

10-Finch is on the Chase

Finch's POV

Duke- Move, or I will take over!

I start running, but she is fast! I can't believe how fast she is.

I let Duke take over and he has to stop when he gets inside the dorm building. I shift and put on a pair of shorts.

Duke- Upstairs.

I follow her scent and sure enough, I find her door. It's open, so I enter.

She is crying. The most beautiful woman in the world is crying and being held by a Warlock.

Duke- Kill him.

Me- We need her to like us.

Duke- Kill him, mark her, done deal.

Me- She was the boys' mate. Any idea the hell they will feel if I mark her.

Duke- Serves them right.

"You will NOT hurt him," She speaks with authority. An Alpha, nice. I almost want to comply, but Duke is so near the surface.

"I won't hurt him, if he lets you go," I promise, ignoring Duke

and forcing him down.

Duke- Her wolf, oh my perfect mate wants us.

Ariella steps away from the Warlock but stays between he and I.

"Okay, I'm not in his arms anymore. I think you know I can't be mated to you," Ariella says with her eyebrows raised. "I was supposed to be mated to your sons."

Duke- They lose, we win. Say that, girls love that shit. 3

I nod and take a deep breath, trying to control Duke. Her scent is calming me, even if it mixed with his right now. Duke is howling, soaking her in.

"I understand the goddess wants you to be Luna of my pack. I understand she paired us for a reason. I also know I have to practice what I preach. I tell my pack all the time about the blessing of a fated mate. If the goddess has put us together, she has a reason," I swallow and wait, hoping my words can sway her. She is beautiful, young sure, but from the moment I saw her training, I wanted her. I didn't understand why, now I do, I need her.

"You can't want what was supposed to be for your sons," The Warlock laughs. "That is pretty fucked up."

I growl at him, but my mate steps closer to me in a defensive stance.

Duke- Okay, even my mate is threatening bodily harm if we hurt the Warlock. And the body part she is threatening is not one we want to lose brother. So, we need to calm down.

"I'm sorry," I back down. "Ariella, if my sons were stupid enough to let you go, that is my failure as a father. I will not fail as a mate. I want to accept you and I am asking that you accept me as well."


She looks back at the Warlock.

"Did you have that perfect moment?" He asks her with a tight smile. She nods. "I think you and I both know that even if you fight it, you are going to accept him. May as well rip the band-aid."

"I am going to hug him, then I am going to pack a bag. He lives here until the term is up. He gave up his dorm back in October," She explains.

"So, you are coming home with me?" I ask hopeful.

"I am sure there is a spare room in that huge house," she answers.

Duke- There is a spare side of the bed just for you. 

"You can have your own room for now," I answer.

"We are going in the bedroom. I promise nothing more than a hug. Don't follow us," she tells me.

I don't like it, but I nod. I, then, have to stand there as they talk. The door is open, so I hear them.

"I'm so sorry, Kale," she says, and I can hear the sadness in her voice.

"It's okay, Ari," he has a nickname for her. I want to call her

Ari too. "I knew you were on loan. But I hope you and I can stay friends. I'll fail Physics next term without you."

"I promise to always be your friend. And I hope you can find love again," she tells him.

"It won't be what we shared but it will be love," he says to her.

Duke- Okay, so, they loved each other. As long as it's in the past, I'm okay with that.

She comes out with a duffle.

I hold out my hand and she gives me the duffle.

"Bye, Kale," she says in a small voice.

"Warm black tea with honey," he says to me, handing me a box of tea. "She will tell you the history, but when her voice gets tired like that, she needs warm black tea and honey. No sugar or cream."

She smiles at him.

"I will mindlink our cook," I tell him.

"She has healed a lot, but between her sister and your sons, she sometimes just needs to be held," Kale tells me. "If you hurt her, I'll call her father."

I look at him with narrowed eyes.

Duke- Who is her father? Her wolf won't tell me either.

"Who is your father?" I ask her.

She smirks and looks back at Kale, who is also smirking.

"Kale's biggest fan," She answers and walks past me.

Duke- She's got sass and a nice ass. Jackpot, buddy. 2

I follow her and hear Kale chuckle as he closes the door.

"Who is your father?" I ask again and I make a teenage attempt to hold her hand.

She pulls her hand away.

"You sons never told you who they rejected?" She asks with smirk.

"Please tell me?" I ask again as we exit the building.


"King Joshua Zillard," she tells me, and I stop.

"Royal Command, you tried to stop me from hurting your boyfriend with Royal Command?" I ask as we walk toward the packhouse.

"Yes, but I forgot if you accept me, it has no effect," she steps in front of me and looks me in the eye. "I need your promise to never hurt Kale. He was there for me when your sons rejected me. He loves me and I love him. The Mate bond can't erase that. He and I will never be together again as long as we live. I will be a faithful and true mate. Just promise to never hurt him."

She puts her hand on my bare chest, and I hold her hand over my heart.

Duke- Give her the world. I promise to never hurt him too.

 +15 BONUS

"I promise," We lean in and kiss for the first time outside of the haze.

It's gentle and full of want.

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