

Unwilling 161

Chapter 161

When I woke up, I couldn't help but feel aroused again. Looking over at Griffin, I noticed even in his sleep he was too. Everything in me made me want to just climb him. Act out on this impulse. And I did, there was a small flash of surprise on his face when he woke up. I would have never done this if I wasn't sure Griffin would not want this. And he did because as soon as he realized what was happening his hand found their way to my hips. As he started thrusting, matching my frantic pace.

It was not until after we were done that he told me we needed to talk. For a moment, my heart dropped to my stomach. Had he not liked being woken up like that, had I not seen clearly through the haze of my lust?

"Darling, this not being able to keep our hands to ourselves, I think I know what the reason is." He said, pulling me close to his body.

Now reassured that he was not mad or disappointed, the puzzle pieces fell into place for me. We hated marked each other, meaning I would be able to go into heat now. Not only had we accepted each other as mates months ago, and growing the mate bond. Griffin is of royal blood, so the need to procreate for

his bloodline was stronger. So it made sense I would get into heat so fast so that I could easily get pregnant and carry Griff's pups.

"You're right I think I am going into heat and with how I am feeling it won't be long" I filled in what he was saying

Griffin just nodded like he was thinking something over. We both had expressed wanting to raise a family. I don't think that either of us expected me to go into heat so soon. And with everything that was going on all around us.

"Do you want me to call the doctor to get you that shot" Griffin seemed to end the discussion before it even started.

Just as I wanted to talk things over. Because Hannah had her trial coming up, and while I did not know what her punishment would be. She was not a part of the Silver Moon pack and had committed heinous crimes against us. Making me sure she would not have to be a part of our pack. Most likely she would either be made to be a rogue where her being around our pack, the White Oak pack, or the former Blood Moon pack ground would be punishable by death. If she wouldn't be executed right away. David was gone and it did not seem likely he would be back anytime soon. As an enemy of the

country, it wouldn't be an easy feat. To get to us without being noticed.

"So, you don't want pups now?" I ask him wanting to not jump to conclusions again but talk things over.

He had already started getting up to go make us a coffee and it's like he freezes on the spot.

"Darling, there is nothing I would want more than to start a family with you. If it was not for David being

on the run, and for your health, I would have ordered the kitchen to bring us food for a week and then I

would have locked us in." Still butt-naked, boxer shorts in his hand, he crosses his arm with a stern

expression, like he wants me to know how serious he is.

But what he is telling me and the sight in front of me makes me giggle. It is such a comical sight, yet

endearing because he is so determined in his love for me. Showing me how much he loves me.

"Oh, baby, I love you, let's talk about this for a minute okay?" I tell him in between my giggles.

Shaking his head amused, he slips into his boxers, doesn't need to tell me what he is about to do. And

he doesn't he just tells me he loves me too and walks out of the bedroom. I know he is headed towards

the kitchen to make us a coffee. To keep his promise, to keep our morning ritual intact. We'll just

discuss what to do with this heat now when he is back.

When he comes back with the coffee I see he has some pastries on a plate too.

“All those work-outs left me hungry” He jokes

But he is right I am hungry too, and we are about to discuss something very serious. Doing so together in bed sharing a plate of pasties having coffee. Made it all less imposing, and made it into a talk about our future as a couple. As it should be, despite all the other factors it should be about us. Our future is about what we want. Since I was the one who said we needed to discuss this before we went to the doctor to get the shot that keeps me from getting pregnant I started the discussion.

The shot Hannah had given me to make sure David did not get me pregnant. I was sure she did so because she could not bear the idea of any other wolf carrying his pups. Suppressing my heat would be very painful, trying to ride it out without seeing Griff could easily kill me. And with all the trauma my body has gone through lately chances of me not surviving it were very high. Still, the idea of treating love to Griffin the same as I did being raped by David did not feel right. So that is what I tell him first.

“It’s not just about that either, Hannah is locked up and we’ve completed the mating process. We both

wanted children before we needed to take over as king and queen right? We cannot put our entire life on hold for David. He might never come back” I continue hoping to get Griffin to see my point.

If he has other reasons not to want me to get pregnant now that would be fine with me. After all, we both need to want to have pups. It’s the only way to make sure we both will be happy if I do get pregnant. But David has taken so much from us. He has put so many lives on hold, not to mention the ones he ended in cold blood. The one thing I did not want was to give him more power. By putting our lives, and our future on hold for a while longer. He was not worth it.

“Darling, you know I want to have a pup with you at least three if we would be blessed like that. And yes, I would have liked to have a pup before we have to take over because of our workload as King and Queen. While I am worried about David and will be until the moment he is dead. It is not the only reason I am unsure about trying for pups when you go into heat in a few days.” His answer is disappointing but he is honest with me, so there is nothing I can do about it.

I just hope he will tell me what is on his mind, and why he changed his mind on having pups as soon as

we could to this reaction.

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Ayla was right, in terms of not letting David dictate even more of our future. Here at the castle, it would be even harder for David to get to her. And she was right it would be a has sle for him to come back to our country unseen. He was a wanted criminal now, so any wolf that saw him could make a citizen's arrest. Here we always have guards on duty, who would not hesitate to arrest him and lock him up as soon as he was close to the pack ground.

She has been doing great in recovery too but I was unsure if she was healthy and strong enough. Mom had not been at the time she got pregnant with me. Due to this so much went wrong during the delivery that she couldn't have any pups after. A loss she never quite got over. A loss I wanted to spare both Ayla and me from. Like Dad, I would never love my mate less if she could not give me pups, or if she could only give me one pup. But ever since the beginning of our mate-ship, we had both stated we wanted a big family.

We were both very family orientated and it is one of the big things I love about her. I'm not the Moon Goddess and I know I am not able to prevent her from every bit of hurt she could face. Neither can I

make sure that we will have the same future as we always imagined. But if I had a bigger chance of sparing her this loss just by being a little more patient. I would.

“Darling, you know I want to have a pup with you at least three if we would be blessed like that. And yes, I would have liked to have a pup before we had to take over because of our workload as King and Queen. While I am worried about David and will be until the moment he is dead. It is not the only reason I am unsure about trying for pups when you go into heat in a few days.” I start and I can immediately see her face fall.

She doesn't say anything yet, all she does is patiently wait for me to continue. It's far different than what she was like when we first met. Back then she would lash out, and get defensive because I had not yet shown her that she could trust me. The fact that she was now giving me a chance to explain myself. Not thinking I didn't want to have pups with her was a testament to how far we had gotten.

“While I agree that we should not let David, ruin our future. I would feel better if the doctor checked you

over. Make sure your body is healthy enough to be pregnant. I would hate for you to have to deal with the same loss as my mom has” She doesn't protest, she doesn't hesitate before she answers me.

“Fair, I will ask one of the pack doctors if we can schedule a visit today. Because I have no idea if we can wait till tomorrow because I feel like I can go into heat anytime now”

She is right, with how fast everything has been happening we do not have the luxury of waiting. This poses another problem for me, there is something else I would want to do before she got pregnant.

Something I planned to do before she got into heat. But after the trial thinking the heat would take a few

more weeks months even. Now I need to somehow rush everything so I could pull it off tomorrow

evening all while making sure it would be perfect.

“I might ask your mother to start with the event prep for me being welcomed into the pack too. I need to

be a member of the pack before our pup gets born” She states seemingly not noticing I was distracted.

Suddenly it hits me in a few days from now the love of my life could be carrying our first pup. It was like

I did not let the knowledge in for the sole reason of not getting too excited about something so unsure.

But now that we are taking steps to make sure we can get pregnant suddenly makes it feel a lot more real.

“I agree, no lazy Sunday for us today I’ll join you to the doctor but I

should probably get some work done before you go into heat too.” I agree with her, partially because I would have to, and partially because having a good excuse not to be with her this entire day would make it easier to set things up.

Since we had the pastries for breakfast in bed during this talk we decided to go and shower and start our days. Separate showers though because getting into a shower together would cost us hours now.

By the time I got out of the shower, Ayla had contacted the pack doctor and Mom. Both were happy enough to see her now. Currently, she was on a video call with her Uncle as the Alpha of her pack to see who would give her away to our pack. Telling him about the upcoming heat and how she would need it to happen soon.

“Me, your aunt, cousins, parents, and grandparents can all be there by tomorrow. Just tell me us, and I will be the one to give you away and break the pack bond. But I am sure the others want to be there” I sat down next to her hoping I could stay on the call when Ayla would take a shower.

It all worked out like that and it didn’t surprise me Cedric knew something was up.

“Tell me, son, why were you so eager to keep chatting with me I feel it has little to do with my sparkling personality” I joked.

I agreed with him and as I told him of my plans he told me to wait. Even with the videocall, I could see he was mindlinking someone. Soon after Jay and Tessie joined him in the frame. I was a bit nervous. I was sure they would agree with me but still saying the words out loud made my stomach clench together.

“Son we would love that just one text and we’ll be there bells on” Jay smiled at me reassuring me just as I heard the bathroom door open.

“That would be great but Ayla is gone so I am going to hang up now since we need to get going” I rushed to say to make sure. Ayla would not see her parents on the call because that would raise suspicions.

“Ready, to go Darling” I beamed at her. While it was to distract her from the fact I rushed to end the call as she walked into the room again. I was genuinely excited to go to the doctor with her to see if Ayla’s body could deal with a pregnancy. It was a big step towards our future, the pack hospital was within walking distance. Giving me the time to ask Gerald and Dillon to come over. When Gerald told me

Jessa would kill him I told him he could bring her and she would love us both for it. I never had the time to see if he agreed because when we arrived at the hospital I pocketed my phone planning not to take it out before we were done with our appointment.

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“When you called Ayla you told me you needed to make sure that your body could handle a pregnancy now. Is there any reason for that?” The doctor asked because I did not tell them everything.

I still agreed with Griffin about going to the doctor first. It had just felt a bit awkward. Now I had no other

option than to tell her everything. At least it was one of the female pack doctors Maxime. Before I could answer her though she noticed the mark on my collarbone.

“Congratulations Prince Griffin and Princess Ayla, does that have anything to do with it?” she asked reaching for her stethoscope. Like she was about to listen to our pup’s heartbeat.

“Sort off since we marked each other there are signs of the heat coming soon. And you know what that means, so why want to know our best course of action” I told her, causing her face to light up like a Christmas tree. That is when it dawned on me.

If I was to get pregnant not only the entire pack but the entire country would know of it. And most would

be happy for me. Of course, some of them would be jealous.

Doctor Maxime really gave me a thorough exam and when she said back with a bright smile I was

almost sure it would be good news.

“You’re body is healthy, you still need to regain some stamina and you

re still a little on the skinny side. At the bottom of the healthy weight curve so nothing is stopping you

from getting pregnant. Based on hormone levels you will get the heat in one to two days” She adds

giving us a bit of a timeline. This would mean that we need to come up

with a celebration to accept me into the pack. That’s a little daunting but I guess it’s what we will have

to work with so we will.

“You know I am always glad to see you my dear, but what is the reason for wanting to start putting the event together a day early” Isabella asked right away.

want to pl

I had not told her the reason for wanting to meet a day early. I did not

to her happy over nothing. Neither did I want to tell her what the reason was we would be holding on to

trying to get pregnant at the last minute. For it might have reminded her of the loss she had.

“I am about one or two days away from going into heat. I would want to officially be a part of the pack before that. Since Griffin and I will be trying for a pup during my heat” I was nervous telling Isabella.

I never expected the always-so-elegant Queen of the entire American werewolf population to squeal

like a teenage girl before hugging me and spinning me around. Which she easily could because like all

other wolves she was a lot taller than I was.

“I might be a Grandma, you don’t know how happy this makes me. We need to figure out how to throw

an amazing party in a day. Can your family make it?” She asked the second she put me down.

I loved how she asked me about my family because since the White Oak pack was fairly close to the

Silver Moon pack. There would always be a pack member able to come over to break the pack bond.

Normally the Alpha would but that was more of an unspoken rule than an actual requirement to break

the pack bond. As long as the Alpha appointed the wolf to come along to break the bond. So Isabella

asking if my family knew meant she was aware of the fact that I would want my family there.

“They are all able to come over tomorrow if they need to I called them after talking to you.”

Isabella was the one to call Milo to ask what the kitsch could whip up in such a short time. Of course,

Milo agreed to come over right away. After he cooked for the BBQ he and I have gotten close. He as

well as several others have told me how worried he was for me during my kidnapping. And when I was

recovering he kept bringing me special meals he said would aid in my recovery. If only the comfort I got

from them was anything to go by on they had really helped me.

It was nice to see that he was here quickly but hadn't changed out of his casual clothes. Not even a

meeting with the Queen and Princess meant he felt comfortable with us. He already had some ideas on

what he could make to feed all the guests.

“Since both you and Prince Griffin love TexMex so much, I figured I could do a taco buffet. Let people

fill their own taco I could start on the meats that need more cooking time like pulled pork today. There is

a bunch of Mexican co cktails too” One look between Isabella and me was enough to know we both

liked the idea.

“Maybe, we can host a Mexican-themed cocktail party. Cocktail parties are quick, and fun, and while people will still have to dress up a little nobody will have to go out of their way to get new fancy clothes”

I suggested and Isabella instantly loved the idea.

Since we agreed on it, she immediately mindlinked the entire pack. Telling them what the party was for and why we needed to organize it in such a rush. She did not mention that Griffin and I would actually be trying for pups. Leaving it to us to announce that. Telling your pack you were going into heat and trying for pups was a tradition I loved.

Pack members will leave gifts at the couple’s door, meals, and drinks

so we can sustain ourselves. Because neither of us would be able to take a break from each other for too long. They would also leave gifts, and small tokens to wish us luck. Offerings to the Moon Goddess to bless our union. A tradition I figured I would never be able to enjoy and here we are.

Murmurs of excited pack members began to filter in through the mindlink. Isabella and I spent the rest of the day running errands to get the decorations we needed. Normally we would make a list of that and would leave the actually running of errands to the staff. Since this was such a rushed job we

decided we were better off going ourselves and buying the stuff we wanted as we saw it. Not to mention that the staff would have to work their asses off to get the ballroom ready and decorated in time. It was endearing to see so many of the pack members offering to help. Staff offered to come in on their day off for free to start to prepare the ballroom for decorating. To me this was part of being in a pack I loved the most. Coming together for something, there was a special kind of love you shared with your pack members.

And thinking about that I knew what I wanted to do about Cynthia during the BBQ with mine and Griffin's family they told me all about her too. All this time she had been locked up awaiting my decision. I was finally able to make one now and I hope it would be the right one.

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Griffin had seemed distracted most of the day. But who could blame him, we both unexpectedly had to work today. So we could hopefully become pregnant in a matter of days. Still, I had to tell him about my plans for Cynthia. We tried not to talk business during dinner but with all we had ahead of us. I figured this would be a good time to make an exception. During cooking, I had already told him all about our plans for the party, and how I had arranged for my family to come over. He grinned at that last bit of

information, and it was nice to know he was excited to see my family too.

“Griff, I think I finally know what I want to do with Cynthia and her punishment,” I told him.

Causing him to look up and smile at me, urging me to continue.

“I think her punishment has been enough now with being locked up for so long. Maybe we can release

her in honor of me joining the pack officially. I kinda like my first act as an official member of the royal

family to be something about rejoining families, have her join the party” I told him fully expecting him to

be on board.

As far as I know, up until now he never had an issue with Cynthia or her father. But as he answered me

he was full do doubt.

“I like that idea but maybe we should wait until after you are officially a member of the pack, Release

her after the party, like the next day?” He told me but he didn’t really offer a reason as to why.

So after a little back and forth he agreed to start her release first thing in the morning.

We had agreed to not make love until the heat. The more we would, the sooner I would go into heat.

And we needed to make sure we could get through tomorrow without me being in heat. With how busy

we were going to be tomorrow chances are we will fall asleep as soon as our heads hit the pillows. For

now, though that simmering arousal was very evident. The only thing that could fully keep my focus away from everything else was to read. Griffin decided to game online with his human friends for a while.

He had told them a little bit about me being sick after having to deal with my stalker ex. The guys made plans to meet each other and bring partners too. Now all of them wanted me to wear Griff's headphones so they could all send me their well wishes. Other than that it reminded me of the first nights we spent here. Him gaming, I reading all while being cautious not to touch each other too much.

It was a nice reminder both of how far we have gotten and of how good we have been from the beginning. Even if I couldn't see it back then.

As he did every morning Griffin slipped out of bed when my alarm went off. And as I snoozed he made us our coffees in bed. It would be the last time we would see each other probably right up until the party. I had a little more free time, but Griffin had told me he was swamped. Again not surprising but a little said. It at least gave me the chance to find a beautiful coc ktail dress. Stating that people would

not have to dress up too fancy since it was just a cocktail party insinuated that people would just have a suitable outfit in their closet. Most would have, because as social creatures, every wolf has a few party clothes in their closets.

The problem was that I stopped being a sociable wolf two years ago and had not gotten a lot of party dresses since that moment. I was

considering asking Jessa and Krystal to come over and help me. But it had been hard to reach Jessa.

Krystal on the other hand pressured me a little into getting all the work done I needed to do.

By the time I was done with everything, there was only one hour left. I was a bit annoyed and how everyone seemed to want something from me. I was pulled in every direction and it made my day a lot longer than it needed to be. The moment I walked into our bedroom my annoyance disappeared. Laid out on the bed was a gorgeous dusty blue cocktail dress with a ruffled skirt, off-the-shoulder sleeves and gold embroidery.

“Darling,

I know you hardly had the time to pick out an outfit. Just as I know you love matching with me. So here is a little welcome to the pack gift from me. I love you with all my heart, and I cannot wait to take this

next step together.

Your Griffin”

I placed the note attached to the dress in my nightstand drawer and went to go for a quick shower.

Even the warm water falling on my skin made me feel aroused. I needed to get this night over with. As

much as I was looking forward to it. The symptoms of the heat were getting more and more persistent.

Time to get this show on the road as soon as I get out of the shower, I start doing my hair and applying

my make-up. Dressed in just a robe, so maybe it was good Griffin was so busy he had gotten ready in

his office in between meetings. Because he would be affected by my heat too and most likely good not

keep his hands off me when I was in just this robe.

Not that the dress would make it any better, because when I pulled it on I felt sexy. It was stunning on

me, regal-looking, elegant, and still it

made me feel sexy. After a final look in the mirror, I was just about ready to head out and find my family.

Because of how busy I had been I did not even have the time to meet them. But just as I took the

handle to the door in my hand there was a knock.

Dad was waiting for me on the other side of the door with a huge smile on his face.

“Griffin is a good man, honey, you look beautiful,” he told me.

He probably didn’t mean it like that, but he made it sound like he knew Griffin got me the dress.

“Your mother and the rest of the family are waiting for you in the ballroom. But Griffin let me know he

was too busy to accompany you to the ballroom. So I figured I would keep my oldest daughter a bit of

company” It was a sweet gesture, and no matter how grown I was now, I still was a bit of a daddy’s girl

so I eagerly took the arm he offered

me.

Dad on the other hand seemed to be a bit emotional. Maybe it was the fact that I would definitively

move to another pack now. Or perhaps it was because of all I have been through, at some point he

must have been scared this moment would never come. Because when I asked him about it he said it

was nothing. Rushing to talk about easier more casual subjects until we reached the ballroom where I

was stunned at what I saw.

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Everyone kept telling me Ayla would say yes to me. Her family told me that she has always wanted to

uphold the family tradition of getting married to her mate. We were officially mated, and about to try for

pups. For human couples marrying is the last big step, the one commitment you could not easily get

out of. With being mated it was different for us wolves, yet my stomach was in knots as I watched her

walk in with her father.

Look as stunning as ever in the dress Jessa had helped pick out for me. Since I know my darling likes

to match clothes so much I wore a dress shirt in the exact same color blue with a gold tie. After talking

it over with our friends, and her family I came up with the plan to proceed with the ritual as we normally

would. At the end, Ayla would need to give a speech to thank the pack for welcoming her in our midst.

Where I as Ayla's partner would give a shorter speech thanking them for letting my mate be part of our

pack.

During my speech I would not just thank my pack, I would thank Ayla too. And that would end up in me

proposing to her. We all liked the idea of Ayla already being a member of the pack when I proposed.

Not that her being engaged to me would change anything about the pack's answers to the question if

we would allow her in the pack. Every one of them had come to love Ayla. Well all but one, Cynthia still

resented Ayla, it is why I didn't like the idea of her being released before the party. Sadly I couldn't tell Ayla without spoiling the surprise meaning that I had to take a huge risk.

One voice not accepting her joining the pack would not change much. In fact Cynthia still would even if she was still locked up. As a member of the pack connected to the mindlink her voice would be heard.

But I feared she would say or do something when I proposed to

Ayla. And I didn't want anything to taint that memory. When she pressed me about why I didn't want to release Cynthia today like she had come up with. I couldn't exactly come out and say well I don't want her to ruin the surprise proposal. I have been thinking about it for months but suddenly had to rush now because I want you to be my fiancée when you're pregnant. Marrying before you give birth or right after depending on what you want.

Bad as it may be I had even looked at reasons to postpone her release. Set things into motion today just as I promised Ayla I would. Just have it take so long that we couldn't get it done on time. Only when the Princess and the Crown Prince want to release a prisoner processing takes about an hour. Of course I could ask them to release her tomorrow tell Ayla I tried my best. But I would never lie to my mate so I had no other choice then to hope for the best. At least Dillion and Gerald new they would

keep an eye on her with their mates. Reassuring me a little bit.

When I went dress shopping with Jessa we had bumped into Cynthia. She was all alone and no longer had any of her friends with her. Maybe because Ayla had won them over, or because what David had done showed every pack member how batsh it crazy he was. Making it clear how much abuse she must have gone through before I met her. Or maybe they just saw how happy Ayla made me and how much disrespect Cynthia showed her for it. Whatever it was it pleased me to see she was still suffering from the consequences of her behavior. Both because it was a sign of the packs' loyalty to Ayla and me. Secondly as a ruler I knew I could not blame her for this forever. But as the mate of the woman she had offended so I still held a grudge for her.

Now I had spotted her in the crowd in the full ballroom. I was shocked by the amount of work everyone had managed to pull off in such a short notice. The ballroom smelled of my favorite food. White and silver balloons and streamers filled the ceilings. Still it did not compare to the beauty of Ayla's smile when she noticed me in the crowd. Jay and her made their way towards me. It was a good thing that tonight Ayla would no longer

be a part of Jay's pack officially because even I could tell he was getting emotional. Now with the pack transfer Ayla seemed to think nothing of it as it made sense.

"Silver Moon Pack, we are gathered here today to ask you to let my son's mate, my wonderful daughter-in-law and your Princess become a part of the Silver Moon Pack. Is there any objection against this?" After a bit of small talk the ceremony had finally started with Dad as the Alpha leading it all. As he asked the pack members if there were any objections I scanned the crowd for Cynthia.

Relieved to see her father holding her by the arm stopping her from saying anything.

Reassured I face Ayla again just enough to hear Dad declare. "There are no objections from the Silver Moon Pack. Who here is present to break the bond with the White Oak Pack?"

The rest of the ceremony went by quickly, Ayla gave a wonderful speech thanking the pack. Promising to not only be the best future Luna and Queen there could be. But to never forget she was just another pack member either. There was a fine line between being a pack's leader and seeing yourself as more than the other members of the pack. It was a line Ayla understood and never crossed. Yet another thing I loved her for, and now I could finally publicly declare all of those things.

There was a mixture of shock, disbelief and hope on her face as I kneeled down and took one of her hands in mine.

“Ayla my darling, there is so much I want to tell you know and yet there aren’t enough words to tell you what you mean to me. For different reason we both feared we would never have this future. Now we had to move up this ceremony because in a few hours we will be trying for our first pup. You made my life infinitely better and you don’

t even know half of it. That is why I want the entire world to know that you are mine, as much as I am yours. Just not wolves who will see your name carved on my collarbone as it is carved in my heart and soul. No I want every human, and other being who sees us to know too. So my darling, my love will you do me the absolute honor of marrying me?”

As I finished the speech that had drifted quite a bit from the one I wrote I opened the black velvet box.

Hoping that she would love it, ignoring the fact that I could see Cynthia moving from the corner of my eye. Eagerly awaiting Ayla’s answer.

Chapter 166

This must have been why Griffin seemed like he was avoiding me. I suspected he was just busy with

work. I convinced myself that I was seeing things again, well he actually had been hiding something from me. Of course, the only thing he would ever hide from me was something like this.

“Yes, yes Griffin of course I want to marry you more than anything in the world” I sobbed

I was overwhelmed with how happy I was. How beautiful his words were and how well the ring suited my tastes. It was not the standard gold ring with a diamond. This was a platinum ring with an agate stone. It was my exact size and I wondered how he managed to do that as he slid the ring on my finger.

My entire body erupted in goosebumps and I was sure we would make it to the end of the night. For now, though we had to mingle the engagement had only caused more people to want to talk to us.

More congratulations are to be received.

Normally I would have loved that, but now with the symptoms of the heat getting stronger, I wish I could

just get out of here. Go home with Griff and jump his bones, to thank him for yet another wonderful

experience. Funny how at first I disliked the idea of living in a quarter of the castle. I supposed it would

not feel like home if I did not have my front door. Now I was wishing I could go home as I was walking

around mingling in the ballroom a few feet from the quarter I lived in.

“Princess Ayla, I made you a gift can I give it to you” A little girl whose name I remember was Rosa

tugged at my skirt.

Her mother came rushing up to us. Probably worried about the greasy

toddler hands on my stunning dress. But I didn't mind at all, I kneeled to be at eye-level with Rosa and

asked her to show me the gift. It was a beaded necklace, she must have made herself. It was bright

and had all- the colors she could find that did not match my dress. Still, the admiration shining through

in her big gray eyes made me want to make her happy. So I put the necklace on just as Rosa's mother

reached us.

“I am so sorry Princess Ayla, I hope she didn't bother you. My mate and I brought you a gift and Rosa here wanted to give you something too.” She explained I figured as much when the new or future Luna

gets accepted into the pack it is common for others to bring the new couple gifts. The value didn't

matter as much as the fact that most members would give something meaningful. Something that came

from a tradition. Or something handmade, so this necklace perfectly fits the bill. So that is what I told

Rosa's mother.

After the ceremony, and Griffin proposing to me, I still hadn't eaten a single bite. Now I was hungry and constantly aroused. I hadn't had the chance to talk to my family much either. I knew from the start that this was part of being one of the rulers of a pack. I had seen it with my grandparents, my uncle and aunt, and even with Alpha Philip. Even if he seemed to enjoy it when all the attention was on him, he was a different type of leader. But he didn't deserve to die like he did. No one would have, and I hated I was suddenly thinking about him on a night like this.

Probably because tonight was everything I could have wanted. Still, it was so vastly different from the life I thought I would get. I never had enough time to process it all. Suddenly my thoughts were interrupted by an arm around my waist. The smell of pulled pork made my stomach rumble. Griffin's stubble scratched my cheek when he whispered into my ear.

“When tonight is over, I will take care of you the way you need it most. But for now, I'll take care of you

like this you will need the energy”

It only fueled my desire for him, his eyes darkening showed me that he knew what was happening.

Leaving me a little afraid that the other pack members would pick up on the scent of my arousal too.

“Don’t worry it’s just me as your mate who smells it now” Griffin mind linked me putting me a little more

at ease.

Just to be sure, I decided to make my way over to my family. For most, it might have been awkward to talk to their family while being this aroused. For me, it wasn’t because while every pack member knew we had to rush this ceremony because I was about to go into heat. It was still a somewhat private matter, one I would rather go through with loved ones than with pack members I barely knew.

As I made my way over to them with Griffin to chat with them as I was eating my pulled pork tacos.

Cynthia made her way over to us, she had a wicked smile on her face, and a glass of red wine in her

hand. I felt Griffin tense up like me he knew she was about to cause trouble in a way where it would

look bad on us if we behaved accordingly. We changed the course of our direction but that didn’t deter

her one bit.

Suddenly we heard loud gasps around us, followed by a voice I knew all too well;

“Oh my, I am sorry I am so clumsy I still haven’t gotten used to this stomach.” Kate apologized to

Hannah who was drenched in her red wine. Staining her pastel pink dress.

The wink she shot me, was proof that Kate had seen what Hannah was about to do. She not only stopped Cynthia from doing so but no one would go off against a pregnant wolf. Or maybe Cynthia would but she would be the one who looked bad not us. Tim came rushing up, offering Cynthia to pay for the cleaners or a new dress if the damage would turn out to be irreparable. Looking at the dress that might be the case. For a moment I figured Tim, sweetheart as he is, did not know his mate planned all of this.

I was still coming to terms with the fact that Kate and Tim were here. It meant they had seen Griffin propose to me. I rushed over to them.

“What is wrong with you, you keep getting in my way all of you” Cynthia started screaming.

But Sam was quick to pull his unruly daughter away dragging her out of the ballroom as Sam mindlinked the entire pack to apologize for his daughter’s behavior yet again. It was sad to hear the exhaustion in his voice. We would need to deal with this later, I did not believe that Cynthia would pose a danger for us. She wouldn’t go further than cruel pranks and petty behavior nothing too serious.

With nothing stopping me now, I made my way over to Tim and Kate. The last time I had seen them I was a mess and I had not responded well to seeing Kate and her beautiful huge pregnant belly. When

she left to go back home she reassured me that she was not mad and she understood why I acted like

I did. Still, I wanted to be sure this time we would have a nice time together.

Chapter 167

“Surprise, Darling” Griffin murmured into my ear as he took the plate of tacos from my hand. Allowing me the chance to hug my sister.

“You look radiant, Kate, absolutely glowing,” I tell her still holding her tight. I miss Kate, we always knew we most likely would end up living in different packs. With three siblings it’s not really common to all find a mate in the same pack. Grandpa was lucky, he chose Aunt Alexandra as his Beta long before he met Grandma. Before Uncle Nic met his mate, and that Grandma wanted Nic as her beta. That is why they could stick together but it wasn’t common. I know all three of us are happy now with our mates and lives. Dan about to become a part of the Silver Moon pack too is amazing. He will soon be accepted into the pack, Krys and he waited for me to be accepted first.

Now it will probably be after my heat so Griffin and I can be present for it. Meaning Kate might not be able to since she cannot travel too much when she is pregnant. Sometimes I hate how much my life and the things that happen to me influence everyone else’s lives too. Seeing Kate the last time, seeing

her growing belly reminded me of that. As while as reminding me of the future I felt was robbed from

me. Kate unaware of my inner turmoil lets go of me and beams when she tells

me.

“From what I hear soon you will be too” This girl is the kindest person ever, even if she is a fierce

warrior.

She hates being told how kind she is, and I do not want to start more drama tonight. Not weighing us

down with the heaviness of everything that is happening all around me still. So I nod at her smiling and

go in to hug Tim.

“I’m lucky that she-wolf wore a cheap dress or well according to your sister she did” He whispers

making it seem as if he knew Kate was going to knock the wine out of her hand.

I raise an eyebrow, and he scratches his neck awkwardly like he remembered he wasn’t supposed to

tell me he knew about it. Then I think back to what Cynthia said and how all of them kept getting in her

way.

“Guys, what is going on with Cynthia?” I ask the three of them just as Dillion walks up and hearing my

word he makes a U-turn back to where he came from..

Griffin is quick to grab the collar of his shirt and pull him back. "Oh no, you're part of this too I told you guys to be subtle"

I didn't know how to feel about the fact that Griffin had gone behind my back to deal with the Cynthia situation. Not just doing as I asked and giving her a second chance. On the other hand, she had proved she would have abused that second chance. And Dillion shrugging telling Griff;

"We're werewolves what did you expect us to do?" made me chuckle.

"I am happy you're not mad Darling, I just was a little unsure if Cynthia would lash out when I proposed.

Since that was a surprise I couldn't come out and ask you what we should do. So I did as I promised, I just asked Dillion and the others to keep a subtle eye on her. Just to make sure she would not ruin my proposal. I wanted it to be a good memory that you would treasure for the rest of your life" He had the decency to look guilty at least.

"Yeah, but the second Griffin here got down on a knee I heard her mumble she wouldn't allow this.

Getting a glass of red wine when I know for a fact this is the first time she's gotten a red wine ever. She

is

the fruity kind of cocktail girl.” Dillion shrugged trying to play it cool.

But I could see that he was proud he had been able to help me as his friend, and as one of the leaders of the pack and the country.

Sure they had gone behind my back a little but for a good cause, they didn’t harm Cynthia either. And spared me from being splashed in red wine because she was a petty bitch. Griffin managed to plan my perfect proposal making sure my entire close family including Kate and Tim were here. With the help of the others, the old me would have gotten mad over the fact that they hid something from me. The old me would have seen the fact that they wanted to protect me from Cynthia’s crazy as a sign of my weakness. Now I see it for what it really is, all of them loved me enough to want me to have the perfect night.

Not because they thought I was incapable of dealing with the burden of Cynthia disliking me. It wasn’t because they figured I would not be able to protect myself from crazy either. It was because they wanted me to have the best night ever and they were able to help me.

“Well, thanks for helping me out guys, let’s move to the side so I can finally eat my tacos” I told them

hoping to convey I realized what they did for me and how grateful I was for it.

Going off the smiles that shot me and the light banter between us as we made our way to the rest of my family, they did. I honestly love the love and respect the Silver Moon pack gave me from the moment I stepped off the podium after the ceremony up till now. But it was a bit overwhelming and I loved the fact that I could just chill with my family for a bit.

“Dad, why did you get so emotional when you knew Griff was about to propose? You knew we were mated already?” I needed to know because to most wolves marriage is less important than completing the mating process. And with a reason marking each other meant you vowed to yourselves, the pack, and the Moon Goddess that you accepted one another as your fated mate. While marriage was more of a party to celebrate your love with the pack and to make the humans aware of the bond between you and your mate. Or as much as they could understand it anyway.

Being marked and being married are not the same thing. You can get divorced relatively easily. It's just a legal procedure, split up the asset and move on with your life. Breaking the mate bound was

something else entirely it was near impossible. And you would not just lose your relationship and your home. You would lose your home, and your community, and if things went south you could easily lose your life. There are five recorded cases of wolves breaking their bond. Two of them ended up dead, after speaking to Selene I knew why it could happen. Why not every mate was the perfect mate putting their mate's needs above their own? Still as excited I was about getting married to Griff me being his marked mate mattered so much more to me.

“Actually, it was something Alpha Philip said a long time ago. All the signs that you and David were mates were there from age 12” Dad started swallowing like what he was about to tell me pained him

Chapter 168

It turns out most of the BloodMoon pack members, including Alpha Philip suspected David and I were mates. This pull between young wolves when they are mates growing up in the same pack is fairly common. It's always just a close friendship, sweet and wholesome. Looking back Alpha Philip must have known because at first, David wasn't happy about needing to befriend me. Only to grow to love spending time with me. Wanting to see me every free moment, and telling them he was going over to me without them asking him to do so. As the pack's leaders, and with that knowing a lot about our

heritage, culture, etc. Both Alpha Philip and his mate knew the chances of us being mates were high.

Especially since David would never pay much attention to other She-wolves during events.

Something his dad, would have wanted him to do. Already preparing to find a chosen mate if his fated

mate was not “up to standard”. It was why Hannah would always be jealous of me, maybe she realized

that the chances of her being the fated mate of the wolf she was in love with were small. It was also

during one of these events Dad overheard Alpha Philip tell his Beta. Hannah and Jason’s father.

“I am so sorry, Sweetheart I feel like I could have prevented this all from happening. I feel like I failed

you because I did not. Back then I wanted to believe that your fated mate would be perfect for you like

your mom is for me.” He swallows again visibly upset.

But it was not his fault, I hate all that had happened to me. Still, I feel like it had to happen to me. It

ended up leading me to Griff, the fated mate my parents wanted me to have. The fated mate that was

perfect for me, and who made me just as happy as my parents make each other. So I prompt Dad to

just tell me, reassuring him he isn’t the one to blame. That there was nothing he could have done this

from happening

to me.

“Besides, Dad, it all turned out okay. I needed to go through this to understand what I am capable of.

And what I need from my mate, and I found that fated mate who is more than perfect for me” Griffin

pulls me closer to him, causing my cheeks to flush with the upcoming heat. And Dad just smiled at me

before continuing:

“I overheard Philip talk about how he never wanted a runt like you to be his son’s fated mate. He was

unsure if he would allow it though because you were a pretty thing coming from a strong Alpha

bloodline. He just wanted to find out how high the chances of his grandchildren being small too were.

And as if that wasn’t enough, he then said that he would never allow you and David to marry. Mated or

not he would never agree to his son to indulge in dumb human traditions” Even with me telling him he

wasn’t the one to blame, Dad still looked crushed remembering that conversation.

I had always been very honest about wanting to marry because it was a tradition in my family. As I

have always been very honest and vocal about being proud of my human heritage, and the humans I

considered family. Having lived as a human for years caused her to have some human friends. People

who were there for her through thick and thin, helping her when her life was falling apart. Accepting her

and Grandpa for who they were. My father was named after her best friend and former co-worker Jay. I grew up visiting Uncle Jay his husband, their daughter, and grandchildren and I always loved them.

Both my parents knew about my dreams for the future, now I know they knew about Griffin proposing to

me. Dad must have been emotional to find out that in the end, I did get the dream life, I wanted as a little girl. Something none of us dared to hope for anymore. Not to mention that during the kidnapping I had to survive. It was the only thing on my mind to survive to get back to Griffin, my family, and my pack. Almost everything I did was with that on my mind. It never had been much, but I was able to do something to get out of that situation. While all my family could do was wait and hope to find a clue to get me back. He never said the words out loud but he must have feared he was going to lose his oldest daughter. Then he tried to save the pack I dreamed of saving only to find out he couldn't.

This night was supposed to be about me and Griffin. About our love and the future we would shape with that love. None of that would have happened without the support of my family/our families though.

And so I am happy to spend this time with mine. Reassuring them, letting them know that they have

nothing to worry about anymore. Griffin being so happy to spend time with them too. Makes me love him more, and it leaves me wondering if I will ever reach the height of our love. If there will ever be a moment where I do not love him more. Because so often I realize that I actually love him more than I did before.

“Everyone, I want to thank you for supporting me and your Princess like you have. Not only welcoming my mate into our pack with open arms. But celebrating with us too. You all can continue the festivities for as long as you want. However, my mate and I are tired and we are going to retire to our room for the night.” Griffin’s last speech is not only met with thundering applause but with chuckles and wolf whistles too.

Unsurprisingly because we had to let the pack know what the rush was, about me joining the pack tonight. Leaders going through heat is always announced, as it is a big deal for the wolf community. Not to mention the fact of us not coming out of our chambers for three or four days would be a dead giveaway. Every adult wolf in here knows why we are retiring from our own party early. By the time we

wake up tomorrow, there will be a pile of gifts and talismans waiting for us just outside our room.

It would just be plain weird that we are going to our room to mate for

hours and hours on end. Because I am barely holding on anymore. It has gotten to the point where I

feel dizzy. Being in heat makes a she- wolf vulnerable as her hormones and instincts take over

everything. Even Griff's hand on my lower back to guide me out of the ballroom is setting me ablaze

right now. With Griffin though I feel safe being this vulnerable, certain he will take care of me and keep

me safe until we reach our chambers. Where he can then take care of me like he promised he would

earlier this night when he brought me the plate of food.

Even when he tells me it would be wise for me to take an ice-cold shower, a way to temporarily stop the

heat symptoms. Something you would usually do when you can't or do not want to act on the heat I

trust him. He would never plan on me riding out this heat by taking cold showers and ice baths.

Chapter 169

Even with Cynthia trying to act up, with bits of Ayla's sad past being brought up. Tonight has been a

dream and the reason for that is her. The mate I still can't believe I am blessed with. The mate who

called me perfect tonight. Who is excited to not just be my mate but my wife

too.

As the night went on though the heat got more and more prominent though. I could smell her arousal

and I was sure she could smell mine. I tried to not touch her too much because every slight touch

would make the symptoms worse. On the other hand, I was practically unable to keep my hands to

myself. It is not the same for male wolves, but the heat affects us too. I saw the unmated male wolves

stare at Ayla in awe. The pheromones she was realizing now drove them mad. Leaving Conan and me

on edge in return, wanting to protect what was ours. What is ours! Parties like this usually go on until

the sun rises again, but neither of us can wait that long. So after thanking the crowd, pretending we

were just tired when everyone knows what is actually going on we make our way to our personal

chambers.

I place a hand on the small of her back because I love leading her with me like this. And it is a fairly

innocent touch over her clothes. Still, I can feel her shiver with want, arousal spiking even more. I

struggle not to push her into the quiet hallway here, and just make her come this once. To just drop to

my knees, get under the wide ruffled skirt of her dress, and taste just how much she wants me. I know

Ayla has gone far enough to let me. Nobody ever really uses this hallway. And if they would, they would

notice what was happening and give us our privacy. We would not be the first couple in heat that

doesn't make it back to their home without a little taster somewhere along the way. Not us though,

because I want to make this special for Ayla I failed to make the night I marked her special enough.

I know she said it doesn't matter to her, that just marking each other was a dream come through. She

said she would never want to change anything about that night. I know she means it and I love her for

it. For me though it is not enough I need to make Ayla feel just how much I love her. Just how happy I

am for her to be my mate. That is why I tell her to take an ice-cold shower. The split second of

confusion and hurt, followed by a slight pout as she goes to shower. Almost makes me want to run after

her to make love to her in the shower. She must have noticed how tight my slacks are now. All because

of her.

But she needs the shower to come to a little bit. The cold should help her get out of that lust-filled daze

enough to not be so dizzy anymore. It gives me the time to prepare the room. Just as I asked Gerald

there are two dozen red roses waiting for us in the bedroom. I make quick work of pulling the petals off

a few of them and sprinkling them down on the bed. Placing the vase with the others on her nightstand.

Just as I light the last candle I hear her.

“Baby, what are we waiting for I am so hot” I turn to her wanting to tell her why I needed her to wait for

me.

But as I do she lets her silk robe fall off her shoulders draping to the floor. Revealing her perfect body

inch by inch. Now it is me who is unable to say or do anything. As I stride over to her desperate to feel

her, touch her, taste her. However, her eyes widen in surprise as she takes a look at the room.

Apparently, the shower has brought her back to her senses enough to see what I did. Just like I wanted

when I told her too. My priorities and wants have shifted now. All I want to do now is make love to her.

Claim her again, and when she walks over to the dresser slightly bending over to pick up the card I

placed there only seconds ago I lose control.

With one step at my wolf speed I crossed the entire distance between us I now find myself behind her

my hands on her hips. Her being in heat, makes her ready for me. The scent of her arousal has never

been so strong and I can easily see how wet she is for me. I normally love

foreplay but now I am all out of patience. With all the discussion we had about the topic I know she

wants this too. So the small sigh when I touch her is all the unspoken permission I need before I slam into her in one hard almost desperate thrust. She grips the edges of the dresser bending down further.

So that I can go deeper, she is not holding back her moans and neither am I. The card has fallen out of her hand and on the floor. The rose petals sprinkled out over the bed to make our first time making love in heat special long forgotten.

Overcome with the desperate need we had for each other. Lost in the bliss of how good it feels to be inside her. How her body is made for mine, how her every curve and edge is created to make me feel good. Just as how I am made to make her feel good. That is why we fit together like we do because we are made to love and please each other. We always have, from the first time we made love even with our inexperience it has always been perfect. We have always been fully in sync but now hearing her ask moaning:

“Please baby, knot me, I want to carry your pups.” as I am about to come.

Adds a layer to being with her like this but her legs are already trembling and so are mine. If I knot her know we are not changing positions for at least fifteen minutes. I am unable to tell her, I am unable to

stop making love to her like this until I reach the orgasm that I am so close to having. So after the last two thrusts we needed before we both reach an earth-shattering orgasm I pull out of her still barely able to speak.

“Don’t stop baby, I am not done yet I meant it,” Ayla whines at me, and the desperation in her voice.

This all-consuming need to be knotted by me sends another shiver of lust and heat through my body.

Before I can lift her up and tell her.

“I am far from done with you my darling, but it is going to be a while

so you need to be more comfortable” Before I lay her down on the bed, discarding the clothes I still had

on because I was too desperate to fully undress moments ago. This time when I hover above her I can

look her in the eyes and the lust, love and admiration in her eyes tell me that what I am about to do is

the right thing.

Chapter 170

I was in awe when I walked back into the bedroom after my shower. It could not have been more than

ten minutes. And he again managed to set up an amazing surprise. He always does, it was so good, so

thoughtful. That for a few seconds I wanted to enjoy the effort he put into it. That the overwhelming lust

I felt for him was pushed to the back burner.

Or it was until he walked up to me in one large stride grabbing my hips. It had been rough when we

marked each other. And yet it was nothing compared to this, it was on an entirely new level. The sex

now was almost animalistic and I love it. His firm hands dug into the soft flesh on my hips. His hard

deep thrusts I could feel resonated in my entire body. But when I begged him to knot me. He just kept

pounding into me. I was truthful when I told him I wanted him to knot me. I wanted to know why he

didn't but this overwhelming bliss of my orgasm creeping closer and closer left me unable to speak.

Unable to do anything other than cling to the dresser when the waves of hot liquid pleasure finally took

over. Only when I caught my breath again was I able to ask him what that was all about?

When he crawls on top of me again, explaining how far from done he is with me. I feel all the love and

lust I have for him. I see the same feelings reflected in his eyes, in his gaze. Now more than ever did I

know everything I have gone through is worth it to be with him like this. All the hurdles we had to take

were worth it because, in the end, it was the two of us at the finish line. I only have one more dream for

the future, one last wish. That is to be able to carry his pups, our pups. And raise our family together.

Griffin is still watching me, teasing me, the sexual energy in the air is tangible. The scent of our

arousals mixed together. But he is not

moving, as much as I can see and feel his arousal for me. He does not act on it waiting for me to be the

first to act. So I do, his hair has grown a little longer ever since I have been kidnapped and I love it. It

looks good on him, and I would not mind if he braided it like his father. For now, though I love it

because I can wrap my hair in his curls and pull his face to mine. He expects me to go in for a kiss,

eyelids fluttering close at the anticipation of the kiss.

“I want you baby, show me just how much I am yours my king” I whisper in his right ear instead.

A pleased scream falls from my lips as he takes me up on my offer and sucks on my mark. Another

wave of instant liquid heat pools between my legs. Causing me to jerk my hips up, trying to rub my legs

together to get some of the friction I so desperately need. I have never been this desperate for him, and

he never waited so long to give me some release before. There is a wicked grin on his face showing

me how much he loves playing with me like this.

“Oh I will show you that you are mine, my Queen, I show you that every inch of you is mine” He follows

his statement with a soft bite on my sensitive mark. Giving me extra pleasure I never knew existed. And then he makes his way down my body kissing down my neck, over the swell of my breast. Until he reaches my hardened nipples. Placing his mouth on one of my nipples, sucking them, swirling his tongue around them while his hand plays with the other only builds up the pit of pleasure forming in my body. And I could swear I would be able to orgasm just from this touch.

All too soon though his kisses trail a path over my stomach. When he finally reaches that sweet spot between my legs there is a commotion outside of the room. I hear it but I barely register it. We've given into my heat now, since the first thrust my mind has been consumed with wanting to mate with Griffin.

With how much I love him and with how desperate I am for him. There is just one thing I want and that is to

mate with him as often as I can to be sure I will get pregnant by him as soon as possible.

However, it is not the commotion at the door that stops. It is Griffin, to me the sounds are muffled but whatever it is, it distracts him enough to stop licking me and walking over to the door. Somewhere in

the back of my mind I know I should get up put on a robe and go and listen to what this is all about. It could very well be that the pack needs its Crown Prince and Princess. On the forefront of my mind is how close I was to yet another orgasm, how whatever it is. Griffin will have to walk into the bedroom to either just finish what he started. Or to tell me what is happening, telling me we need to take action and get out of the bedroom.

There is no way I will allow that, he is mine all mine. His duty lies with me his mate first, and I will show him exactly what he is missing. Spreading my legs wide so Griffin has a full view when he walks into the bedroom again I start playing with myself. Loudly moaning, it's not even half as good as what Griffin made me feel. But I will be damned if I will just lay here and suffer any longer.

It's gotten unbearably hot in here and the only thing, the only one that can save me now is Griffin.

"I am sorry Darling, I...." He walks into the room ready to tell me what the matter is, but as he sees the sight in front of him his jaw goes slack.

"F uck it, it isn't important" He mumbles as he makes his way back between my legs again.

Again the voice in the back of my mind telling me that it feels like it is important. Gets drowned out by the need to be with this man.

“All of your orgasms are mine, mine to give, mine to see, mine to feel and mine to taste” He growls.

The flickering of his eyes indicates Conan and he are both struggling for control.

It is yet another thing that doesn't matter to me anymore. Not when he goes back to licking me like he

has something to make up to me. Finally, my eyes roll to the back of my head as another orgasm hits

me. Before I can ride it out Griffin is on top of me thrusting into me in one thrust again. Adding another

layer to the orgasms that has me screaming out his name. Clawing at his skin, at his back to have

something to hold on to. We both seem to race to another orgasm, this time however he does knot me.

Even as I can feel it stretching, on this paper-thin line between pleasure and pain. He keeps moving he

keeps thrusting, and as the orgasm hits me again the world around me goes black.