

Chapter 12

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Third Person

Eddie ran away from the hospital after seeing Kalea being pushed into surgery so suddenly. Durango was thirsty for blood—specifically, Stevie and Hanson's blood. Eddie attempted to reel Durango back from making a huge mistake. The last thing Eddie wanted was for the pack to know that Kalea was his mate.

Durango, you need to calm down. No matter what Stevie and Hanson did, they're still pack members.

They shouldn't be! The Elders did not consult us before they made him our Gamma. He hurt, mate!

Stop growling in my head, Durg. You're giving me a headache!

Suck it up! P'ssy!

Eddie couldn't believe that Durango cursed him out and then cut off the link just like that. Their usually perfect dynamic was off. Eddie knew why, too. He and Durango were at odds over Kalea and Eddie's reluctance to accept her. While Eddie was trying to calm Durango down, Kurt remained in the hospital, waiting for Kalea to come out of surgery.

It took a few hours, but eventually, the double doors opened, and Dr. Robbys exited while taking off her surgical mask.

"Dr. Robbys, how is she?"

"The surgery went well. I was able to remove all of the infected tissue, cleaned out the wound, and stitched it up. She's stable and should make a full recovery," Dr. Robbys replied as she wiped her forehead.

"That's good. I'm glad."

"Beta, the young girl? She wouldn't by chance happen to be your—"

"No, she's not. Sadly. I wish she were. She's pretty from what I can tell," Kurt answered somberly.

"I see. Well, as I said, she's stable now. The nurses will wheel her back to her room shortly. She needs her rest. I suggest you come back tomorrow. She won't be waking up anytime soon," Dr. Robbys stated, and Kurt nodded. He waited until he saw Kalea being wheeled back to her room. Once he was sure she was safe, he stomped back to the packhouse.

Eddie ran rampant through the packhouse. He was on a mission, and no one was going to stop him. When he found his target, it didn't matter who was around to bear witness. Kurt marched up to Stevie and Hanson, grabbed each of them by the throat, and slammed them against the nearest wall. Hanson's eyes widened in sheer fear when he saw that it was Kurt, and Stevie became hostile.

"Beta?" Hanson cried out.

"What the f'ck!?" Stevie croaked while attempting to loosen Kurt's death grip.

"You two should be banished for what you did!" Kurt snarled.

"What are you talking about!?" Stevie struggled.

"That girl you almost killed! She just had to have emergency surgery because of what you two motherf'ckers did!" Hearing this, Hanson had a look of remorse since he was the one who slammed Kalea's head against the wall at the diner, but Stevie didn't seem to show any feelings whatsoever.

"She's a rogue. Who cares if she dies?" Stevie asked. His question had Kurt's blood boiling. He dropped Hanson where he stood, but Kurt threw Stevie across the room. Stevie jumped to his feet, completely unscathed, and growled at Kurt, signifying a challenge.

"You're actually challenging me!?" Kurt snarled in his Beta tone. Being one of the strongest members in the pack, aside from Eddie, Kurt had more than enough power to take down Stevie without even so much as batting an eyelash.

"You attacked me unprovoked! I have every right to defend myself!" Stevie claimed.

"You attacked an innocent and starved her to the brink of death! That's a punishable offense!" Kurt countered.

"Rogues aren't innocent!"

"She's not a rogue! She's an innocent who you almost killed because you're on a f'cking power trip! You're not even supposed to be the Gamma of this pack! Jared is!"

"The Elders chose me! There's nothing you can do about it! Why are you so obsessed with that rogue anyway? She's not your mate, is she?" Stevie asked with mockery as he eyed several pack members who were his lackeys. Some started to snicker while someone looked at Kurt questionably.

"What if she is?" Kurt asked in return, silencing the packhouse. Stevie furrowed his brows.

"You know that you attacking the future Beta female of this pack is punishable by banishment, even death, right? After all, you are the Gamma. Your job is to know all of the laws and implement them."

"You're full of it. She's not your mate," Stevie said with nite.

"You're right. She's not. But she is someone's mate, and you nearly killed her because you were afraid of her being a rogue."

"I'm not afraid of stupid b'tch rogue!" Stevie snarled.

"Then why attack her unprovoked? She was passing through the town, wasn't she? You even brought her back here without my or the Elder's permission. If she's a rogue, she should have been taken out of town and let go. She didn't attack anyone. The Sheriff even told me he watched her get off the bus and ask to know where she could get some food. Nothing more."

"What's your f'cking point, Kurt!?"

"My point is that you and your brother attacking her was unlawful! Starving her was unlawful! Bringing her here was unlawful! Everything you've done is unlawful, and by right, Eddie could have your title revoked!"

"The Elders appointed me! Only they can revoke my Gamma status!"

"You need to brush up on your pack laws." Everyone's heads snapped to the familiar voice. There stood Eddie.

"Alpha," everyone bowed. "I could care less that the Elder's appointment you as the Gamma. Once you enter this pack, you remaining in your position is contingent on your ability to do the job well and ability to obey all of our laws, which you haven't really done from what I've been able to see in just a single day."

"Rogues are a nuisance! I was only protecting the pack!"

"No, you were asserting dominance over a single female who couldn't even protect herself. You tried to force her to shift even though she told you she couldn't," Eddie retorted.

"What werewolf can't shift!?"

"Gee, I don't know. A woless one?" Kurt replied and looked at Eddie while pointing at Stevie as if he was the dumbest person he's ever met.

"How is a werewolf woless?" Stevie questioned.

"Did the Elders train you at all? Or did they throw you into a position without even thinking?" Eddie questioned as he crossed his arms. "There are plenty of our kind who don't have their wolf counterpart for various reasons. Some werewolves don't gain their werewolf counterpart until they're older. Not all werewolves in the world get their wolf at eighteen."

"That's as rare as a white wolf!" Stevie bellowed. "I doubt that raggedy Ann is anything special. Her being woless only means she's a bigger threat and liability. Might as well have killed her," Stevie said while rolling his eyes.

"We'll see what the Elders have to say about your closedmindedness, Stevie. This pack has always been forgiving. We don't blindly accuse, and we sure as hell don't just kill someone because we nd them to be a threat or a liability," Kurt stated.

"You see, that right there," Stevie said pointedly. "That's why this pack is so weak. That's why the previous Alpha was killed. That's why—" A massive roar cut off Stevie's words, and him being grabbed by the throat once again. Only this time, it was Eddie who held him.

"Mention my father again! I dare you!" Eddie snarled in Stevie's face. Stevie could feel Eddie crushing his hyoid. Any harder and Eddie would kill Stevie.

"Eddie, stop," Kurt said calmly and placed a hand on his shoulder. Durango was on the surface, and he growled at Kurt to back off. "Buddy, don't. He's not worth it. Don't let him get under your skin. Your father wouldn't want this." Durango's eyes softened, and Eddie regained control. He dropped Stevie, who had just about turned blue.

"I'm reporting both of you, the Elders!" Stevie coughed. "You both attacked me without cause!"

"I'd like to see you try and make a claim against either of us," Kurt spat. "You forget, Eddie was raised by the Elders to take over this pack after his father died. I've been acting Alpha in Eddie's absence. You're newly appointed, and you've already caused irreparable damage to your reputation. If anyone should be reported, it's you," Kurt sneered.

"All of this over some rogue chick?" A pack member asked.

"Yeah, why are they ghting over some rogue? It's not like she's important," someone else said.

"I know, right? The Beta even said she's not his mate," another stated, which caught Eddie's attention. He was surprised that anyone would think Kalea was Kurt's mate. Deep down, Durango was jealous that pack members even had those thoughts. Eddie was annoyed because he had spent the last several hours trying to keep Durango at bay when it came to their mate, but pack members talking about her riled him up again. Especially mentioning the idea she was someone else's mate.

Eddie lost his composure for a moment but was able to play it off. No one noticed the slight change except for Kurt. He could tell that pack members mentioning Kalea got to Eddie.

"Regardless of who she is, the fact of the matter is that your Gamma Stevie had no authority to harm her, let alone mistreat her. His actions were unjust, and he did not have the green light to make such decisions from me, your acting Alpha at the time, nor the Elders," Kurt said, quickly taking control of the situation.

"With these facts in mind, I, Alpha Edward Branson, hereby place you, Gamma Estevan, on probation until I speak with the Elders about your actions."

"YOU CANT DO THAT!" Stevie hollered in anger.

"As the Alpha of this pack, yes, I can." Stevie's eyes turned black. He wanted to challenge Eddie but knew it would be a death wish. So, instead, he stomped his foot and left the packhouse in anger. Hanson looked around and quietly followed his brother without a peep. "You're all dismissed!" Eddie commanded when he saw no one else was moving. With his command, the rest of the pack members who had witnessed the ordeal scattered like cockroaches. Soon, only he and Kurt remained.

"Where the hell did you disappear to!?" Kurt asked.

"I had to get Durango under control. Seeing that girl like that had him thirsty for blood. Stevie's blood. Unlike you, I controlled my anger," Eddie said judgmentally.

"She's your f'cking mate, and that's all you have to say!"

"Keep your voice down!"

"Embarrassed, are we?"

"Why would I be embarrassed?" Eddie asked uncomfortably.

"Because once people nd out that innocent girl lying in the hospital unconscious is the rightful Luna of this pack, they're either going to judge you for your idiocy, or they're going to judge her because that's what their Alpha is doing. A pack is only as strong as its leaders. They're going to either follow your lead or persecute you. Either way, you will ruin the reputation of this pack if you don't get your head out of you're a's. I'll tell you the same thing I told Dr. Robbys after she nished with that girl's surgery. She's not my mate, but I sure hell wish she were. Because, unlike you, I know what an amazing gift she is. If you're seriously going to reject her because you can't get over your ego, then do it sooner rather than later."

"What does it matter when I do it?"

"Seriously? What, are you going to wait until she wakes up, feels the bond kick in, and then reject her so she can end up hospitalized again? Why wait? Just rip the damn Band-Aid off, Eddie. Don't be a f'cking sociopath and emotionally torment the girl."

"Why do you care so much? It's my choice when I want to reject her," Eddie countered, getting increasingly annoyed with Kurt and his badgering.

"You're right, it is. But that doesn't mean you have the right to torture her psychologically."

"You do realize that I can't reject her without knowing her name, right?"

"You can always just go to her hospital room and do it while holding her hand. It will be enough to sever it before it fully kicks in. She's in the same room as earlier. Go, get it over with."

"You're making it seem like I won't," Eddie snapped.

"Prove me wrong, then," Kurt challenged.

"Fine." Eddie turned his heel and walked toward the pack hospital. It didn't take him long to arrive at Kalea's hospital room. He opened the door condently, eager to reject her, but when he saw her lying in the bed. His resolve rapidly diminished. She looked so frail and fragile, but one thing he couldn't deny was that Kalea was beautiful. She had long Brunette hair, she was thin but not overly skinny, and even though she was in a hospital gown and under the sheets, he could tell that she had curves.

"Why are you hesitating?" Kurt asked, appearing out of nowhere and making Eddie jump in fright.

"F'ck, dude, don't do that," Eddie grumbled.

"It's a simple rejection. Do it already," Kurt said and pushed Eddie toward Kalea. Eddie stumbled but caught his footing before he landed on her. He gulped as he looked down at her. Up close, she was even more beautiful. He could feel his heart beating rapidly, and her scent was driving him and Durango mad with want. Eddie tried to push the feeling aside, but Durango was zeroing in on it, making it more difficult for Eddie. "Do it, man. Just grab her hand and tell her you don't want her for all those stupid reasons you told me."

"Shut the f'ck up, Kurt," Eddie growled.

"It's the truth, isn't it?"

"Shut up," Eddie growled again. "I'm trying to concentrate. Your babbling isn't helping."

"Why do you need to concentrate? Just grab her hand and tell her you reject her." Eddie was becoming even more agitated with Kurt and blamed him for talking too much. Kurt knew that deep down, Kalea's scent would make Eddie's resolution to reject her waver. It wasn't just her beauty that intrigued them, but the fact that she survived the inhuman treatment she received from Stevie and Hanson. At least, that's what it was for Kurt. As beautiful as she was, Kurt would never think of swiping her from Eddie. He wanted his best friend and Alpha to see her up close and inhale her scent. Eddie continued to struggle, and Kurt continued to push. "Come on, dude. We don't have all day," Kurt motioned.

"Why are you rushing me?" Eddie snapped.

"Just trying to save us unnecessary waste of time. Her included." Eddie ground his teeth. "Come on, man!" Kurt exclaimed as he grabbed both Eddie's and Kalea's hands and placed her hand in his. The sparks of the mate electrocuted Eddie, and he snatched his hand back. The sparks caused Kalea's heart rate to quicken, and she started to wake up.

"What the f'ck, man!?" Eddie shouted and ran out of the room in haste. Kurt smirked. He looked down at Kalea, who moved her head about but ultimately stayed asleep.

"Don't worry, Luna, I'll make sure he earns your affection. Don't give in to him too soon. He has to earn your love," Kurt whispered to her.

Eddie ran back to his ope and locked the door behind him. The sparks he felt were nothing like he had felt before. Feeling the mate bond kick in the way it did made him reluctant to reject her. He cursed Kurt in his head, realizing that it was his plan all along. But Eddie swore he wouldn't give in. He just needed to calm down; then, he would go back and reject her. The sparks he felt weren't going to deter him. Or, so he thought.