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A FEW HOURS AGO. 1

The birds chirped and sang, making for an early morning discussion.

It was the blissful chatter that woke Jasmine up.

She slowly opened her eyes and looked and saw that she was asleep in the swamp.

Nature sounded so quiet.

This was the first time she had ever had the opportunity to sleep on the sweet and natural grass outside.

Back home in the pack, she had been strictly prohibited from staying out because she was to remain hidden.

But here, even though she was a slave and the property of Alpha Xaden, she had never been so free and had even done things she had never had the opportunity to do back home.

She felt the beautiful rays of sunlight on her naked body, and it wasn't harsh but warm and alluring.



She moved and then felt a firm arm around her waist.

She froze, turned around, and saw Xaden sound asleep beside her.

His arm was placed around her protectively in such a manner that he seemed reluctant to let go.

Then the memories of last night came back to her.

How he had come to her in the lake and been so gently with her.

He had been nothing like the first time they had been together.

She blushed when she remembered how intimate they had been.

Her tummy flipped, and she felt a sudden strange wave of emotions.

She looked at him soundly as he slept and admired him.

She adjusted to seeing his face well, and even in sleep, he tightened his grip around her and held her close to him.

She smiled at even how protective he still was



despite not being awake.

She watched him and closely watched his features for the first time.

She noticed that his dark hair was almost as black as a raven, and then she gently smoothed away the lock of hair that hung over his eye, and then his scar came into view.

It was small but visible and had already healed as if it were over his left eye.

It made him seem more dangerous even though, at the moment, he looked like a sound-asleep child.

She smiled and wondered what he looked like as a child.

His eyelashes were long, and his brows were full.

She saw his cheek move in sleep and noticed his deep dimples.

Then she looked down at his chest and took in how perfect made they were.

She gently set her hand on them and admired him.

She wanted to stay like this forever.



She and him were just here, far away from everyone else.

She gently touched his face, and then his eyes fluttered open.

She felt her heart skip, seeing his solemn face as he stared at her.

At first, it had been a surprise, and then it had become expressionless.

Then he sat up and looked around.

"What are we doing here?" He looked down at her, and then she remembered that she was naked, and she blushed in modesty.

"You can't remember?" She asked him. He stared at her blankly. Then she cleared her throat and went on. "I woke up last night and found you by my side, and w-we h-happened."

He looked at her and then put his hand over his face. "Damn it."

Then he looked around as if trying to reassure himself.

"What about the maiden?" He asked her.

She looked at him in confusion.



She had wondered about that, too.

Why was he with her when he was supposed to be with the maiden?

"I don't know where she is. It's just been two of us." She said.

He stopped short as if something occurred to him.

"Shit." He swore.

Then he got up to his feet, and she took in the gaze of his lean and perfect back structure.

She quickly diverted her eyes in modesty.

He looked around for his clothes, but there were none in sight.

He swore to himself.

He found her dress, and then he flung it at her.

"Get dressed."

Hands shaking, she hurriedly put on the dress and tried to get up.

"Ooof!" She said as she fell back down.

He looked at her with a frown as she tried to rise again, but she fell back down.



"What's wrong?" He asked.

"I don't know, and my legs just seem unable to move." She said nervously.

Then she swallowed. "You can leave me alone, my lord. I'll return to the castle."

He looked at her, and before she could even say jack, he had gone down to her and scooped her in his arms.

She looked at him, her face now turning red and seemingly shocked.

He said nothing as he began to walk with her in his arms.

He said nothing, and so she, in turn, kept her words to herself.

She tried to ignore the fact that he was naked. After all, being a wolf and being nude was a common thing.

She thought he probably had ripped it when he was turning ahead of the ritual and maybe left it with the maiden he had found before coming to her.

She wondered why he was even bothering with her when he could just walk ahead of her.



All through the walk, nothing was said, and then, as They approached the castle grounds, a large bell was wrung.

Jasmine's heart skipped, but she said nothing.

Then they were in view of the castle gates, and she saw that the high priestesses and all Alphas were standing waiting for them.

She wanted to ask him why he was carrying her in such a manner, but she was too scared even to move. 1

Then, the King and Queen came and joined the waiting crowd.

Soon, Xaden came to a halt in front of the high priestess.

"Welcome back, Lord and Alpha Xaden." She said.
"The true victor of the halo moon."

She bowed to him.

"We greet you and your maiden." She said 1