it may, she deserves medical aid. If you're right, and she doesn't have a wolf, she's going to need more than just a bandage to help her heal." Kurt didn't allow Eddie to respond before leaving. Eddie had only been home for a few hours, and she was already going in a downward spiral.

He's right, you know? Durango said.

Right about what?

Mother punishes those who reject their fated mates, especially for selfish reasons.

My wanting to protect this pack from unseen dangers is not me being selfish, Durg.

No, but you using the stupid excuse that mates make a man weak is. Do you recollect ever seeing anyone vulnerable who had accepted their fated mate? I'll leave you to think about that.

Durango retreated to the back of Eddie's mind, but not before flashing an image of their mate in the dungeon with the massive bloody laceration on her head. Eddie couldn't help but cringe. Deep down, Eddie knew Kurt was right. She needed medical attention, but that didn't mean he would give her any of his. Or so he claimed.

After closing the door behind him, Kurt couldn't help but shake his head at Eddie's naivety and ignorance. Kurt was one of the many who would do anything to please the Moon Goddess if it meant he could be blessed with his mate. Kurt had begun to think that his mate wasn't even alive. It wasn't uncommon not to have at their age. There were primary reasons as to why— Their fated mate was still underage, they had yet to meet, or one was dead, or they took someone else as their chosen mate, therefore effectively breaking the bond. It happened more often than not, and the fact that Eddie had found his fated mate but was contemplating rejection over something so juvenile and shallow irked Kurt.

Kurt arrived at the dungeon and saw that the guards had been replaced with friendlier faces.

"Beta," they both greeted him.

"I'm sure you heard what happened to Stevie and Hanson?"

"Yes, sir," they replied.

"That means you two understand this girl is not to be harmed any further, yes?"

"Yes, sir."

"Good. Let me in." They opened the door to her cell. Her heartbeat was there, but it was faint. Kurt prayed that Kalea wasn't dying. He could ascertain by her scent that she was indeed a werewolf, but she seemed to be over eighteen, and yet, her wolf hadn't emerged. It was strange, to say the least, but it wasn't as far-fetched as Eddie made it seem. Kurt had heard that werewolves in other parts of the world shifted at different ages, some as late as twenty-one, so he wondered if that was the case for Kalea.

Kurt gingerly moved her hair from the open wound and got a good look at just how severe it was. "Those fucking psychos," Kurt growled under his breath. He mindlinked the pack doctor to come to the dungeons. A few minutes later, she arrived.

"Beta, you asked for me?"

"Hey, Dr. Robbys," Kurt greeted her. "Can you check this girl out? She was found in town by some of the guys, and they did a number on her, thinking she was a rogue."

"Oh dear. Those hooligans are always thinking with their fists," she grumbled. She bent down to check the girl, but what he heard next had his blood boiling. "This wound is terribly infected. We can't treat her here. She needs to be taken to the hospital now!" Kurt didn't hesitate to pick up Kalea and run toward the pack hospital with Dr. Robbys hot on his tail.

"Tell the Alpha!" Kurt shouted at the guard and didn't wait for their reply. When he got to the hospital, he placed her on a bed. As soon as he did, Dr. Robbys shooed him away so she could work. Several nurses ran past him as he exited the hospital room. The door was slammed shut, and he knew it would be a while before he got any news. Kurt turned around to get Eddie and update him but saw that Eddie was already coming into the hospital when he turned around.

"Why did you bring her here!?" Eddie snarled.

"Because her wound was so infected that Dr. Robbys demanded she be brought to the hospital for treatment."

"I'm the Alpha of this pack! You don't do anything without asking me first! I said she could have treatment, but I never said she could leave the dungeon!"

"Get off your fucking high horse, Ed! You want to go in there and tell Dr. Robbys what to do, be my guest!" Kurt moved out of the way of the door. Eddie walked past him and opened the door, and the first thing Kurt heard was the good doctor screaming at Eddie to get out before he could even say a single word.

"GET OUT, ALPHA! I NEED THIS ROOM AS STERILE AS POSSIBLE! OUT! OUT RIGHT NOW! GET OUT!" Kurt happily watched as Eddie was literally pushed out of the room by Dr. Robbys, who looked like she would murder anyone who went into that room unannounced. She slammed the door in his face and heard the lock click. Kurt didn't say anything as Eddie turned to face him. Kurt was tempted to shove an "I told you so" in his face, but the door suddenly burst open, and the hospital bed was being pushed out at the speed of light. Dr. Robbys couldn't care less that she hit Eddie with the bed to get him out of the way. She looked frantic, and that wasn't good.

"Dr. Robbys, what's wrong?" Kurt asked as he followed them. He saw that they were heading toward the surgical wing.

"She needs surgery to repair the damage, Beta. I won't know the extent of the damage until I get in there." She pushed through the double doors with her team following. Kurt wanted to go with them but was stopped by a nurse who told him to wait and wait. He sighed, not knowing what to do. Kurt turned around, thinking Eddie would be right there, but he wasn't.

"Ed? Eddie?" He was nowhere in sight. "Where the fuck did he go?"