

## Chapter 24 Lose the battle

Catherine's POV

"And?" Jimmy yelled excitedly at the door. "How did it go? Did you accept them?"

I shook my head and kept a straight face.

"Did they reject you?" He gasped, looking angry immediately.

Yet again, I shook my head with no emotion, but internally, I was bursting with so much excitement. I was just scared as well; I didn't want to be hurt again.

Why are my emotions all over the place?

"Then what happened?" Jimmy whispered, worried, and squatted at my side, searching my face for any trace of foul play.

Colt's proposal was still fresh in my mind, and my thoughts wandered off, replaying the events of a few minutes ago.

The proposal sounded so good to be true that it left me skeptical, worried, and confused.

Yet, just as much as those emotions washed over me, I was left with a bit of hope, excitement, and wonder.

I was surprised that Colt had considered going that route and even more surprised that he was willing to wait, wanted to get to know me, and gave me the much needed space to find myself before I made a final decision.

It warmed my heart that he cared about my feelings.

Yet I was skeptical that his little plan would work. I knew that the mate bond would eventually force us together. It would drive our body, mind, and soul crazy—not to mention our wolf—until we were marked and mated.



It will become an impossible battle to stay away from one another.

Was that what Colt was aiming for?

"Say, yes," Kia mused tiredly from the back of my mind.

I was too confused to even be angry at her for responding.

"Why should I?" I gasped, bewildered.

My emotions were busy spiraling out of control.

If I accept Colt's offer, it could hurt us all if he decides to reject me. Doing it now would be less painful than doing it later.

I sighed, remembering every rejection that rippled through my body. I remember the agony I was in, and every time I was rejected, Kia became even more lost and quieter in my mind.

"The mate bond will only make it harder to do the rejection later," I argued. "It will even be more painful than now."

My heart scrunched hurtfully in my chest, just thinking of the agony I would be left in when all three of them came to reject me.

"Yes," she said, tired, and paused, "but at least you will know if it's true love and not only the bond that keeps you together."

Kia had a point.

But do I dare take the chance and hope for the best?

It's not as if I had anything better to do, I argued to myself. I was already bound to a wheelchair and wolfless.

I slowly nodded my head as I caught Colt's gaze.

"I I I accept your offer," I stuttered nervously.

As soon as the words escaped my lips, my heartbeat escalated in my chest, and my throat tightened. My hands became damped, and my breath started to hitch. I felt nauseous and the walls felt like they were closing in.

Was I having a panic attack?

Colt must have seen my anxiety, and he carefully let go of my face and took my hands in his.

He looked at me with so much love, compassion, and care.

Was it the mate bond that made him look at me like that? Or was it something else he saw in me?

Why wasn't he able to just turn his back on me and walk away? Did he feel sorry for me?

Colt gave me a moment to reconcile myself, and I took a deep breath, calming my inner self.

"Are you feeling better?" He asked concernedly, searching my gaze.

I nodded, not able to utter a single word.

Colt turned his gaze toward his brothers, looked at them for a moment, and then nodded.

I guess they were communicating, and whatever was discussed seemed important.

"Sis!" Jimmy yelled and shook my hand to gain my attention, bringing me back to the present.

"Yes?" I asked, looking at him like he had grown two heads in the last few seconds. "You were saying?"

"Tell me what happened," Jimmy asked.

I smiled at Jimmy, cocked my head to the side, and pulled my hand through his short brown hair.

"I accepted Colt's proposal," I answered, chuckling.

Jimmy's blue eyes looked at me in confusion.

"What proposal?" The familiar voice came from the door, sending unwanted shivers down my spine.



I turned my head, looking towards the door, and saw Brian standing there, his face frozen in anger.

"I accepted to be friends with the triplets," I said. "We will be taking our relationship slow."

"You can't be serious!" He roared, shaking the room's walls.

Jimmy jumped to his feet, angry at Brian's behavior.

"What is it to you?" He spat, "My sister can do whatever she wants! You have turned your back on her, rejected her, and now you want to tell her what to do! You have some nerve!"

In less than a second, Brian was in Jimmy's face, sizing him up.

"I suggest you leave, pup," Brian growled, his eyes turning black.

"No!" Jimmy said, looking Brian in the eyes, "I will not leave Kate with you alone. You need to leave, and that's an order!"

Before I realized what was happening, Brian slapped Jimmy so hard that he flew through the air and landed against a bookshelf.

"Jimmy!" I yelled hysterically, trying to get to him.

Brian turned around, anger still carved into his once handsome face.

He blocked me off from Jimmy, placing his huge hands on both sides of the wheelchair and looking at me.

"You will stay away from them," he growled.

"Why are you doing this, Brian?" I asked, gaining courage I thought I had lost.

"You are mine!" he growled in my face.

"You rejected me, remember?" I spat back at him in anger, "You have no claim over me!"

I refused to stand back and let him walk all over me. Brian had his chance. He f\*cked it up the day he f\*cked Sarah and had a pup with her.







Brian's eyes turned pitch black, and I shivered, knowing that Haiti must have taken control. His hands snaked around my throat, cutting off my air supply.

I struggled against his grip, trying hard to fight his hands off.

My lungs burned, seeking oxygen, and my eyes watered and became blurry.

I couldn't even scream to call for help.

I suddenly felt tired, and my body became limp. I was sure I was about to lose the battle.

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