

Chapter Twelve: Mating Ball Part Two

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Tristan POV:

The day had nally come, the mating ball; as much as I was excited about the prospect of maybe nding our fated mate, I also dreaded it because of that she-wolf, Brianna. I knew no one could announce her as our chosen without all three of us accepting it, but that she-wolf and that convening group of council members had their ways of putting us on the spot where it was hard to react the way we wanted. Even though Hayden didn't give a f**k and would act out as he saw t, the same didn't go for Lucas and me; I was the eldest, so discipline was expected of me, which ended up being my downfall when dealing with my brothers. I didn't particularly appreciate overthrowing Hayden's commands at times, but I had to when needed. Though it would piss him the f**k off, but he got over it. Sometimes, he overthrew my commands, and I let it be. But I doubt he would listen if somehow Brianna was announced as our chosen mate tonight.

On top of all that, I could hardly get any sleep last night after our best friend and beta Gabe mentioned his cousin: Aurora. Goddess! The name itself sounded so beautiful there was no doubt in my mind that the girl herself would be gorgeous. Curiosity got the best of me, and I ended up questioning Gabe about his cousin when he returned from the Crescent Fang Pack under the guise that we, the kings, should know of special circumstances like this, especially when an alpha born wasn't aware of her heritage. Which was a load of bullshit; being the kings, we didn't need to worry about it; we had allocated departments for this type of stuff, but the urge to know more about Aurora got the best of me. My mind was plagued with her the entire night: how would she look, how was she nding her new surroundings, was she okay, or did she want to go back? All these questions drove me and my Lycan crazy, which was stupid because my Lycan nor I gave a s**t about girls; yeah, we had dated around. We bedded willing females, but we were never emotionally attached to anyone. Hell, my Lycan just used to put up a wall between him and me in my mind whenever I was with any female. So him being this restless for a girl he hadn't even met was baing. I had an inkling that maybe, just maybe, she was our mate. The thought sent happy surges through my body, but I couldn't be sure; I needed to see if her scent affected me. But then again, I didn't want to get my hopes up either; it could be that just the aura surrounding her life interested me and my Lycan, but that didn't explain the emotions that owed through me after just hearing her name. I hadn't discussed this with either Hayden or Lucas as much as I wanted to; unlike me, Hayden, despite being hot-headed, was very emotional. I didn't need him getting his hopes up to be disappointed later, and with Lucas, even though we were all the same age, there was a difference of minutes between all of us. I still treated him ilike a baby brother, not wanting to hurt him because of things I believed I could prevent.

The ball had started almost three hours ago, and by tradition, all the unmated females had rst been lined up according to rank and presented themselves in the throne room, without anyone but us around. The whole point was to choose our chosen mate then, and the party was to announce the future chosen Luna queen. Even amid a herd of females, my eyes wandered for the mysterious face that was Aurora. I knew she was an alpha female; even though her mother, Luna Melissa, had Aurora with her human boyfriend, Aurora was still considered alpha blood because of her mom. However, I didn't see her among the alpha females; I knew each alpha female by name, mainly because they threw themselves at us, and much to my dismay now, my brothers and I had s*x with quite a few of them. What hurt more was that there was no unique scent in the throne room, even with the hundreds of females present, no seductive scent that would indicate our mate was there. For formality's sake, my brothers and I went through the females for an hour and then had them escorted back to the party. It was just an hour, but I was already dreading this whole thing and wanted nothing but to fall face-rst to bed and sleep this day off. Still, we had to return to the party and inform everyone of our decision that we wouldn't be taking anyone, especially that slut Brianna, as our mate.

I was broken out of my thoughts of the mysterious female Aurora and the events of the choosing ceremony, when I received a mindlink from Hayden that he and Lucas were waiting for me at the door of the stairwell of the ballroom. Giving myself a once over, ensuring that my suit was wrinkle-free and my hair was still slicked back even after all the times I had run my hand into it. We all decided to wear charcoal grey suits with black dress shirts. Even though we preferred to dress differently on occasions like these, we did it to entrain our parents; they were always fond of us dressing alike. I left to go nd my brothers; turning into the hallway, I found them deep in a heated discussion with Gabe. You could practically see the steam coming out of Hayden's ears, and Lucas had his palms sted; they were shaking slightly. f**k! Why did I feel it had something to do with that b***h Brianna? Nowadays, everything was her fault, especially when Lucas was this angry. He didn't show his emotions all that much, so you know s**t went down, for him to be this mad. As I got closer, they stopped and turned in my direction.

Hayden POV:

I couldn't motherfucking believe it! How dare they! How f*****g dare the council already announce Brianna as our chosen before me or my brothers were even at the party. I was seething, raging, my beast wanting to be let loose to kill that b***h and the whole council. We were the kings! What we say goes, how dare they think they could override us? I didn't give a s**t about acting the part of a royal. They had seriously f****d up, and I swear to the goddess, if they didn't see a side of me, they would fear for the rest of their miserable lives.

After an hour of the ordeal of dealing with those power-hungry females in the throne room, all three of us retired to our rooms for a bit. Just when we had to go back to the party and tell everyone to be on their merry way, Gabe came sprinting to us with the news of the announcement. I was already pissed off; I hadn't seen the alpha blood Lycan, Aurora, Gabe's cousin, that had plagued my mind, which pissed me off all the way more since my Lycan and I couldn't think straight after hearing her name yesterday. I was so lost in that girl's thoughts that I hardly listened to what Natala was talking about yesterday. And, when I didn't see her in the alpha females lineup earlier, I had just enough of this whole mating ball.

I was broken out of my thoughts when I heard Tristan coming our way; turning around, we saw him just a few feet away from us. Losing control of my beast, he took over and punched him right in the face as our eyes glowed, showing my lycan was on the surface. He snarled at me, his lycan also surfacing.

"Are you f*****g happy now! She f*****g along with that f*****g council, had already announced her as our mate without even us present! This is all your f*****g fault!" I yelled.

Realization dawned on him, making him forget about the punch I had just landed him and whipping his head in Lucas and Gabe's direction, silently asking if this was true. With a tight jaw, eyes glowing with his Lycan on the surface, Lucas nodded, and so did Gabe as he kept his eyes downcast. Which had Tristan cursing out loud, xing his suit jacket and telling us to do the same; we marched towards the door and pushed them open.

Hell was going to rain down! And I would be damned if I let that b***h sit alongside me as queen. A seat that was only to be sat upon by our mate, its rightful owner.

Lucas POV:

I was ragging from inside; my Lycan banging on the wall I had put up to keep him bound was slowly cracking. He was pissed, f**k, I was pissed. It hadn't even been two hours since we left the throne room, and Brianna was already announced as our mate. Hayden was on a war path; heads were going to fall tonight, and f**k if I wasn't going to stand by him. With hell to Tristan and his thought of royal image, we were the kings; our word was the law. How dare the council think they could surpass us. If they thought announcing that b***h as our mate around the entire kingdom would make us fall in line, and we wouldn't act out, they were all a bunch of s**t-heads.

Pushing the doors open, we walked out to the top of the double-curved stairwell; all eyes were on us. Our parents avoided eye contact with us; the council members trembled when they saw the war raging in our eyes, but quickly composed themselves. Everyone called out to us, addressing us as we took slow, predatory steps down the stairs; even though everything in my brothers and I wanted to rip those bastard council members' throats out, we took it slow, making sure they knew what was coming to them.

We saw Brianna smile and walk towards us; the moment she was a couple of feet away from us, she curtsied, her neck bared and addressed us. It took everything in me not to grab the b***h by the hair and snap her neck. I saw Hayden reach from the corner of my eye, probably to do what I just thought, when he suddenly stopped, sniffed the air, and tensed. Confused why he acted like that, I went to sniff as well when the strong scent of lavender and peaches invaded my nostrils, making goosebumps rise all over my body, blood rushing to my c**k. I could see my brothers react as they groaned in ecstasy. All three of our eyes shot up, trying to locate the source of this heavenly scent, when our eyes locked on a girl, no more than twenty, in a shoulderless Ivory gown with raven black hair and green eyes staring right back at us. Time stood still, and all three of us said that word we had waited to say for the past feen years.

"MATE." our growls resonated in the eerily silent ballroom.