

When they touch me (Shelagh Milano)

chapter 16-20

When they touch me (Shelagh Milano)

Artemisia

"How is it?" Matthew asks me with big eyes.

Gulping down the bite I just took off my sweet crepes, I smile happily. "It tastes delicious. But I never eat with so many eyes on me."

"Glad you like it. And yeah, sorry about that. But they will stop staring as soon as they have gotten used to you." He wipes his mouth with his napkin, throwing it back onto the table.

He had driven me into the heart of the pack, and I guess you could call it the town center. There are small cute shops for everything that one needs or a heart could desire. They are distributed along beautiful cobblestone paths that are adorned with colorful flowers.

What I love the most is that all of those colorful paths lead to the town square with a big fountain. The fountain is decorated with several statues of wolves and warriors, and on top of it, there are three pups, carved out of marble, that are playing with each other.

It was a strange feeling to walk along the narrow streets with Matthew holding my hand.

Even if it felt amazing as well.

A few people stopped to talk to him, while others even came out of their shops for it.

I felt happy and must have blushed, embarrassing myself, as he was introducing me as his mate.

As a total stranger, I had expected a few angry looks, but I only got so much kindness and love from everyone that I wanted to cry.

'Don't let them fool you. They are still monsters.' Cassy snarls, making me clasp my shirt on my stomach.

"Did you say something?" Matthew asks me, and I shake my head, taking a sip of my cup. He lifts his eyebrow at me, but I act like nothing happened, and he seems to take the bait.

After finishing our breakfast, we drive back to the estate.noveldrama

On the way, he explains how the pack lands are divided into, and shows me the different directions where people are living.

As if I could remember any of it, but it's cute.

I listen to him intently as he goes on reciting historical facts as he parks the car.

Walking around the pack house, and further down the lands and gardens behind it, he shows me the training grounds as well as the different pens and turfs where the horses are trained.

"Horses?" I say with sparkling eyes as we stand at the railing of the turf and Matthew is telling me everything about groundwork.

"Yeah," he laughs, pointing to a few stables that stand out just before the line of trees to a gigantic forest. "There are the stables. Fynn is the one training them most of the time."

"Awesome!" I say as we stomp back through the tall grass.

Giggling to myself, I bump into him slightly, thinking about how his brother would have already pushed me to lie into the grass while he is being the perfect gentleman. "Thank you for showing me everything, Matthew. I really like it here

"Ah, that makes me happy." He walks a few steps in front of me, but

I can clearly hear the smile in his voice. "It wasn't planned that we would throw you off your guard like this, so... I'm glad that you don't hate us for kidnapping you."

I laugh as I catch up with him, wrapping my arms around his. "Must be the bond, but I don't hate you at all."

As we spent a lot of time out, we get to eat a late lunch all by ourselves.

And if he wasn't such a nice and shy type of guy would think that he made it on purpose to have me a bit to himself. It must be kind of hard to get the things he desires with his character against those of his brothers.

S

Making a little mental note that I have to take that into account, I shock myself with my thoughts.

What is wrong with me?

'It's that you are desperate. So, you are throwing yourself at anyone as long as they give you some attention.'

Chapter 0017

I shake my head, ignoring Cassy's insult and attracting Matthew's attention. But as usual, he doesn't say anything.

For a short moment, I think about asking him about the wolfless woman who was executed, but I refrain from it at the last second.

Wanting to change the subject, I finally ask him more about him.

I guess the more they will let me into their hearts, the less probable it will be that they will execute me.

"So, do you have any hobbies?" I ask, poking my long spoon into the bowl of ice cream that we are sharing.

"Hobbies?" He looks at me wide-eyed.

I giggle, taking another spoonful of our dessert. "Yeah, you know the things you do when you are not training to be the best Gamma ever."

"Ah, I don't have any hobbies." His lowered voice and his lightly blushing signal me that he isn't being exactly truthful, but I let it slip.

"Oh, okay." Lowering my head, I continue to scrape against the ice cream with my spoon.

After a few seconds of awkward silence, I try to loosen the tension up a little bit and smile at him. "Well, at least your Luna will be the luckiest of her kind. To have someone this focused by her side to protect her."

He regains his wide smile, making me giggle.

He is just too cute.

Just as he is about to say something, his eyes glaze over. As he gets out of the mindlink, he lowers his head defeated while he clicks his tongue.

I'm about to ask him what happened, when the door swings open with a bang, making me jump.

"Ah, here you are." Logan jogs down the few stairs, reaching us with a broad smile.

He halts right next to our table and boxes his brother's arm playfully. "Keeping her all to yourself, eh, Matty?"

Matthew doesn't respond to it and keeps his head low without even grumbling.

"What about a cinema night?" Logan asks, his eyes back on me.

"A cinema night?" I ask, and he drags a chair over the floor for him to sit down next to me.

"Yeah, the warriors will flood all of the rooms tonight, but we could watch movies in one of our private ones."

His smile has me nearly hypnotized, but it has to be the air sizzling around me because of his vicinity as well. "Oh, that sounds nice."

Turning to Matthew, I get Logan's smile to fall slightly. "What do you think, Matt?"

"Erm..." Matthew looks at me confused before he stutters. "S-Sure... Sounds like fun."

"Awesome." I jump in my seat before turning to Logan. "What about Fynn? Or Cayden?"

I can spot the discontent on his face

even if

if he

hides it perfectly well

ask Gayden, but I guess Fynn is still

locked in the dungeons."

"Okay," I hum, pursing my lips.

My gaze falls on Matthew, who is looking at me with an expression that I have never seen before. "Why do you ask so much about Fynn?"

"I don't know," I answer, pushing out

an awkward laugh. "But I guess it's just common sense to ask about someone who is tied up in your host's basement, right?"

The sparks erupting on my skin are the first thing my brain registers

before the fact that Logan has grabbed my chin, forcing me to look at him.

"We aren't your hosts." He growls, tilting his head at me. "Right, mate?"

My heart skips a beat as I melt under his gaze. I force myself to nod before I lose myself completely.

Logan lets go of me with a deep chuckle and gets up. "Well, I'll ask Cayden to join us. What will you do now, Missy?"

"Oh, I still have a lot of boxes to unpack and stuff to put away, so I'll be busy."

I look up at him while he smiles back at me and nods.noveldrama

"Perfect. Will see you in a bit then."

"Uh-huh," I say, as he is already sprinting up the stairs and disappears out of the room.

When they touch me (Shelagh Milano)

Artemisia

Unfortunately, even with his brother gone, Matthew doesn't regain his old bubbly self. Something must be bothering him as we finish our ice cream in silence before he accompanies me to my room.

My heart breaks as he doesn't even look at me properly when saying goodbye, and I can't possibly have him leave like that.

"Do you mind helping me unpack a bit?" I ask, getting him to look at me properly for the first time since he was angry about me asking about Fynn. "It is a bit overwhelming still." I giggle, and he nods shyly.

I don't really need his help with unpacking or putting my stuff away, but I feel like it was the only chance to get him into my room, and especially, the bedroom.

As the gentleman he is, he would have never set foot into my room without being invited.

"I'm sorry that I asked you to help me. I should have stopped an Omega on one of the floors," I say apologetically.

He chuckles as he is about to hang my dresses into the walk-in wardrobe. "Are you kidding? I love helping you out. Don't worry."

"Thank you," I say, kissing his cheek as I pass him to take another of the boxes to sort them into the closet. "I'm kind of sad that my family sent my things over so fast."

Opening the next box after I carried it inside, I hear him hum. "Well... I think they wanted you to have your things as fast as possible, so you could feel at ease. I don't think they meant to cast you away. I'm sure that they are sad that you are away at least as much as you are sad about not being with them."

"Aaw." I turn to Matthew smiling at me encouragingly while I press a t-shirt of mine to my chest. "Thank you. I really needed to hear that."

"I'm glad I could help." He says with a snicker as he continues to sort in my dresses.

After another hour, I check my watch and hum pensively. "You should go to dinner."

"Oh, looks like we lost the concept of time," he jokes, laughing lowly. "Aren't you coming?"

Shaking my head, I fold the top in my hands before putting it away. "I'm still full from the ice cream, and I will surely stuff my face with popcorn afterwards, so... See you later?"

"Sure," He grins, nodding. "At 8?"

"Sounds perfect to me," I answer, kneading my hands.

His t-shirt stretches over his trained chest as he scratches the back of his head, revealing some of his delectable abs. Forcing my gaze back to his, he avoids my gaze shyly. I'm sure that he would like to part from me less formally, so I decide to take the first step.

Hoping not to embarrass me completely, I take a few steps forward. He watches me wide-eyed as I finally reach him, and press a chaste kiss onto his lips.

Taking a step back with a smile, I blush. "See you at 8 then."

I barely have the chance to see the green flakes twirl in his eyes, as he leans down to me, claiming my lips with his. His hand travels into my hair to pull me closer as I wrap my hands around his neck, and he deepens the kiss.

The sparks that erupt on my lips and my scalp are nearly too much to bear as I enjoy his lips devouring me. Suddenly, he breaks the kiss, making me gasp for air. "I'm sorry, I couldn't... It was just stronger than me."

"Don't worry," I say with my gaze still on his lips. "Also, why did you stop?"

He mirrors my smile with his gorgeous grin as he slams his lips back on mine. I moan against his lips happily as he gets me to walk backwards, my back hitting the wall.

My skin yearns to feel his touch as he keeps one of his hands on the wall next to my head while the other is balled to a fist over my head as he leans his elbow against the wall.

Moving my hands down, I clasp his t-shirt, wanting to pull him closer.

"Touch me, please." I plead between kisses, and he finally lowers his hands on me, grabbing my thighs just below my ass.

I moan into his mouth as he groans. "They are going to kill me."

My breath hitches shortly, but it doesn't keep us from continuing to make out. Driving my fingers into his hair, I grab onto them as he lifts me to wrap my legs around his waist.

SV

"Oh my Goddess," I breathe out as I feel his hard bulge pressing against my drenched panties.

Suddenly, I feel like a stab through my heart, but Matthew gets my mind off it as he slams me into the wall before he breaks our kiss. "Fuck. We should stop."noveldrama

"Just a bit more," I beg, making him shake his head with a smirk.

"I won't be able to stop if we go any further."

I arch my back off the wall to get as close as possible to him before he lets me down to my feet. My mind seems dazed as I catch my breath while regaining my balance.

He leans his hand against the wall behind me again, wetting his swollen lips. "I have some sort of deal with my brothers that we keep it in check until we sorted... certain things out."

"Sorry about that." I shrug, making him laugh.

Swn

He grimaces, passing his hand on his face. "Also, I think your wolf doesn't like me... Or my wolf very much."

"Don't worry. She will come around. She is just being stubborn." I try to comfort him, not knowing what I should do to actually keep my promise.

'I'd rather eat glass!' Cassy hisses, making me cringe.

"Well, I should go. And take a cold shower before getting down to dinner."

I laugh, biting my lip and lowering my gaze. With a gentle touch on my chin, he gets me to look back at him

and captures my lips in a short and gentle kiss. "See you tonight

"Can't wait," I whisper, looking after him as he walks out of my wardrobe, and my room.

As the main door to my quarters slams shut, I push out a deep breath and slump back against the wall behind me.

Pressing my sweaty palms against the cold wall, I try to calm down my erratic heartbeat.

Goddess, this is going to be hard.

When they touch me (Shelagh Milano)

Matthew

Keeping my head low, I try to avoid Cayden's gaze while I dig in.

It might be my guilty conscience, but I feel like he is suspecting something.

But even if we made the deal that we would be open about anything that might happen, I am set on keeping the last occurrences with Artemisia my dirty little secret.

He isn't stupid though, and he must have asked himself why I would come to dinner freshly showered if I didn't train.

"Matty!" Logan's shouting reaches my ear before I feel the slap on my head.

I growl as my head jerks forward lightly, but I don't say anything or react as he sits down next to me.

As the youngest of us three, I'm certainly no match for him.

I close my eyes, letting the picture of Missy materialize in front of my inner eye. This way, I can successfully calm myself and my wolf down and can ignore the badgering.

My guts churn as he takes his plate flirtatiously talking to the Omega that is serving the food to him.

She blushes at the pet names he calls her before she scurries away.

'Asshole,' my wolf, Ambros, snarls.

"You two don't have to come tonight," Logan says nonchalantly as he scoops the first bite of food into his mouth.

Chewing, he gestures to Logan and me with his fork. "You have to work anyway, and you... I don't even know what you would do there with us." "She is my mate. And she asked me to be there. So..." I murmur while Cayden just ignores him, his gaze directed to his phone that keeps flashing up with messages.

Logan hits the table with his fist, making the dishes clink. "You can forget her being your mate right away, as you will be fucking rejecting her anyway." "I'm not going to reject her!" I sneer at him.

This remark of his even gets him the attention of our Alpha, who lifts his gaze to look at him. "Logan, it's not the place to be joking about such things." Logan scoffs, shaking his head. "I'm not joking. I just don't plan to share her."

"With who? With us or with the other women you have on your hook?" My cheeky remark gets me a loud growl from Aidan resurfacing.

"Don't you dare, little brother. Don't have your insolence cost you more than it's worth it."

His loud snarl gets even the warriors dining around us to turn around, but I keep my cool, not backing down this time. "If you keep disrespecting my mate, I will dare how much I want."

As he growls, a few of the higher-ranked warriors stand up, ready to interfere should he try to attack me.

"This is not the time nor the place to discuss such things." Cayden keeps talking calmly, granting Logan a last chance to calm down.

"Logan! You will listen to me. NOW!" His annoyed growl booms through the dining hall, and enforced by its alpha command it gets even the warriors around us to cover submissively.

Not talking about the Omegas in the room that are already kneeling.

I lower my head instinctively, not being able to hold it up anymore, while my brother still fights the aura pressuring him.

But still complying with the order given to him.

"Sorry, bro," he mumbles, getting a murmur to raise around us.

Cayden breathes in, his eyes shifting to a pitch-black color. "I beg your pardon?!"

"I apologize, Alpha!" Logan repeats loudly, clearing his throat.

With a scoff, Cayden returns to his phone. "Don't push your luck, Logan."

We take a deep sigh in unison, feeling the pressure lifting off our chests.

Slowly, the room starts filling again with the sound of the silverware clinking to the plates.

The Omegas get back up to their

feet and start working again, scurrying between us, who are still recovering from our Alpha exerting his power on us.

I continue to keep my eyes down on my plate, just until it gets nearly unbearable to stand. Lifting my

head, Hook right into Logan's eyes, who looks at me disparagingly.

"And we will all participate in today's movie night if that's what Missy wants."

I hold back a snicker at Cayden saying that nonchalantly while his eyes are already back to being captured by the texts flashing on his screen.

"And behave. If you anger me more, you will cut short Fynn's punishment and take his place in the Dungeons."

"Yes, Alpha." We say in unison, returning to eat silently.

As I finish and get up to leave, I stop

two of the Omegas coming out

the kitchen. "Could you bring

velire

Finnegan something to eat as well,

please?"

They nod, one of them blushing while she does an exaggerated curtsy. "Of course, Gamma."

"Thank you very much. Have a nice evening." I smile at them, making them gasp and giggle.

"Thank you. You too, Gamma."

"Have a wonderful evening." noveldrama

They keep talking in a high-pitched voice as I walk out of the dining hall.

'Pathetic,' Ambros growls, and I shake my head.

'I don't like to interact with the fangirly ones as well.' I react to his insult, making him laugh.

Robert waves at me as he walks towards me with a broad smile. "Are you coming as well? We are going to do a little tournament."

"Sure," I accept his invitation, apparently enraging my wolf.

'No! Let's go see mate,' he says, and I have to push him down forcefully as he gets excited by the thought alone.

'Don't worry. We will get her soon enough.' I grin to myself as I join a few warriors on the training grounds.

When they touch me (Shelagh Milano)

Artemisia

I'm biting on the nail of my thumb as I'm watching the most ridiculous action movie that I have ever seen.

But still better than the romantic ones they wanted to watch because they thought I would like them.

As Cayden apparently accepted the invitation of Logan and tagged along as well, I assume that I'm now sitting through the most awkward movie night in history.

While Logan had wanted to sit, or rather lie, with me on a large sectional, Cayden had me sitting in one of the recliner chairs next to his.

And Logan ended up sharing the sectional with his brother.

Even if I'm convinced that he would have been cuddling closer to me.

I giggle to myself as I take another handful of popcorn.

Looking over to Cayden, I see him staring at the screen with a frown.

He must find it as ridiculous as I do.

He doesn't seem very relaxed though, because his posture is totally rigid. I realize that I have not seen him smile once since I talked to him at the lake.

'Focus on the Alpha, and discard the mutts.'

You have to be fucking kidding me!

Ignoring Cassy's remark, I scoop another handful of popcorn into my mouth.

I miss his smile though.

Keeping myself from ogling him, I force my eyes onto the screen.

Other than the other two, he is dressed in a suit, really not looking like he was up to a movie night.

And he looks gorgeous.

I think it is rather cute that he came to watch the movie with us, even if I can imagine that he wants to be anywhere else but here.

Giggling to myself, I shift in my seat to lie down further.

Logan must have picked up my sigh, as he lifts himself to look at me. "Are you enjoying the movie, Missy?"

I hold up my thumb and hear him chuckle as I return to pick at my popcorn.

The movie takes forever to finish. And I feel like bursting at all the popcorn and sweets I crammed because of my desperation.

On top of that, I felt restless all the time. I had some anxious feeling that I just couldn't pinpoint where it came from.

If I didn't know better, I would say that it is some kind of mixture of anger and impatience, but none of them would match the situation that I'm in. Maybe a little bit because I got aggressive because of the stupidity of the action movie, but it's far away from feeling this anger.

Thanks to Cayden, I barely get a hug from my mates before I walk back to my quarters with him.

I can see that they are disappointed, and even if I would surely feel embarrassedly anxious, I am a bit disappointed too as I would have wanted something more to happen as well.

Goddess, I'm slowly going crazy.

Climbing the stairs next to Cayden in awkward silence makes it hard for me to push down the urge to say something stupid.

He, on the other hand, seems to be his usual stoic self, so I am relieved as we finally reach our floor, and I can scurry to my quarters after an awkward curtsy.

"Good night, Cayden."

"Good night, Missy." He scrunches up his nose, making me feel even more stupid.

Thank you for that.

'This is because you behave like an idiot. You should be more seducing around him.'

I roll my eyes at Cassy's comment and walk into my little kitchen to make myself a cup of tea. "Aren't we talking a little bit too much lately?" Chuckling, I feel her irritation stream through me. With a gasp, I ponder over the possibility of being able to feel her emotions.

But that can't be.

Now that I think of it, this kind of emotion feels different from the irritation that I felt during the film.

Bringing the thumb to my lips, I halt mid-air. "Is there any other reason for you to suddenly start talking to me now?" I ask her, but she remains now?"

quiet and ignores me with a Scoff.

"Okay! Whatever, Cassy." Pouring the hot water over the teabag in my cup, I sigh deeply.

This isn't how I had imagined my life to go. And having my wolf insulting me constantly now, instead of just reprimanding me from time to time, is a lot harder than I expected.

I fear the moment my mates will want to know about my wolf, and I will suffer the consequences for her behavior. After finishing my tea while standing in the kitchen and answering some texts from Ramona, I change into my pjs.

I slip beneath my warm blankets and take a deep breath.

Listening to my heart beating fast in my chest, I realize that I can't calm it down, and get up.noveldrama

I pull a dressing gown over the top and the shorts that I am wearing and go to open the door to my quarters.

Plopping my head outside carefully, I see that there is no one scurrying around. Only Cayden seems to be in his office, as I see light coming out from under his door.

With light steps, I reach the staircase and sprint down.

Even if I'm doing my best to be as quiet as possible, I can't imagine going unnoticed by everyone. So, I hurry up to get to my destination as fast as I

can.

I groan at the pictures that pop up in my head, making me actually want to get discovered and punished.

'Cassy, not now!' I hiss at her, reaching the small movie room we were in just a bit less than an hour ago.

Without even thinking a second

thought, burst into the room,

halting in my movements as I spot

three Omegas about to clean up. "Oh Oh! I'm sorry, I didn't think... I just wanted a little snack."

"No worries. Go ahead." One of the three says, gesturing to the table with the snacks. "Thank you," I say awkwardly, waving a chocolate bar into the air. "I'm Missy, by the way." "Oh, we know that already." Another one in the back says, flipping her blonde hair back.

I nod as they don't seem to want to introduce themselves. "Well, nice to know. I'll get going so..."

Blowing my cheeks, I run back out, hearing them murmuring even before the door closed behind me.

I roll my eyes as it seems to trigger Cassy, 'That's because you aren't Luna material. If you were the Alpha's mate, they would respect you.' This hits me like a blow, and I halt in my tracks, closing my eyes. As my racing heart overpowers her mean mumbling, I start running again. 'Also, what are you doing?' She screeches as I open the heavy door to the dungeons.