

Chapter 41 - Welcome Home Mate

ROXIE

It took all my willpower to keep Bex from taking over when she saw Blaze come through. I knew she wanted him, but I needed to know what Blaze had to say.

I never knew it was hard for them when they were around me; I thought Lex acted like a moron because he was still into other women. I never gave it a second thought throughout the whole thing, and when he called me stubborn, which sent Bex into a loud laugh, I knew he was right. I was acting stubborn, but I thought I was right in what I thought, but now I'm not too sure.

As soon as he didn't accept my rejection, the mate bond came back harder, and all I could think about was Lex taking me against this wall.

When Blaze mentioned the videos, my heart nearly gave out. I didn't know whether he was making a big joke about it, but Bex could feel his honesty, and she believed he was telling me the truth. Lex was thinking about me. I knew he never came to the house when he was with Naomi, but the others did when he was with my brother on nights out. Naomi only came that one night, and she would brag about being in his room in front of all the others.

Blaze mentioned my brother and that he had all those women with him. I nearly felt sick to my stomach. My brother was the worst one out of the two of them then. I felt so sorry for Sofia, and I wonder how the hell she has been coping. Did she forgive him?

I looked at Blaze, but his eyes were closed.

"He is going back," said Bex with a whine. "I wanted to talk to him."

I felt sorry for her. "I'm sorry, Bex," I said. "Maybe we can sort something out."

Bex looked at me, but I could feel her sadness wash over her. I was hurting not only my mate but my wolf too.

"I need them to go slow, Bex," I blurt out to her. "I just need to make sure Lex is all about us and no one else."

Bex nodded but never said anything.

I will make it up to her.

I looked back, but I wasn't greeted by Blaze now; Lex was upfront and staring back at me.

His hand had been on my waist the entire time, calming me down, but not at the same time; it was sending something to my core that made my whole body want him more. Bex would often send me an image, but I had to shoot it down before it affected me more.

I cleared my throat. "So, you think Blaze talking to me would make a difference," I said. Lex tensed at the statement, but I moved slightly, which made me look up at him and stare. "I agree we are mates," I said. "But we have to take it slow."

Lex's hands on my waist loosen but stay gently on my shorts. "That's all I want, Rox," he said softly with a slow grin pulling up the corners of his mouth. "I will go at your own pace, but I have one request."

I stared at him, wondering where the hell this was going.

Lex stared at me and moved one hand to my chin. He placed his finger on it and tilted my head for me to look him directly in the eyes. "I want to announce to the pack that you're my mate," he said, but I couldn't help but frown. Lex shook his head, "Please hear me out."

I didn't say anything to him, and he stared at me for a moment and then carried on. "I want to tell them you're my mate; I should have done it that day on the training ground. I should have claimed you as mine. The whole reason I never did was to give you time to adjust to knowing I was yours; I never meant for you to think or believe that I was still the same dumbass that made you leave."

His eyes searched mine, but he carried on. "I would never be like that," he said. "I stopped everything once Blaze started to calm down and even told Naomi about us. She accepted; well, I thought she did. I never wanted her, Rox. I was always keen on you, but you were too young for me, and being Jason's little sister never helped. I would never treat you like that, and I would make you my queen and Luna. I would never let anyone hurt you, or I would kill them."

I couldn't help my heart swell slightly at everything he said to me.

"He's telling the truth," Bex said softly. "He means everything he has been saying."

I sighed and stared at him. "I..." I said, but I stopped myself. I stared at him, but I knew I must forgive him; I wanted to. We all have pasts, but I was hurt. Yeah, I had a few relationships along the way, but it was just sex twice with two men, and kissing Ana meant nothing to me.

"I want to forgive you," I muttered to him. "I want to."

I looked at him, searched his face, and sighed again. "I think telling the pack will be okay, but can we still take it slow?"

Lex smiled and nodded. "That's all I want," he said. "We will go at your pace, and you can tell me what you want from me. As for telling the pack, we will tell them when we both are there."

I nodded.

I looked over to the side, wondering what the time was. We had been in the changing rooms for ages, and I bet people were wondering where we were.

But before I could suggest anything, Lex spoke. "I want you to tell everyone as I want there to be no mistakes," he said, but I couldn't help but feel confused.

"He's on about the other alpha," blurted out Bex.

Oh crap! I forgot about him, but what has Alpha Trevor have to do with this?

"Alpha Trevor," I said, which made Lex look at me. He stared at me but didn't say anything. "I don't know what his deal is," I said. "When I saw him before the fight, he saw me with Alpha Gareth. I didn't get a good vibe from him. Something about him..." I mutter the last part, but Lex lets out a low growl, and his grip on my waist tightens. I looked up at him, and his eyes flashed between Blaze and his.

"Don't..." he stuttered out and closed his eyes.

"Touch him," said Bex as she came closer, feeling the tension in the air change. "It will help them calm down."

I did as she said and placed my hand on Lex's face. Lex leaned into my touch, opened his eyes, and stared down at me. "I'm sorry," he whispered. "Balze doesn't like what he insinuated earlier, and it's getting him riled up."

I nodded. "It's okay," I said, moving my hand back down, feeling slightly awkward. I stared at Lex. "Why are you here?" I asked, "I guess it wasn't just for me. I mean, it might be part of it, but I know my father would never have told Alpha Frank where I was unless there was a good reason."

Lex stares at me but sighs. "I needed to talk to Alpha Trevor about the rogue attacks," he said.

I frowned. "Why?" I asked.

"Alpha Trevor doesn't live too far from Alpha Dean and us," he said. "I wanted to ask him if he had any coming onto his territory, but he hasn't gotten back to either Alpha Dean or me."

I stared at him; that was odd.

"Why would he be like that?" I asked.

Lex shrugged, "I don't know, Rox," he said. "I'm more concerned about why he thought he would announce you as his mate when he clearly knows you are not." The last statement came out through clenched teeth, and I knew it pissed him off. But he does have a point; why would Alpha Trevor do something like that?

"Rox," he called out, pulling me from my thoughts. "Look, I know this is all weird and confusing, but could I walk you back to Keith's house," he asked. "I want to make sure that Alpha Trevor isn't going to try anything."

He had a point, Alpha Trevor had a goal this evening, and it backfired. I don't even know the man, but something about him made the hair on my neck stand up on end, and the shiver, whenever he came near me made it even worse.

I looked at Lex and nodded.

He smiled.

I frowned. "You can," I said but looked around the changing room. I needed a shower, as I smelled so bad from the fight.

"I need to shower," I said and looked back at him. "I can use the showers in the room, but could you wait outside while I have one? I'll be quick."

Lex looked at me, and I could see the disappointment on his face.

My head was about to explode between the fight and Blaze's talk. My head was whirling around with everything Blaze had said, but Alpha Trevor and some things weren't adding up. I needed space, but it wasn't from Lex as such.

I looked at Lex, and he moved back, releasing my waist from his grasp. I have to admit that it felt weird without them being there.

I moved slightly but stopped in front of him and looked up. "You can stay in here," I said. "I won't be long." I knew I could dress in the bathroom.

Lex nodded.

I walked away and grabbed my gym bag with the change of clothes I had placed earlier. I walked toward the bathroom, but I could feel Lex's eyes on me the whole time till I closed the bathroom door behind me.

I leaned on it for support.

Our mate bond was affecting me. Everything in my core was ignited by the touch left, and I knew I had to control myself as I didn't want them to know how turned on I was.

I switched on the shower and stripped out of my clothes.

I walked into the shower and let the water wash over me, taking away the aches and the pain in my rib that was healing, which was thanks to Bex.

I knew I had to get out soon, but I needed to feel the warmth of the water and try not to be in my head.

The thought of Lex being outside excited me more. Bex was purring in my head as the water cascaded down, and I couldn't help but close my eyes for a few moments, taking it all in.

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LEX

I couldn't help but stare at the restroom door as I sat opposite on the nearby bench.

"We should go in there," purred Blaze.

I would, but I know it wouldn't end well if I did. It would cause problems for us. Roxie wanted to go slow, and I accepted her decision, even if it would be hard for me.

I could feel Blaze groan and huff out. He wanted Roxie to be in our arms. I knew he wasn't happy with us taking it slow with her, even though he was the one who told her we would.

I could hear the water running as she switched it on.

I let out a sigh and gazed at the floor.

My head was going into a tailspin. I couldn't believe Roxie was giving us a chance. I felt happy and couldn't wait for new beginnings. I knew we had to take it slow with her, and I didn't want to ruin something which was about to start.

I closed my eyes and looked back at Blaze, sitting on his hind legs staring back at me. "You okay?" I asked.

Blaze stared at me for a moment and nodded. "I am," he said and went to lay back down. "I want mate to be with us, but it feels like she's going to be sent away from us again."

I could feel the anxiety running through him.

I didn't say anything. I knew that was my fault as I sent her away the first time. I won't be doing that this time; he knew that. But it wouldn't stop her from leaving though.

"I'm sorry, Blaze," I whispered.

Blaze looked at me and cocked his head to the side. "I know human," he said. "I know we won't let her go this time, but we must make sure she realizes that we are true to her; no one else matters."

I nodded.

I could hear the water turning off and I went back to the front. I turned my head to the side and stared at the restroom door.

I knew she would be out soon, and my heart started to beat faster.

After ages, the door handle moved, and Roxie pulled it open.

I couldn't help but stare at her. She was wearing a baggy top and sweatpants with flip-flops on her feet. Her hair was damp, and her bag was on her shoulder as she stepped out. She wasn't like the usual she-wolves, which I was more attracted to; she was everything I wanted and so much more.

I got up slowly from the bench as she looked at me.

She smiled. "I'm ready," she said.

I nodded with a small smile.

I walked over to her as she stepped in front of me. She opened the door and walked through; I followed after her.

Roxie guided us through the corridor and back through the curtain which led to the hall.

Once we stepped through, there was no one in sight.

Roxie kept walking along, and I followed till we got to the door. I pulled open the door and let Roxie go first.

Once outside, the sun was setting, and Roxie used her arm to shield her eyes from the sun. "It's so nice this time of the evening," she said without looking at me.

I was about to say something when I sensed someone watching us. I glanced around, and my eyes landed on an angry Alpha Trevor.

His gaze lingered on Roxie, but as soon as he realized I was there, his eyes changed to his wolf's.

I couldn't help but place my arm around Roxie's waist and draw her nearer to me.

"What are..." she starts to say but stops. I knew she could see who I was looking at. "Lex," she whispered as I could feel her hand on mine. "Let's go."

I didn't say anything, but we walked together with my arm firmly around her waist.

I could hear a growl as we walked past, fighting everything within me to keep control. Blaze was up and growling; he wanted to kill him.

Neither of us said anything to us; Roxie's hand squeezed mine slightly as we got to the clearing.

I looked at her, only to notice that she glanced over her shoulder. "He's gone," she said as she looked back at me.

Roxie went to move, but I stopped and drew her closer to me. I turned her around to face me as she hit my chest hard. She looked up and frowned. "Lex," she warned.

"I don't like it when he looks at you like that," I said. "Blaze wants to kill him for touching you and..." Roxie placed her finger to my lips which sent a tingling sensation to ripple through me. Her touch made me calm down instantly, but also Blaze, who was purring in my head. I have to admit; she was even affecting my cock too.

Roxie searched my eyes. "I know," she said. "I could feel Blaze getting restless, and Bex thought touching you would help."

I stared at her. She removed her finger from my mouth, but I was quick and grabbed it. I held her hand in mine. "I know we said slow, but could you hold my hand," I said.

Roxie looked at me, and a slow smile grew. "I would like that," she said as she moved to my side with her hand in mine. "Come on," she said as she looked ahead. "We only got a five-minute walk, and I bet everyone is probably wondering whether I hurt you or not."

I couldn't help but smirk.

"I have a funny feeling they might be thinking that too," I said.

We walked and headed toward Keith's house.

After a short walk in silence, even though Roxie was holding my hand, it felt like she wasn't there with me.

"She's talking to Bex," whispered Blaze.

I was about to say something, but we came into sight of Keith's house. And low and behold, everyone was waiting outside for us.

Keith was the first one to see us and stood up with a smile on his face. Roxie removed her hand from mine as we got closer.

I smiled as we got closer.

Alpha Dean was walking toward us. "You okay?" he asked me, then glanced at Roxie. "So, you are his mate?"

Roxie stared at him and nodded but didn't say anything.

I looked at her with a smile. "This is Alpha Dean," I said. "He is one of my best friends growing up, besides your brother."

Alpha Dean held his hand out for Roxie to take. She placed hers in his and shook. "It's nice to meet you," she said. I stared at her as her eyes went to the people behind her.

She walked around us and went to hug her family.

I could feel Alpha Dean move to the side and stand beside me. "So, you convinced her to give you a chance," he asked. I knew he was looking at me, but my eyes were on Roxie, who was hugging her Dad.

"Sort of," I said. "We are going to take it slow. I need to gain her trust."

"That's fair enough," he said. "She was sent away by the one person who's her mate, but everything she has been through has made her the great Luna she is today. I wouldn't like to get on her bad side."

I looked over at him. "Alpha Trevor's face was a picture when her wolf came up front with her, to make them as one. I don't think he thought she would accept you," he said. "Something was off about him. I watched him during the fight. He never took his eyes off her and was always on his phone."

That was odd.

"I wonder what kind of game he is playing," he said.

I was about to say something, but Keith called out. "I've ordered Pizza, and they will be here soon," he said.

Alpha Dean and I nodded. I followed everyone inside the house, leaving the Alpha Trevor conversation for another time.

Once inside, I couldn't help but look around the house. It was warm, and some photos were displayed on the walls of Roxie, Jason, and other family members.

I couldn't help but look at the photographs and scan over them till my eyes landed on one in particular. I smiled.

The photo was of Jason, Roxie, Tim, and their mum. I knew I had seen this photo before, as Tim had it hanging in his house too.

I could feel someone standing next to me, and I knew who it was straight away as her scent hit me hard. I looked at her, but her eyes were elsewhere. Tingles erupted as a slight touch of her arm brushed against mine as she looked at the photo.

"I miss her so much," she whispered as her eyes landed on the photo of her family.

I could feel my heart break for her. I lost my mum when I was young, but it was never due to violence like Roxie and Jason did. My mum passed away from an illness that caused her, cancer. We werewolves can heal and transform, but my mother was human. She was only mated and marked, but she never changed into a werewolf like us.

I cleared my throat as I looked back at the photograph. "She would be so proud of you," I said. "Especially being an ultimate fighter."

Roxie turned to look at me as a smile spread across her face. "I think she would like to know that I was kicking some ass now and then," she said. Her eyes stayed on me.

I was about to say something, but Jason walked in. "Food's ready," he said, but stopped in his tracks. He looks between us as Roxie steps away from me. I could feel the loss of her as she walked away. I wanted to reach out and grab her, but I kept my cool.

"Come on," said Roxie as she walked away. I followed her but got stopped by Jason, who smirked. "Are things okay with you both?" he asked as he looked to see Alpha Dean pull out the chair for Roxie for her to sit. "I mean, I honestly thought she kicked your ass or something, but you both seem to be okay?"

I frowned but kept my gaze on Roxie, who looked up at me. "We're okay," I said and walked off.

I sat next to Tim and was seated opposite Roxie.

We all dug into the food, and quiet conversation flowed between us, but I kept quiet for a while. I kept my eyes trained on Roxie, her eyes would meet mine occasionally, but she would flush when she spotted me staring.

The food was stunning; I love pizza and dessert, and even though it was cookies, I enjoyed them. The conversations flowed, and even the mention of Roxie's mum was mentioned, which surprised me as no one in the family ever brought her up.

This evening was exceptional in all ways, and I even mentioned a few times that their mum was good to me. She was one of those women that would take you in, even if you didn't want to. When my mum passed, she became my second mum in a sense. When she was killed, it was hard on all of us, especially Roxie, as she was with her at the time.

"Alpha Lex, I think you should move into the house with us," said Tim, which pulled me from my thoughts. The conversation was still around the table, but the eyes opposite me had me frozen slightly. I looked over to Roxie, who had a blank expression.

"Mate wondering what you are going to say," blurted Blaze out of nowhere. Blaze had been quiet the whole time, but I could tell he was watching Roxie through my eyes.

I cleared my throat. "If it's okay with everyone else," I said, my eyes going to Roxie.

Roxie stared for a moment but nodded.

I smiled.

"Jason and I will go to collect all of the stuff," said Alpha Dean. "I guess Alpha Trevor has left."

A low growl escaped my lips. "Don't mention him," I murmured. I knew it would only bring Blaze to the surface.

Alpha Dean nodded but looked at me. "When are we going back?" he asked. "I'm only asking as I have been away from my mate for too long now, and I want to see her."

Roxie's eyes burned into me as I looked at her. Her face was holding too much emotion to know what she was thinking. The look of dread and worry came, but confusion was set now. She had a rough time in the pack, but once we announce she is my mate, everything will be different, I'm sure of it.

I wonder what she was thinking.

"We should stay with our mate for a little while," said Blaze.

That sounded like a plan, and I knew what I would do.

"I think Alpha Dean and Jason could go back tomorrow morning as they are missing their mates," I said. "I will contact my father to notify him that I will be staying here for a little while until Roxie decides to come back with me."

Everyone nodded in agreement, but Roxie stood up and stared at me. "I will see you all tomorrow," she said. "I need to sleep; the fight has worn me out."

With that, she scrapes the chair back and walks around us. I watched her leave and head up the stairs. Once she was out of sight, someone cleared their throat, which made me look at Keith.

“Give her some time,” he said with a smile. “She needs to wrap her head around it all, and you staying here with her might be a good thing, just the two of you.”

Everyone else nodded their heads.

We all talked, but it turned to sports more than anything.

I couldn't hear anything from upstairs.

Jason left fifteen minutes later, with Alpha Dean following him. I think it might be best that we stay here tonight; after what happened with Alpha Trevor, something didn't sit right with me about the altercation with Roxie. He looked like he wanted her, not just as a toy but to torment. I have seen too many of those faces in alpha meetings or war talk over the years to know his facial features.

I needed to keep a level head and make sure war never came.

I know our pack will defeat whoever comes, but I would never wish any war to come, especially for my pack members.

Tim cleared his throat, “Let me show you where you can stay,” he said.

Tim and I moved while Keith was sorting out everything after the meal. He was staking pizza boxes up into a pile.

I followed Tim to the stairs and headed up.

We walked past Roxie's room, and I couldn't help but stare. There was no movement; she must be asleep.

I looked over to Tim, who stood in front of me. Tim looked over his shoulder as he stood in front of the room and smiled. “This one is yours,” he said.

I nodded.

The room was opposite Roxie's.

Oh boy, I thought.

We were so close but couldn't touch.

“I'm happy to see you both together,” Tim said, pulling me from my thoughts. I looked at him with a small smile. Tim placed his hand on my shoulder and gently squeezed. “Everything will work out in time, Lex,” he said. “I can feel it.”

Tim said goodnight and walked toward another room, and stepped inside.

I looked over to Roxie's room and let a sigh escape.

I knew this would be hard, but I needed to focus.

I opened the door and headed inside.

Chapter 43

Chapter 43 - Welcome Home Mate

ROXIE

I had to get away; it was all getting too much.

I closed the bedroom door and leaned on it for support.

Lex was staying here, under the same roof as me.

Bex was purring loudly; she wanted to see him again. I had to control her a few times as she tried to take over and talk to him as Blaze did with me.

"You, okay?" she asked, pulling me from my thoughts. I looked back at her.

Her eyes bore into mine, but I couldn't help but feel weird.

I had not long agreed to give Lex a chance to be my mate, and we should take it slow, but it feels like it was rushing, and this stupid mate bond was always affecting me.

Whenever I went near him, I felt sparks run through me. The damn mate bond affected my judgment, and I can't even think straight when he's around.

I shook my head.

"Bex," I said. "I need time."

Bex stared at me, but she never said a word.

I stared at her and carried on talking to her. "I need time; I know he is our mate," I said. "I will accept him, but it's going way too fast for me, and I can't seem to think straight when he is around."

Bex cocked her head to the side and stared. I could feel her trying to figure out what was going on with me, but something clicked after a few moments. "You're scared," she whispered.

I stared back, but she carried on talking. "You're scared of being loved," she said. "Rox, Lex, and Blaze are our mates; they will never hurt us."

I couldn't help but frown, but Bex let a low growl slip through, which widened my eyes. She had never growled at me before; this was a first.

"Blaze is right," she said in a huff. "You are stubborn; you won't even listen to me."

Bex turned her head away and placed a block up on me.

I looked back at my room, shocked.

I hurt my wolf for feeling like this.

I knew I had overcome my issues with Lex, but a few hours wasn't going to make it all good between us. I need a few days to spend time alone or with him. I guess I need to get to know him all over again. We have both changed over the last six years, and I know I have.

I walked over to my bed and sat down.

I could feel my body draining when we were having food. The fight and confrontation with Alpha Trevor and Lex had my head spinning.

I laid down, and within seconds darkness consumed me.

I was sent into a deep slumber without even realizing it.

I woke up early the following day; it was six am.

I groaned as I moved up in bed.

I never set my alarm yesterday. The whole training for the last three days had gotten to me. I would get up early to run and train, all before breakfast. I think this was the way my body clock was. It usually did when we trained, but it could also be because of other reasons.

I changed quickly and left my room.

I froze at the bottom when I saw Jason and Lex talking; they both stopped and looked at me.

Jason smiled and walked over to me. "Hey Rox," he said. "Alpha Dean and I are leaving now. There seems to be some trouble in Alpha Dean's pack, so I need to take him."

He glanced over his shoulder, but I knew Lex wasn't looking at him as his eyes were on me.

"I need to get back to Sofia as well," he said. I smiled at him and pulled him into a hug.

"Make it up with her," I whispered in his ear. "You need to make sure she understands that she is the only one in your eyes."

I pulled back, and Jason nodded.

I could tell he wanted to talk more, but it wasn't the time to speak.

Jason left, and I followed. My Dad and Keith were outside while Alpha Dean was in the car waiting for Jason to get in.

After a few goodbyes, Jason left.

I watched my brother drive away, but I could feel someone standing behind me. I knew who it was; his scent engulfed me, waking up Bex.

The block she had up on me last night was now down, and she was staring through my eyes.

I knew I had to make it up to her, and I knew what I could do.

I turned around, only to come face to face with a tight t-shirt. I looked up and stared at Lex. Never taking my eyes off him, I cleared my throat. "Do you and Blaze want to go for a run with Bex and me?" I asked.

I could feel Bex move in my head.

I knew she wanted to meet Blaze, and I needed her to have that. She has always been there for me, and now I need to be there for her.

Lex smiled. "We would love to," he said.

"What about food?" asked my father, making us look at him.

I looked at Keith, who was smirking. "Tim," he said. "How about we make some food up ready? They can have it when they come back."

My Dad looked at me, but his eyes landed on Lex. They softened. "Sure," was all he said.

Both men walked back inside the house, leaving Lex and me outside alone.

I moved to the side as his scent was getting to me.

“I know a place,” I said as I looked at him. “There is a river not too far from here, Bex can show it to Blaze, and they can have some fun.”

Why do I sound like I was convincing myself that this was a good idea?

Lex stared at me and moved closer. “Rox, I agree, and Blaze wants to meet Bex,” he said.

He looked over to the forest edge, “I can smell rabbits,” he said.

I grinned. “There are loads here,” I said.

“Come on then,” he said.

I nodded and turned to leave. We headed to the forest edge and stopped.

“We can strip out of our clothes here,” I said.

Lex didn’t say anything.

I turned my back to him and stripped out of my clothes. I folded them up and placed them near a tree.

I turned back around, and there stood a sight.

I could feel my core tighten.

Lex stood there, in all his glory.

He was a masterpiece of the gods. His chest was broad, and his abs were sculpted to make him look like someone’s wet dream. And don’t get me started on his cock, my mouth watered at the sight. I didn’t know whether I wanted him to fuck me hard or I should suck him dry.

Bex was panting hard in my head as she came closer to check him out with me.

Well, he is my wet dream.

Lex clears his throat, which makes me look up at him.

The grin made me realize that he knew I had checked him out, and a blush spread across his face.

“You ready?” he asked. “Or do you want to carry on checking me out? I don’t mind, but I will be doing the same, and it will not end well for either of us, especially if we are taking it slow.”

I licked my bottom lip but nodded.

Lex groaned out. “Rox,” he whispered.

I shook my head.

I needed to keep it together. “Rox,” said Bex. “I want to see Blaze.”

I looked at her and let her take complete control.

We shifted in front of Lex without saying a word.

As I moved to the back, I looked through Bex’s eyes, and they landed on Blaze. I couldn’t help but gulp. He was a giant black wolf, bigger than any wolf I had seen.

Blaze wagged his tail and came over to sniff Bex.

“Have fun, Bex,” I said with a smile.

Bex never said anything, but I went back inside her head, but not into the darkness. I wanted to be there when she was ready to talk.

This was her time with her mate, and I wasn’t going to disrupt her time with him.

Chapter 44

Chapter 44 - Welcome Home Mate

BEX

I shook my fur out.

I could feel Roxie move further back into my head.

I knew she was trying with our mate, and trust was hard for her. I watched her wither away as a person when she was younger and in the pack. Roxie lost all hope when she left, and when she got here, everything changed when her uncle gave her a chance. He saw something in her as I did.

I looked back, but she wasn’t there.

I turned around and looked over to where our mate was.

Blaze stood before me; his black fur glistened against the sun.

My mouth watered.

Blaze walked over to me and nuzzled his nose into my neck.

His scent was inviting, but I knew I couldn't do anything, not sexual, at least. Not until Roxie was ready. I needed to be there for my human; we were in this together.

I was mad at her last night; she thought she should leave our mate. I could feel her emotions running through us.

I would have done that before, gone away, and never returned. But Blaze spoke to her, and he gave her some hope which faded in and out like a yoyo. She was trying, and I needed her to let me help.

A whine escaped Blaze's lips, but I nudged him with my nose.

I looked up at him and licked the side of his face.

I knew he wanted more, but I wanted to run with him. It can be the most intimate way for a wolf to get to know one another.

I nudged him again and turned to run.

I ran through the forest with Balze following right behind me. I could hear his paws pound on the ground, trying to keep up.

I never felt more alive than this right here.

I knew being with Blaze would be nice, and I needed to thank Roxie for letting me have some time with him.

She never placed a block on me, but I knew she was there in the back, waiting to come forward.

I served in and out through the trees, the wind rustling all around me.

The wind between my fur made me run harder.

We ran what felt like miles. Blaze nearly caught me a few times, but I kept him at arm's distance. He knew I wanted him to chase me, and I knew he would get me.

I slowed down as I came closer to the lake. I glanced back around my shoulder and noticed that he wasn't there.

Where the hell was he? I wondered.

I stepped closer and nearer to the lake.

I was thirsty.

As I stepped closer, I could hear rustling behind me, and before I could register what was happening, a big blob came hurtling at me and lunged at me.

The soft fur hit me hard, and we rolled on the ground, trying to fight for dominance. I won as I stared at the black eyes before me.

Blaze had his eyes glued to me and licked me.

I felt the tingles of the mate bond ignite inside me.

I needed to move off, but Blaze's giant paw held me in place. He used his weight to flip me over and pinned me underneath him. He nipped at my fur and ear.

I purred underneath him.

We stayed like that for a while. I could feel him move to the side and lay next to me.

I looked up and stared at him.

I nudged closer to him till I was lying next to him.

I looked around, and we were only a few feet away from the lake.

I stood up and walked over to the lake to drink. As I drank, I quickly glanced to the side as Blaze walked over to me and lowered his head to the water to drink.

I watched him lap up the water, and all I could do was imagine what he could do to me. My core was throbbing at the thought, but I needed to calm down. But I couldn't wait. I couldn't wait to hear his voice when Lex and Roxie marked each other. What I would do to this wolf was not for anyone's eyes.

I couldn't help but smirk.

I took a step closer to him and nudged him to move.

I didn't want this moment to end; I loved him.

Wolf counterparts love their mates, no matter what the human side feels. It's like love at first sight. Our moon goddess created us for one another; we are destined to be together. The only problem with connecting our souls to humans, humans have a say too. I won't do anything to hurt Roxie, and I know she has my back, but we have often witnessed a human rejecting someone not in a high rank or even just because they didn't like their appearance. I wanted Roxie to make her own decision about Lex, but with the mate bond working now, I think she won't have any choice but to accept fate and be with him, even though her feelings for Lex never left.

We stayed close to one another as we backed away from the water's edge, finding the perfect place to settle and lay down to look out at the water.

I was at peace; even if it did take a while for us to be together again, this was something I wanted to remember forever.

Blaze rested his giant head on my shoulder and breathed out. He felt contented, too; this is what we both wanted.

We just now wish our humans could make it through the next stage quickly, so we can get to be together.

I rested my head on my front paws and let the breeze whistle around us. The birds chirping in the trees were like music for us to hear.

I closed my eyes but never fell asleep.

"Roxie," I called out.

I could feel movement in my head, and her eyes were on me after a few seconds. Her eyes were glistening, and I could feel her emotions running through me.

"Thank you," I said to her.

Roxie smiled. "You were losing control when Blaze talked to me," she said. "I wanted you two to spend some time together."

I smiled.

She looked at me. "Bex, you were there for me," she said. "I mean, throughout the whole Lex thing and stood by me every step of the way."

I looked back at her but did not say a thing. I let her carry on talking.

"You always put me first," she said as a tear slid down her cheek. "I'm going to do the same."

"What do you mean?" I blurt out. I don't want her to do anything she is not ready to do.

"Nothing bad," she said with a weak smile. "I will give Lex a chance, and that's what I will do."

I knew she was doing that; where was this going? I wondered.

She looked at me. "When you were playing around moments ago, I felt your feelings rush through me; you love Blaze," she said. "You have always loved him. I never want to take that away from you."

I could feel tears prick in the back of my eyes.

“I’m sorry,” I said. “I was angry with you for how you felt last night.”

Roxie nodded. “I know,” she said.

“I will work on this with Lex,” she said.

I smiled.

I opened my eyes and looked up to see Blaze with his eyes closed.

I felt so content that I moved my head further into him and nuzzled into his soft fur.

Sleep was drawing me in, but I think it was his scent.

I let my slumber take over me; I was with my true mate.

Chapter 45

Chapter 45 - Welcome Home Mate

ROXIE

I could feel something soft underneath me as I fluttered my eyes open.

I could hear the water not too far from me.

Something was holding me, but I couldn’t place what was there.

I opened my eyes slowly and blinked a few times to get my vision back to normal.

I looked around and then over my shoulder and noticed a very naked Lex; his arm was draped over my waist.

I moved up slightly to sit, not to disturb him.

I couldn’t help but take him in.

Lex was like a greek god with his abs on show, and his tousled hair made him look more manly.

“Stop staring,” he murmured with his eyes closed. How the hell did he know I was looking?

I cleared my throat and looked around. “No, I wasn’t,” I said, lying.

I could hear the slight chuckle but never looked back at him.

Lex moved up, his chest was close to my back, and the body heat from him was making my insides melt.

Fuck, stupid mate bond is working wonders.

I could feel Lex lean into me. “You can always look,” he said, moving my hair out of the way. Sparks rippled through me from the slight touch of his finger. “I’m all yours.”

I didn’t say anything but closed my eyes. I looked back and stared at Bex, who had a smirk on her face.

“What happened?” I asked her.

Bex cocked her head to the side and let a yawn slip before she spoke. “Blaze and I fell asleep, and once we were in our slumber, we shifted back,” she said. She looked at me. “Rox, Lex is trying; give him a chance.”

I knew he was, and I could feel the change.

I opened my eyes and looked over at Lex, who was blank; he must be talking to Blaze.

He shook his head and stared back at me. “I guess Blaze and Bex wore each other out after their run,” he said, looking back at me.

I smiled.

I moved slightly but glanced around. The lake was so peaceful, and I noticed the path leading to the cove.

It gave me an idea.

I turned around slightly, not exposing too much of myself to Lex.

“Can I show you something?” I asked. “It’s somewhere I go all the time to get out of my head, and also where...” I stopped myself. I was going to mention Nathan. I was the only one that knew about his sexuality.

Lex looked at me and cocked his head to the side. “Where, What?” he asked, looking confused.

“Nothing,” I said. “But can I show you somewhere? It’s not far from here.”

Lex nodded without saying anything.

I got up off the floor and stood in front of him.

I could feel his eyes scan over me, but he cleared his throat when his eyes landed on mine.

“Sure,” he said as he got up.

He stood right before me, making me look up at him.

His scent engulfed me, and all I wanted to do was kiss him.

I licked my lips and gulped.

Lex stared down and smiled.

I turned around and started to walk toward the path. Lex followed right behind me, but he started walking with me.

The cove wasn't too far from the lake.

We walked in silence, but I could feel his eyes on me every so often.

I knew I had to talk to him.

“So,” I said.

“So,” he said.

I looked over at him, and he smiled. “You can ask me anything?” he said.

I nodded.

I had to rack my brain to figure out a question, but my mouth didn't have any of it. I licked my lips and sighed. “What did you think of the charity event?” I asked.

I glanced back, and Lex smiled. “I enjoyed it,” he said, but his smile faded. “I wasn't too thrilled by that big guy getting involved in your fight.”

“Ah, Demon,” I said with a smirk. “Demon and Tammy are rogues and are known around the ultimate fighting community. They like to get involved in each other's fights, especially in fights where their wolves are not allowed to come forward, just like yesterday.”

Lex nodded.

“Tammy and I fought before this event; the fight was the same as last night,” I said. I looked ahead as we got closer; the cove was over the rocks. I carried on. “Tammy used her wolf and

nearly had my ass. But Bex took over and scratched her hard. The fight was thrown, and neither of us won, but people started to realize what both Tammy and Demon were capable of.”

“Why do people still ask them to fight?” he asked.

I shrugged. “I don’t know; they make a good team,” I said, not sounding too sure about what I just said.

I noticed the rocks and pointed to them. “Over those rocks,” I said.

Lex nodded.

I climbed over, but I could feel Lex’s eyes on me the whole time.

I landed on the ground and moved through the area till I came to the cove.

I heard movement behind me. “Wow,” said Lex as he stood over me.

I looked up at him, and his face was like a picture.

I smiled. “I found this a few days after coming here,” I said as I sat on the nearby log.

Lex looked around and walked over to me after a few moments.

The cove had a waterfall over it, but the pool of water in front made everything seem so magical. The water glistened in the sun and was so clear.

I didn’t look at Lex. “I came here all the time. I was trying to figure stuff out,” I said. “You hurt me, Lex.”

I looked over at him; his eyes held so much hurt as he looked back at me.

“I know,” he whispered.

I looked around and sighed. “But I was a kid, and I understand why you had to let me go,” I said, turning to look at him again. I placed my hand in his, which made him tense, but he soon recovered and tightened his grip, holding my hand in his.

“I know you would never have hurt me,” I said. “I never told you anything that went on because I was scared at the time; I was too ashamed.”

I looked down, but Lex moved his hand to my chin and moved my face to make me look at him. “Rox,” he said, “I would have done anything in my power to make everything you went through go away. You were special to me back then, and I would never have done all those things.”

I stared at him, but Lex let my chin go.

I could feel Bex move in my head, but she never said anything. She slept the whole way when we walked.

“Was Blaze telling me the truth that you never had anyone in the spare room?” I asked. I didn’t care, but something deep inside me wanted to know.

Lex looked at me, and a slow smile slid across his face. “I never took anyone there,” he said. “Jason was suffering after your mum’s death. I told him to find a way to keep himself occupied, use something to get out of his system.”

I frowned. “So fucking girls is what he came up with,” I said.

Lex stared at me. “We were horny teenagers,” he said. “I know it’s no excuse, and I know we can’t take it all back either. But we can learn from our mistakes.”

I stared at him.

“Lex,” I said as I looked toward the water, returning to him again. “I will accept you as my mate, and I still want to take it slow for now. I know the mate bond will kick in more soon, and it will be hard to stay away from one another, but can we promise each other?”

Lex nodded. “Anything?” he said, hope radiating from him.

“Well, not a promise,” I said. “More like a deal; I suggest we start fresh when we get back to the pack.”

He stared at me and nodded. “Ok, but what does that mean?” he asked.

I smiled. “I mean, we go on a date to get to know one another and talk,” I said.

Lex beamed back. “I can do that,” he said. “We can go on a date or a few. You take the lead, Rox. I mean, I want you to be comfortable with me.”

I nodded.

After an hour of talking and asking questions, we stayed silent for a while. Lex thought playing twenty questions would help, which it did. He still liked the same things from back in the day. I knew all of his likes and dislikes, but I think he was surprised to learn mine. We would have stayed there longer if my stomach hadn’t growled out, letting us both know we were meant to be back for food ages ago.

We both decided to shift back to Blaze and Bex, who was happy to take over.

Once back in Bex’s head, I felt like a weight had been lifted. And I felt good to let him know how I felt and showing him the cove was something special to me, especially as it was the only place I felt at peace when I got here.

Chapter 46 - Welcome Home Mate

LEX

Blaze chased Bex through the forest and headed back toward Keith's house.

My mind was overwhelmed by everything. Roxie was trying, I could tell. She even took me to her favorite place, which must have meant something to her.

I must admit, the cove looked like something out of a fairytale. The water was so clear that you could see the rocks on the bottom of the ground. The waterfall covered an entrance to what was like a cave.

Blaze came to a sudden halt, and I couldn't help but look through Blaze's eyes. We arrived at the entrance of the forest.

Blaze sat on his hind legs and watched as Bex shifted back into her human form.

I could feel the desire roam over him as he watched her.

"Come on," I said.

Blaze stood still for a moment and then sighed. "I want to see mate," he muttered.

I looked through his eyes and noticed Roxie was looking at us. "Blaze," she said as she walked over to him.

Blaze left me and gave Roxie his full attention.

Roxie walks over and stares at him. I had to laugh; she was shorter than us and was staring up at him.

Blaze nudged her with his snout, and Roxie gave a slight laugh. She placed her hand on his chest. "You're so soft," she muttered as she stroked his fur. Blaze hummed due to the contact with her; tingles erupted throughout us.

Blaze stares at her. Roxie moved in front of him and smiled. "It was nice to meet you, Blaze," she said and cocked her head to the side. "You know, I have to say you are more handsome than Lex."

Blaze wagged his tail; he was happy with the statement. I groaned.

“Don’t let it get to your head,” I muttered to him. “Give me back control.”

Blaze chuckled.

Roxie smirked.

Blaze pushed me forward without warning, and I shifted back in front of her.

I stood in front, bare naked for her to see.

I looked down and frowned. “Really,” I said. “You had to say that to him; he’s not that handsome.”

Blaze let a low snarl slip through, but I could feel the amusement rolling off him.

“You’re jealous,” he said with a smirk. “Mate prefers me, not you.”

I didn’t say anything but looked at Roxie.

Roxie had bright red cheeks and stared at me. Not before I caught her checking me out once again.

I smirked. “Like what you see,” I said.

Roxie’s eyes went to mine, and a smirk itched the corners of her lips. “Oh, I don’t know,” she said. “I still believe Blaze is more handsome than you.”

I grunted.

Blaze laughed.

Roxie lets out a laugh.

I stared at her and smiled; I could hear that all day.

Roxie looked at me but turned to where my clothes were from earlier. She bent down and picked them up. She gave me my shorts first, and I placed them on. She stared and watched my every move. She handed me my top, and I placed it over my head. My eyes connected with hers, her eyes burned holes in me, but I could tell she wanted to look elsewhere.

Once I was done, I looked at her, and she stood looking at me.

I moved toward her, closing the gap between us.

Roxie's eyes were glued to me as I stared down. I couldn't help but smile. "You have the most beautiful eyes," I said.

Roxie smiled.

"Thanks," she said.

Roxie placed her hand into mine, which sent a spark through us.

Neither of us moved, but we looked at our entangled hands and back at one another.

I wanted to kiss her.

Roxie cleared her throat. "I think we need to go in," she said. "Dad and uncle Keith are at the window, watching us."

I looked toward the house, and she was right. The blind move as they move out of the way.

"Come on," I said. "We both need to eat."

Roxie and I moved toward the house and headed inside.

As soon as we walk in, my stomach makes a loud rumble. The smell coming from the kitchen was amazing.

We walked toward the kitchen; Tim and Keith sat around the table, watching us with smiles. "Hey," said Keith. "You guys took a long time; all okay?"

"Yeah," said Roxie. "Bex and Blaze ran and fell asleep by the lake."

"We let them run back," I said, finishing her sentence.

I could feel Roxie's eyes on me.

"Well, you both must be hungry," Tim said. I could see knowing in his eyes, but neither of them said anything.

"That sounds great," I said.

We both sat down while Keith grabbed plates from the sides and placed them on the table.

I glanced at the clock and was surprised to see the time. We were out for over six hours.

We all ate food, and the conversation was about Roxie's fight.

I listened in, but I couldn't help but stare at her as she explained some of the moves she knew and what they were.

After food, Roxie and I went into the lounge and sat in front of the TV.

"Shall we watch a film?" she asked.

I nodded.

I sat on one side of the couch while she sat on the other. "You pick the movie," I said.

Roxie scrolled through the TV and picked one, 'Coyote Ugly.'

Roxie watched the film, but I couldn't focus on it. My eyes kept going back to her. She looked happy. Her hand was resting by her side; all I wanted to do was hold her hand.

Blaze was snoring in my head; he fell asleep as soon as we had food.

I slid my hand across but stopped when Keith and Tim entered the room. "We will be going up to the pack house," said Keith as he looked at us. "Some older members are having a few drinks; we will probably stay there."

I could feel Roxie tense at the statement.

I kept my face neutral, even though knowing I would be spending the whole night with Roxie on my own excited me more.

Keith and Tim walked away and left.

Roxie kept her eyes focused on the TV.

I smirked.

She was nervous; I could feel it.

I moved my hand to hers and took it in mine.

She moved and stared at me. "What?" she asked, but never took her hand away from me.

I shook my head. "Nothing," I said. "I wanted to hold your hand."

Roxie turned her attention to the movie.

After a while, the movie ended, and I moved closer to Roxie.

Roxie stared at me as I sat next to her; our hands were resting on her lap.

I glanced at the time and realized that it was getting darker outside.

“Shall we watch another film?” she asked, looking at me.

I looked at her. “Sure,” I said.

Roxie bites her bottom lip as she finds another film.

Blaze stirred in my head and looked through my eyes. “Mate’s concentrating, but Bex is talking to her,” he murmurs as he lays back down in my head.

Roxie picked another girlie film.

She grabbed the fleece blanket behind her and placed it over her legs.

I stared at her.

“What?” she asked, not looking at me.

I stared at her, knowing I wanted to tell her how sorry I was.

“I’m sorry,” I said.

Roxie turned the TV down and looked at me with a frown. “Why?” she asked.

I looked away and stared at the TV, not knowing what was happening in the movie.

“I should have told everyone you were my mate when you were gone or when we were on that training ground,” I said and sighed. “I thought I was protecting you or trying to let you figure everything out.”

Roxie was quiet, but I looked over at her, and she stayed silent.

“I want to do what’s best for you and this pack,” I said. “Well, I will try. I know my father helps me most of the time, even though I am an alpha. I know I need to start acting the role more.”

I looked at her, but she zoned out.

I knew I had to do better.

“Lex,” she said, which made me look back at her. “I know you are sorry for everything, but you must stop apologizing.”

I looked at her, my eyes raised.

Roxie smiled. "I believe you," she said. "You need to start showing that you are the alpha that we, I mean, they need you to be."

"I know with you by my side," I said. "I can do better."

Roxie looked at me. "I might be your Luna," she said. "But you must do it yourself, and it has to come to you."

I nodded. "I know," I said. "But I know I can be a better person with you by my side. You can kick my ass into touch."

Roxie smirked but went blank.

I looked at the TV and realized the film was rolling the credits.

The clock on the wall to the side read eight.

"I think we should go up to bed," blurts Roxie.

I looked at her, but she was standing beside me. I got up and stood in front of her. Roxie looked up and sighed. "I know it's early, but I..." she said, but stopped. The look she gave me was weird, but she bit her bottom lip.

Without saying another word, she turned and walked toward the stairs.

I watched as she left, not knowing what the hell had happened.

I sighed and followed her, but by the time I got to the top of the stairs, her door had closed.

I walked toward my room and went inside.

I scanned over the room and felt like I had failed yet again.

I walked over and sat on the bed. I left my phone there this morning when Jason knocked on the door to tell me he was going.

I picked it up, and there were a few missed calls from my father.

I scrolled down and pressed to phone him. He answered on the first ring, which wasn't a good sign. "Lex," he said. "How are things?"

I sighed. "Fine, Dad," I said. "I had a few missed calls; what's going on?"

"I will cut to it," he said. "I have reason to believe that Naomi is working with the rogues."

A low growl escaped my lips, "How?" I asked as anger filled my veins.

“I used one of the guards I trusted to follow her,” he said. “She slipped up.”

I didn't say anything. My mind was racing once again; Naomi was working with rogues. But I couldn't help; something else must be at play here.

“How are things with Roxie and you?” he asked, pulling me from my thoughts.

“We are okay,” I said. “We are taking it slow.”

My father stayed quiet, but he sighed. “That's good news,” he said. “You both need to come home.”

I stared ahead. “I don't...” I started to say, but my father cut me off. “I know you want to let Roxie have time, but your pack needs its alpha.”

I closed my mouth. I knew my father was right, and I had to be back with my pack. I just hoped that Roxie would come with me.

I closed my eyes. “When do you want me home?” I asked.

“Come back tomorrow morning, noon at the latest,” he said.

“I will be there,” I said.

“I hope Roxie comes back with you,” he said.

“Me too,” I muttered.

My father hung up, and I placed my phone back on the bed.

I sighed.

I might as well get ready for bed.

I got up from bed and was about to walk toward where my clothes were. But I stopped and sniffed.

Roxie's scent was wafting toward me. She was at the other side of the door.

I walked over and opened it.

I held the door open, and there stood my mate, who had her arm out, ready to knock on my door.

Her cheeks flushed slightly as her eyes met mine.

Chapter 47 - Welcome Home Mate

ROXIE

I can't believe Bex talked me into this.

I was okay with being in my room and even changed into a long nightshirt. But Bex had other ideas.

After the talk with Lex, my mind swirled over what he said. I knew he was sorry, but I didn't need any more apologies from him. I wanted him to start showing me the true alpha I knew he could be.

Bex was talking non-stop when I entered my room. His scent drove us crazy, affecting every fiber in my body not to straddle him while we were on the couch.

He looked hot and naked before me when he shifted back to his human form.

I lied when I told him that Blaze was more handsome than him; honestly, they were stunning. Blaze's fur was soft to the touch, and he towered over me; I felt protected. Bex was proud to see that I was trying.

"I am," she said. "Now, concentrate on, mate."

I looked back at her, drool slipping out of the corners of her mouth. She was one horny wolf. "You feel the same too," she said. "You have been daydreaming about what you want to do with him most of the time."

Fuck.

I looked back at Lex, standing in front of me, holding his door open. He looked confused.

"Rox," he said. "What's wrong?" sounding worried.

"Um.." I started to say, but his scent wafted toward me and made my mouth water slightly. I licked my bottom lip. I can't take this anymore.

I used my speed and ran at him, jumping at him and slamming my mouth on his to kiss him.

Fuck.

Lex stood rooted to the spot, but after a few seconds, he kissed me back. His tongue slid into my mouth and wrestled with mine. His hands go to my waist but pull me into him.

The door shuts behind me, but I pull back and stare at him.

We were both panting for breath. His hand stays on my waist.

The shock came over me as I looked at him. His eyes searched mine, trying to figure out what I was thinking.

I try to move away, but Lex's grip on my waist tightens, and he moves me back toward the door. My back hit it as I looked up at him.

I gulp.

"Rox," he whispered as he leaned into me, closing the gap with his body and resting his body on mine.

I could feel wetness slip through my folds and onto my panties, drenching me.

A low rumble escapes him, "I can smell your arousal," he says; his lips are so close to my neck that send a shiver rocketing through me.

"Please," I whispered, closing my eyes.

I didn't know what I was begging for, but I was craving any slightest touch Lex could give me. No thought of going slow entered my head; the mate bond had now taken over me. I needed him; I wanted him like he was my last breath.

"What do you want?" he mutters as he kisses my neck. A moan slips past my lips as the touch makes me want more; I want to know what he could do to me.

"You," I whispered.

I opened my eyes as Lex stood still and moved slightly till he came into my view. "What?" he asked, searching my face to see if I had said something in a foreign language that he couldn't understand.

I looked at him and scraped my bottom lip with my teeth.

"Rox," he said. "Do you want me?"

His gaze landed on my face, and he searched for something. I knew what he wanted. He wanted clarification of what I wanted from him.

I nodded.

“Use your words, Rox,” he said, his eyes shifting from his to Blaze and back to his again. They were fighting for control, I could tell.

Bex was purring loudly in my head; her horniness was affecting me as much as my body was giving away what I truly wanted.

“I want you,” I whispered.

Lex stares at me, taking in what I said.

Lex lowers his mouth closer and slams his mouth on mine, and devours me. His tongue is fighting for everything as he slides it in. I moved my arms to his neck, and Lex lifted me. I leaned against the door as he pressed himself against me.

His hand goes to the back of my neck and runs his hand through my hair, but as soon as he gets to the back, he grips it hard, which makes me gasp.

Lex smirks.

“I want to do so much to you,” he says, kissing the corner of my mouth.

I could feel the wetness slip through my folds.

I was so ready for him.

Lex sniffed the air, and a low rumble rippled through his chest as his hand left my hair and traveled to the front of my nightshirt.

I knew it was over my ass as a cold shiver ran over my bare ass.

Lex’s hand cups my breasts, but his eyes stare back at me.

“I thought you wanted to take this slow,” he mutters.

I locked my eyes on his. His hand glides over the material of my nightshirt and lifts it slightly in the front. My pussy is throbbing, but his hand slides to the top of my pussy.

“I want...” I said as his finger touched my throbbing clit, and I couldn’t help but moan.

“Lex,” I moaned. “Please...I need...”

Hell, I don’t know what I need. I wanted anything he could give me.

Lex leans into my neck and places a kiss in his wake as his finger and thumb pinch my nub. I moaned out again.

“I’m not going to fuck you, Rox,” he said. “But I will help you.”

His thumb stays on my nub and circles as his finger moves slowly toward my folds.

“I’m going to make you come,” he grunts as his finger slips into my dripping pussy.

“Fuck,” I moan as he moves his finger in.

“Rox,” he groans. “Did I make you this wet?”

I nodded, words failing me. “Words, Rox,” he says as he places a kiss on my neck. His finger goes in and out slowly.

Bex is panting hard in my head.

Down girl, I thought.

“Please,” I begged. “I need more.”

His slow pace was torture to my core, and I needed him to move faster.

I could feel his smirk against my neck. “So impatient,” he muttered. His finger goes in, but he pushes it in deeper.

“Ah,” I moan out. “Lex.”

“I love hearing you moan my name, Rox,” he says as he kisses my neck and sucks the spot he kissed. I knew there was a mark left there.

Lex pulled back and winked at me.

“You ready,” he says.

I cock my eyebrows up, but what he does next takes me by surprise. His finger that was in deep comes out, and he places two fingers inside me, going deeper. “I’m going to make you come so hard,” he says and starts to pump inside me.

I close my eyes as his pace quickens.

Fuck, he was finger fucking my pussy good.

“Open them gorgeous eyes,” he said. “I want to see you.”

I opened my eyes, but as his pace went back quicker inside me, my eyes rolled back into my head.

“Lex,” I moan out as he goes faster.

My juices dripped out of me due to the movement he was doing.

I could feel my pussy start to spasm, and I was about to come and hard.

“I’m going to come,” I moaned out.

Lex keeps going faster, which sends my pussy into a throbbing mess, and I explode all over his hand, screaming his name loudly.

“LEX,” I moaned out.

Lex keeps pumping into me slowly as I come down from my high. I was on cloud nine, but I couldn’t help but look at Bex, who had a massive grin on her face.

Someone looks happy, I thought.

“You dirty human,” she hummed.

I looked back at Lex, who had a strange look on his face as his fingers were still inside me, but they stopped moving.

I stared, but Lex moved his head to mine as he groaned.

What the hell?

“What’s wrong?” I asked.

Lex moves back and stares at me for a mere moment before he speaks. “I can’t believe I’m saying this,” he muttered. “Blaze is not thrilled, but he was happy to watch you explode all over my hand.”

I smiled, knowing they liked how I came, which was strange.

But confusion hits me hard; what is going on?

Lex sighs and moves his fingers from inside me. His hands go to my legs and make me unravel myself from him.

I placed my feet on the ground and looked at him, confused and slightly hurt.

Didn’t he want me?

“Rox,” he said. “I’m not doing anything else to you. You told me you wanted us to take it slow, and trust me, I don’t want to, but I want to gain your trust before I take you to bed and make you come all over my cock.”

I frown.

“You joking...” I started to say, but his face was neutral. Bex is close by and stares at him. “He’s respecting your decision to take it slow,” she says. “I’m impressed.”

I looked back at him; his eyes flashed to Blaze and then back to Lex again. He is fighting for control.

“Did you enjoy...” I started to say, but Lex groaned, cutting me off.

“Trust me,” he rasped. “I want you.”

I nodded, not knowing whether to believe him or not.

Lex steps back.

I raked my eyes over his face and worked down.

Bex looked through my eyes and howled. “Oh, he enjoyed it, alright,” she said as my eyes landed on his raging hard-on.

I couldn’t help but gape.

He was pitching a massive tent in his pants.

A low growl rumbles as my eyes connect with his. “Rox,” he says through clenched teeth. “Don’t look at me like that. I’m finding it hard to control myself as it is.”

I kept my eyes on him, but I took a step forward, and Lex moved back.

I kept my eyes on him as my hand looked for the door handle; it took a few attempts as I moved and pulled it open slightly.

“I will...” I said and gulped. “I will see you in the morning.”

Lex nodded, but he was rooted to the spot.

I walked out but couldn’t help but stare at his hard-on again.

I would love that in my mouth so badly; wow, wait!

“ROX,” he growled.

I looked up, and his eyes were Blaze's; a slow smirk slid across Lex's face as he watched me.

"Goodnight, little mate," he rasped out.

I gulped.

"Night," I said and walked to my room.

I didn't look over my shoulder as I opened the door and stepped inside, closing the door behind me with my foot.

I leaned on the door for support, trying to wrap my head around that. I just let Lex finger fuck me hard against the door.

"You liked it," said Bex.

I looked back at her, her drool coming out. "Mate liked it too," she said. "He wanted you in all ways; his eyes raked over you all the time."

I kept quiet but kept my eyes on my wolf.

I was trying not to think of anything, especially what I could do to him.

"Oh, I can think of many things to do too..." Bex said, but I placed a block up on her. I needed to calm down, and she wasn't helping my situation.

My body was on fire, and I needed to cool down.

Damn, I needed a cold shower or something.

I walked over to the bathroom and switched on the shower.

I closed my eyes to calm down, but it wasn't working.

I walked into the shower and stayed under it; the coldness was helping, but my thoughts needed to go away.

"Fuck," I muttered.

I wasn't going to sleep much tonight, especially with Lex opposite me, I thought.

Chapter 48

Chapter 48 - Welcome Home Mate

LEX

What the hell?

Was I mad?

“You are,” roared Blaze in my head as we watched Roxie walk into her room and slam the door with her foot.

Blaze and I argued after fingering her hard against the door; he wanted to fuck her senselessly and claim her as ours, while I wanted to ensure we kept to the agreement. I didn’t want her to regret fucking us.

The mate bond is working, but it seems it has affected us both more. Her scent overcame every molecule inside me; it was strange. All I wanted to do was devour her and make her mine but never leave her.

I shook my head and shut the door with my foot.

My cock was raging, throbbing.

I knew I had to get off, but it wouldn’t be long before I came everywhere.

I was so turned on by how wet she was.

I moved my fingers buried deep inside her to my nose and sniffed.

Wrong move on my part, as it sent my cock throbbing even more.

Blaze was horny, and her scent made it even worse.

“She smells sweet,” he snapped. “We could at least taste...” he said.

I moved my fingers to my mouth and sucked all her juices off my fingers. I couldn’t help but growl out lowly.

Fuck, she tasted heavenly.

I want to eat her for a dessert.

My cock throbbed.

I needed to sort this out, and I needed to have a cold shower or something.

I walked over to the bathroom and headed inside. I switched on the shower and got out of my clothes.

My cock sprung up and had pre-cum coating the top.

I leaned on the sink and placed my hand on the base of my cock. I started to stroke slowly as my cock throbbed in my hand.

I was rock hard.

Blaze helped by sending an image of Roxie to me.

“Fuck,” I muttered under my breath as my cock pulsed, and I stroked faster.

I knew I was on the verge of coming and kept the pace up. I close my eyes and groan, “Rox,” as I pulse even harder. After another three strokes, I come all over the sink and my hand.

I open my eyes as I stop.

I looked around and grabbed the nearest paper towel I could find to clean up with. Once I cleaned up, I placed it in the bin.

I walked into the shower and quickly got ready.

I stood in the shower for a while, but after a few moments, I was ready. I grabbed a towel and wrapped it around my waist. I shut off the shower and stepped out.

I walked out of the bathroom and headed to the chest of drawers. I pulled out a pair of boxers and sweatpants.

I got dressed. I moved to the bed and climbed in.

I lay on top of the covers and looked at the ceiling.

I knew sleep wasn't going to come.

Knowing Rox was close by, just beyond the door.

I looked toward Blaze, lying down with his head resting on his paws.

“Mate,” he whispered.

I knew how he felt, and I wanted her here with me.

I stared up for a few moments, but my eyes began to flutter shut as an image of Roxie filled my head.

I knew where my head was going and who would be in them.

“Lex,” called Blaze, pulling me from my sleep.

I grunted.

I looked back at him; he was sitting on his hind legs.

“Why are you waking up?” I groaned.

“Get up,” he muttered. “Can you smell that?”

I sniffed the air, still keeping my eyes closed.

The smell of bacon hits my nose, and my stomach growls.

I opened my eyes and got up from bed.

I walked toward the door and opened it. I looked forward and noticed that Roxie’s door was open.

Is she awake?

I walked toward the stairs and headed down them.

As I got closer to the bottom, I could smell sausages.

I walked toward the kitchen but stopped in my tracks.

I couldn’t help but smirk. I leaned on the doorframe and stared at the sight before me.

Roxie was already dressed and making breakfast. She was shaking her hips as the music played on her phone.

I watched her for a few moments; her moves made my cock twitch.

I pushed off the doorframe and walked toward her. I stop just behind her when she turns around and gasps out loud.

“Ah,” she screamed, glaring at me. “What the hell, Alexander?”

I smirked.

She was back to calling me by my first name, but I didn’t care.

“What?” she asked as she stared at me.

I place my hands on her waist and push her back till she hits the counter behind her.

Her eyes go wide as she stares at me. I move my hand from her waist, pick up a piece of bacon behind her, and place it in my mouth.

I ate the bacon and stared at her.

I could hear her heart spike.

I leaned toward her neck and breathed in her scent, which made a rumble in my chest escape. I place a kiss on her neck, which sends a shiver through her.

I moved back and stared down at her. “Morning,” I said and leaned toward her. “I want to kiss you.”

Roxie gulped but nodded.

I moved closer, but before I could kiss her, someone cleared their throat behind me.

I pulled back and stared down at her.

Roxie’s cheeks flushed.

She looks good with a bit of flush in her cheeks.

Blaze smirked and chuckled.

I stepped back and moved to the side.

I looked over, and Keith and Tim stood in the kitchen doorway, knowing smirks on their faces.

Roxie cleared her throat. “I...um...I made food,” she said, trying to control herself.

I smirked.

I liked how I affected her.

“We had food at the pack house,” said Keith. “How was your night? Did you two talk?”

Roxie turned around and placed food onto plates.

I nodded. “Yeah, we did,” I said.

Keith looked at me and smirked, but he didn’t say anything else.

Roxie turned around and handed me the plate of food she had made.

I stared at her and smiled.

She smiled back at me.

I ate the food while Tim took a seat next to Roxie. “So, we have to go back to the pack today,” he said.

I nodded.

I could feel Roxie’s eyes on me.

I knew I should have said something to her last night, but things went completely in a different direction last night.

“What time should we leave?” said Tim.

I sighed as Keith handed me a mug of coffee. “We need to be there at noon,” I said.

I noticed Tim looking at Roxie, then back at me.

Tim cleared his throat and looked at Roxie. “Rox,” he said. “Are you coming back with us?”

I looked at her as soon as he asked the question.

Roxie ate, but she never lifted her eyes from her plate.

Roxie swallowed the food and looked up. “I’m going to go to my room,” she said as she moved the chair back. She left her plate on the table and walked away.

I watched her leave.

“What happened between the two of you?” asked Tim.

I turned to look at him. He had a knowing look on his face while Keith tried not to laugh.

“Nothing,” I said. “We talked about stuff, and that was it.”

Keith snorted. “Yeah, right,” he said. “The lovely mark on her neck says otherwise.”

I smirked but didn’t say anything.

I gulped down my coffee and placed the mug down on the table. “I’m going to get ready,” I said.

I leave the two of them and head upstairs.

I quickly entered the room I had been staying in and prepared to leave.

It doesn't take long till I'm dressed and packed.

I leave the room but stop right outside. Roxie's door was closed, but I couldn't hear anything from there.

I sighed and walked away.

I headed back downstairs. Tim was opening the front door and was about to go outside. "I will take your stuff," he said, holding his hand out to take my bag. I handed my bag to him.

I sighed and looked toward the stairs. "She will come," said Keith, holding a bag.

I looked at him and frowned. "Where are you going?" I asked.

Keith smiled. "I'm going to come with you for a few days," he said. "I mind linked Alpha Gareth to tell him. He was okay with me leaving."

I stared at him.

I didn't get a chance to ask him what happened with Alpha Gareth after the fight.

"What did you tell Alpha Gareth?" I asked.

"I told him about Roxie being your mate, and you knew when she was thirteen," he said. "He was shocked, but he understood why you sent her to the pack. But I haven't told him what happened."

I nodded.

Keith went to say something, but we both heard movement on the stairs. I looked up and saw Roxie looking down on us. I cocked my head to the side but noticed the bag in her hand.

I searched her face. Was she coming with us?

Roxie cleared her throat. "Uncle Keith, can you put my bag in the car?" she said as she walked down the stairs. She stopped on the bottom step, and she stared at me. "I'm going to come with you," she said.

I looked at her and smiled.

She was coming with me and back to the pack with us.

I could feel my heart flutter.

Blaze was excited and purring in my head.

I moved out of the way and headed to the front door, with Roxie following me.

As we got outside, Alpha Gareth was standing by the car with Tim. “Are you leaving?” he asked. “So soon.”

I was about to answer him when my phone rang out.

I pulled my phone from my pocket and looked at the name on the screen.

It was Alpha Dean.

I swiped to open, but before I could greet him. I could hear screaming.

“LEX,” he shouted. “Please tell me you are at your pack.”

“What’s going on?” I asked as I looked toward Roxie and the others.

“Rogues,” he yelled. “Rogues are heading toward my pack, and they should be here soon. I need help.”

“How many?” I growled.

“I don’t know,” he said, panicked. “Maybe a hundred, hundred and fifty.”

“I’m leaving now,” I said. “We should be there soon.”

“Okay,” he said and hung up.

“We need to go to Alpha Dean’s pack,” I said, making my way to the car. “Rogues surround his pack, and he needs help.”

Everyone nodded and climbed into the car.

Keith looked at Alpha Gareth, but he shook his head. “Keith will go with you as planned,” he said. “I will get some men together and head towards the pack to help if we can, but I won’t leave Alpha Dean’s till we sort this whole thing out.”

I nodded, feeling hopeful that another alpha would help.

Alpha Gareth was a fair alpha when he wanted to be.

I climbed into the car and sat next to Roxie, who was looking out of the window.

Keith was driving us there. “I will probably be breaking more speed limits today,” he muttered.

I looked at Tim. “Tim, mind link my Dad, tell him what’s going on, and tell him to send some warriors to Alpha Dean’s pack,” I said. “They might get there before us.”

Tim nodded and looked ahead.

Keith started the engine and sped away.

My mind was racing; we needed to get to Alpha Dean’s pack to help them. I was worried; they had never come in large numbers before. Alpha Dean’s pack is smaller than mine, but they are trained to fight as we do.

Blaze was concerned, but I could see he was trying to keep focused. I knew Roxie’s scent kept him calm as she was next to us.

I stared out of the window.

I hope we make it in time to help them; my mind was racing.

Chapter 49

Chapter 49 - Welcome Home Mate

ROXIE

The drive was weird. There were so many emotions running around the car.

I knew we were heading to help Alpha Dean’s pack as they had rogues ready to attack any moment.

I stared out the window, trying to keep my mind on one thing at a time.

But I drifted back to the kitchen when Lex and Dad were talking about going home and when Dad asked if I was, I felt put on the spot.

Everyone was staring at me, and all I wanted was for the ground to swallow me whole.

I knew Lex wanted me to go, it was written all over his face, and I knew I had to, especially if I was given him a second chance. I excused myself and went into my room.

I stood rooted to the spot for ages, Bex telling me everything was fine and our mate would never let anything happen to us.

I believed her and packed, but my mind was clouded as everything I went through came flooding back. I had to face everyone, including Naomi. I knew I could take her if she did anything, but part of me was scared of what Lex would do. He was with her for a while. Would he help her or me?

I felt a hand slide into mine, and I looked over to see Lex staring back. He was lost, his face was holding so much, and I knew he was worried about his friend.

Uncle Keith was driving like a lunatic to get to the pack, and after what should have been a long ride, we arrived, and the sight was shocking.

Rogues were edging toward the pack members, with no one guiding them.

There weren't many pack members out.

"We need to help them," Lex gritted out.

I squeezed his hand and looked at him. "We will," I said, trying to comfort him.

Bex was up on all fours, ready for action. She was prepared to kill anyone that stood in our way.

Uncle Keith came to a halt, and we all climbed out of the car when we heard someone yell "ATTACK."

All the rogues waiting on the edge were running toward the pack members. Screaming could be heard, echoing around.

I was ready to fight, this might not be my pack, but they needed help.

I stood and looked toward the rogues; there was more than what Alpha Dean said. There were five hundred or more.

I looked at Lex, who stared at me. "Be careful," he said.

I smiled. "You too," I said.

He nodded and turned to face the scene. "Help who you can," he said, looking between the three of us.

Alpha Gareth sent more men to help, and they were on their way. Uncle Keith received mind links that help was on its way. We just needed to fight till they got there.

"Let's go," said Lex, who stripped out of his top but shifted into Blaze.

I looked back at Bex, who was ready to shift.

I closed my eyes as she took over and shifted, tearing my clothes as she took over.

Blaze stared at us as Bex looked back, with a slight nod in agreement.

Blaze let out a roar to let everyone know who was fighting and that we were there.

We all charged to the scene; Bex took out rogues who came toward us. She ripped into their throats or bit them while Dad's wolf helped.

He wanted to protect us, but he knew we were alright.

He looked around and noticed a few rogues surrounding Uncle Keith and a giant black wolf; it wasn't Blaze; it had to be Alpha Dean.

I looked around and tried to spot Blaze.

Bex let me shift back into my human form, "I will come up with you to kill," she said as she looked through my eyes.

I looked around and spotted Blaze; he was ripping into a rogue.

I couldn't help but feel proud.

I was about to walk and carry on fighting when I heard a scream.

I looked around, and my eyes landed on a woman a rogue was holding; he flung her over his shoulder and walked toward the forest clearing.

Not happening, buddy, I thought.

I ran, but some rogues tried to intervene, but Bex and I took them out, using Bex's claws to rip through them as they thought I couldn't do anything to them.

I might be a small woman, but I know how to fight.

I got closer to the rogue, who held the woman over his shoulder in place.

"LET HER GO," I yelled.

The rogue turned around and smirked as soon as his eyes landed on me.

"Well, well, what do we have here?" he said as he threw the woman to the ground.

The woman looked at me but shouted. "RUN," she yelled.

The man looked at me, cocking his head to the side. "Oh, I am going to enjoy this," he muttered.

I smirked.

“Bex,” I said. “Get ready.”

I could feel Bex smirk. “With pleasure,” she said.

The rogue shifted into his wolf form. He wasn’t as big as I thought he was. His wolf charged at me, Bex came up close, and we became one. The wolf ran and jumped; Bex changed my hand into her claws, caught him in mid-air, shoved her hand into his chest, and wrapped my hand around his heart.

The wolf whined as he froze as we threw him down on the ground like a ragdoll. I was on my knees, staring at him. The wolf’s eyes were wide; I don’t think he knew what he had got himself into. The wolf shifted back to his human form, and the man coughed up blood.

“How?” he said, coughing.

“Who do you work for?” I said through gritted teeth.

I could feel eyes and the people around us watching.

The man smirked. “Not happening,” he said.

“Very well,” I said as I pulled out my hand from his chest. His heart came with it.

The man died instantly, and his heart dropped to the floor.

Bex was growling in my head. “Why wouldn’t he tell us?” she snarled.

I shrugged. “Maybe there is a bigger person behind it all,” I said.

I got up and started to rub my hand on my leg, trying to rub the blood off my hand. I looked around and noticed I wasn’t alone. There was a crowd of people circling us.

“Rox,” shouted my father as he came closer to me. He looked at the sight of me and then at the man on the floor. His color changed, and he looked pale.

Dad recovered and smiled. “You okay?” he asked.

I nodded. “I’m fine,” I said.

My Dad came closer to me and looked down. “How did you learn how to do that?” he asked and glanced back at me.

I was about to speak when I smelt his scent come closer to me. “Roxie,” called Lex, and I turned around to see him running up to me.

I smiled.

He got closer but stopped.

He scanned around, and his eyes landed on the man on the ground. His eyes widened, but he looked back at me. "How did..." he said, but I cut him off with a sigh. "I learned it from one of the books Uncle Keith made me read when I got here," I said as I glanced toward Uncle Keith; he nodded and smiled. "I guess you will have to read it too."

"I made her read every book I had on fighting," he said. "Even the ones from the old days."

I looked at my father as he released a low rumble in his chest. "You made her read our father's books," he snarled. "They were never meant to be read. He was a crazy loon."

I smiled.

I was about to say something when I noticed Alpha Dean and the woman I saved come walking toward me.

As they approached, the woman let go of Alpha Dean and came toward me, pulling me into a hug. "Thank you," she said and pulled back. "You saved me."

I smiled.

"Thank you for saving my Luna," said Alpha Dean.

I nodded as I looked between the two of them. His Luna held her hand out to him, and he took it.

"I was happy to help," I said.

"I'm Luna Stephaine," she said with a smile.

I nodded. "I'm Roxie," I said before I could say or do anything else. Lex's scent wraps around me as he places his hand on my hip. The tingles of the mate bond ignited inside me, and I couldn't help but lean into him. His touch was nice, but it sent Bex purring like a mad dog.

Luna Stephaine looked at me but noticed Lex. Her face lightened, and she squealed. "This is your mate," she said.

I was confused. "Yes," said Lex. "This is Roxie, and she is my mate."

Luna Stephaine squealed once again.

"This is such amazing news," she said and looked at me. "I knew that he had a mate. Alpha Dean told me all the crap he pulled, but to see you here with him and in our pack, this is so amazing."

I smiled. I didn't know how to react, let alone say to her.

"You all have to stay," she said. "I want to thank Roxie for saving my life, and we need to celebrate you having her back in your life."

I felt like the walls were closing in around me as she spoke. She knew about me and me being his mate.

My head was hurting.

I closed my eyes to calm down, and Bex stared back. She could feel my anxiety wash over me.

"Breath, Rox," she whispered.

I took deep breaths in and out, and after a short while, I opened my eyes to see a worried Luna Stephaine. "You okay?" she asked.

I licked my bottom lip and cleared my throat. "I just..." I started to say, but Lex spoke instead of me. "What Roxie is trying to say is, we can't stay. We need to return to the pack; we were about to leave when Alpha Dean called me," he said. "We also have to announce her to the pack, but we will come and visit you all."

Lex squeezed my hip, letting me know he got my back.

I couldn't help but feel safe with his arm around me.

Luna Stephaine looked at us, but she had a smile. "That's fine," she said. "We will arrange something when everything has settled."

I nodded in agreement. It might be nice to have a friend like Luna Stephaine around; I'm going to need to have help, especially when I become Luna of the pack.

The thought entered my head, but my stomach dropped. I felt sick all of a sudden.

There was movement behind Luna Stephaine, and Alpha Dean looked at me. I smiled. "Roxie," he said. "Thank you once again for saving my Luna; I am in your debt."

I frowned, which made him laugh. He was about to say something, but cars pulled up, and I recognized some people who stepped outside. They were members of Alpha Gareth's pack.

They arrived after the attack, but at least now they can help Alpha Dean with the cleanup.

I looked over my shoulder and stared at Lex, whose eyes were fixed on me. "You ready to leave?" he asked.

The pit of my stomach turned, but I knew I had to face the pack and everyone sooner or later.

I nodded. "As I ever will be," I said, not sounding too convincing.

Lex smiled and nodded.

Lex looked around and gave out orders. He told my uncle to stay behind to help clean up; when he was done, he and the other men could come to the pack. My uncle could notify Alpha Gareth about what was going on.

Lex left my side and went with Alpha Dean to talk, but I glanced at the man I had killed on the floor.

I could feel eyes on me, but they weren't from the pack members.

Whoever it was, was looking right at me.

I shuddered. "You okay?" asked Luna Stephanie as she stood beside me.

I looked toward the forest, where the man was going to take her.

He must have been carrying her to someone, but who?

I shook my head and looked at her. "I'm okay," I said. "I guess, just feeling a little overwhelmed about going to the pack."

She nodded. "I think I would be, too," she said, smiling at me. "But you have your mate and your family with you."

I nodded, feeling a little better.

Luna Stephanie sighed. "Come on, let's get you back and on your way to your pack," she said. "We will have to organize to meet up again."

I nodded as she guided me away.

I looked up and noticed Alpha Dean and Lex smiling at us.

I couldn't help my heart flutter at the sight of Lex, whose gaze was fixed on me.

My stomach ached in the lower part, which affected my core.

Why does he affect me this much? I thought.

"He's our mate," Bex said.

I ignored her, but I kept my eyes on Lex as we got closer.

Chapter 50 - Welcome Home Mate

LEX

I stared at Roxie, never taking my eyes off her.

I was in awe and not even listening to Alpha Dean talk.

She was stunning, but how she killed that man was something else. I never knew you could do that to kill someone.

I have to ask her what book it was from; maybe teaching it to the pack members might help us in future attacks.

“Did you hear what I said?” called Alpha Dean.

I shook my head. “Sorry,” I said as I glanced back at my friend. He had a knowing smirk on his face. “I can see you were distracted.”

I sighed, which made him laugh. Once he calmed down, he looked at me. “You know you have one impressive mate,” he said. “She knows what she is doing.”

My eyes went to Luna Stephanie and Roxie as they came closer. Roxie’s eyes racked over me.

I cleared my throat. “We need a change of clothes,” I said, ignoring the smirk on Alpha Dean’s face.

“I will send someone to get some for you all,” Luna Stephanie said as she stopped in front of Alpha Dean.

I looked at Roxie, who was looking around the pack. “Are there any casualties?” she asked.

“Not many, a few were injured, but we haven’t assessed the whole situation yet,” said Alpha Dean.

Roxie looked at him and smiled.

After a few minutes of small talk, someone came to us with some clothes. Alpha Dean handed me a pair of sports shorts, while Roxie was given a dress to wear. It was slightly too big, but she made it look good.

I looked at Alpha Dean. “We need to leave,” I said. “My father is waiting for us.”

Alpha Dean nodded.

Roxie and I left while Alpha Dean and Luna Stephanie walked toward some of their pack members.

We headed toward the car and climbed in. Tim climbed in the back while Roxie went to the passenger side.

My heart fluttered in my chest at her being so close, but I had to control myself. I needed to get back home.

I started the engine and pulled away from Alpha Dean. The drive was short back to the pack. While I drove, I glanced over to Roxie, who was staring out of the window.

I looked back to the road when a mind link opened up from Tim. “She is worried about returning to the pack,” he said. “I can feel her anxiety.”

“Mate worried about what other pack members,” Blaze burst out.

I was about to say something when an idea came to mind.

I closed the mind link to Tim and opened one to my father. “Dad, are all pack members in training?” I asked through the mind link.

“Yes,” he said. “Why?”

“Roxie is worried about being back,” I said. “I want to make it as painless as possible for her.”

“Okay,” he said. “Jason and I are waiting for you all to arrive. What happened with Alpha Dean’s pack? Alpha Gareth phoned me telling me there was an attack.”

“Rogues attacked the pack,” I said. “I’ll explain more when I get back; we should be there in five minutes.”

I closed the mind link down, and five minutes later, we arrived at the pack. No one was around as we pulled up at the pack house; only my father and Jason were standing outside waiting for us.

I stopped, and we all climbed out of the car.

I smiled at Jason and my father.

I glanced at Roxie; she was smiling as she walked over to her brother and pulled him into a hug.

She pulled back and looked at my father.

My father beamed and pulled her into a hug. “Welcome back,” he whispered as he pulled back, letting her go.

Roxie nodded but didn’t say anything.

I cleared my throat. “Shall we go into the office?” I asked.

Roxie turned around and looked at me. “I think I will go home,” she said as she looked between us. “I need to shower and change.”

I smiled but felt slightly disappointed.

“I will go with you,” Tim said, and looked at me with a knowing look.

Roxie and Tim said goodbye to us, but Roxie never came near me. She smiled and turned away, heading in the direction of their house.

I watched Roxie leave. I was willing for her to turn around, and just before she was out of sight, she looked over her shoulder and stared right at me. She was shocked to see me staring back, but she smiled.

I smiled back.

Blaze whimpers as she goes. “Mate,” he mutters.

I knew how he felt, but we needed to be an alpha.

I looked at my father and Jason, who were wearing stupid smirks.

“Come on, loverboy,” called my father as he turned away.

I groaned as we all walked into the pack house. We headed into the office, Jason closed the door behind him, and we all settled down.

As soon as I sat at my desk, I told them everything that happened in Alpha Dean’s pack, even mentioning what Roxie did to the rogue who tried to take Luna Stephaine.

After I explained, my father and Jason looked stunned, but I think it was more about what Roxie did.

“Wow,” said Jason. “She just ripped the guy’s heart out of his chest.”

I nodded.

“What I don’t get is why he wanted Luna Stephanie?” I said, glancing at my father. He was in his own thoughts as I was talking.

Jason pounded but sighed. “We need to dig more into that,” he said and looked at me.

I nodded, but how can we dig into it if we don’t know what the hell is going on? We need to get around this.

“We will have to think about how we can get around it and find out who is behind all these attacks,” I said.

Jason nodded.

I glanced at my father and frowned. He hasn’t said a word since he got into the office. His face looked blank when I told him about the attack on Alpha Dean’s pack; he must have had some bad news to be this quiet.

“Dad, what’s wrong?” I asked. “You have been quiet since we got in here.”

My father shook his head and looked at me. He sighed. “Remember, I asked a trusted guard to follow Naomi around to see where she was,” he said.

I nodded.

“Well, I just had a mind link telling me they found his body just outside the territory,” he said, sounding pissed. “His throat was ripped out.”

A low growl escaped. “Did Naomi do it?” I asked.

My father shrugged. “The guard that found his body told me that there was no scent there, and it looks like he was killed somewhere else,” he said.

Fuck, that’s not good.

“What about Naomi?” asked Jason. “Did he tell you anything? What has she been doing?”

My father nodded. “Yeah, he followed her to an abandoned cabin north of here, and he noticed a few rogues that were there,” he said with scrunched-up eyebrows. “That was the second day you were in Alpha Gareth’s pack. He never heard what was said, but he said he would check the cabin to see if there was anything he could find.”

“Did he find anything?” I asked, but my father shook his head. “He was supposed to come here today. He was gone for two days; I didn’t think he would get killed.”

“He found out something,” Jason said, looking between us. “Why kill him?”

That was a good point.

We stayed quiet for a while, but Jason sighed. “I had best get back to the house and see Sofia,” he said. “We have been talking. Well, more like fighting about things. I need to sort things out with her.”

I nodded.

I stared at my friend; he looked defeated. I knew he did wrong back in the day, but we don’t know what has been happening around this pack regarding gossip. We were both assholes back in the day.

Jason says goodbye and leaves my father and me.

I looked at my father. “You should go and get some rest,” I said. “I can do the paperwork tonight.”

My father looked at me. He was clearly thinking about the guard that had died.

“Papa’s upset,” whispered Blaze. We both could feel the grief and shock running through him.

My father didn’t say a thing but nodded. He got up and left the office.

I stared at the clock and looked at the time.

I knew I needed food, so I picked up the phone and asked the omegas to bring me something to eat in the office.

Once I got off the phone, I got started on the paperwork.

Blaze was snoring in my head; he hates this part of the job as alpha.

I worked through it, even when the omega dropped off the food.

I moved my head to each side and looked up. I groaned as I looked at the time. It was getting late. I guess time runs away with you when you are busy, I thought.

I stretched my arms up and decided to call it a night.

I got up and went to leave when a mind link came through.

“Lex,” groaned Tim.

He didn’t sound right. Blaze was up like a shot; something about his voice made him on edge.

“Tim, what’s wrong?” I asked.

“You need to come...” he groaned. “I don’t know...Rox is gone...I...” he mumbled, but he was gone.

What the hell?

I didn’t think about it.

I left the office, running straight to Roxie’s house. I mind-linked Jason, my father, and Sofia, telling them what I knew and to meet me at the house.

Blaze was worried.

As I got there, the house was all in darkness; and I walked in, there was a faint smell of something in the air, but I had no clue what.

I headed inside and looked around, someone groaned from the kitchen, and I ran in to find Tim with blood spilling from his head. He was sitting, leaning against the counter.

I ran over to him. “What happened?” I asked.

Tim was going in and out. “I don’t know,” he muttered. “I was cooking, but something hit me from behind.”

I stared at him but glanced around.

The table was over, but there was blood on the floor too. I couldn’t tell whether it was Tim’s or someone else’s.

I hope it wasn’t Roxie’s.

My mind was racing.

What the hell happened here?

And where’s my mate?