

When they touch me (Shelagh Milano)

chapter 6-10

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Artemisia

Shivering pleasantly, I force myself up to escape this situation before I do something to trouble my parents even more.

“Do you have a place like this on your pack lands too?”

As he catches up with me leisurely, my heart starts beating faster in my chest.

The moonlight touches the surface of the lake, creating a romantic scenery. His face gets kissed by the rays of light that illuminate his left side, taking my breath away.

It takes me a few seconds to realize that his looking at me as well. We stay silently for what seems like an eternity, and at one point I think that I must be dreaming. His eyes get black, leaving just single golden flecks to swirl in his irises.

I gasp, and as I’m about to take a step back, he is faster to stop me from it, grabbing my forearm gently. I get captured by his intense gaze, losing myself completely.

As he takes a step forward to stand even closer, I gulp. I’m a bit confused that I don’t feel any sparks on my skin as his touch feels heavenly.

“Cayden?” I whisper, watching him leaning closer.

But he stays quiet, his lips nearing mine slowly. My heart hitches in my throat, and I close my eyes waiting for his lips to touch mine. I feel his warm breath fanning me, making me heat up even more.

His lips have barely grazed mine as a loud growl tears me out of my trance.

Cayden seems unfazed by the threatening roar as I look at him but looks just deadly annoyed. Turning my head to the origin of the sound, I find one of my brothers clenching his fist with his chest heaving.

“What the fuck, Blackwood!” He shouts, his wolf fighting for dominance.

Cayden straightens his spine unimpressed, while I panic.

And what stupid timing, idiot!

‘Go away, idiot! What are you doing?’ I mind-link him, getting his angry expression to turn on me.

“Don’t dare to talk to me like that after I found you in such a bad position!” He roars, making me mewl.

So embarrassing.

But Cayden chuckles, apparently unaware that my brother is about to attack him. “Chill, Guerrieri! You are interrupting! Don’t you have some cake to eat?”

Oh, you can’t be serious.

Seeing my brother about to pop off, I stand in his way, trying to calm him down. “Zeno, please. You have to calm down. Don’t...”

“Don’t tell me what to do!” He growls, charging past me.

“No!” I shout panically, as I turn around, not able to stop my brother, who is shifting midair.

Turning around, I’m just in time to see Cayden blocking my brother and swinging him into the lake as if he were made out of hay.

He didn’t even shift partly, turning to look at my now struggling brother swimming in the lake back in his human form.

I run to stand next to him wide-eyed as my brother reaches the shore on the other side of the lake slowly. noveldrama

“Oh my God! I’m so sorry! He is such an idiot!”

Cayden flashes me a gorgeous smile, his canines flashing in the moonlight. “Don’t worry. You told me you were their favorite!”

That makes me smile, and I shake my head while lowering my gaze to prevent him from seeing me blush. As my eyes set on his arm, my breath hitches.

“Oh, no! You are hurt!”

He clicks his tongue, lifting his arm. “Ah, no. It’s just a scratch. Don’t worry.”

I slip my stole from me to wrap it around his arm.

“Really, Missy. Don’t worry. There is no need to ruin your dress!”

Pressing the cloth to his wound which probably has already closed by now, I feel strangely agitated.

“Really!” He repeats, laying his hand on mine. “Missy.”

Taking a deep breath, I feel his touch calming me, and slowly but surely this is creeping me out.

He smiles as I look at him, feeling excruciated.

“You smell nice.” His husky whisper, hits me right in the heart, making my chest squeeze.

A clearing of a throat gets me to jump once again, meeting my brother’s eyes. “Are you alright? What happened?” Giorgio asks worriedly.

His eyes narrow as he sees Zeno walking back around the lake slumped and dripping wet.

“It’s my fault, Alpha Guerrieri,” Cayden says, and I look at him surprised. “I made a stupid joke. And he just wanted to protect his sister’s pride. I’m sorry for the fuss I created!”

Giorgio doesn’t seem to be convinced about what Cayden is saying, but he knows better than to accuse an enemy pack’s alpha of lying.

“No worries, Alpha Blackwood. I’m sorry if my brother wasn’t able to react like a grown adult to a joke.”

After a lot of diplomatic back and forth between the two, Zeno finally reaches us.

“Chiedi scusa!” I hiss at him, making him distort his face. [Apologize!]

Zeno sways back and forth, acting childishly, but as more and more people join us at the lake, he finally gives in. “I’m sorry, Alpha Blackwood!”

“No, please. I apologize as well.”

Cayden taps my hand gently before he steps away to meet his pack members standing a few steps away from us.

I watch him, rooted to the ground while Giorgio is reprimanding Zeno. As the group of men has reached the side of the house, about to disappear, I detach myself from the ground and run towards his broad back.

“Alpha Blackwood.” I cringe internally, as I call him, reaching him with fast steps. He turns around looking at me unamused, and I get immediately what angers him.

“Cayden, sorry.” While he smiles lightly, my stomach turns at the hateful glances I get from his entourage. “Thank you. For what you said to Giorgio. I hope you can forgive my brother and not think that badly of us.”

“Of course, Missy.”

He is about to open my stole bandage when I stop him. “No, please. You can keep it. I won’t be wearing this dress anymore anyway.”

I force a smile as he sighs happily, “What a pity. It looks stunning on you.”

“Oh, thank you,” I say, feeling my cheeks heat up.

With another smile and a slight bow, he turns around, his baritone seeping through my skin.

“Good night, Missy. Thank you for the tour.”

I blink several times before I get myself to speak. “All my pleasure, Cayden.”

“Good night,” I add in a stutter, hitting my leg with my fist repeatedly.

So, embarrassing.

Chapter 0007

Artemisia

“Have you lost your mind?” I gasp, clenching my cup of coffee as Ramona cracks up. “You are such a pervert.”

She recovers from her fit of laughter, wiggling her finger at me. “Come on. He sounds like an awesome guy. I know that your family is scared about him coming to get you, but maybe you just want to ... Well... Let him get you.”

“You are impossible.” I roll my eyes, hiding my smile by taking a sip from my coffee.

She shrugs, chuckling. “I know.”

“Have you already thought of getting his number?” She asks, making me sigh.

“And how would I even do that?”

Pointing her finger at me, she inhales audibly. “Aaaah, so you have thought about it. Who is the perv now?”

I giggle lightly, shaking my head. “I’m serious. This is not a good idea.”

“Nothing good ever is.” She grins, making me smile.

Opening my mouth about to retort something, I halt in my movements. We both turn our heads to Zeno running towards me as if he was being chased by a gigantic stone.

I don’t even get to react as he reaches us at lightning speed, grabbing my arm. “We have to go. Come with me.”

“What? Zeno, what is happening?”

“Just come with me!” He shouts, tearing me out of my seat.

As we run back to our home, I try to get out of his hold which is starting to hurt me. “Zeno, relax. What is happening?”

Naturally, he is too focused on his mind links to even register my questions.

Cristian, Costa, and Zaccaria are already waiting for us, and their looks are the last piece to complete my panic-puzzle.

“Oh, my Goddess. What happened?”

“We are under attack,” Costa says, steering us around the house. “We have to get you off the pack territory.”

I stutter incredulously, looking at their expressions already signaling how they entered the emergency mode. “What?”

“Just do as you're told. And walk faster.” Zaccaria hisses, making me whimper.

No need to be rude.

Suddenly, Cassy stirs, risking taking over as a mouthwatering scent attacks my senses.

Oh, Goddess.

My head spins as every fiber of my body feels like it is getting reborn, making my nerves buzz pleasantly. noveldrama

“Mate,” I whisper, making my brothers halt abruptly.

“Hey!” We turn around practically simultaneously, laying our eyes on the most gorgeous man I have ever seen.

His bare, muscular chest is heaving, his tousled black hair inviting me to drive my hands through it. He reminds me of Cayden, only that his face is more handsome, his lips fuller.

I'm losing my head.

“Get your dirtbag's hands off my mate.” He roars, his deep voice tingling in my stomach.

This is bad.

Before I can even react to it, Zeno pushes me away in the other direction.

My brothers are already shifting, charging towards my mate as Zeno shouts, “Run!”

I hit the floor inelegantly before my instinct kicks in, having me pick myself up and run as fast as I can.

‘What are you doing?’ Cassy shrieks while I hear the fighting noises behind me.

My pace picks up as I can clearly hear my mate laugh, but I must be imagining it.

Stumbling over sticks and pebble stones, I run over my family's backyard, wanting to reach the forest.

Just another bit.

If I make it to the border, I can have other warriors involved.

As I have nearly made it to the line of trees, the amazing scent intensifies again, until he practically materializes in front of me.

“Shit!”

I risk bumping into his hard chest as I halt brusquely, falling backwards. A sly smirk appears on his gorgeous face as he towers over me. “You are fast, little mate. Impressive.”

My breath hitches in my throat as he crouches down tilting his head.

“Where were you trying to run to?” He says sounding amused.

I should have known that my running away and my brothers trying to fight him off would have only enhanced the thrill of the chase for him.

Also, he doesn't seem to have a single scratch. And yet he was just attacked by 4 alpha males.

My chest is heaving as I'm thinking of a way to get out of this situation. Still pondering over the fact that I'm convincing myself that this is not thrilling and that I want to stay with my family, I feel taken aback by the fact that I seem to notice the dimples forming on his cheeks.

Rather than the sharp canines that he is flashing at me.

“I- I-” I gulp, looking for any reason why I was running from my alleged mate.

He hums, seemingly waiting patiently for me to answer him.

Like a predator playing with his food.

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“I- You- I have patients here.”

He watches me dumbfounded as if he wasn’t getting what I wanted to say.

“I can’t leave them here on their own. I’m their doctor and they trust me.” I gulp again, trying to get rid of the lump forming in my throat.

Goddess, why me?!

His eyes narrow at me as I push myself backward slightly. “Are you the only doctor in this pack?”

“No.” I shake my head and force myself to stay in my spot as I don’t want to anger him even more.

His smirk reappears and with a swift movement, he has reached me and throws me over his shoulder. “Then they will be cared for just fine.”

“What?! No! Let me down!” I trash in his arms but that doesn’t seem to bother him in the slightest.

“I told you to let me down! Now!” I can hear his chuckle vibrate through me while I continue to hit his stone-hard back.

“Hey! Let her down.” I recognize my brother’s voice as he must have stepped into my mate’s way.

“You can’t manhandle her like that. You won’t take her against her will.”

“Get out of my way. I won’t leave without my mate!” His amusement is strong in his speech as he repositions me on his shoulder effortlessly. “I don’t want to hurt you, Georgie. I’m sure your sister will be sad about that!”

What is it about them not being able to remember the simplest of names?!

I pound on his back, mewling. “Yes. I will hate you for life if you were to hurt my family.”

“Don’t make me then, sweetheart.” He growls.

I don’t like how he pronounces the pet name sarcastically, and I proceed to hit my knees against his chest.

Even if I don't get him to budge, at least he is annoyed at me, as I can clearly make out by his groan.

"Listen. Put her down! You are just going to make it worse. Let's talk it out. Let her get her things and come with you peacefully."

The Hulk just scoffs, straightening his spine.

"Sure. Because she can't wait to leave this place."

"Okay. I get you. Fynn, let me talk to her. She knows the rules. We won't get you to leave without her. Just give her some time to realize what is happening." I can hear my brother's feet shift on the pavement as he continues to persuade my mate, whose name I just found out to be Fynn.

"She was rejected by her Mate a few years ago. Give her time, she doesn't mean it like that."

Fynn's growl mixes with my gasp. "How the fuck dare you! You had no right to tell him that!" I shout, trashing even more.

How I hate the fact that he gets all political and wants to deliver me to the enemy pack, instead of wanting to convince this brute to let me stay with my family.

"It's the truth, then?" I hear Fynn say calmly, and I suppose he is talking to me.

"Yeah." I sigh, relaxing over his muscular shoulder.

He humphs childishly while my blood pumps louder through my veins. "Were you running away from me because of him?"

"Of course not!" I scoff, but something tells me that he is still unamused by his new finding. I don't know why, but I suddenly feel the urge to appease him.

"He rejected me like years ago, and I accepted his rejection straight away. He has a mate and children, and there is definitely nothing going on between us." I clear my throat as I can still feel his anger waft towards me.

"Fynn?" I ask lowly, feeling him tense beneath me.

"Would you let me down now? Please."

For a second, I think he must be ignoring me or still be pondering over the possibility he has with me. But just as I'm about to speak again, he moves.

Fynn throws me off his shoulders, and before I can scream the shriek stuck in my lungs, I brace myself for the impact.

But it never comes.

Opening my eyes slowly, they lock with his dark brown ones. I gasp, surprised by the effect they have on me, and I see red spots twirl in his iris, signaling me that his wolf is trying to get through me as well.

Well, good luck with that, buddy. noveldrama

Fynn leans in closer, grasping my face to keep me from turning my face away.

“Behave. Or we will get back to doing it my way.”

I nod carefully and finally can release the squeal as he pulls me back to my feet.

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I can't remember a moment in my life when I felt more uncomfortable.

Well, except for that rejection part.

Forget that. But it is flipping awkward.

As I climb the stairs to my room with my new companion, he takes his time to look at everything. And even if his stoic face keeps frowning annoyed, I can still get that he is genuinely interested in how his mate is living.

Stupid Mate bond.

“This is my room,” I say, feeling a bit nervous as I open the door to my bedroom for him to enter.

Choosing not to close it all the way, I get his disappointment washing over me. And not only because he glares at me.

“I just don't want my parents to worry. Don't look at me like that.”

He scoffs, turning around my room nonchalantly.

I start to pack my most essential things while he looks around, examining my decoration and my framed pictures.

“Will someone come and take the rest for me, if I just pack the essentials now?”

He grunts, not tearing away his gaze from a picture of me and my brother at his mating ceremony. “Yeah. I will send a few warriors over as soon as your things are packed.”

This is my chance!

“Maybe I could stay the night and pack everything. This way, you or your warriors could come to pick me and my things up in one go.”

He looks at me over his shoulder annoyed as he simply states, “No!”

Groaning, I walk into my walk-in closet to gather my last belongings that I plan to take with me. He leans against the door frame and crosses his arms. “You really don’t want to leave this place, do you?”

“Wow, what a smart man you are!” I say mockingly while rummaging through my drawers.

“Is it because of your dream guy?”

“Dream guy? What dream guy?”

I look up at him befuddled, and he shrugs at me. “Don’t know. You tell me.”

I groan, getting up and bumping into him to get him out of his way. He lifts his hands and turns out of the way as if I had any impact on him, while I’m pretty sure that if he wanted to, I would have catapulted back into the wall of my closet.

Bonus point for the gentleman.

“You are such an idiot. How would you feel if you had to leave your home in about 5 minutes, just because some caveman wants you to take you to his cave?”

He chuckles and stands behind me, watching me pack. “It’s been more than 5 minutes, princess. Because you keep wasting my time.”

Again, with this attitude with the pet name.

I’m just about to turn around to stand my ground as he wraps his arms around my waist and pulls me to his toned frame. A gasp falls off my lips involuntarily as he presses his lips to my neck, igniting sparks.

As if this wasn’t already enough, his husky whisper invades my system, making me feel stupidly dizzy. “And after I have shown you all the ways I can bring your body to shake in pleasure, you’ll be happy in a cave too.”

I stare at him for the seconds my brain needs to pick up his service again and push him away, acting indignantly. “Get your dirty hands off me.”

He growls but lets me go anyway. “Are you done?”

“Yes.” I sigh and even before I can take my duffle bags, he picks them up to carry them outside.

As we reach the first floor, I can’t find anyone but my mother and my big brother to say goodbye.

‘The others had to cool off. You know how much they love you! They will make it up to you soon enough.’ My brother mind-links me as he hugs me tightly.

My mother cries awfully loud but seems to be rather happy, as she pinches Fynn’s cheek, wishing us a good ride home.

Wow, thanks a lot. noveldrama

I wipe away the tears in my eyes as we walk to the line of trees where a few warriors from the Blood Fang pack are already waiting for us.

As Fynn clicks his tongue and does some kind of defensive movement, I guess he was asked to hand a piece of luggage over for the others to take.

Well, as long as I don’t have to carry them.

After passing the pack boarders, I think about making myself as annoying as possible, but I ultimately decide against it, as he is still supposed to be my mate.

And I don’t want to land in some dungeon.

The men suddenly stop, and I see their eyes glaze over. As the supposed mind link is over, I can’t help but notice how the warriors seem to be distressed while Fynn smirks challenged.

“Busted.” He chuckles as he continues walking.

“What do you mean by busted?” I ask, taking a few fast steps to catch up with him.

He shakes his head without sparing me a glance. “My brother just found out that I went to take you. And he is pissed!”

I halt in my tracks, and it takes him a few heartbeats to do the same and turn to me.

“What is it now, princess?”

“Stop emphasizing the pet names you give me like that. Nobody is forcing you, you know!”

“Well, we weren’t actually introduced properly, don’t you think?”

“Ha-ha! You could ask for my name, you know? Rather than playing the strong and untouchable alpha idiot.”

“Alpha idiot.” He snorts, turning back around to ignore me.

As the others pass me as well, I notice that I didn’t even get introduced to his entourage.

What a nice mate I got.

Lucky me!

We reach two SUVs and Fynn deposits my bags into one of them before he gestures to the passenger’s seat. “Get in, little mate.”

Goddess, why has he to be so irritating?

Protesting with a groan, I still get into the car reluctantly. As the four warriors who came with him to kidnap me are getting into the other car, it doesn’t take me long to panic because we will clearly be left alone.

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“Relax, princess.” He says mockingly as he starts the engine and drives off after the others. “I won’t surely take your innocence in an Escalate.”

“Ha!” I push out, turning my head to look out of the window. “Would be too late for that anyway.”

As I’m expecting him to blow off, I’m quite taken aback by his chuckle. “Good to hear. That will make a few things easier.”

Gasping theatrically, my eyes snap to look at him and find him smirking. His delectable dimples are already back on display as he is concentrated on the road.

Maybe it’s the mate bond, but I have to say that he is even more handsome than his brother. His squared jaw is covered in stubbles and his sun-kissed skin makes me fantasize about him training and working outdoors. A lot.

As my gaze is about to wander along his muscular arms, his deep smoky voice tears me back to reality.

“Drake says he can’t get your wolf to talk to him.”

“Drake?” I ask, thankful for the change of subject.

“Yeah. My wolf. He is getting a bit agitated as she doesn’t answer him. Is everything alright?”

“Sure.” I lie, “Maybe she is traumatized by what happened too.”

He chuckles, shaking his head.

“I hope she recovers quickly. He has even less patience than me.”

Boy, what a catch.

“Just as quickly as she will be able to. Don’t push her.” I murmur, turning back to watch the scenery pass past my window.

If I wasn’t outraged by this situation, I’d surely enjoy the view. The green hills and the flowery fields along with the beautiful brown and reddish cottages give up an entirely other atmosphere than I would have imagined by hearing my brothers’ stories.

I hug myself as I watch the people who keep coming into the picture and turn around to wave at us shortly. A few of them take a longer look, probably trying to figure out who I am.

I have a mate.

A second chance mate.

And even if I feel like we didn’t click at all, I found myself lying to him as I was too scared to face another rejection because of my dormant wolf.

So stupid.

But there is no way an entitled and arrogant alpha like him would approve of such a thing. He would rather reject me in a second.

Also, there is that story about the execution.

Cassy! Please!’ I plead to her, without getting any answer.

“Here we are! Home sweet home.” Fynn announces proudly while my eyes widen at the magnificent mansion in front of us. As he rolls onto the driveway, crunching the pebble stones under our tires, I can already spot a frowning Cayden on top of the wide stairs leading to the main entrance. Taking a

deep breath, I get out of the car with sparkling eyes. While the two brothers start bickering, I take my time to admire the three-story mansion in brownstone and with impressive wings.

Just as I’m about to take another step to reach the stairs, Cassy stirs, making me clench my stomach in pain. “Everything alright?” Cayden is looking at me worriedly and I nod slowly.

I’m not convinced though.

From the open main door comes a mix of scents that are as alluring as they are unsettling. I can’t wrap my head around what could be wrong as Fynn passes me with my luggage.

“Don’t forget to breathe, sweetheart.”

Such an-

My brain as not even finalize the thought as my attention gets caught by something else.

There is something wrong.

And as my eyes fall on the guy that appeared at the door, my heart stops.

The gorgeous man who appears at the door looks just like Fynn and still, there is something different in his appearance. His traits seem softer, his face a tad rounder, his expression friendlier.

My brain is working hard to grasp the situation as it manages to make out Fynn’s twin and the fact that he came to pick me up alone to deceive me.

That asshole.

“Is she here?” I hear another voice ask elatedly, and even before the steps come closer to join the brothers at the entrance, I feel my inside churn.

You have to be kidding me.

Even before I can spot him at the door, my feet act by themselves and take off.

“No, no, no.” I can hear Fynn’s voice in the distance before he speaks right beside me. “I thought we already had this settled, princess.”

Feeling myself getting lifted from the ground, I crash until he lets me fall with a groan. As I hit the floor with a thud, and he clicks his tongue, trying to get ahold of me again.

“Stop acting up! What is wrong with you?!”

“Hey, don’t hurt her!” I hear the elated voice again, just that it no longer holds enthusiasm but more worry. Barely sensing him move, I can just witness Fynn getting tackled to the ground.

“Matt, get the fuck off me!” Fynn growls, throwing his brother off him. As Matt doesn’t seem to give up, I take the chance to retreat slowly, just until my back hits a wall.

Only that the wall is a set of strong legs.

“Are you hurt?” He asks me, dragging me to my feet. “Did the prick hurt you?”

His eyes bore into mine, taking my breath away.

We stare at each other for a split second, before I shake my head slowly. Blue and silver flecks twirl around his pupils as he laughs. “Sorry for the ruckus. We had told him that we needed to address this a bit more carefully, but our older brother is just as unpredictable as a whirlwind and as stubborn as a donkey.”

This actually gets me to smile, and I clear my throat.

“Don’t worry. It’s OK. I was just...” Looking at the two men who have stopped fighting and are now sitting staring at us, I can’t help to shudder at the glare that Fynn is gracing me with.

“I was just shocked. That is all.”

I turn my head at him shocked. “Is there another one of you?”

Matt sighs as the brother standing next to me laughs. “No, just us three. But it will be enough for you, I promise.”

Laughing awkwardly, I let him steer me back to the mansion where Cayden is waiting for us with crossed arms.

“I had warned you, Fynn.” He growls, his authority weighing on us. “You get a three-day penalty. And will leave her alone for that period of time.” noveldrama

Fynn clicks his tongue but doesn’t answer his brother.

“You must be hungry.”

“Starving, actually.” I smile shyly and follow them into my new home.