

Unwilling 61

Chapter 61

Refusing to mark my Darling might have been the hardest thing I have ever done. Deep down I knew she was not ready for it

yet. The only thing that would be worse than her regretting completing the mating process would be her rejecting me. And more

and more I grew to believe that she would not reject me. Now even if we had an argument she still made me feel loved and safe.

It was not long after we made love that she fell asleep and I just laid in bed watching her. She would probably tease me that I

was being a freak. Maybe I was but I didn't care all I could do was stare at her. Wondering why the Moon Goddess deemed me

worthy to give me a mate as perfect as Ayla, With realizing just how amazing my mate was, I felt nervous for tomorrow. Her

sister Kate was the only family I hadn't met yet, and I needed her to love me too. The first time I visited her parents, her father

told me how close the girls had always been. How Kate looked up to her older sister, and about the fact she had almost rejected

her mate for being related to Ayla's tormenter. The problem is she grew up with David too, so what if she liked him better for

Ayla? What if Kate cannot

stand me?

By the time I finally fell asleep I had nightmares about Kate hating me. I woke up early partly because of the nightmares, partly

because I am used to waking up at the crack of dawn. now. Having fewer days to do the same amount of work in mean I was

making long days. Ayla was still fast asleep snuggled up to me. I know she hates getting up, and I know what I can do to make

her morning a little better. Making sure

I do not wake her I extract myself from her hug and get out of bed. I managed to find my pajama pants since I never bothered

with getting dressed for bed yesterday. Ayla stirs and mumbles, not wanting to wake her up I stop searching for my pajama top

and just make my way to the kitchen.

I'm not surprised to see her Grandmother is already making breakfast for everyb*dy.

"You seem like a man, that wants to spoil his mate," She tells me laughing. .

"What can I say, I love your granddaughter and I am coming to make sure to prove it to her every day" I answer her as I follow

her her finger to where she points.

She is pointing to the coffeemaker, she already brewed a pot. So I just pour the three of us a mug. Putting in just a little plain

creamers in Ayla's and nothing in mine just as I like it. I'm not sure how her grandmother likes it. But Emmy shoos me off smiling

as she rummages through the cupboards where the creamers and sugar are.

I didn't plan to tell her I was nervous to meet Kate, I didn't want to make her worry for me. Or even worse pity me. In retrospect,

my nerves probably did not help with yesterday's situation. Part of my reluctance to tell her is because I don't want to drag up

those memories. But Ayla reads me like an open book and I promised her my honesty. So I tell her all about/my fears, and my

insecurities and I let her comfort me. Listening to her really makes me feel better about all of this. Still, I want to do everything I

can to make Kate love me. As a brother, I want Ayla and me to have a family eventually and I want my pups, our pups to be

close to all their family

members. So when Ayla tells me Kate wants to be the pack's

lead warrior, and how she is actually in the running to become one an idea forms in my mind. I would have loved to stay in bed

with Ayla for a little longer, but we need to get up and get ready if we want to make it to the plane in time. So I had gotten out of

bed already picking out my outfit for the day. Meaning I could text Mike without Ayla seeing it. He was my personal b*dyguard. I

didn't need one but it was custom for the royal family to have a b*dyguard with them when they traveled to a new pack. Mike was

still in search of his mate, he was waiting for his mate. To be able to move to their pack if that was what they needed. If not or if

he would not find his mate before his 25th birthday he would become the castle's lead warrior.

He wasn't just a great warrior, he was a great instructor to and trained the young wolves in the pack. He even managed to be

excellent in Krav Maga a human self-defense sport. That suited the strengths and weaknesses we as wolves have.

Only seconds later I heard the ding telling me Mike had replied: "Sure, Prince Griffin anything for my King and Queen to be,

Besides training with your sister-in-law and teaching her some Krav Maga sounds fun"

Smiling I put the phone away and hopped under the shower, a short lonely shower. This was the first time since the first

weekend she stayed at the castle, that we did not 'shower together. But not only was her Grandparent's home a lot smaller than

the castle meaning everyone would hear us. We would not have made the plan to leave in 45 minutes if we showered together.

Only seeing her get into the bathroom

after me dressed in nothing but her robe made me lose focus.

In the end, we managed to make it to the plane in time. Barely in time however and it was not Ayla and me who made us run

late. Emmy seemed to at least be a little ashamed about it but Quinn seemed more proud than anything. And me? I wasn't

bothered by it I hoped that in fifty years Ayla and I would still be so in love, barely able to keep our hands off each other. Just as

her Grandparents are now. Ayla had fallen asleep with her head on my shoulders.

Ayla had fallen asleep with her head on my shoulders and her Grandparents seemed to be dozing off too. The silence in the

cabin was quiet and peaceful and I loved it. There was no need for me to fill this comfortable silence with chatter and so I got out

my laptop to get some more work done. I had finished everything I needed to do this week. But it would not hurt me to get a

headstart for next week. Maybe this could mean I would be able to work a little less next week. In all honesty, my workload was

getting to me. It was temporary though in hopefully a few months, my queen, my Luna would move in with me. Some of the work

I was doing now would become her burden.

Looking at her peacefully sleeping face on my shoulder I wondered if she was aware how much work being the Queen would

be. Or how we would be expected to take over the throne pretty soon after we would complete the mating ceremony. After all, I

was already twenty-one the age the Crown Prince or Princess would usually take over from their parents. Being a king or Queen

was a tough job. With that, it made sense that the old King and Queen retired around their forties or fifties.

Another thing we needed to discuss soon, I hated how being with me came with so many rules and complications. I hated how

since we didn't have a normal start it felt like every time

things were good I had to tell her of another rule or complication in being with me. I no longer felt the fear she would walk away

from it all. From me! Still, ever since yesterday, there was an unsettling feeling in the pit of my stomach. The feeling something

bad was going to happen with Ayla. No matter how hard I tried I could not shake it. All I could do now was hope that it was just

the nerves about meeting up with Kate. Because I could not bear the thought of losing her, whether it was because of my own

mistakes. Or my job, my title eventually becoming too much for her.

Chapter 62

Griffin had thought of everything, he even had rental cars waiting for us at the airport. The Crescent Moon pack was still relatively

new after splitting up from their old pack. The smell of sawdust still lingered in the air. But everything they had done so far was

beautiful.

The pack house looked like a ski-ing resort, all around it were smaller wooden cabins. A lot has changed since I brought Kate

here Almost two months ago now, days before I met Griffin. Just like the pack ground of the Crescent Moon Pack, a lot had

changed for me. And I was able to admit to myself now that the things that changed were improvements. Yesterday when Griffin

refused to mark me, claim me as his I felt upset. Turned down even, but the more I thought about it the more I knew he was right.

And the more I felt like I was lucky to have a mate that was this patient with me.

He squeezed my hand when he saw me smiling, as we drove up to Kate and Tim's cabin. Despite his nerves, he realized how

happy I was to finally see my sister again. He was happy for me, he always is. In the almost two months I have known him now,

this man has become my biggest supporter. I told myself that when the weekend was over I would email Queen Isabella to see if

we could up the training. He was right I might not be ready to move in with him now. I might not be ready to become a queen

now. But I would do everything I could to make sure I was going to be ready soon. Because I love this man and there is nothing

that could stop me from loving him.

"Aylaa, Grandma, Grandpa" Kate squealed before we even got out of the car.

As soon as I got out she wrapped me up in a big bear hug. Telling me how good I looked, completely ignoring Griffin. Kate

always was like this she would get over excited and forget her surroundings.

"I missed you too Kate and look who I brought with me," I told her taking a step to the side so she could see Griffin

She turned pale, made a deep bow, and started stuttering addressing Griffin by his official title. Which made me chuckle

"Please, Griffin is fine, we are family now" My wonderful mate chuckled offering Kate his hand.

"If we're family we hug" Kate retorted hugging him before he had the time to refuse.

Watching the two of them like that warmed my heart. Even when I was certain Kate would accept Griffin, it was nice to see how

welcomed and loved Griffin was by my family. I was close to both my siblings and not seeing them every day was something I

would get used to eventually. But I would always miss them even if all three of us were happy where we were. However, getting

along with each other's mates would mean it would be so much easier to visit each other frequently. Both Kate and Daniel had

expressed the wish to start a family and to have pups. As did I and we always wanted our children to be close. This was a step in

the right direction. When Kate was greeting our Grandparents I turned to hug Tim.

He was looking at his mate jumping around happy to see her family again. He was smiling, everyone could tell from just looking

at him that he adored her. And that her happiness in this moment made him glow.

"It's good to see you again, Tim. And I see you've been treating my sister well she is glowing" I complimented him,

"Well there is something else that is making her glow," He said with a dreamy look on his face.

I figured he meant her seeing her family but when Kate heard him I saw her touch her stomach for the briefest of moments.

Could it be that my younger sister was already expecting her first pup? Thinking back two weeks ago she hardly texted any of us

back. Tim had let us know there was nothing to worry about. That could have easily been because she went into heat. You never

know when you first get into heat after you complete the mating process but one thing is the same for every she-wolf. When you

get into heat you will get pregnant. until you use a special shot to not conceive.

I made eye contact with Kate but she just winked at me. Mom, Dad, and Daniel would be here in another hour so it made sense

she would want to tell us all at once. Still, the excitement of the possibility of me becoming an aunt made me giddy with

excitement. I needed something to do, to not blurt out what I was feeling so I asked her where Griffin and I would be sleeping so

that we could unpack and freshen up.

Tim brought us to the pack house, and with Griffin being the Crown Prince of course both the Alpha and Luna came over to greet

us. I loved how they didn't dress up for it Alpha Laura was in a simple dress. While Luna Sylvie wore jeans, fl*p-flops and a t-shirt.

"Why are we unpacking now, you seemed so excited when you saw Kate. You are still buzzing with joy, I could unpack on

my own you know. If you want to spend more time with your sister" Griffin offered as soon as we got into our room for the weekend.

"I have to avoid her for about an hour or so, I think she is pregnant and wants to wait until my parents arrive and I cannot avoid

this topic for an hour when I am with her" I answered him.

He seemed to want to ask me something before thinking the better of it. He just shook his head smiling and started to unpack his bag.

"Would you be excited to be an aunt" He finally asked as we were sitting on the bed, all our clothes stored away in the dresser in the room.

"I already am excited I cannot wait to be an aunt. I want to be close to her children, I want our children to be close to hers and

Daniel's" I said, smiling.

Poor Daniel thought he had stopped looking for his mate because if he would find her. With him being in the running for taking

over as the lead warrior when our dad retires. It would mean his mate would have to move in with the BloodMoon pack. Even

before the fight between David and Griffin, we knew our family would cut ties with the

BloodMoon pack. Everyone was just waiting for the perfect moment. Griffin had offered my family that they could find a place

within the royal pack too. My parents considered this to -be a weakness. Not because they did not want to be a part of

the royal pack. If they did they would want it to be for their own merits not just because their eldest daughter is the Crown

Prince's mate.

The plan now was to move back to the White Oak pack, we just needed Alpha Phillip to accept it without causing a war. Which

seemed to be a problem, ever since it was public that I was Griffin's mate and the Queen-to-be he seemed even more hellbent

on keeping the rest of my family in his pack. To create some kind of good standing with the royal family. It worried me to the point

where I could not sleep at night. When I was not with Griffin.

Griffin looked at me like he was building up the courage to ask me something. Something big. This time I did not get anxious

about it though, this time I figured it was a question about our future as we started with talking about pups. But when a servant

of the Crescent Moon pack let us know my parents arrived and that Kate and Tim asked if we would join them at their home for a

late lunch. All my worries and all my hopes were forgotten all I wanted now was to see if I was becoming an Aunt.

The only thing I heard was Griffin's gleeful chuckle as I almost dragged him with me to my sister's home.

Chapter 63

"Everybody, Tim and I are expecting" Kate blurts out the second the last one of us is seated.

Just as it always is with the Hemming family everyone gets up in a rush to hug and tease the parents-to-be. I love my family and

I love how close-knit we are. When I think back on it, being able to have my own family like this. A loving mate, pups who love us

and each other. Had a big part to play in the fantasy of me wanting to meet my mate. Slowly I am beginning to realize that David

was not the right mate for me. I still wonder why the Moon Goddess made that mistake, to begin with. But he cares more about

status than he does about a happy family. I used to wonder if he always was like that, or if just started during Alpha training.

Lately, I stopped thinking about that, because it doesn't matter Griffin isn't like that. He is set to be a King, not just an Alpha. Yet

here he is in jeans and a T-shirt. Congratulating my sister with her pregnancy proudly telling her about his gift.

"Really, I get to train with Mike Woods? I swear Ayla if you don't keep this one I will whoop your ass" Kate states half mockingly

and half serious.

Griffin beams at her words because to him the approval of my family means the most to him. Again confirming that I might not be

ready yet, but I will be ready. Probably even within the six months, Griffin has given me.

“Don’t worry I plan to keep him for as long as he will have me. One day I will be your Queen though and wh op ping my as s

then would be treason” I can’t help but to tease back.

Griffin walks back to me and pulls me close to him.

“Darling, I am never letting you go, Darling, you are like a dream come true” He murmurs in my ear.

All there is left for me to do is to lean into him smiling. Because this man is a dream come true for me too. I just lost that dream

somewhere and was too tired to look for it..

We spent the rest of the afternoon chatting, to the point where Kate forgot to start dinner. I caused her to break down in tears.

Mom and Grandma were sure it was just her being hormonal from being pregnant. Of course, Kate said that wasn’t the problem.

She just wanted to do something special for the first time her family was here. We all suggested getting some take-out but it only

seemed to upset her more. Until Griffin asked if he could take us all out to dinner. To congratulate the happy couple. As a sign,

he was welcomed into the family. Our slightly hormonal mother-to-be accepted this after giving it some thought.

We found a place that had a good all-you-can-eat spareribs. deal. It was not on background so human owned and operated. We

laughed at the waiter’s confused faces when they noticed how much we could actually eat. We were sure to leave them a big tip

though, for the effort.

By the time we get back to our room in the pack house, I notice Griffin is a little tense.

“Can we talk for a second, Darling?” He asks me the second the door closes.

I nod, I wonder what he has to tell me, but the fear I used to feel when he would say something like that is gone. I trust him now,

the all-consuming fear that he will find out I am not good enough is gone. Not because I feel I am good enough. Because I know

HE feels that I am good enough. He has seen. all my flaws and all my fears. And as cliché as it sounds he loves me because of

them, not despite them.

“You know how your Cousin could wait to become an Alpha until he raised his family?” He suddenly asks and I think I know.

where this is coming from:.

Queen Isabella had already told me I would only have a few months to get used to living in the castle before becoming the

Queen. At the time I had been a little disappointed Griffin didn't tell me upfront. But I trusted he would tell me in his own time. So

I just nod, not wanting to disturb him. Something was holding him back from telling me, and whatever it was he was ready now.

“I have been hesitant to tell you yet because I didn't want to complicate things between us further. But I have trust in us. and our

relationship now. I know you won't run to the hills not even when I tell you hard things like this?” He tells me looking at his hands.

So that was the reason, he was scared it would be too much, too soon for me. So I still don't interrupt him. I just take his hand in

mine hoping to reassure him a little. And it seems to work he gives me a gentle smile before continuing his story.

“Don't get me wrong, I want it all a family with you, I want to build a future with you. More than anything in this world. The thing is

we would have to build that future while being the King and Queen we would not have a lot of time between

completing the mating process and taking over the throne” He finally told me the truth, the thing that was scaring him.

“I know, Griff, that is why I have been doing training with your mother online. She is teaching me everything I need to know about

becoming a queen. I still want to take it a little slower than a normal mate would. But I do love you, and I do see a future ahead of

us” I say before k*ssing him, hoping my l*ps can reassure him with more than words.

He leaned into the k*ss pulling me onto his lap, deepening the k*ss. It doesn't take us long before we fall into the passion. We

end up making love again, again his teeth brush over the place in my collarbone where I know his name will be soon. I had

started fantasizing and dreaming about what the mark would look like. But what Griffin was doing to me now was better than all

my fantasy combined. So I let myself get carried away on the waves of passion..

Queen Isabella had told me she wakes up at 8 AM every morning, so I set my alarm. It meant I only had a few hours of sleep.

Hopefully, it will be worth it in the end. What Griffin had told me yesterday made me think. And it made me reconsider some

things. I knew the exact reason he told me about having to become a Queen so soon was because he did not want me to

overthink things. And I didn't really know how he would feel about this. For once I was going to do what I felt was right though.

Queen Isabella texted me back that she was able to take a call now. With that I sl*pped out of the bedroom, leaving a still-

soundly sleeping Griffin behind. To keep something a secret from him deliberately for the first and hopefully, last time since I told

him I was giving him a chance. If anyone would have told me I would set an alarm

and get out of bed early after falling asleep at 3 AM. Just to discuss something with my mother-in-law I would have laughed in

their faces. Now I was nervous if Queen Isabella would support me in this. After all, I would be asking her to lie to her son. All

while putting a white lot of trust in me.

Chapter 64

"What is the matter sweetheart, Griffin told me what happened with your ex-mate. Did something else happen?" Queen Isabella

sounds worried over the phone.

I should have told her more about the reason why I wanted to call her.

"No, there is not it's just Griffin, he seems a little worried that becoming a Queen soon after completing the mating process is a

bit much" I started.

“Oh, I see do you want to know what it was like for me, I meant I can reassure you or if you want I can give you more training”

Isabella replies, she is sweet I clearly went about this the wrong way.

“No, no, nothing like that, it’s just I want to reassure Griff, and you said you were going to host an event to introduce me to the

pack right? I was thinking maybe I could help host it. Show Griff I am ready?” Yesterday when I was watching Griff fall asleep this

seemed like an amazing idea, now asking Queen Isabella I got a little nervous.

“Sweetheart, I love that idea, we could host something in four weeks. So we can over some details you need to see in person.

Have a little food tasting etcetera” She kept rambling on getting noticeably more and more excited.

I love the fact that she is so wholeheartedly on board with this plan. She chuckles when I tell her I need to go before Griffin

wakes up. She promises he won’t hear a word from her and

then we say our goodbyes. I try to sneak back into the room

to

find Griffin awake. He smiles at me but seems a little confused. I love how he doesn’t ask me what I am doing, showing me he

does trust me. .

“Sorry, I needed to talk to your mom about my education. We settled it but I will need to have a meeting with her next weekend” I

tell him, and it is not even lying.

“Thank you for making such an effort to become our queen, Darling it means the world to me” Is the only thing he tells me pulling

me back into the bed with him. I land on top of him. and I shudder with anticipation and need just from one touch. I’ll never get

enough of this man.

“I can not wait for the day I get to give you my name” Griffin whispers in my ear before sucking on the place his mark will be.

I grind my hips over him, to feel he wants me just as much as I want him.

“There are other things we can do now” I moan pressing down harder on his b*dy

Griffin rushes to pull down his pajama pants, as I scramble to get out of the big shirt I was wearing to bed. I never put on any

underwear and the moment Griffin notices he just growls

at me.

“Conan wants you” he grunts, obviously fighting to keep in control.

This would be the first time we let our wolves take control during lovemaking. It is different, we can feel all that they feel. We can

see, and hear everything but we are not in control.

Every time Willow takes over it is like an out-of-b*dy experience. Imagining how S*x will feel like that turns me on even more. I only

noticed I licked my l*ps just thinking about it when Griffin thrust his hips up. Pushing his erection against my center.

“Let us take over, I want to mate with Conan” Willow’s voice rings through in my mind.

“Darling, I can hardly hold him back when you’re looking like that” Griffin grunts clearly struggling.

“Then don’t hold back, handsome, Willow wants to play too,” I tell him before giving Willow control.

She adjusts herself, lowering herself over his erection, Griffin closes his eyes relishing in the feeling. Just as I am enjoying the

feeling of being filled up by him again. But when he opens his eyes and I find myself staring back into Conan’s eyes there is an

unexpected thrill. Willow must feel the same because she starts riding him with reckless abandon. Conan’s nails grow into

claws. Grabbing our hips with the claws, causing them to dig into the sensitive skin. As he matches Willow’s thrusts. The thrusts

are harder and deeper than I have ever felt before. Our entire b*dy is on fire, and I feel it won’t be long before we find our

release. The scent of our combined arousal and S*x is almost overwhelming adding to the erotic charge in the air.

Feeling my b*dy loses its power, it’s strength. feeling my -muscles quiver while I am an outsider. Conan must feel

Willow’s orgasm closing in as he wraps his hand in her hair, pulls on it, and starts thrusting even harder, deeper. Then the org

asm comes barreling in, not just Willow and I, I feel Conan. find his release to making the moment even more delicious. I

Jell Mouchers

am about ready to collapse onto the bed and snuggle up with. Griffin for a moment before I go to bed.

But our wolves have different plans, Conan is hard again and Willow is withering over him. Clearly wanting more, Conan grabs

our hips fl*pping us over so we are on all fours. Within a second he is behind our b*dy on his knees. His hands, still claws, on his

hips pulling our b*dy over his erection again. I could swear that the moan that leaves our throat is mine and not Willow's. Or

maybe she is enjoying this just as much as I am. Conan keeps pounding into us and all I can feel is my b*dy being on fire, just a

bundle of nerves just chasing the org asm that seems to be just around the corner. And then Conan bends over us pushing us

deeper into the mattress biting our shoulder. Close to where we would be marked, and it sends us into the most intense org asm

I have ever had as the scent of Iron floods my nostrils.

The org asm is so intense, that I fall on the mattress as Willow gives me control back. I can barely keep my eyes open. Griffin is

back to telling me I should just sleep now. In the haze of my sleepy post-org asm thoughts, I notice his voice is a little off. Like he

is worried about something, I want to turn around to him and ask him what is wrong. But I can't find the energy.

When I wake up I have no idea how long I have been out of it. I feel rested like I have slept for hours. But the sun is still barely

up, and Griffin is still waiting in bed next to me. Suggesting it had only been minutes before I woke up again. Griffin doesn't

notice I am awake, so I take a moment to look at him.

Something is wrong, he is hardly moving staring at the

window but I doubt he can see much through the crack in the

curtains. His hands are fidgeting with the blankets in his lap and I can see the trail of a dried-up tear on his left cheek.

I sit up wanting to comfort him, the rustling of the sheets as do finally draws his attention to me.

“How are you feeling my Darling?” He asks voice thick with sorrow.

Could this be the reason for his sullen mood, could he just be worried about me since the S*x had been more intense than we

ever experienced before? Something in the pit of my stomach tells me that it's more: That there is something deeper going on.

“I am fine, a little sore but I think it was worth it. But how are you doing? Are you okay?” I ask almost scared of the answer.

A fear that gets worse when I hear the long, shaky sigh, Griffin releases before facing me.

“I am so sorry Darling, know that I never lied to you. But I don't think I can do this anymore.”

I don't know where this is coming from but it shatters my heart. I want to ask him what it is he cannot do anymore. I want to know

what it is exactly that he cannot do anymore. But the only thing on my mind is that he cannot be with me anymore. That being

with me is too complicated and thinking about the possibility of Griffing rejecting me leaves me unable to breathe. My vision blurs

with black edges, and every short and labored breath draws in less and less oxygen and I am afraid I will lose my

consciousness.

This morning when I woke up I was feeling great, I had a wonderful day with Ayla. Her family loves me, all of them do. Kate had

even taken the time to pull me aside telling me she was so happy her sister found a mate who would do everything to keep her happy and safe. But now as Ayla was sleeping snuggled up against my side after we let our wolves. take

over I doubt that very much.

She was great when I told her, we would need to take over the rule of the kingdom months, maybe even weeks after we

completed the matebound. This morning I remember hearing her alarm. At the time I just figured it was a mistake, an alarm she

has for her job on the weekdays that she forgot to turn off. I fell back asleep so quickly that I never noticed her sl*pping out of

bed to call my mother. There was no doubt she had called my mother, my trust in her still was 100 percent. What I feared was

that she called Mom because she was scared of becoming a queen. Wanting to up the training. Or maybe even just ask for some

reassurance without wanting to bother me.

Mother considers Ayla, a daughter, a friend, I never asked. Ayla how she feels about it. That seems a bit weird to ask but I know

they have fun during their videocalls. I have heard them giggling about. Mom will notice things and tell me Ayla would like that.

The other day she went to the bookstore to buy

herself a book Ayla recommended. So it makes sense that she would ask my mother for reassurance about becoming the

queen.

Needing to force Ayla to seek someone else, reassurance because of the complications that stemmed from being with me. That

was not keeping her happy, that was allowing her to keep making me the happiest I have ever been. That's not even all though,

stopping myself and/or Conan from marking her was getting increasingly difficult. Normally for things like this, I would ask Dad

for his advice. This time however I know deep down inside what the matter is. My royal blood, my Alpha blood, is begging me to

settle down and reproduce. Take the steps that are needed to care for my Kingdom, my Pack. It's the same as to why I am this

protective and jealous of every interaction she has with another male. It was why I almost killed David with my bare hands for

touching my mate. Especially when I heard him scoff she was not truly mine yet since she did not bear my mark yet.

Honestly, the rational part of me knew he was spouting bull shit. Ayla was mine and we didn't need a mark to prove that not just

yet anyway. I heard her tell him that I wasn't going to be single ever again. It was all the reassurance I needed. But the instinctual

part of me, my animalistic side wanted to claim her. Have the world see that she is mine, have everyone bow down at her feet as

the queen that she is.

Another problem that I have, the pack doesn't really know her. Which is mostly my fault I was so deadset on showing Ayla how

fun being with me could be. How I am really the same as every average mate would be that we spend our entire time holed up in

my room. Partly because playing video games. with her no more than an arm's length away was my happy place. Partly because

I had been downplaying the heaviness of the crown. Now my pack never saw their Luna to be, they do not know the story behind

her reluctance to mark each other. Hell in the beginning they knew she hadn't officially

accepted me and didn't even know why. Some murmurs were

going around in the pack that she didn't want to be our Luna. That she was weak and unworthy to become their Luna let alone

the queen of all werewolves.

Maybe, I wasn't as suited to be a mate as I thought I was. Ever since learning about second chance mates, I dreamed about

finding my mate and being the perfect mate to her. I dreamed about making her happy, about never having anything to worry

about between the two of us. Sure I was still happy, happier than I have ever been. I went as far as to print out a picture of us

together, frame it, and put it on my nightstand so I could see her every morning after waking up. Now I was doubting if I had to let

her go. Maybe if she wakes up I should tell her I understand it if she rejects me. Because I would never ever reject her, she was

perfect to me. All the issues in our relationship were either on me or because of my title,

The fear of her agreeing with me that rejecting me would be for the best paralyzed me. It froze my heart so all I felt was the pain

of having ice pressed on my skin. Only this time it was pressing onto me from the inside out. That pain, that painful tingle when

your nerve ends freeze was spreading from the inside out. Tears streamed down my face until I cried so much that I didn't have

tears left. They dried up on my cheeks because I didn't find the strength to wipe them away. Time passed by and I had no idea

how long I had been sitting here staring into nothingness. Wondering if this was the last time I would feel my wonderful mate

snuggled up against me. Until I finally heard the sheets rustle, a sign that Ayla had woken up. And that I needed to face the

music.

Her voice full of sorrow and pity as she asked me if I was doing okay was the first thing to shatter my heart. Finding the right

words was difficult, everything I thought about telling

her felt wrong. So-so wrong, I ended up blurting out that I couldn't do this anymore. Which to an extent was true, I could not

close my eyes to the truth any longer. I needed to ask the questions I had been avoiding because I feared the answer to

it.

Now I managed to almost push my mate into a panic attack. Wanting to comfort her, but still reeling from the fact that I was so

scared that my truth would be the nail in the coffin that drove her away from me I just wrapped her in my arm. Telling her how

much I loved her, how I never wanted to reject her. That I just feared that I would mess things up. It at least calmed her down,

which was a good thing, but hated the fact that she sat up straight to look at me. Because that meant less physical contact and

that was the one thing I was craving being able to touch my mate.

"Then what is the matter Griffin, you know I love you I told you becoming the queen isn't something I fear. Because the only way

for me to become the queen is when you are the king. Don't you see it, the only way for me to become the queen is with you by

my side. And with you by my side I can do everything" She tells me and I can hear in her voice how genuine she is.

It does soothe my nerves a little bit, it is not like I have any doubts about her ability to be the queen. Hell, I am so sure that I will

be a better king if I have her by my side. For she is the calm when I am losing control. She is the one who stops my social

battery from draining too much during these social events. Not to mention her intelligence and her intuitive wisdom.

“Darling, the last three times we made love I could barely stop myself from marking you against your will. And some of the

packmembers doubt you because they hardly see you. Since I am so set on trying to show you how good being with me can be.

Since I try so hard to make the weekend all about you” I tell her clasping her hand in mine like my anchor.

Hearing my pack doubts her chances something, her attitude, her expression even her b*dy all seem to harden before she

speaks to me again.

“Thank you for being honest with me Griffin, this changes everything and I know exactly what to do now. You’re right we can’t go

on like this” She tells me before taking a deep breath.

This will be it, this will be the moment the love of my life makes her final decision about being with me or not. And I hate the fact I

had to force her to make this decision way before the six-month mark we agreed to.

Chapter 66

With just two minutes to spare, we make it out of our room to head down to the brunch table. Apart from the bite mark on my

shoulder, you wouldn’t think I was surviving on four hours of sleep and an emotional rollercoaster. I had sent Griffin pictures of

the dress I was wearing a beautiful coral color of

the shoulder knee length dress. Knowing how much I like to match he was wearing a navy suit with a coral tie. He had gotten me

a navy shawl with coral accents, he told me he got it just so we could match even better. Now it ended up being the perfect cover

for the bitemark on my shoulder. Not that my family wouldn’t think the worst of Grif if they saw it. It would open the door for all

kinds of teasing and I did not want that.

Because today should be all about Kate and Tim not about when Griffin and I would complete the mating process. And that

would eventually come up in the conversation. And because as of now I was the only one who knew the exact date Griffin and I

would complete the mating process. Not to mention the fact that he felt a bit bad about the bite mark, or more so about the fact

he had lost control to this extent.

After brunch, we all headed to a room akin to a ballroom in the new packhouse. Where the new couple picked their fingers so

they could add a drop of their blood to the wine in the silver chalice with intricate carvings in it. They said their vows before both

drinking wine from the chalice. It was at beautiful ceremony, I was ecstatic for Kate both because the Moon Goddess blessed her

with such a wonderful and kind mate as Tim. But because of how beautiful the ceremony was too. I glanced off at Griffin realizing

that a few weeks from now it would be us standing on a platform, vowing our love to one other. Drinking the wine blessed with

our blood to further strengthen our love. Yet another thing I had accepted I would never have again. Until I met Griffin who ended

up giving me all my childhood dreams and so much more.

**

After the beautiful ceremony, we all went to the reception and

the party. The Crescent Moon pack is a wonderful welcoming pack. Kate got lucky and I feel she knows she is. The party was a

blast too. Everyone was eating, drinking, singing, and dancing around. Griffin and I were one of the first to leave the party.

Ignoring the hoots and hollers and the whistles in the air suggesting that we are sneaking off to make love. When the reality is

that we are both exhausted. I drop the dress to the floor, take off my lingerie, and am about to crawl into the bed with my hair

pinned up. If it was not for Griffin's patience in taking out the twelve bobby pins I needed to keep this updo in place I would have

just fallen asleep with it in.

Maybe it is a good thing that we are both so tired that all we manage to do is snuggle up to each other. The moments where

Griffin seems to lose his cool, where he would almost succumb to his need to mark me were when making love. Tomorrow

morning he would take us home with the jet and then go home himself. All I needed to do was make sure we would not have a

lot of S*x during our weekend together. I would be fairly busy with planning the event to meet me. And I agreed with Griffin that

we needed to make a point of being out and about on background more on the weekends. This way the pack members would

already have the chance to get to know me personally and find out who I really am.

I even came up with an idea of what kind of event to host for the pack to get to know me. But it is a very low-key event, so I need

to ask Isabella's opinion. I really hope she loves it, that way the pack can get to know the real me. I also know for a fact that

Griffin would prefer this kind of thing over a grand royal ball. In my excitement yesterday I never asked Isabella what kind of

event would be appropriate to be introduced as the Princess. Luckily I have another lesson scheduled with Isabella. Tomorrow

would also be the day I had to tell my

manager at the library that I would stop working so soon after starting. I will tell my family I am about to move into the castle. I

hope Kate doesn't feel like I am taking away from their special weekend, I just don't want to tell them over the phone days after

spending time together face for the first. time in weeks.

Chapter 67

I wake up in an empty bed feeling nervous about what I am about to tell my family. I mean I know they will support me. But I still

feel bad it is so close to Kate's big day. Wondering where Griff went to, I stretched and sat up planning to get out of bed. But in

that moment the door to our room opens. Just like Friday morning Griffin comes walking in with two mugs of coffee in his hand

and a bright smile on his face. And just like he did Friday he gives me my mug, k*sses my cheek, and settles back into bed with

me.

"I cannot believe you are willing to move in with me so much sooner than we said we would. You have a lifetime of me bringing

you coffee in bed to look forward to" He beams at

me.

It's a small thing but the fact that we'll have these small things. Life will undoubtedly become very busy for us. Just starting every

morning having a coffee in bed sounds. amazing.

"I love you Griff, and I can't wait to start our life together," is my only answer.

Because it is as simple as that, whatever may be there I love Griffin and I am sure we will have a happy life ahead of us. Now it

is just a matter of telling my family. When we finished our coffee we took a quick shower together ignoring the obvious tension

between the two of us. Both for a lack of time and because it would be tempting fate. We just have to hold out for two more

weeks. It would be ideal if we could wait until I definitely moved in with Griff. But if we cannot hold out that long, and if Griff loses his control after the event that is fine too. Missing him for a week would be rough but that's something

we could survive.

We said we would all have breakfast at Kate's place and I decided to head out a little earlier. Griffin suggested doing so, this way

we can ask Kate if it would bother her if I tell everyone about moving in with Griffin. I should have known better than to think Kate

would be bothered by me telling something big like this. She squeals again jumping up and down before hugging the both of us.

Tim is a lot calmer than my dear sister, I am glad he is. Because if they would both be this hyperactive they would drive everyone

away. However, the moment Kate releases us he walks over, hugging the two of us and congratulating us.

"What is Tim congratulating the two of you for?" Dad's voice suddenly rings through the living room.

Kate eagerly nods at us, telling us once more without words that she doesn't mind us stealing a bit of her thunder. Let us all sit

down so the breakfast Kate made us doesn't get cold and then I tell you like I planned. As always Mom can't stand waiting and

she rolls her eyes, everyb*dy else chuckles at her. Dad however whispers something in her ear. She smiles back at him with one

of those bright smiles I only ever see her give him, This is the kind of love I dreamed of as a little girl. This is the kind of love I

wanted to find in my mate. A best friend and the love of my life in one person.

For so long I had given up on that dream, I figured it was not for me. They made me believe that it was me, that I was not

worth being loved like that. Being able to love like that. Now I found it all in Griffin. Dad was trying to comfort Mom, but little did

he know he gave me extra confirmation that what I was doing was right. Confirmation that it wasn't about me being pushed into

doing things quicker than I had wanted to. It wasn't about me, giving in to Griffin because he didn't trust me. He wasn't the only

one that lost control. Two nights ago | almost begged him to mark me even if I was not ready. What this all was about, was that

our bond was so strong that not being together hurt us.

"Everyone, when I get home tonight I will give my two weeks' notice to the library. I will need two weeks to settle my affairs. but

when the two weeks are over, Griffin and I will pick a date and then, we will move in together and complete the mating process" I

told my family when they finally sat down.

Similar to when Kate announced her pregnancy everyone got up hugging and celebrating us. Grandma admitted she was going

to miss me. Mom on the other hand was happy that my not living with them was no longer because I was bullied and abused and

had to flee my pack. But because I moved in with my mate like I was supposed to do.

The rest of the day passed by in a happy blur, by the time we got home I hated I had to say goodbye to Griffin again. Griff

obviously, hates saying goodbye to me too. He doesn't let go of the hug, not until his b*dyguard tells him they need to go twice.

Mike is a kind guy, who told me he cannot wait for me to be his Luna and Queen. Making me feel better not only about myself

but about the very near future too.

This weekend wore me down and all I wanted to do was crawl

in bed and go to sleep. But I have so much work to do. I love the fact that Isabella is helping me learn everything I need to know

about becoming a Queen. And I am excited about taking the next steps for my future, but it is a lot. Coming with a lot of pressure

and a lot on my plate. So after a long hot. shower and changing into some comfortable clothes. I start up my laptop to get some

work done.

I typed the letter to my boss at the library, I've decided to give him two weeks' notice like my contract requires me to. This way I

have the last week, to pack up my stuff and say my goodbyes to family members. Even if I would still be seeing them often, it

wouldn't be as much as I would when I was living with them.

"Darling, knowing you, you've started settling your affairs right now. Don't worry about a moving company Dillion and Colin,

Jessa Gerald and me are coming to pick you up when the day comes" I smile at Griffin's text

He knows me so well, and knowing I get to drive to the castle with three or four cars takes a load off. Next up I send an email to

Isabella, explaining my plan for my introduction to the pack. With a little explanation about why I want it to be something a lot

more lowkey than she might have expected. Emailing our queen while on a first-name basis still feels a bit foreign to me. She

insisted on it though, and I guess I would be the same if my children would bring home their mate.

Of course, I had already texted Jessa about my plans, and I asked her to go shopping for the right outfit with me this. Friday. I

hoped to get the half day off so I could leave early. Shop at the mall close to the pack. Without Griffin knowing I was there, he

would want to go with us but he cannot know. what we are shopping for. Krystel gave me her number, and it

would be good to have more than one friend when I'm living. at the castle. I've been contemplating texting her and asking her to

join me and Jessa to go shopping. Jessa hung with her. a little more and she was very onboard. I just didn't want to make Krystal

feel obliged to join me because I was her cousin's mate. Or because I would become her queen. I am ready. with all the tasks I

need to finish today, so now I am sitting on my bed. Twirling my phone around in my hand, going back and forth on whether I

should invite her or not. Griffin let me know he went to bed. So when I get a text message I am. startled and drop the phone on

my mattress all before I have even read the message. The only thing I saw was the first word "Sorry" Heart beating erratically I

picked up the phone to read the rest of the message.

Chapter 68

Ayla was serious about working harder on becoming and about getting her affairs in order. Last week I had been too busy to

speak to her much. Now it was the other way around. She must be doing some solo work too because even when Mom has the

evenings off Ayla is busy. She is doing this for our future though, and I can hardly blame her for it. So as much as I miss talking

to her, I never complain about the lack, of contact. Soon I will be able to fall asleep next to her every night and wake up next to

her every morning. And then all of this will be worth it

To keep myself busy I started with Ayla's office, I didn't want her to have to wait until Mom cleared her office and my parents

agreed with me. Luck would have it that there was an empty office across the hall from mine. Normally the princess would be the

one to decorate her office. And I wasn't going to decorate all of it. I would just paint the walls lilac and put a white-washed

wooden floor in. Of course, I would also put a wall of bookshelves in. Just like the one I had installed in my living room. I asked

the contractors within the pack to give. that the most priority they could give a new job.

They did and had just like I hoped managed to install the bookshelves in a week. Tonight Krystal was coming over to my

chambers to help me pack them. Ayla had sent me a TikTok telling me she would have cried if that had happened to her about a

boyfriend surprising his girlfriend by placing wrapping paper over a new bookshelf. Just like you would wallpaper a normal wall

but using wrapping paper and sticky tape. It would get pretty late since we had our monthly pack dinner tonight. I planned to wrap the bookshelves tomorrow afternoon right before Ayla would come home. But Krystal told me

she couldn't make it. So now I would have to just make it happen tonight.

As introverted as I am, I used to love the pack dinners. The titles and ranks never fully disappeared but as leaders, my parents

and I were pride ourselves for the fact that we were like equals with our pack members. As long as they speak with respect they

can come to us with every worry or complaint. Not just about general pack life or little disputes between pack members. But

personal grievances with us too. We never really got any, and the ones we did get were never big. Lately, however, pack

members have been coming up to me to complain about Ayla. Telling me I need a mate who is all in. Part of it is them wanting to

see me happy, and I am. I am happy with Ayla but I have to admit she hurt me a lot in the beginning. Sometimes it did not feel

fair she didn't give me a proper chance. Now she has, and I know the reasons for her taking it slow. I don't think you can ever

understand the pain of being rejected by your mate. To make things worse, it was her best friend and he let her get hurt by pack

members after rejecting her.

Tonight would no doubt serve as an excuse for pack members to walk up to me and tell me I could do better. With Conan. being

so on edge lately, and with me knowing she was almost ready to take the last steps. It would be hard, not to snap and tell them

everything. But I promised Ayla that we could tell them together. My pack doesn't know but, she actually wants to make a good

impression on them. I get ready regardless because I cannot skip this dinner either, I just have to try to make the best of it.

“Prince Griffin, I am sure I am not the first one to tell you this”

Adrian started.

I knew what this was about, and just as I feared when I was getting ready. He was not the first and probably wouldn't be the last

one to tell me how I could do better. It left me counting down the hours until I could retire to my chambers. Just as I was about to

open my mouth to not so kindly stop Adrian from going on Krystel came to my rescue. She placed a gentle hand on Adrian's

shoulder before speaking to him.

“Listen, Adrian, I know you mean well, but every member of the royal family knows Ayla's backstory and we all adore her. Don't

you think you can trust all of us enough to take that as a good sign? Besides things will get a lot clearer sooner than you might

expect it”

was

Adrian nodded, almost hesitant. and I could see that he still very reluctant about giving Ayla a chance. Krystel had just left him

with two lousy choices. He could either say he ought himself better suited to protect me than the entire royal family. Or he could

trust us, despite his apprehensions. He chose the latter as he rushed off after a quick goodbye, but even the blind could see he

was not happy about it.

The thing that surprised me was the teasing wink Krystel shot me when she said things would become clearer soon. I had been

the one to tell her that Ayla would need to settle some affairs before coming to live with me soon.

“I think we've been here long enough to get excused, let's gift wrap us some bookshelves” Krystel beamed

Her enthusiastic suggestion distracted me from the peculiarness of her teasing. I wasn't so much excited about fake

wallpapering with wrapping paper. As I was excited about seeing Ayla unwrap this surprise. So after saying my goodbye to family

and friends Krystel and I made our way to my living room.

Wrapping the bookshelves wasn't as easy as I figured they

if would be. It took Krystal and me the better part of the night. We were exhausted by the time it was done but we finally

managed to. And I had to admit it looked cute. Krystal hugged me goodbye and made her way home. I looked at the wall of

wrapping paper that now was the eye-catcher in my living room. Feeling happy with the knowledge that the next time I would be

here was when Ayla was here and would see my surprise. With that thought in mind, I closed the door and made my way to the

bedroom. I was exhausted, I barely had the energy to keep my eyes open long enough to brush my teeth and check if Ayla had

sent me anything.

"You're probs busy with the dinner, but I am off to bed I have a very busy day tomorrow. Love you can't wait to be in your arms

tomorrow night." Ayla had started ending texts with telling me she loves me, after last weekend.

Still every time I read those two little words my heart would jump up. And my chest would warm up from the inside out. She had

texted me thirty minutes ago, so she was probably fast asleep now. If so she would just see my message in the morning.

Because I hoped Ayla would feel the same burst of joy when she read me saying it back as I still did.

"Just got in bed, with time to pick up my phone, I am exhausted but I will sleep better tomorrow. With you in my arms, counting

down the hours. I love you Griff" I replied and I

could already imagine her rolling her eyes and then giggling at my formal end of the message.

She would always tease me with it, but the times I left it out. Thinking she would preferred that she texted back if .

everything was okay. Before she admitted that it was one of my quirks that she loves.

But the next morning all I got back was the heart emoji, she told me she would be busy and probably wouldn't be able to text me

all day until she got in the car to drive to me. So I shouldn't be surprised but I still felt a pang of disappointment for the lack of

response to my message. Ignoring that I got to work so I would be done on time, since Dad needed me to

take on some extra work last minute.

Chapter 69

This week has been exhausting, every day I went to work in the library. And every night I would either have lessons with Isabella,

or I would work on the event. Luckily she agreed with a BBQ as my introduction party. I wanted to bring some of myself to this

event so that the pack members would get to know the real me. I have also noticed Griffin likes casual events a lot better. He is

such an introvert so it made sense to

me too. That he would feel better if he could at least be

himself.

Anwar, my manager had seen how tired I was and he graciously gave me the entire day off. Which meant I could sleep in a little.

Both Kristen and Jessa were excited about going to the mall with me at the beginning not the end of the afternoon. Because as

much as I loved being able to sleep in. Nothing would relax me more, nothing would be more soothing than to be spending more

time with Griffin. I just hoped he likes the surprise.

I would go to the mall with Jessa and Krystal. Then I would go back to the castle with them. Where I would have a meeting with

the kitchen staff. I have been emailing Milo the head chef a lot. He seemed nice and it felt like he was warming up to me. He

seemed to be very excited about hosting a big BBQ. Having an entire staff prepare the grilling meat and making is way off from

the family-style dinner I envisioned. But I

understood that it was not feasible for us to make the food

ourselves.

Chef Milo had promised me he would keep most of the dishes

simple, except for a more high-end meat and fish dish to please the most picky pack members. He had let me know he managed

to make a full menu and grill it without Griffin noticing. Since I had to taste everything I asked Jessa and Krystal to join me. We

would make some sort of lunch out of it. Of course, they loved the idea, and Chef Milo seemed to be excited to be able to let

more people taste his food. .

Griffin had sent me a few more texts, and I hated I was only giving him short answers if any. But I was scared to tell him anything

that could give away what I was doing. Secondly, there would be moments where I could not text at all, or had to rely on speech

to text as I was driving. He would notice that too, he always did. It would be a death giveaway away which is why I told him I

would hardly be able to text him today because I was so busy. It wasn't even a lie, I just let out the details of what kept me so

busy. Grandma packed me a breakfast I could eat while I was on the road so I got into my car at eight-thirty minutes, only thirty

minutes after I rolled out of my bed.

The drive there was easy, this early in the day there was a lot less traffic around which helped. Knowing I was going over to

finally get closer to the pack and most of all surprise Griffin. made the trip fly by. Krystal and Jessa were already waiting for me in

front of the mall entrance. Jessa hugged me, as she always did, I was more surprised to find Krystal waiting to hug me the

minute Jessa let me go.

"Thank you for inviting me, to come along, I was afraid I would be interrupting your time with Jessa. There is just something

about you that makes me love hanging out with you" She told me so fast that she was a little out of breath by the time she

finished.

"Don't be silly, I didn't want you to feel obliged but when you texted me Griff told you. You startled me, I had my phone in hand

contemplating asking you to join us" I told her smiling.

It didn't have any kind of pull toward Krystal, but I liked her she was a smart and funny girl. So I instantly clicked with her. With

that being said we went inside, where I ended up finding the perfect outfit. I would have loved to go in my jeans shorts, a crop

top, and flip-flops. But I understood that would hardly be fitting for a Princess to be. Eventually, I picked a lilac summer dress

with white flowers on it, white wedged sandals, and a white knitted cardigan for if the night would get too chilly. Jessa said she

would keep the outfit in her home so Griff wouldn't find it.

We shopped a little more and I put my Sephora card to good use, I don't use makeup on a day-to-day basis. But I liked to go all

out on special days. Since Griff had reminded me of the gift card, he wouldn't be curious about the fact I got a bunch of make-up.

He doesn't seem like the kind of guy who knows a lot about make-up. Now we arrive at the castle, Gerald is meeting us at the

parking lot. To make sure Griffin wouldn't be notified, Dillion would make sure he was in the room with Griffin so he could

mindlink Gerald if he happened to go to the kitchen.

Gerald brought us into the kitchen, but then he had to excuse himself he was supposed to be working. He had told Griffin he had

to urgently pick Jessa up. He would never deny his best friend and Gemma a few hours off to help his mate out.

"It is so nice to meet you, do you want me to address you as Princes?" An unfamiliar voice booms through the kitchen.

The man facing me who had to be Chef Milo was a lot older than I expected, he had to be at least seventy. Which isn't even that

old for us werewolves. He just came across as someone much younger over the email. It must have been. because of the

passion he has for his profession. He is beaming, and looking over to the table that is brimming with cloches. It's not hard to

understand that the food is

underneath those.

“Just call me Ayla, I am not your Princess, not to mention that you are doing me a huge favor,” I tell him, and then he leads me

to the table.

Where I get to taste the juiciest burger ever, he used a better cut of meat. The buns are handmade, as are the sauces and you

can taste them. The same goes for the pork chops, the handmade hotdogs, and the prawns. Everything has better more

expensive ingredients, and the sides are a little more luxurious too. Still every bite even the steaks and salmon still have the

BBQ vibe. The rich flavors are enhanced by the smokiness of the meat. Somehow Chef Milo managed to give that homely feel

with his upgraded BBQ. Of course, I told him to join us in tasting it, and between the four of us, we quickly managed to polish off

all the food. So now it is time to surprise Griffin.

But between being in the car for hours, shopping and now eating so much food I feel a little grimy and I wanted to smell and feel

fresh when I surprised Griff.

“You girls should just go home, I could use a shower, so I am just going to head to our bathroom and rinse off before I go

and meet Griff,” I tell the others after thanking Chef Milo and going over some changes in the menu.

“NOOOO, you can’t...” Krystal shouts causing me to freeze to the spot.

“Why not, I feel grimy, Griffin sees it as our room and it will be in a few weeks?” I ask because Krystal’s reaction is a little

suspicious.

“Dillion let us know Griffin needed to take a quick nap so he is in his quarters” Jessa explains.

Krystal agrees, and it still feels a little off but I know there is nothing Griff could be hiding from me. So I just go along with it and

since I bought a few more outfits I have clean clothes to change into. The way to Jessa’s place is a lot longer than I

remembered. And I don’t remember half of the places I am walking past now. I need to get to know the pack grounds more.

Because right now I can not even make my way to my best friend. Even the way back seems different than the way there. But I

don't care anymore, I am freshly showered about to surprise my wonderful mate and imaging the look of surprise on his face in a

few moments is all I can think off.

Chapter 70

I'm starting to get a headache, Ayla has hardly texted me today. And I know she told me before and I know she cannot help it but

I miss her. Dillion has been acting weird today, and so has Dillion since getting back from picking up Jessa on top of all of that I

had the extra work Dad asked me to do.

Dillion and Gerald had both left to go to their respective offices to get to work. Finally not bothering me anymore but now

someone was knocking at my door. The second I raised my head I was greeted with the overwhelming scent of lilac. Could it be?

Could it be that Ayla said she wouldn't be able to text me because she was coming here early? There was only one way to find

out but I found myself eager. Rushing to open the door there she was, like a dream come true. My breathtakingly beautiful mate was standing in the doorway yelling "Surprise"

I grabbed her hips to lift her and spin her around, and when I was about to put her down on the floor she wrapped her arms

around my neck-pulling me close to be able to k*ss me. I didn't care why she was here so much earlier than we agreed on, or

how we were k*ssing in the hallway for all to see. I didn't even care for the fact that I had to work now when she was here. All I

cared for was the fact that she was here with me now.

"What are you doing here, Darling not that I am complaining?"

I asked her when we finally let go of each other.

"There is some training I have to go over with your mother, and like you said we are going to need to make an effort to interact

with the pack. With all that I had to do, I got the day

off because I was exhausted so what better way than to sleep in and then spend the day with you?" She beamed up at me.

Knowing her idea of relaxing was spending the day with me made me feel elated. Suddenly I remember the shitton of work Dad

left me with. I can't even take her out, I hardly have the time to show her the surprise in the living room. Ayla must see my face

fall, before I know it she is cupping my cheek with her hand asking me what's wrong.

"I have so much to do, that I can't take you out, and I am a bit bummed out about it," I answer and to my surprise, she just smiles

at me.

"Is there anything I can help you with? So we can go on a casual date tonight? Something on the pack ground maybe?" She

asks me to think about ways to help me, to make the best of this situation.

"If you really don't mind, I do need to go over the rappsorts every pack sent me about their members. To see if they changed

packs, or if they went rogue?" It is a tedious job, so when I told Ayla what I was doing I figured she would decline.

But she didn't she settled down on the couch in my room and opened up her laptop. Fully trusting her I gave her the login info to

the email. She would start reading from the bottom up and I would do the exact opposite.

Reading all the emails and then making the changes to the archives still was tedious. But with Ayla next to me, time had flown

by. Not only because we joked and teased between emails. She has also done about half of my job so that I finish work a lot

sooner. We decided to go to the diner-style

restaurant on pack ground. Excusing myself that I had to shower first I led Ayla to our private chambers. She seemed to pick up

how overly excited I was to show her the bookshelves. But other than raising a brow at me she didn't say anything, which was

good because I was bursting out the seams to tell her.

"Grif, tell me you didn't?" Ayla's voice skips a beat when she asks me about the wall covered with wrapping paper.

"Darling, in a few weeks this will be our apartment, our bedroom I want you to feel at home here. It's not totally selfless though I

want our livingroom to be cozier so that we can spend time in there.

Ayla praises me for the idea about the living room but her eyes are immediately drawn to the wrapping paper.

“Go on Darling rip it open” That is all the encouragement she needs.

She begins tearing the paper down, and when I start to help her she grabs me by the collar and kisses me hard, passionate.

Before returning to the task at hand, In the time she is pulling down the wrapping paper. She does this cute little dance every

time she discovers a new book. Most of the shelves are left empty though. .

Not only does she have a ton of books at her Grandparent’s place already. We need space to fill up. I want her bookshelves to

be full of books I got her. Our fridge is full of magnets from places we went to together. There is even a bookstore on pack

ground. Looking at my watch I notice that we can still make the bookstore if I hurry.

“You look beautiful Darlin, but I have to take a quick shower

so feel free to use the shower after me if you need to,” I tell her before walking to the bathroom.

The shower was wonderful, and it woke me up. Ayla had changed into a simple tight tight-fitting dress. She was read too, and so

I offered her my arm. Arms linked we made our way into town. Where she had no idea where I was taking her to, she still

seemed to think we were just walking towards the restaurant. She would never be able to find or do any thing on pack ground on

her own. I silently tell myself to print the maps of the pack for her this weekend so she can’t study them. If she finds the time to

do so in her busy schedule that is.

Now I can benefit from her not knowing her way around the pack. I ask her to close her eyes for the last few feet. She is

confused seeing as she thinks she already knows where we are going. But she does as I ask her without any questions. When

we are in front of the bookstore I let her open her eyes. She squeals and jumps into my arms, I waste no time in wrapping my

arms around her lifting her off the ground again. I will never stop loving the feeling of her petite frame melting into me as I lift her

off the ground. It makes me feel like I can protect her from everything in this world. Suddenly I am overwhelmed with the need to

tell her that. Even Conan is ringing through my mind, whining our mate needs to know we will keep her safe.

“I will always keep you safe Darling, I will always keep you in my arms because it is where you belong,” I tell her giving in to the

need to tell her.

“I know you will, Griff I trust you with my life” Her answer is

like balm to my soul.

Her feet are firmly back on the sidewalk again and she takes a step closer to me. So I bent forward to give her a k*ss. Instead,

she just grabs my wrist and pulls me into the bookstore. And I cannot but help laugh at her enthusiasm. She is picking up books,

smelling them, and reading the back. She even grabs the books by their spine waving them around. According to her, it is to

tasty how floppy they are: Honestly, I don't get it, I don't get what the fun in reading is. But if you enjoy it why not. just download

an e-book?”.

“That is why I can't wait to have mom over for a visit when I moved in here. She will love going to this bookstore with me.” Ayla

tells me, it makes sense her mother loves books just as much as she does.

“Oh, so you do plan on living here? You actually want to be the Queen” Rhonda snaps at Ayla.

Arms crossed ready to tear into Ayla, I want to intervene and tell Rhonda to mind her own business and to leave her alone. But

when I look at Ayla I know I am too late and I no longer

have the chance to.