MY ALPHA'S WOLFLESS DAUGHTER

Chapter Fifteen

Future Beta Nate

Having to say no to Ayla left me with an extreme case of blue balls. And as soon as I pulled away, I regretted it. She looked so hurt and it broke my heart that I was the reason for her pain. Guilt churned my stomach painfully as I held her tight. She had fallen asleep, and it left me to my thoughts.

"Should have just let me mark her. I'm not letting her go. I'll leave you before I ever leave her." Duke growled in my head.

"And how is that going to work? Are you going to swim in the ocean with her? You are shark bait." I huffed. I was the one in physical pain from my actions and then my wolf was giving me an attitude.

"At least I'm cute and fluffy, you hairless mole rat." He huffed before returning to the back of my mind. I wonder if I could trade him in for another model.

"Son, how are you feeling?" My father was in my head. Do I tell him about my blue balls or keep them to myself? Since he's the only reason, I didn't go all the way. My own father cockblocked me.

"Dad, I'm fine. I'm lying with Ayla." I answered.

"Keeping your hands to yourself?" He asked, and I sighed.

"Yes, but the bond and Duke are not happy about it," I said.

"After everything is cleared up, at least you'll have a month until the next full moon after tonight." He said. "Dad, are you scared of Ayla's claim?" I asked him.

"Nate, I had to watch my best friend for fifteen years struggle with forever with someone he didn't want to spend forever with. At least with wolves, we have a way out. Not that I ever needed it with your mother, but until death can be a very long time. And I just want you to think clearly before you take that leap of faith." He told me.

"Dad forever doesn't scare me with her. You think I would have some form of cold feet, but I don't. I know without a doubt I want her. Also, Duke has threatened to kill me."

"Then he's going to have to let your mate work with others. She is going to have to work alongside Prince Silas." My father said and Duke growled, letting my father know he had heard him and he didn't agree.

"It's that, Duke, or you let him claim her. She is a part of that world and so is he." My father retorted and Duke sneered at him.

"I trust her. I know she feels the bond and I trust she won't leave. And after she claims me, it's forever. And she wants us forever, Duke." I told them.

"You better be right, or I'll rip everyone apart," Duke growled, and I heard my father laughing.

"Don't worry, son. My wolf is still the same way about your mother." He chuckled.

"At least I'm not the only one with an unsupportive wolf." I rolled my eyes, not that they could see.

"He's just mad because you cockblocked him and now he's blue-ballin'." Duke laughed. "f**k, you are an asshole," I growled, and he and my father laughed.

"I'm going to pee." Duke roared in my mind.

"Well, I'll leave you to your ball issue." My father chuckled before closing the link.

"Out of all the wolves, how did I get stuck with you?" I huffed.

"I feel the same way about you, buddy." He chuckled before retreating into my mind.

"You okay?" Ayla yawned beside me. I stopped myself from jumping and instead pulled her closer. My racing heart could give it away, but Ayla, tracing my abs above my shirt, had it pounding harder against my chest.

"Yeah, how are you feeling?" I asked her and she shrugged.

"Did you sleep?"

"No, but you didn't sleep long," I told her.

"Do you think we'd have time for a walk before dinner?" She asked me. And I felt we needed to get out of this bed before I ripped her clothes off.

"It's still early. I'm sure we could get away for a couple of hours." I answered.

"I should ask my uncle to borrow a vehicle. I need to go shopping." She said before she cursed and mumbled something.

"Let me worry about the vehicle and you get ready."

"I'll need to stop at my grandmother's to get my stuff, including my wallet." She sighed.

"Ask your uncle to ask her to bring your stuff with her. We can go for a walk and then tomorrow we can go to the city." I suggested.

"Yeah, that could work." She said, sitting up. I instantly missed the feel of her body against mine.

"Nate, I know this is random, but why were you naked in the forest with five other guys?" She asked, looking over her shoulder at me. Duke was laughing so hard at her question that I hoped he would choke on his own drool.

"Wolves, shift back naked. It was definitely not what you were thinking. The one who first spoke to you is Mitch. He's one of my best friends," I answered.

"That makes sense. Can you imagine how ridiculous wolves would look wearing clothes?" She giggled.

"Yeah, he would look ridiculous." I chuckled, imagining my wolf in pants.

"Still better looking than you!" Duke huffed.

Ayla turned towards me, sitting cross-legged on the bed. She looked so sexy wearing my clothes.

"What?" She asked shyly, playing with her bottom lip.

"You look so sexy wearing my clothes," I said, sitting up, and leaning toward her. I kissed her lips.

She smiled against my lips. With her hands on my chest, she pushed me back before climbing into my lap and straddling me. Never breaking the kiss. Her

hands wrapped around my neck, her hands in my hair. With my hands on her ass, I pulled her closer.

"f**k, Ayla." I groaned as she kissed down my neck. I shivered as goosebumps coated my body, digging my fingers into her hips.

"Nate, why does my skin tingle when it touches yours?" She mumbled against my neck.

"You feel the tingles?" I exclaimed, and she pulled away from my neck to look at me.

"Am I not supposed to?" She asked, worriedly. But I couldn't help the smile that spread across my lips. She feels more of the bond than I thought.

"I just didn't expect you to feel that part of the bond," I breathed out. She rested her forehead against mine.

"We should probably leave this room before I can't hold myself back," I whispered.

"What if I don't want you to?" She breathed out. My c**k was painfully hard again, and I just wanted to be buried deep inside my mate.

A knock at the door pulled me from my dirty thoughts. I groaned before Alpha Atlas was in my head.

"Open up. I know you are with her."

"It's your dad," I told Ayla. She pecked my lips before she jumped off me and the bed. I fixed myself before she opened the door to reveal my alpha.

"What's up, buttercup?" She answered the door. Her father turned his attention from me, now sitting on the edge of the bed, to his daughter.

"Ayla, can we talk?" He asked his daughter.

"Of course, come in." She said, and he sighed.

"In the library, alone," he said.

"I have plans with Nate," she told him. I stood up and walked up behind her.

"I think you should talk with your dad. We can do something after." I said, wrapping an arm around her waist. I pulled her back into my chest.

"Why do I feel you are about to murder me in the library with a candlestick?" She asked him, crossing her arms over her chest. I looked at the alpha before he roared with laughter.

"f**k, you may look like your mother, but that sense of humor is all mine." He laughed. "Come on, kiddo. I promise I won't kill you in the library." He reached for her. She turned to peck my lips before she walked out of the room with her father.

"It better not be in the hallway, either. Maybe we should talk outside." I heard her tell him as they walked down the hallway. I chuckled, shaking my head as I closed the door.

Ayla

It surprised me that my father wanted to talk to me. And I cracked a joke because that's what I do in uncomfortable situations. And he actually laughed. My heart swelled with love when he said I got his sense of humor. I should probably hate him, but I can't. He's my dad and I'll always love him, even if we choose not to be in each other's lives. He has Thea now, and I want him to be happy.

We walked in silence as we made our way to the library. He opened the door to this grand room. They shelved books up to the ceiling, which had to be at least fifteen feet high. This room was obviously my favorite room.

A desk in the corner in front of bay windows looked out onto the beach. A fireplace and sitting area sat on the same side of the desk, with the bay windows extending past the fireplace so you could still watch the ocean.

I followed my father over to the couches in front of the fireplace and noticed a few books already on the coffee table. I wonder if he planned this or if someone else left the books. After seeing this room, I never wanted to return to my little house.

I wonder if Nate would be okay with living out here by

the ocean. Would it be selfish of me to ask? We could always travel back and forth. But how was I going to afford two houses? I can barely afford one. My father pulled me from my thoughts when he cleared his throat. He was sitting across from me in a chair while I took a seat on the couch.

"Ayla, I'm sorry. This is hard for me. I never thought I would be a part of your life. I never wanted to paint Melody as the bad guy, but I realized you needed to know the truth." He said.

"I never truly hated you. Since I didn't have my mother to blame, it fell to you. I never understood why you would come to see my mother, but not me. I just wanted my dad. I don't know if she thought that knowing who you were would have been easier, but I think it was harder to know of you and not have you in my life." I told him and it was like the weight weighing down my soul was lifted.

"I'm sorry, Ayla. I should have fought harder for you. I know Melody was taking care of you and loving you. And I just thought I could try to be happy with the arrangement we had. But after she died, and I found Thea, I realized how much she stole from me. I wanted a family, and I never knew what she wanted." He confessed.

"And Thea is your mate?" I asked him, and he nodded.

"And you are expecting a child with her?" He nodded.

"We have a three-year-old daughter, Rosie. She's a mini version of Thea." He told me. His face lit up at the mention of his daughter. My heart hurt. I was happy Rosie got to have her father in her life, but I was also jealous and mad my mother kept mine from me. She didn't just hurt him, but me as well.

"Ayla, I would like us to have a relationship. Thea and I would also like you to be in your sibling's lives." I couldn't help the tears that filled my eyes. Nodding, since I couldn't say a word without breaking down in sobs.

"I found a few books you could read about wolves and the mate bond." He said, motioning to the books on the coffee table. The act makes it hard for me to hold back my tears.

"Ayla?" He asked, concerned. I had closed my eyes to will the tears to stop, but nothing was helping.

"I'm sorry. I never thought I'd have you in my life." I cried, burying my face in my hands.

I felt arms wrap around my shoulders as they pulled me into a hard chest. Which just made me cry harder. "I know, sweetie." My father whispered as I cried into his chest. It took several minutes before I could calm myself down enough to speak. I never thought I would see my father again, let alone have a relationship with him and my half-siblings.

"I'm sorry. I'm usually not this emotional." Pulling away, I told him.

"Me too." He said, and I looked at him to see his eyes were red.

"Why don't you do some reading before dinner? I have to go get a few things organized. I'll be heading back tonight." He told me.

"I think I might want to head back as well. I need to figure out my old life before I can move into my new one." He nodded.

"Whatever you decide, I'll be here." He said before kissing my forehead. He stood up and left the library.

"Mom, what the hell were you thinking?" I breathed out. Before leaning forward and picking up a book.

I was going to go find Nate, but I got caught up reading. The mate bond was fascinating. From their scent to the tingles from their touch. They can feel if their mate is with another from the pain in their heart. It's like how a human would describe finding their soulmate, only amplified. It explains why I felt so attached to Nate so quickly.

I would have to ask my grandmother for books on mermaids. I wonder how their bond works, since you can choose your mate. Not that I wouldn't choose Nate, but I wonder if he would choose me without it. That's dumb, of course, he wouldn't. He's been waiting for his mate, not some half-breed.

Now here comes the doubt. How can Nate and I make this work when I'm from the ocean and he's a wolf that lives in the mountains? Was this doomed from the start? Maybe we should hold off on the claiming until we can sort everything out. I have so many questions. How could I be the person I want to be for Nate if I didn't have all the answers?

Maybe that was how my mother felt. She felt something for my father but then quickly realized it wouldn't work out and since she claimed him, there was nothing she could do. As much as it hurt that Nate pushed me away earlier, it was probably for the best until we can figure this all out. How were we ever going to make this work?

Sighing, I put the book down, not able to read anymore. My heart twisted painfully at the thought of

rejecting Nate or him rejecting me. Would he be able to find someone else? And that thought hurt more. I didn't want him to be with anyone else, but how was that fair to him? I could never do what my mother did to my father to Nate.

There was a knock on the door as I watched the ocean from the window. I didn't know what I should do, I thought as I got up to answer the door. Why would someone knock and not just enter? It's not my library. I opened the door to find a young lady holding the bags I had left at my grandmother's house.

"Miss, the alpha would like to inform you, the mermaid queen has arrived. Would you like me to place your bags in your room?" She asked me.

"No, I'll take them. Thank you." I told her, and she passed me my bags before nodding and walking away.

I was so thankful to have my things as I made my way back to my room to get changed for dinner. I didn't realize how late it was until she interrupted my thoughts. Maybe this is why my grandmother is pushing me so hard to be with Prince Silas. It's not that I don't find him attractive, but he's not Nate.

Prince Silas has dark blonde hair and sea-green eyes. He's tall like Nate but not as bulky as him. He's just not Nate. But how well do I even know Nate? I know very little about him and I was already thinking I could spend forever with him.

I felt on autopilot as I made it back to my room and got ready for dinner. I pulled on a pair of black leggings and a dark pink blouse with a notched neckline. It was nice wearing panties and a bra again. I pulled my hair over my shoulder again and placed the flower above my left ear.

I put on some concealer to help with my blotchy red skin. Crying has done nothing for my complexion. When I was satisfied with my appearance, I headed back into the bedroom to put on my black flats.

I was feeling nervous as I walked to find the dining room. You think I'd be worried about being a mermaid and being married off to someone, but I was worried about Nate and me. How were we ever going to make this work?

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