

## Chapter 21 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

“How did the training go with the King and his men?” I asked Duncan as the three of them came in almost falling over one another into the living room.

“We...have...” Leo took a deep breath and wiped the sweat off of his face. “train harder. They kicked our asses.”

“Even the King. He made us look like chumps.” Lucas growled stomping over to kiss me before heading down the hall.

“The only good thing was that we explained what all you had said and how you came upon knowing it and he didn’t freak out. He did ask to talk to you after lunch if you were up for it.” Duncan kissed my cheek before taking my water and guzzling it down.

“Hey that was mine.” I tried to grab it back but he just held it over my head laughing at my shortness.

“And the head guard got taken down by your brother in one and one.” Leo bragged. “So totally worth getting my ass handed to me by one of the other guards.”

I grumbled until I got my drink back, empty now of course. “Good. What was his name anyway? I keep calling him names I shouldn’t repeat in my head.”

“Our girl likes her cuss words and name calling.” Duncan teased flopping down on the seat beside me.

“I never got to at home. Any mean word about anyone other than myself got me more bruises or cuts.” I shrugged my shoulder. I knew I should be a bit more traumatized by now but being with the guys made me feel safe enough to let more and more of it go.

Duncan growled pulling me onto his sweaty chest with my legs straddling his. “Never again baby girl.”

“Agreed and I think we should visit her old pack again. But this time use more force.” Leo growled out punching his fist into his hand.

“Calm down. We will handle them later but for now let’s discuss where the king wants to meet me and the name I asked for?” I leaned back off of Duncan. “And then you both shower. Your sweat is getting all over me.”

Duncan snorted and pushed me back onto the couch. “Fine. He wants to meet with you here. He even invited us and Draco to come with them to make you feel more comfortable.”

“And the jerks name is Eric Shining. His family has been leading the guard for generations.” Leo answered hopping up. “Lucas is done in the shower, and I vote I am next.”

He ran off before Duncan could even stand up not that he was trying. “Does he realize there are three bathrooms here? I just didn’t want to miss more time with you.”

“Awe, someone is sucking up.” I teased him eyeing him up and down sternly. “What did you do wrong?”

“I may or may not be a bit jealous of last night.” He reluctantly answered. “I know I shouldn’t, but I miss you. I miss touching you, kissing you, being inside you.”

I groaned. “Me too.

“But no time for anything other than a quick cuddle.” Duncan groaned longingly. “We gotta scarf down some grub before they get here.”

Oh, crap. I thought I would have more time. I gave him one last big squeeze and booked it upstairs. I yelled back as I ran that their lunches were in the oven, ready to go, and that I needed time to pick an outfit.

“I could help!” Lucas offered as I ran by him. I flipped him off before making it to my room and slamming the door shut.

I still didn’t understand what clothing items were appropriate for what situations, but I had a feeling it should be comfortable. Just thinking of Katherine and the talks we had brought tears to my eyes. She was in a lot of pain and had gone a bit crazy by the time I had made it down there but the few moments here and there she was lucid she comforted me when I confessed about my beatings and shit family and told me about Charles and their sons. She really loved them.

Goddess, I was so lucky to be out of there. Never again will I let that happen.

By the time I changed my clothes a few different times and landed on a simple flow green shirt and pants they were here. My brother and Allie made it there right after so I knew going down I would have enough supporters to boost my confidence. It still felt a bit weird to have people who would have my back and stay loyal to me, to top off how nice they were to me.

I tried to sneak down so that maybe I could ease into the conversation but the head guard, Erin, noticed me with a smirk. He whispered something into the King's ear moving his attention to me. Jerk.

“Oh, hey guys. Thanks for coming over.” I wrung my hands together doing my best not to fidget anymore. “King Charles I am so sorry for dropping that bombshell about your mate on you last night. I just thought since I would have wanted to know what happened to one of my mates that you would too.”

“One of your mates?” Erin looked shocked.

I looked between the guys with some confusion. “Did we not tell them?”

Leo smiled at me. ‘Nope, wanted to see their reaction. It isn’t of the norm and we didn’t want anyone extra to show up. I don’t want to kill the king on his first visit.’

‘Good idea.’ I agreed with him. If having more than one mate was rare I didn’t need to add to the flames and be gawked at like an object by strangers.

“That will be something we need to discuss.” The King eyed everyone in the room sternly before landing on me. “Can we have a private chat? The others can be close by if it makes you more comfortable.”

Draco growled walking to stand in front of me. “She won’t be going anywhere without me. I heard some of your guards talking earlier and I already have half a mind to show them what real pain feels like.”

Charles looked at the few guards he had in the house with him and shook his head. “I didn’t know. I bear no ill will toward your sister. I just wish to hear more about my Katherine and talk about the things she knows about this attack on me.”

I hugged Draco from the back, hard. I fought the emotions squeezing him harder, whispering ‘how thankful I was for him.’

“Thank you, big brother.” I stepped around him keeping an arm around him. “I think I can handle this by myself as long as everyone else stays close by?”

I looked around the room and everyone nodded. My nerves were on high alert but doing this would help Charles find closer and probably myself along with him.

I led Charles onto the porch with Erin staying by the door. I felt like that was a bit protective since I had never fought someone or hurt someone a day in my life but oh well.

“I want to apologize for leaving the way we did yesterday.” He took a deep breath before continuing. I could hear the pain creeping up in his voice. “I never knew the full details of what happened to her but when they told me she was killed I didn’t believe them. I didn’t feel the

bond snap or die. I didn't feel the pain that others described until almost three years later. That was when everything broke...I broke." He let his head fall in his shame and pain.

Pain and sympathy panged in my chest. I hated that this man, this strong man, had to go through that just because my parents and former ruling couple wanted to be able to sell females for who knows what while inflicting pain on others. I hated them...I loathed them.

"I am so sorry. I hate that this happened to you and to her." I carefully put my hand on his back ignoring the growl coming from the guard. "She helped me out as much as I tried to help her. She told me stories of you, of her sons, and of the strength it took to keep fighting each and every day. I felt like I was part of your family when she spoke of you. I wished for years that I could have taken

her place."

Charles turned toward me in surprise. "Don't ever say that. She would never want someone to die for her. She was a strong and proud Luna. Just like you are going to be."

I shrugged. "We will see."

Erin cleared his throat and pointed to his watch. I saw Charles roll his eyes causing me to giggle.

"Now lets discuss everything you heard so we can figure out how to let them hang themselves with their plans."

Chapter 22: Who made up our 'Heat'? They deserve to go through it.

## Chapter 22 - Once Rejected, Thrice Accepted

"When does a females heat usually happen?" I asked randomly while we had dinner at Draco and Allies that night.

"EWWW! Gross!" Draco pretended to puke. "My sister doesn't have heats. She doesn't have sex either. She is a perfect little princess. End of story."

Allie couldn't keep a straight face. She was laughing so hard she choked on her steak. Draco had to beat her on the back a few times to dislodge it.

The guys all looked nervous. It was either about answering in front of my brother or they didn't know. I needed someone to know since they skipped over this time of education for me stating id never find my mate do it didn't matter.

"Gemma I will have all the answers for you." Allie finally spoke after my face reached a shade of pink only meant for Pepto bismol.

"But lets do it in the other room and let the men folk do clean up."

"Hey!" Draco glared at her. "Your lucky I love you and my sister. Leaving me alone with these oversized children is just plain mean."

"Just for that you get washing duty for the dishes." Duncan ordered picking up his and my plate. "Girls, head on out and we will bring you dessert out on the porch."

"Yummy, Dessert." Allie almost drooled just hearing the word. "This baby loves their sweets."

"Uh huh... The baby." I teased her good naturedly before standing up and followed her outside. The guys instantly started giving each other shit.

"If I hear one sound of breaking glass I will be kicking everyone's ass." Ally warned before shutting the door behind us. "Now that those knuckle heads are busy let's get down to some girl talk."

Girl talk? What the heck was that? Rubbing my hands together I sucked in a big gulp of air before forcing a smile on my face. I just nodded.

"No clue what girl talk is huh?" Ally smirked. She read me like a book.

"Nope. Never done any of that."

"Ok well girls talk about their guys, how they treat them, how they are in bed, and all those goodies plus everything else."

"Oh, ok. Umm I hadn't done anything before getting with Duncan not even hand holding or kissing so I can only compare the three of them."

"Nothing? Oh, boy did those boys luck out? I had all my firsts before Draco except sex. I saved myself for my mate." She had us sit on her wooden porch swing before pushing off with her feet. "Draco didn't wait, jerk, so I had to show him how much better a tighter pussy is than with the few whores he had been with."

"Yuck. Don't need to know my brother stuck his dick in trash!"

“Good point but your face full of disgust was totally worth it.” Ally laughed. “But now I understand why you don’t know anything about your heat or anything to do with mates. I am sorry your pack was so shitty but let’s focus on what you need to know.”

“Thank you.” I clasped her hand to mine and gave a teary smile. I hated feeling stupid but at least no one here had made me feel even worse about it.

“Ok so your heat happens about a month after meeting your mate or mates in your situation. It lasts anywhere from 5 to 7 days with horrible pain unless you have your mates taking care of you.” Ally grimaced. “I don’t know how it works with rejected mates but one of my friends was rejected and her heat still came. Even after getting a chosen mate her heats were never as bad as that first one. I hope it isn’t like that for you.”

“Awesome another way that asshole is screwing with my life. I should have broken his nose when I had the chance.” I huffed. “So is sex the only way to make the pain go away? Will the guys wear out?”

“Sex, touch, kissing, cuddling. Anything where their skin is on your skin in a pleasurable way. Even their come on your skin cools the fever and pushes the cramps from hell away.” She put her hand on her stomach. “But you also need to think about if you want a baby from your heat or if you want to wait? Birth control for a wolf is a pain in the ass so you need to plan it out.”

“A...baby?” My eyes went wide, my mouth left gaping just thinking about me having a baby. “I...Umm...”

“Its ok. It is a lot to take in. I did birth control the first few heats and it worked but you get heats more often than if not on it. Instead of two a year, it was one every three months. Our wolves really want us to breed.” Ally shook her head like she was chastising the Moon Goddess. I agreed with her.

“Well shit. I should probably talk to the guys and see what they want.” It wasn’t that I didn’t want a kid, it was that I thought id be a shit parent since my kidnapping ones were the worst. I couldn’t be like them.

“No. What do you want?” Ally grabbed my shoulders looking expectantly at me. “You are the boss of your body. Repeat it.”

“What” My head jerked back in confusion.

“Repeat what I say. I am in control of what happens to my body. I am a strong, independent woman who loves just like I should be loved and I won’t take any less.”

I repeated what she said with a bit of hesitation. She made me repeat it a few times before letting go of my shoulders. I had no idea the fun happy go lucky Ally could be so stern and demanding. She was perfect for my brother. I just hoped my relationship with my mates would be as good as

hers was. I wanted to be good enough for them. I wanted to please them. I wanted to make the happy enough to never stray or hurt me.

I had a few other questions about heat, mating, babies and such before we went back in. The guys had never made it out with a snack or drink. When we made it back in they had every dish soaking even though it didn't need it and were playing Halo on the Xbox.

Draco jumped up when he saw Ally making excuses about taking a break and the dishes being horribly dirty. She didn't even have to speak a word before he went running back to the kitchen. My mates started between her and I. Her face was tilted with her mouth and chin pushing out and her eyes slanted. They looked at me like I had the answer so I just mocked her look. They joined Draco in the kitchen and we fell onto the couch in a fit of giggles.

"You will do just fine." Ally patted my leg before rushing off to the bathroom.

'Hey guys. I have a question.' I linked the guys so I didn't have to get up or discuss it with my crazy bro.

'What's up?' 'Yes?' 'What is it baby girl?' They all linked back at the same time. I almost didn't catch all of it.

'This multiple person linking is confusing. I got all your links at the same time. Is there any easier way? I need to hear your answers.' I didn't want to hear a yes over two no's or something saying they needed an heir immediately covered by a its up to you.

No more confusion needed today.

'Let Moonlight ask our wolves. They will combine the answers to her so its easier.' Duncan answered.

Moonlight didn't even have to ask what my question was before asking their wolves. All I could do was swirl around the different answers they would have and how much they could be disappointed with my answer if they even asked it. Should I even have an opinion? They are Alphas and they rule the pack. Should that include me? Our relationship?

'Relax. You are stressing me out.' Moonlight snipped. 'Let's take a run. Now.'

'What about their answer?'

She pushed herself forward shifting us to our wolf form before answering. She gave a small bark at Ally who gladly opened it for us. I heard the guys telling them goodbye and running after us.

'They said it was up to you. They want you to be happy and comfortable. They hope to discuss it again when we are home.'

