

# **Worthless to Priceless The Alpha's Rejected Mate**

## **#Chapter 31 - Read Worthless to Priceless The Alpha's Rejected Mate Chapter 31**

Chapter 31

Chapter 31

AMELIA'S P.O.V

I was having the most blissful dream about being in an ethereal garden with a beautiful horizon and water as bright as crystals. I don't remember exactly what I was doing but then I started to hear Clara's voice. At first I was so confused and I looked around hoping to see her but she was nowhere to be seen. All of a sudden, I woke up and the remnants of my dream were washed away by the awareness of reality.

I looked around for Clara thinking she was in my room but my room was empty and my door was still shut. I began to think that I had imagined her voice in my dream when suddenly I heard her voice as clear as day in my head.

"Wake up," she said over and over again and I was confused for a few seconds.

I thought I was imagining it all when suddenly yesterday's events settled in my brain and I remembered that Kaden added me to the mind link. I let out a sigh of relief when I realized that I wasn't actually going crazy.

"I'm awake," I responded in my heads I wiped the remnants of sleep out of my eyes and I glanced at the clock on the wall. It read 5 a.m. and I stared at it in confusion. "Why did you wake me up so early? Is something happening today?"

I was scared that she would give me bad news. I tried to remember what happened last night and if I had done something wrong. When I got back from the office with Caleb, I ate lunch and told everyone how my first day went then Clara and I did the dishes and I retired to my room and didn't come out again until dinner.

Dinner was practically the same as lunch. We ate and talked and then I retired back to my room. Are they upset that I didn't stay out to talk with them after eating? I could feel my heart pulsating as my brain conjured up the worst case scenarios. Whatever remnants of sleep had disappeared as the anxiety that threatened to swallow me whole took root.

"Nothing is happening, relax," she told me with amusement dripping from her tone. "Training with the kids starts in an hour and if you want to join them, then you up and get ready."

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Chapter 31

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I let out an audible sigh of relief. "Thank you for waking me, I'll be out soon."

I cut off the mind link with her and instantly rushed out of bed. Through the curtain I could see that it was still dark out but it did nothing to dissuade me and in record time I had taken a bath and gotten

ready for the day. I got dressed in a pair of black leggings and a grey tank top. I didn't want anything that I would overheat in but I also wanted something decent since I would be around children.

Once I was dressed, I checked the time and it was 5: 20. I made my way out of the room into the living room. I wasn't expecting to see anyone except Clara awake but Devin was at the dining table. There was a cup of coffee in his hands and when he heard my footsteps he turned to face me. I gave him a small smile as I made my way over and he pushed a plate of eggs to

an empty seat for me and I smiled up at him.

"Thank you," I said as I started to wolf down the eggs but he waved me off as if to say it wasn't a big deal.

"You're off for training right?" he asked and I nodded. "Well your car came in last night so you can take it. You can't miss the training ground; I'll describe it for you."

I listened intently as he explained how to get there and when I got into my car, I prayed that I wouldn't make a wrong turn. As I drove silently, I prayed under my breath and when I finally saw the training field in front of me, I let out a sigh of relief.

I checked the time and there was still ten minutes to spare. I got out of the car and made my way into the field. As I got there, I noticed a familiar figure hunched over and setting out some training mats. He heard my footsteps and turned to me and I was shocked to see Ronald from the repair shop. He seemed surprised to see me too but he smiled.

"Hi," I said to him, "I didn't know you were the coach."

"Clara told me that you were coming. You can just wait over there; most of the kids will be here soon. Just so you know, you'll be training with ten to fourteen year olds. Clara said she informed you but I have to tell you again."

"It's fine," I assured him. "I don't care who I train with as long as I get trained."

He nodded and went back to what he was doing and I noticed he had a slight limp. I decided to look away and sure enough, a few kids started to appear with their parents. Most

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of them stared at me brazenly but a few looked away. I could tell they were curious about me but none of them made a move to speak about it or say anything.

Once it was six on the dot, Ronald stood to his feet and started the training. At first we ran laps and I could see the shock on the children's faces as I started running with them but still, none of them said a word and judging by the looks they kept shooting at Ronald, I was sure it was because of him. By the time we were done running, I was winded but most of the kids looked like they were used to it and some didn't even break a sweat.

After, we had martial arts training. I couldn't spar with any of the kids as I was a lot bigger than them so I sparred with Ronald. At first I was worried because of his limp but it turned out that even with the limp, Ronald could best me. When he pinned me on my

back for possibly the third time, I heard a child snicker and Ronald shot him a death glare that had him quieting immediately.

We finished around 7: 30 and parents started to pick up their kids. I saw a few of them give me weird looks and I couldn't help the embarrassment that creeped up my cheeks. I didn't want to

encounter them in the parking lot so I made my way over to Ronald and decided to help him pack up. I figured that helping him would be better than the millions of stares and conversation I would be roped into by the children and their parents.

I could only imagine the things they were saying about me outside. They were probably wondering who I was and why I had to train with children when I was clearly an adult. I forced myself not to think about it because I didn't want to get anxious or self conscious.

"Thank you," he said once he noticed me helping him with a mat and I nodded.

"How did you get into training kids?" I asked unable to stop the curiosity in my tone. "I thought you were a repair man."

"I was a warrior but I suffered a nasty hit to my knees that didn't heal properly," he gestured to his leg and he rolled up his trousers so I could see a jagged scar on his knee and I winced. "I retired to the auto shop after that but the Alpha knows how much I love training so he gave me the chance to be able to train kids and I took it."

"You're a good trainer."

He smiled. "You don't need any training, I could always protect you."

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Chapter 31

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stop myself from laughing at that. "Thanks for the offer, but I really want to know how to save myself." I looked at the time on his watch and cursed. "I should better be going now, I'll see you later."

I rushed off before he could say anything and practically sped home. I rushed through my bath and getting ready process so that I would be able to get to class early. I forgot to check how much I had left from the money Pamela had given to me for the week but I bought a

of coffee for two dollars to help keep myself awake.

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I barely made it and there was only one free chair and it was next to the girl who had warned me away from Aiden. I realized that I still didn't know her name as I took a seat next to her. She glanced at me but didn't say a word and I figured she would appreciate the silence so I didn't either.

As the teacher started to teach, I realized how exhausted I was. I could barely keep myself awake and I didn't even know I had started drifting off to sleep until I felt a sharp elbow at my side. I turned to the girl and she was practically glaring at me.

"Say fifteen," she instructed and I didn't know what she was on about but because of the urgency in her eyes, I did.

"That's correct," I turned and realized that the teacher had probably caught me sleeping, and asked me a question. "Just pay attention next time."

"Thank you," I whispered to the girl once the teacher had gone to sleep and all she did was shrug.

After class, she made to leave but I stopped her because I knew that I had to know her name. She had saved me from a lot of embarrassment and the least I could do is know her

name.

"Thank you for earlier," I said to her and she shrugged, "I still don't know your name:

"My name is Serena but what I want to know is why you were falling asleep in class." I explained that I had training and her brows rose high. "That's weird, only children from elite families send their children to train. Are you from an elite family?"

"Maybe it's because my father is an Alpha," I offered and she hummed.

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## Chapter 31

It was obvious that she didn't think that was the reason but she didn't have anything else to offer as a reason so she decided to leave it at that.

"Our next class isn't until an hour," she said. "Do you want to go to the café?"

"Sure," I said as I followed her out of the class but my words were on her earlier thoughts.

If only children of the elite were allowed to train then it was probably because they were useful to the pack. If that is true then does Kaden have something he expects me to do after I have completed my training?

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COMMENT

Chapter 32

Chapter 32

KADEN'S P.O.V

It had become a routine for me to visit Caleb's house once I knew that Amelia was asleep. Clara was so used to my presence that when I knocked on the door last night, she just opened it and side stepped me. Even Pamela and Devin were used to seeing me around and when I walked in, Devin just smiled at me softly before retreating to his room.

I already knew the way to her room and I knew the way around her room but I needed to make sure she was deeply asleep because according to Clara, if you bothered her within the first thirty minutes of her falling asleep then she would wake up. Anything after that was fine but those first thirty minutes were crucial and I didn't want her to wake up and see me in her room.

She would freak out and probably be more terrified of me than she already was. I knew what I was doing was considered weird by many standards but I didn't know how to stay away from her. I was trying my best by staying away from her when she was awake and giving her the time to adjust and get used to the pack but I couldn't stand to not be around her daily and that was why I came up with this arrangement.

my hand. I

I waited a few minutes after arriving at the house before slowly sneaking into the room. The lights were off but it didn't matter because I knew the room like the back of my hand. I maneuvered around the furniture and went down on one knee by her bed. My hand hovered over her face and I wanted nothing more than to just touch her and let my fingers trail down her b\*dy but I settled for stroking her cheek softly.

Her breathing hitched and I was worried that she would wake up but it quickly evened out and she subconsciously leaned closer to my hold. I felt my heart begin to race and I knew that even if she didn't recognize it on the surface, her subconscious recognized our bond and it would only be a matter of time before she starts to feel it too.

With that new knowledge in me, I felt invigorated. I stayed there for a few more minutes. but I knew I was on limited time so I reluctantly pulled myself to my feet. I didn't want to leave the room because I knew her scent would only linger for a while and then I would be back to missing her. As I passed her closet, I had a weird idea but the more I thought about it, the better it seemed to me.

I checked on her to make sure she was sleeping properly and then I quietly opened her

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Chapter 32

closet. I sifted through until I saw a particular t shirt of hers. I have seen her in it at least three times and when I brought it to my nose, her scent was all over it. I clutched it tightly and quietly left her room.

I was snapped back to reality when I heard a loud bang. I knew it was from outside and I was slightly frustrated at being stopped from thinking about Amelia. I reached into my drawer and pulled out the shirt I had taken from her room and brought it to my nose.. I felt a warmth wash over me and I knew that I would cherish that shirt more than any other possession. It was my way of having her close to me without physically having her next to

1. me.

I was in a bubble of euphoria because of her scent and I didn't notice that someone had walked into the room until they were directly in front of me. I froze and looked up to see Caleb sporting a wicked grin on his face as he took in me with Amelia's shirt in my hands. I put my face into a neutral expression but that didn't deter Caleb from coming closer.

"I don't have to guess who that belongs to," he drawled and I rolled my eyes at him.

I ignored him and placed the shirt back into the drawer and pretended to be involved in my work. I could feel his amusement as he settled into the seat opposite me.

"I'm glad you at least didn't take her lingerie," Caleb continued. "That would have been very weird. That isn't to say this isn't weird but it would have been a lot worse."

"One day you'll meet your mate," I sneered at him, "and you will have your problems with her. I am looking forward to that day because I will make sure that I make it as hard as possible for you."

He laughed and I rolled my eyes at him. Only Caleb would have found a threat like that funny. Maybe it was because he knew I was serious or maybe it was because he didn't think. he was going to find his mate anytime soon. Whatever the reason was, Caleb laughed until tears leaked from his eyes and I was suddenly grateful that we were having the conversation in my office or else someone would have been worried that he was dying.

"Okay, I'm better now," he said once he had calmed down and he wiped a stray tear from his face. "I actually came out to ask how you felt about the meeting with her father holding in the afternoon."

The happiness that filled the car dissipated with his words and a tense air settled over us. I

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Chapter 32

was ready for the meeting but I wanted to make sure that Amelia never found out about it. "Is everything ready?" I asked Caleb as I righted the collar of my shirt and he nodded.

I have put protective measures in place so that none of them will meet Amelia and vice versa."

"Good," I said and I couldn't help the small smile that grew on my lips.

Now all I had to do was wait and uncover the secrets of their family. For the first time in my life, I felt impatient about it.

BLAKE'S POV

Brittany was soft and pliable beneath me and her moans filled the air. She was loud, she was always loud and I loved that because it let me know that I was doing something right.

Sweat slicked my brows but I didn't care, all I wanted was to get her over that edge. I ran my hands down her spine until they wrapped around her hair in a makeshift ponytail and I pulled on it so her back was arched deeper. The action caused a breathy sound to leave her and I quickened my pace.

The sounds that left her mouth were intelligible at best and I kept up that fast and brutal pace

until she came all around me. As soon as she hit her peak, she clenched around me so tightly that I couldn't stop myself from emptying into her and I finally let go of her hair. She landed face down into the pillows and I heard her breathing heavily.

I ran my hand down her back softly and she rolled over with a satisfied smile on her face. My cum was leaking between her thighs but she didn't seem to care. The first time, I tried to clean it up but she told me she loved it and after that, I let her be. Her hair was a bird's nest around her and her eyes were glazed with pleasure. After sex was the only time that you would ever see Brittany looking unkempt.

I reluctantly stood up from the bed and went into the bathroom to take a shower. When I was clean, I walked out only to see Brittany still on the bed but this time, she was sitting on her knees. She was still n\*ked and string up at me and my brows furrowed in confusion.

“Aren’t you going to class?” I asked and she looked up at me with an almost bored expression and shrugged. “If you are then you should probably take a bath now or we will

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Chapter 32

be late.”

“I think I’m going to skip today,” she said almost dismissively. “My nails are chipped and I cannot bear to look anything less than perfect.”

Only Brittany could care so much about her nails that she would think about skipping class but then again, she was the Alpha’s daughter and there was very little she couldn’t get away with. Someone else would have probably repeated that year or failed their exam but Brittany can choose to skip an exam and still leave the course with distinctions.

I picked up a simple button up shirt from the closet and started to put it on. She watched me through her lashes and suddenly, she was off the bed. I saw her walk over to me and I was entranced by the way she swayed her hips seductively. I was getting hard again but I knew I couldn’t risk being late so I kept my eyes on her face.

To my surprise, she walked around me and wrapped her arms around my b\*dy. She was still sweaty but somehow I didn’t seem to mind. My shirt was only halfway buttoned and she raked her nails across my chest. I felt the action straight in my groin and it took all my self control to not throw her onto the bed and have a round two with her.

“Brittany,” I ground out with as much self control as I could. “I don’t want to be late.”

“I’m not trying to make you late,” she purred and I could feel the vibrations on my back as she was leaning on me. “I just wanted to let you know that I might be late today. You don’t have to wait up for me for dinner.”

Her words seemed to snap whatever spell she had cast and I turned to her as much as I could without detangling her from me and raised a brow. She seemed to notice and she sighed and released me long enough for me to turn and face her.

“Where are you going?” I asked curiously. I have been with her to get hair nails done and they don’t take more than five hours at most. She cannot be spending the entire day there.

“It’s nothing serious,” she ran her hand down my jaw softly. “Don’t worry about it.”

Before I could say anything, she rose on her tip toes and k\*ssed me. I wasted no time in deepening the k\*ss and I felt her smile against my l\*ps before she finally pulled back. We locked eyes for a full minute and she smiled at me widely.

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for class.”

She walked away from me without another word and I waited until she had disappeared.

into the bathroom and locked the door before I picked up my phone. I scrolled through my phone until I found the contact I was searching for.

I didn’t believe her when she said nothing serious so I texted the one guard who I knew wouldn’t report back to her father.

Me: Keep an eye on Brittany today.

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Chapter 33

Chapter 33

### AMELIA'S POV

I was so deep in thought wondering what Kaden could possibly want from me when I felt a hand on my shoulder. I jumped slightly and Serena looked at me with raised brows. She must have thought that I was crazy and all I could do was offer her a small smile.

"We have about an hour before the next class," she began slowly. "I wanted to know if maybe you wanted to get some coffee from the café. It might help you stay awake longer."

I nodded and walked out of class with her. We walked side by side in silence but to my surprise there was nothing awkward or tense about the silence. It was rather comforting and when we got to the student settlement, she led me to a café that I had never been to.

"They have the best things here," she said and I chose to believe her because I knew she has been in the pack longer than me.

"Why don't I buy you a drink," I offered. "Seeing as you brought me here."

I dug through my bag to find some cash and I muttered a curse when I realized that I didn't have

any. I must have spent the last of it on the drink this morning. I wanted to face palm myself. I don't know how I managed to spend all the money that Pamela and Devin had given me but I was officially broke for the rest of the week. Shame filled me and my cheeks heated pink in embarrassment.

"I'm sorry," I said softly. "I'm out of cash. I haven't found a job yet and I will soon. I'm so sorry."

I couldn't tell her that I didn't have any money. I would have to explain to her why I don't have a card or rather why I have a card but cannot use it. Using it would alert my father to my presence here and I didn't want to do that.

"It's okay, what do you want to order?" Serena asked looking up at me in anticipation and I forced my most nonchalant expression as I shrugged.

“I don’t really want anything,” I lied.

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## Chapter 33

15

She rolled her eyes and placed an order for two cups of hot chocolate and two muffins and I was filled with immense gratitude that she was willing to do so much for someone she didn’t even know. I had never experienced an ounce of kindness from anyone excluding Blake before I came to this pack. I never even knew that people could be this kind.

Our order arrived within a few minutes and I carried it since she paid and led us towards a secluded table away from the hustle and bustle of the other students. Once we were seated, I took a bite from the muffin and was shocked at how good it was that I almost moaned.

“This is good,” I said to her with a mouthful and she laughed.

“I told you,” she took a sip from her drink before facing me squarely. “Are you from another pack?”

I hesitated before responding because I wasn’t sure whether or not I should tell her or how she would react to it. After a second of hesitation I realized that the people here were vastly different from the ones I met before and I decided there was no harm in telling her so I nodded.

“I am from another pack,” I admitted. “My father is the Alpha and he abandoned me because I was weak.”

I couldn’t stop the sadness from creeping into my tone and although I wanted to tell her the whole truth, I wasn’t close to her enough to tell her that. It didn’t matter however, because she had a look of pure sympathy on her face as the words left my lips. I tried to assure her that I was fine by giving her a small smile but it came out looking more like a grimace and I gave up on the second try.

She reached out and grabbed my hand in hers. "You have nothing to worry about here. Our Alpha is formidable and he will not let anything bad happen to you. He does not discriminate and he won't send you away."

I allowed her words calm me and at the mention of Kaden, I felt my cheeks heat up. I still didn't understand the feelings I felt towards Kaden but I knew they were growing more by the day and I felt stupid because he hadn't even shown any interest in me. He was just being nice and helping me settle and I was falling for him.

"Can you tell me about him?" I asked trying to keep the curious note out of my voice so she wouldn't know how eager I was to hear about Kaden. "I haven't heard much about your

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Chapter 33

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Alpha so I would love if you could tell me about him. He is a mystery to everyone."

If she noticed how eager I sounded, she didn't mention it and she nodded. I decided to drink my hot chocolate so I could hide my expressions behind my mug.

"He rarely appears so we don't know much about his personal life and I will admit that a lot of people are scared of him. The scar on his face doesn't make him any less scary if I'm being honest."

"How did he get the scar?" I asked and it was her turn to hesitate. She opened her mouth and closed it before sighing and leaning closer.

"He

got it during a ferocious battle," she said but I knew there was more to the story than what she was telling me.

"I heard that he got it when he killed his father."

She shushed me instantly and pulled me closer before looking around to make sure no one was listening. When she was sure that we were safe, she sighed deeply and turned back to

1. me.

“We don’t talk about that here,” she dropped her voice to an even lower whisper. “Some people say that’s how he got it but we don’t know for real. All we know is that Alpha Kaden brought peace and prosperity to the pack and we respect him for that. Anything else is not important.”

I understood what she was saying so I nodded. When she was sure that I wasn’t going to say anything else, she released me and I sat up slowly. She had a tight grip and I felt my upper arm throbbing from where she had grabbed me but I refused to touch it so I wouldn’t draw attention to it

“As I was saying,” she continued as if nothing had happened. “He is an amazing Alpha but he just can’t seem to find his fated mate.”

At the mention of his mate, I couldn’t help but think of Lucy and I felt a bitter and hot feeling go through my heart. I wondered if he was going to take her as his fated mate since he couldn’t find his own. Just thinking about it made me feel weird and I noticed Serena staring at me intently as if she was trying to figure out what I was thinking of.

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The Secret to Making More Money with Less Effort: Laser Cutting

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Chapter 33

I quickly downed the remnants of my cup and stood to my feet. “I don’t feel so good, I should be going.”

Before she could respond, I rushed out of the cafe. The last thing I needed was her figuring out that I had feelings for their Alpha.

I avoided Serena all day and it seemed that doing so gave me a fierce headache because by evening, it felt like someone had made a construction site out of my head. As soon as I got to the house, I locked myself in the room and tried to sleep it off. It was hard to fall asleep but I managed to do so and I didn’t wake up again until Clara knocked on my door.

The small sound had me jerking awake and the headache came back with full force. I muttered under my breath for her to walk in and thank the goddess for werewolf hearing

because she heard me and walked in. She walked over to the side of my bed and took a seat

next to me.

“You’ve been sleeping all day, I came to check if you were okay,” she said and she moved to brush a strand of my hair off my face when she suddenly pulled her hand back. “You’re running a fever Amelia.”

I didn’t feel hot, in fact, I felt cold and that was why I was under the covers. Before I could speak, Clara had pulled the covers off my b\*dy and dragged me out of bed. I protested as much as I could but she didn’t listen to me and walked me over to the living room where Pamela and Devin were seated.

Pamela took one look at me and rushed to her feet, “You look terrible dear

Before I could speak, Clara told her about the fever and she placed the back of her hand against my forehead and clicked her tongue. She helped Clara place me on the chair and she disappeared into the kitchen muttering something about chicken soup under her breath.

“I’m fine,” I said but Clara didn’t pay me any heed. She disappeared into the kitchen and returned with a small towel and a bowl of water.

it hit

She put the towel into the water, rung it and placed it on my forehead. I shivered slightly as

my skin and I wanted to pull it off but my hands felt too weak to move. I realized that I was sore all over and I couldn’t bring myself to even move a muscle.

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The Secret to Making More Money with Less Effort: Laser

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Chapter 33

I must have over exerted myself during training.

Devin finally put down his newspaper and made his way over to me. He didn’t touch me, he just looked me over from head to toe with concern all over his eyes and I let out a small sigh when I saw Pamela return with a steaming bowl of broth.



"I'm fine, I swear," I said but none of them listened to me. "It was probably because I trained for the first time today. I didn't know my own limits. I'll be fine by tomorrow."

"Tell me what exactly is wrong with you?" I wasn't expecting Devin to speak and all our eyes snapped up to his..

"My heart is beating fast," I began slowly. "My muscles are sore and Clara says I have a fever. It is probably just exhaustion from training. There is no need for any of you to worry!"

"I don't think it is training."

"What do you mean?" I asked and he stared straight into my eyes as he said his next words.

"I think you might be shifting."

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COMMENT

Chapter 34

Chapter 34

GREGORY'S POV

Brittany was silent next to me as I drove into the Dark Fangs territory. I have never been here before and I was still reeling from the insult of the last time I was here and wasn't allowed to cross the territory. I knew it was because the Alpha didn't know me and I had come unannounced but it didn't make it any less of an insult to be turned away like a commoner.

When I received the offer, I almost declined it but I realized that the business I had to conduct was a lot more important than my pride so I shoved down every feeling I had in relation to the situation and accepted. I immediately wanted Brittany to come with me even though I knew how unusual it was.

On diplomatic missions, it is advisable to carry your Beta but there is no one I trust more. than Brittany. She was the only one who knew the true reason we had to come

and I also wanted to teach her an important lesson about dealing with other Alpha's for when she becomes ruler of the pack.

I could feel Brittany's nervousness filling up the car and it was like the sky had taken a cue from her because it was dark. I could smell a storm approaching and I just hoped that it didn't meet us at the pack. If there was one thing I was sure of, it was that regardless of a storm, Alpha Kaden wouldn't let us stay and I didn't want to drive back in a storm.

We drove through the patrol guards and I couldn't help but run my eyes over them. They looked fierce and they were wearing the same uniform. I ignored them and kept my eyes forward as I followed the guard that was leading us to the meeting point.

It wasn't far from the border and once we arrived, I noticed the number of people waiting there already. It was a small cottage away from the rest of the pack and I wondered if the Alpha did that on purpose but I didn't have much time to think about it because I could see the guards watching us and waiting for us to get down from the car.

I put the car in park and as I took a step down, thunder rumbled in the sky and lightning flashed. I saw Brittany jump slightly and I shot her a hard look. I had briefed her before we left the pack and she knew she wasn't supposed to show fear or emotion.

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The Secret to Making More Money with Less Effort: Laser

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"Relax," I said to her through the mind link. "Everything will be fine, we just want to find out if Amelia is alive or not. If I am correct then it will take less than twenty minutes and we will be out of here."

She wasn't completely relaxed but I felt her calm down slightly through the bond and she relaxed her shoulders and plastered a neutral expression on her face. I gave her a small nod to show her that she had done well and I turned my attention back to the people in front of the cottage.

There were at least ten different people there but I could easily tell who the Alpha was. His back was to us and I could see an air of smoke leaving his b\*dy and I could smell the cigarette in his mouth. He seemed to be checking on something there but I knew he was aware of our presence. There was no way he wouldn't have heard the car arriving. The only answer was that he was deliberately ignoring us and even though it annoyed me, I knew it was a good tactic to employ to show that he had all the power and control.

Brittany and I took a few steps forward and the man closes to the Alpha spoke. He had dark brown hair that settled on his forehead in deep curls and although he didn't look scary, there was a look in his eyes that held years of maturity and they were currently hard and directed at us. I knew he was the Beta before he even spoke. He had an air of superiority and authority around him.

"Welcome," he said to us. "I hope your journey was safe and productive.

As if his voice was a cue, the Alpha rose to his full height and turned to us. He was easily taller than everyone there and he had a jagged scar on his face that made him look event more fierce and ferocious. I have never seen the Alpha of the Dark Fangs pack before now and I was shocked to see how young he was but I knew that his age was just a number.

This Alpha was formidable and feared by all. It would have been a dreadful mistake to underestimate him just because of his age. I could see the harshness in his eyes as he let the cigarette between his eyes fall to the ground and he crushed it between his feet. I could feel Brittany's nervousness again through the bond and this time I couldn't tell her not to worry because she had every reason to.

I knew just from looking at him that Alpha Kaden would be a force to be reckoned with on the battle field and I was momentarily relieved that we were not at war with him and I hoped to never be. If the rumors I heard about him are true then he killed his own father for the position and I knew for a fact that he would not show mercy to anyone on the battle field,

2/5

The Secret to Making More Money with Less Effort: Laser

A

I walked over to him and I felt Brittany's panic but she followed and stopped a few feet behind me. I walked right up to the Alpha and I could see him analyzing me. I locked eyes with him and held out my hand for a shake to show him that scared and I saw the corner of his lips quirk up slightly. His eyes roamed over me as if he was deciding whether or not he should take my hand.

I

After a long second, he took it and I felt how rough his hands were probably from years of battle. Suddenly, he let go of my hand and took a step to the side revealing the door to the house.

"Please, come in."

I turned to Brittany and I could see that she was on edge. I made a mental note to teach her how to hide her emotions better but for now, there were more important things to handle. I turned back to the Alpha, nodded and walked into the house.

The cottage may have looked small on the outside but it was anything but. The living space was wide. Maybe it was because there were no pieces of furniture or homely appliance. The only things in the cottage were a long table and chairs arranged around it. They must have set up the cottage specifically for the meeting and I briefly wondered what the cottage was used for before. Was it empty or was someone living in it and did the person have to evacuate it for the meeting?

“What brings you here?” Kaden asked once we were all seated and I could see in his eyes that there was no room for meaningless conversation. He wanted to get the meeting done as soon as possible.

“I was invited,” I said simply and he leaned back into his chair and crossed his arms over his chest.

“You were invited because you requested for a meeting before,” his tone was dry. “Don’t play dumb Gregory because I am a very busy man. This meeting was done in good faith and I have no issues

with ending it right now.”

My jaw clenched and I had to remind myself that I was in someone else’s pack and he could speak to me however he wanted because he was the Alpha. It didn’t mean I had to like it. I exhaled deeply to relieve the tension in my chest and I plastered on a diplomatic smile.

“I thought about how much of a shame it was that our packs were nearby and we didn’t

3/5

The Secret to Making More Money with Less Effort: Laser

4

Chapter 34

even know each other. It would be beneficial if neighboring packs have an alliance or a treaty. You never know what might happen and who you might have to reach out to for help. It would be good to have friends that are close to you.”

I rehearsed that speech for an hour so it could sound as convincing as possible. I knew he would have some resignations, probably why I chose to come now of all times. I always knew his pack was close to mine. It shouldn’t have been though, he annihilated

the pack that was here before and he took over and added their land to his territory. His territory spans more than three times the average size of any pack and it is because of his tendency to attack packs and take over their land and territory.

I waited for Kaden to answer but instead he turned to his Beta with bored eyes. They shared a look and I hated the fact that they were obviously communicating with themselves in front of me but there was nothing I could do about it. When they were done talking between themselves, the Beta turned to me.

“We know that isn’t the reason,” he said and I glanced at Kaden but he wasn’t looking at me anymore, his eyes were roaming the room looking almost bored. “We don’t have time to waste so it would be in your best interest to get straight to the point. Alpha Kaden does not appreciate having his time wasted.”

It was an insult having his Beta talk to me. It was his way of telling me that I wasn’t important enough to threaten. He had his beta deliver the threat as a mode of telling me that in his pack, I was not important and I would be treated like every other person. It was humiliating and it was degrading and I wanted nothing more than to storm out of the room but I knew that I needed them more than they need me and they knew it too which was why they were treating me the way they were.

I sat up straighter and I saw all the soldiers stiffen and their hands went to their weapons. Kaden however didn’t move, it was like he didn’t even consider me a potential threat and that was the biggest insult of all. I decided I was done playing games so I cleared my throat.

“You’re right,” I said and out of the corner of my eyes, I saw Brittany shoot me a look of confusion but I ignored her. “I came here to find out if you had any intruder cross your borders in the past two weeks. The person is an outcast from my pack wanted for treason.”

No sooner than the words left my lips, Kaden’s eyes snapped to mine and they were like twin daggers boring into my soul..

4/5

Chapter 35

Chapter 35

AMELIA’S PO.V

Devin’s words settled like lead in the room but I couldn’t bring myself to believe it. As soon as the words left his lips, I started to laugh. Laughing proved to be difficult because it only intensified the ache in my bones but it was all I could think to do. I didn’t fully understand the concept of shifting because father never explained to me. He told

me that I didn't have a wolf so I didn't deserve to learn but I knew it had to do with finding my wolf and I didn't think it was possible anymore.

At some point I had just come to terms with the fact that I might never have a wolf but hearing Devin say that I might be shifting had reignited a lost sense of hope that I had even forgotten I had. I stared at him after my laughter had died down with wide and hopeful eyes and Pamela walked over to him.

She pulled him off to the side and I saw them engage in a serious discussion. I couldn't hear what they were saying properly but I heard my name and I heard the word shift used a few times. I knew they were talking about my situation and I knew Devin was probably explaining to her why he thought I was shifting.

I wanted to be a part of that conversation. I wanted to tell them to include me but I was too weak to speak or ask questions. I was too weak to tell them that I didn't understand and I wanted to know more. My skin was prickling with heat as the seconds ticked by and I started to sweat through the n\*eck of my tank top. I felt like someone had stuck me inside an oven and locked the door. Clara was sitting on the sofa next to me but I still couldn't manage to open my mouth to tell her. I suddenly believed their earlier words about a fever because I felt like I was on fire.

I managed to reach down and pull the blanket off my legs and that was enough to draw Clara's attention. Pamela and Devin were still talking so they didn't even realize that I had moved. Clara

rushed over to me and picked up the blanket to probably put it back on me but I shot her a pleading look with my eyes hoping and praying that she would understand.

Thankfully, she did because she reached over and placed a hand on my forehead. She snatched it back almost immediately and she stared down at me with eyes wider than saucers. I could only imagine how much I was burning up.

"I think you need some rest," she said to me and her words finally caught the attention of

1/5

The Secret to Making More Money with Less Effort: Laser

A

Pamela and Devin.

Clara helped me to my feet and leaned all of my b\*dy weight on her. I wanted to thank her but my tongue was tied and all I could do was let her lead me into the room. Pamela

followed closely behind with the wash cloth and bowl. Once I was in the room, Clara gently lay me on the bed and Pamela put the freezing cold wash cloth on my forehead.

It felt like ice on my skin and I flinched from it. Pamela offered me a small smile as if she understood and like a silent piece of encouragement. I wanted to return her smile but moving my b\*dy felt like a chore that I did not want to partake in.

“You should rest,” Pamela said to me softly and she led Clara out of the room.

Before she left, she turned on the air conditioning and then she was gone. As soon as the door clicked shut, it was like all my thoughts and worries came flooding in. I couldn't help but think back to what Devin had said.

Was I truly shifting? Was I finally going to get that one thing that had evaded me for years that I so badly wanted?

It felt like an illusion and it felt like a dream and I couldn't believe it. I wanted to believe it; I wanted it to be true more than anything but I was also terrified that it wasn't true. If I didn't shift then that would mean that father was right all along. I did not have a wolf and I was never going to shift.

My thoughts were depleting my energy levels fast and the more I thought, the more tired I got. It was a chore to keep my eyes open and an even bigger chore to stay awake. I tried to stay awake but my eyes started to droop and before I knew it, I was fighting a lost battle.

Just as I was about to fall asleep, I heard a voice. “Hello.”

I turned around immediately looking for the source of the voice and wondering when someone had walked into my room. The voice sounded familiar although I knew I had never heard it before and I was worried that I was losing my mind until I heard a small laugh.

“I'm your wolf,” the voice said and I was suddenly filled with inexplicable joy.

“Are you really?” I asked wanting to pinch myself because it felt like a dream and I didn't

2/5

The Secret to Making More Money with Less Effort: Laser

A

Chapter 35

want to wake up yet.

“I was blocked all these years by something. I still haven’t figured out what it is yet.” She paused as if she was thinking about something and then she sighed. “I can feel our mate.”

I wanted to ask who it was and where he was but before I could respond to her, exhaustion won the battle and sleep finally claimed me.

#### BLAKE’S PO.V

I snuck past the border hoping- no praying- that I wasn’t going to get caught. I spent the last few hours searching for a way through the border knowing that I had very limited information and I prayed to the goddess I wouldn’t be caught because if anyone was to see me then it would have been game over. I was banking on the fact that most of the patrol guards would be at the meeting spot.

When I suspected Brittany, I instantly went to do my own investigation and I found out from a guard that she was going with her father to visit the Dark Fangs pack. I had also found out that Amelia had somehow stumbled into the pack and I knew that it would be my only chance and opportunity to find Amelia.

Gregory called me to his office a week ago and told me that Amelia was dead. I was rocked by the news but I knew there was a reason he was telling me and so I asked him. He told me that he knew the reason I was delaying my mating with Brittany was because I still loved

Amelia and that she was now dead so there was need to wait. I asked how she died and

all he told me was that she betrayed the pack and paid the price. I remembered that conversation I overheard between him and Brittany and I knew that he had something to do with it even if he wouldn’t admit it.

I left his office quietly not believing a word he had said. Even Brittany noticed my weird mood and I wanted to ask if she wasn’t the least bit concerned that her sister was dead but I knew it wouldn’t end well so I did my own investigation and I got to know about the rogues and Amelia.

I knew that entering Dark Fangs was as good as a death sentence but I couldn’t bring it in me to believe that she was dead. I was not going to believe it until I found concrete proof and I knew the only way to do that was to find Amelia or at least find out what happened. when she stumbled onto their territory and that was why I was there.

3/5

The Secret to Making More Money with Less Effort: Laser



I knew Amelia couldn't shift but I also knew that she had a unique scent. It was what drew me to her in the first place and I knew that was my best bet of tracking her. Over two weeks had passed and I knew it was a long shot but it was the only option I had. Once I was safely within the pack borders, I took shelter in the woods and shifted into my wolf form.

It was easier to catch scents in wolf form and once I had hidden my clothes beneath a tree stump, I took off into the woods. I couldn't check the main pack because people would recognize a weird wolf so I prayed to the goddess that Amelia was or had been in the forest. In the past few days.

To my luck, there were a few houses on the edge of the forest and I was able to investigate by sniffing around. I checked around the first few houses with high hopes but those hopes were smashed to the ground. The first two were completely abandoned and although the others were inhabited, I couldn't even get a trace of Amelia's scent.

My hope started to deflate like a balloon. I started to wonder if Gregory was telling the truth. Maybe Amelia was dead and maybe she was killed a long time ago because I felt like I should have at least

gotten a glimpse of her if she was still alive. An hour had passed and I knew I had limited time to get out of the pack as easily as I had gotten in.

I had about an hour left before their meeting was over. If I didn't get out before then, the guards would return to their positions and it would be impossible to leave. They would demand to know how I entered and Gregory and Brittany would be informed of my arrival. I didn't want that and I debated going back in defeat but something kept telling me to check some more houses so I decided to check three more before leaving.

The first two proved fruitless but something was weird about the third. It was a very large three story house decorated with beautiful flowers and ornaments. From afar, I couldn't smell a thing and I started to wonder if something was wrong with my nose so I decided to go closer. As I got closer, it was like all the scents hit me at once and it took a few minutes to get used to. I realized that the flowers around the house were protecting scents from going out and it wasn't until I bypassed the flowers that I got the scents.

The scents were overwhelming and as I tried to sort through them, I smelled something very familiar.

4/5

The Secret to Making More Money with Less Effort: Laser

## CHAPTER 36

### KADEN'S P.O.V

It took every ounce of self control that I had mastered over the years to stop me from responding to Gregory. I sat there immobile trying to figure out if I had heard properly when he branded his own daughter a traitor. I could tell that Caleb was holding his breath and waiting for my reaction but I stayed perfectly silent not saying a word.

I tried to reconcile the narrative he had just painted of Amelia to the scared girl who stumbled across my border and I just couldn't see it. I could not see a reality where Amelia was a traitor or anything even related to being a traitor. I may not have known her for long but I knew and so did my wolf that she was not what Gregory said she was.

I could tell that Gregory was gauging my expression for a crack in the mask. Something that would tell him that I knew what he was talking about. I had already given him too much intel when I turned to him after he spoke but I was determined not to make it easy for him at all and I kept my expression carefully blank.

"Any intruders who cross our borders will and have been dealt with accordingly," Caleb said breaking the silence and Gregory turned to him. He didn't miss the implied message there and I saw that he was suddenly intrigued by the conversation.

"You have to permit me for wanting to confirm," he began slowly and before I could stop myself, I found myself speaking.

"What could possibly be so bad that your own daughter was branded a traitor by you?"

As soon as the words left my tongue, Gregory turned back to me and the corner of his lips tilted up slightly as if that was what he was waiting for. He wanted to know if we had found Amelia and now I

had practically confirmed it for him. I could feel Caleb's eyes on me and before I knew it, I heard his voice in my head.

"Are you sure you know what you're doing?" he asked and I didn't respond mainly because I didn't want anything to distract me from what I was doing.

I kept my eyes trained on Gregory who looked like he was choosing his next words wisely. I knew he was going to cook up an entire story about how Amelia was probably a terror in his pack. If I was being honest, I couldn't wait to hear what he actually had to say. I wanted to see how far he was willing to go to play the cards that he had brought and how far he was willing to go to actually convince me that his own daughter was a terrible person.

He cleared his throat and I raised a brow in his direction. Suddenly, it was like a switch was flipped in him and he took on a somber expression. He cast his eyes to the ground as if he couldn't bear to think of whatever was plaguing him and when he spoke, his voice was somber.

"Amelia was born a monster," he began slowly and I had to remind my wolf that we couldn't just attack him no matter what he said. "She killed her own mother at birth and that wasn't even the worst thing she did. She has killed every single wolf who tried to protect her."

I didn't believe a word he said but there was something about what he had said. He didn't refer to Amelia's mother as his mate. If he was truly as hurt by her death as he feels, then he should want to personalize her and detach her from Amelia as much as possible. The fact that he didn't could mean that Amelia's mother was not his mate or he was not as hurt by it as he is pretending to be. For some reason, I was leaning more towards the former and I made a mental note to do some more research about it.

"How did she kill them?" I couldn't help but ask and I knew that my question caught him off guard because his words faltered and I briefly saw his expression change before he managed to school his features and retain his somber look.

"That is a point in my life that I do not enjoy thinking about," he said softly and I resisted the urge to roll my eyes at him. "Amelia has always been a terror and I know that she is dangerous to everyone around her. Anyone who tries to help her will die and it will be much worse with her mate. Amelia is fatal to whoever she is mated with."

At those last words, I fought hard to keep my expression neutral because I knew what he was playing at by saying those words. He wanted to see if I would react and I didn't but Caleb did. He snapped his head to me so fast that it was a wonder Gregory didn't notice. If he had, he would have probably deduced that Amelia and I were mates. I wanted to reach out and slap Caleb at the back of his head but I made a mental note to remind him to keep a better check on his emotions when in public.

"So you branded your daughter a traitor because you assumed that she would be fatal to her mate in future," I made my voice as detached and emotionless as possible.

I leaned forward on my elbows and stared Gregory straight in the eyes and I saw him squirm. That action brought the first piece of emotion on my face and I smirked slightly. He noticed my actions and his eyes narrowed but instead of causing a fight over it, he looked away.

"There was an incident," he began slowly as if he was unsure whether he should speak about it. "I had always tried to treat Amelia like everyone else despite what she was. One day, she tried to poison me."

My brows rose because I knew that Amelia was not capable of something like that. I was sure that Amelia could not even hurt a fly and for him to say that she tried to poison him, I knew it was a lie.

“She had previously tried to steal Brittany’s boyfriend,” on hearing her name, the girl next to Gregory snapped her head up and she stared at him. He ignored her and continued the story. “I was against such behavior and I explicitly told her that. Amelia got so angry that she purchased a large amount of wolfs bane and put it into my food.”

He droned on about what I knew was a falsified version of true events. I already knew about Brittany being the one to steal Amelia’s boyfriend and I was amused and also amazed at the lengths that Gregory was going to paint his daughter as a villain. The more he spoke, the more intricately he weaved his web of lies and all I could do was watch.

While he was talking, I felt eyes on me. I tried to ignore them at first thinking that the person would look away but they stayed and it annoyed me. I turned to the person looking at me- Brittany- and saw that she was fully analyzing me. Once she realized that she had been caught, I saw a flush creep up her cheeks and she quickly looked away.

Gregory didn’t notice that interaction because he was still speaking and I was thinking of how to tell him that I didn’t care about his story when lightning flashed across the sky. Thunder rumbled and out of nowhere, rain began to pour and beat down on the house. The rain somehow irritated me further because I knew it meant that Gregory and Brittany would have to wait out the rain.

I wanted to punch something or better yet someone but the rain served a good purpose because it made Gregory shut up. He forgot what he was saying and turned to the windows to inspect the rain. It was heavy and falling like a storm and I felt like it mirrored my mood perfectly.

I couldn’t imagine being stuck with Gregory for another hour in the cottage. In that moment, I would have walked under the storm if it meant getting away from him because I wasn’t sure that I would have been able to control myself if he said one more bad thing about Amelia or if he made up one more bad story.

As it was, I was just about ready to call him a liar and tell him that Amelia was safe with me but I knew it would have adverse effects. She was still his daughter and legally he still had a hold on her. He could demand that she returned to him and the werewolf council would back him. Not that I would have cared or obeyed them but to avoid unnecessary drama, I decided to keep my mouth shut.

I could feel Caleb’s curiosity eating away at him and I knew he had a lot to say. I just wished the rain would have stopped so that we could leave and discuss everything we needed to.

While I was thinking about the rain, I felt a pressure at the back of my head letting me know that someone wanted to mind link me. I had kept my wall up during the meeting so I wouldn't be disturbed and kept a slot open for just Caleb in case he noticed something suspicious.

I let my wall down wondering who it was and was shocked to realize that it was Kevin, one of the top guards in the pack. He was one of the few people in the pack that had access to my personal link because of his status. He was practically the general so it was important that he had access to me in case of emergencies.

I wanted to ignore him because it was common knowledge that I was in a meeting and everyone knew better than to interrupt me during a meeting but then I figured that if he was willing to interrupt me then it had to be important.

"What is it?" I said, my Alpha tone snapping back into place.

He could practically feel the irritation rolling off me in waves and I hoped for his sake that whatever he wanted to tell me was important because if it wasn't, I wasn't sure I would have been able to hold myself from lashing out at him.

"Clara asked me to reach out to you," he said and I could hear his voice shake as he spoke. "She said to tell you that Amelia was shifting."

No sooner than the words left his lips, I was on my feet in an instant and all eyes fell on me.

## CHAPTER 37

### AMELIA'S P.O.V

It felt like hours had passed since I had started to feel weak. My fever was worsening a little and I could feel it. It felt like my head was on fire and I felt so weak, almost like someone had run me over with a tractor and left me for dead on the side of the road. I couldn't move a single limb and I knew the moment I opened my eyes that I was dreaming because I was back in my old pack. I was in my closet sized bedroom and I was sitting on my old and worn sheets.

I wasn't in the same clothes that I fell asleep in. I was in one of my more common outfits from home. It was a faded grey dress with brown leather slippers. My hair was in a braid over my shoulder and I knew I didn't have the energy to do it myself.

Even in my dream, I was completely weak and it felt like a chore to get up from the bed but I managed to do it. I had to brace my hands on the wall and the dresser so I wouldn't fall over and my legs felt so shaky, almost like they hadn't been used in a very long time. I tried to take a step and my knees buckled so hard that I thought they would

break. I fell on the bed and I let out a groan as my side hit the edge of the bed. I honestly thought I had bruised a rib.

“You should be resting,” I heard a voice and I turned sharply to see who had said it but there was no one else in the room with me.

I honestly thought I had started to hallucinate or that it was my sub conscious. I waited to see if the person would speak again but when they didn't I tried to rise to my feet. I managed to get to my feet but I couldn't move, so I settled back in bed and I felt my body groan in protest at how much I had strained it in just a few seconds.

“You are so stubborn,” I heard the voice say again and this time I turned so fast that I felt a crick in my neck. I grasped the spot as the pain threatened to blind me and it wasn't until I had calmed down that I spoke.

“Who are you?” I asked. “Why can't I see you?”

“I'm in your head,” the voice said in exasperation. “I appeared to you before you slept earlier. I knew you needed to rest so I decided to speak to you through your dreams. My name is Tara and I am your wolf, Amelia.”

I suddenly remembered the voice in my head just before I managed to fall asleep and just like that, all the memories barreled back to me and the predominant feeling was glee that I was finally going to shift. I had so many questions but they all blurred through my head and only one could come out.

“What am I doing here?”

“I needed to take you somewhere that you were used to so I could talk to you. I would have used your new room but you don't have as much emotional attachments to it as you do to this room. This is where you grew up and it was easier to bring you here.”

“Can I talk to you all the time?”

She laughed softly and somehow I knew she was nodding. I didn't know how I knew; it was just a feeling, almost like I could see her doing it without actually seeing her do it.

“Yes you can,” she said. “I am always with you even when you can't feel me. This is our primary way of talking. Think of me like a companion at the back of your mind. I only take control when you're in wolf form or when you get a rush of emotion and cannot control it.”

“What do you look like?”

“You'll find out once you are better and you manage to shift for the first time.” She assured me. “We can't talk for long because the longer I engage you, the weaker your

body gets because you aren't having enough rest. I can answer your major questions then I have to send you back to sleep."

I was excited to find out and I could feel myself itching to stand up and try shifting but I knew I would fall on my face. I was still weak and I still felt sick.

"Why didn't you come out earlier?"

Before falling asleep, I remembered her saying something about how she couldn't earlier but I didn't quite understand her and I wanted her to expand. I wanted to know what made me a late bloomer and why I spent so long being ridiculed for being wolf less and why she didn't come out to help me all those times and prove them wrong.

She sighed softly. "I would have appeared on your thirteenth birthday but someone was feeding you drugs that kept me dormant. Those drugs are very dangerous to wolves when ingested but I know you were being fed a small amount so you wouldn't die. The repercussions were that I was kept dormant for so long."

"Do you know who did it?"

"I don't."

She wasn't sure but I could have bet my life on the fact that it was my father. He was the only one who had constant access to me to be able to poison me daily. The main question was why because I couldn't think of a reason why he would not want me to shift. Was it because he didn't want me to be competition for Brittany? Was it because he wanted her to be heir? I wouldn't have minded leaving her to be heir. I just wanted to shift so I could be with Blake.

"I think it's my father." I told Tara and I felt her attention snap to me. "I don't know why but I'm convinced he was the one. Do you know any way that I can confirm if it was him?"

"If you get close enough to him then we can hack into his mind link and read his thoughts."

I was confused by her statement and I was sure she could feel it through our bond. I have never heard of a wolf being able to hack into a mind link before much less one that belongs to a wolf of a very high ranking. Is that one of the things father hid from me?

"How does that work?" I asked. "Don't you have to be invited to a mind link?"

"You aren't like the others, Amelia," she said softly. "You have special abilities that the others must never know of. If trained properly then you could be unstoppable."



I was shocked by her words. Could that have been why father didn't want me to shift? Did he somehow know that I could do these things and he didn't want me knowing about my powers? Was he scared that others would find out and use me for my powers? So many questions were running through my mind and I couldn't find an answer for any of them.

"Are there any other special abilities?" I asked thinking back to the day I arrived at the Dark Fangs pack and somehow didn't get hurt in the woods and how I was suspicious at the beginning. "Do you know what my other abilities are?"

I could feel that she wanted to speak but all of a sudden, it was like my room was disappearing before my eyes. It felt like a bright white light was eating up the entire room and I felt fear grip my heart.

"What is going on?" I asked trying to crawl further into my bed to avoid the white light coming to me.

"You're waking up," Tara said but her voice was so far away.

The bright light consumed the entire room and for a split second everywhere was dark then I smelled it. I smelled the room, my scent everywhere and I knew I was awake but my body felt weaker than it did while I was asleep. Tara must have been somehow shielding me for the most of

the pain and tiredness; I read about it a while back that some wolves can shield their humans from feeling the extent of their pain. I read that it only happened with higher ranking wolves.

With my eyes closed, I could feel someone approaching my bed. I couldn't smell them properly but I could feel their presence. I tried to open my eyes but they were too tired. I didn't feel any form of danger emanating from the person so I knew they were safe but I still wanted to see who it was. Was it Clara or Devin? Had they found a way to hide their scent or was it my body getting used to having a wolf?

I could feel the person standing over me and I felt their hands touch my cheek. I instantly knew it wasn't Clara or anyone from her family. I managed to force my eyes open and I was dumbfounded when I saw who was standing in front of my bed. He was clad in all black and he even had a head warmer over his hair. When he saw me, he let out a sigh of relief and all I could do was stare down at Blake in shock. I hadn't seen him since the day I left the pack and I didn't know how I felt about seeing him.

"What are you doing here?" I managed to ask. My voice was hoarse and my throat felt like sand paper but Blake didn't notice because he was still staring at me with wide eyes as if he had seen a ghost.



“Thank the goddess you’re alive.” I could feel his excitement as he ran his eyes over me to be sure that I was whole and he was seeing right. “I knew it, I couldn’t- I didn’t want to.”

He trailed off and I didn’t know what he meant by that. Did he think I was dead? Did he come all this way to find me? I didn’t know how I felt about that and all I could do was stare at him. I tried to call on my wolf to help me with the situation but I was too weak to reach her. I remembered her words about always being with me and I managed to take in a deep breath to stay calm.

Blake’s hand on my cheeks moved down to my lips and he rubbed his thumb across it softly. I tried to move but my body was yet to awaken and I stared up at him. I opened my mouth to speak but

the next thing I knew, he leaned down to kiss me. I barely had time to process what had just happened when the door flew open and Kaden stormed in.

## CHAPTER 38

### KADEN’S P.O.V

Everyone was staring at me and desperately waiting for me to give a reason as to why I stood up so urgently. I could feel Gregory staring at me with barely controlled interest as if he could somehow get the answers out of my face while Caleb was looking at me in concern. He hadn’t gotten the mind link like I had so he was completely in the dark and I knew he hated that.

After a few seconds, I cleared my throat and straightened the collar of my shirt then brushed off invisible lint off my clothes to appear uninterested.

“I am afraid I have some important work to attend to,” I said and with one leveled look at Caleb, he rushed to his feet as well.

I walked past Gregory without offering any explanation but before I could reach the door, I heard him clear his throat. He was as annoying as a fly on the wall and I wanted nothing more than the sick satisfaction that would come with squashing him like a bug but I knew that it was a shameful act to attack someone when they were unarmed on your territory so I turned to him.

“Can I help you, Gregory?” I asked and he nodded.

“What will I do in the meantime?” he asked. “Am I to be left alone?”

“You will be taken care of in due time,” I knew it was a major disrespect but I couldn’t bring myself to care. Excitement was bottled inside me and threatened to explode and I knew that if I didn’t find my way to Amelia soon, I was going to go berserk on someone.

Before Gregory could say another word, I walked out of the cottage. I could practically feel the anger and frustration rolling off him in waves but I knew that Caleb would handle it. That was one of the things I liked most about him. He was always there to clean up my messes that I made in haste.

“What is happening?” Caleb said as soon as we were out of earshot. “What was so important that you had to leave so urgently? Is everything alright with Amelia?”

“She is shifting,” I said and his eyes widened in shock and excitement. “Make sure that Gregory goes home. I do not want him snooping around the pack or finding out things that he shouldn’t. Is that clear?”

“Crystal.”

Before any other word could leave his mouth, I ran into the woods so I could strip off my clothes. Once I was done, I shifted and ran as fast as I could towards Caleb’s house. My wolf was practically preening and cheering in excitement at the prospect of meeting his mate. I was excited as well to see Amelia’s wolf form and I really hoped that she would recognize me as her mate.

I ran without a thought in my head except for Amelia and I barely felt the pouring rain as it beat down on me. My fur was plastered to me when I got to the house and I didn’t even bother shaking it off before I shifted.

My clothes that I carried in my muzzle were also soaking wet but I didn’t care as I pulled it on. I could barely control my excitement. I hid behind a tree to get dressed because the last thing I wanted Amelia to see was me naked and get scared or terrified.

Clara was at the door when I arrived and I didn’t even acknowledge her as I made my way into the house. There was excitement and anticipation etched in her features when she opened the door for me.

“Where is she?” I asked when I noticed that Pamela and Devin were seated at the dining table. “Did you leave her alone?”

“We thought it was best that you were the one to see her,” they explained and I didn’t wait to hear anything else before I rushed down the hall to her room.

I was furious that they left her alone in pain but I also understood why they did so. I pushed the door open and my eyes could not believe what they saw. Amelia was lying on the bed with her hair plastered to her forehead in sweat. She looked incredibly beautiful lying there like an angel but that wasn’t what caught my attention. It was the boy that was standing next to her.

He was leaned over her as if he was kissing her. I couldn’t tell whether their lips had met from my vantage point but she was lying there and not doing anything to stop him.

Rage bubbled up in me like an inferno and even if I could try to calm it down, I would not have done anything to stop it.

The boy stared at me with a deer caught in headlights look but he made no move to get away from Amelia. I was so furious that I let out a growl so ferocious that I knew it could be heard from a distance away. It would have made lesser men but the boy still stood in front of Amelia and made no move to leave. I couldn't tell if he was extremely brave or extremely stupid.

He positioned himself so he was shielding her from me and it infuriated me and my wolf that he thought he could hide my own mate from me. The way Amelia was staring at him, I knew she recognized him and I was pissed. Did she invite him herself? Had she been seeing him the entire time?

I didn't know the truth and the lack of knowledge only worsened my mood further.

I took a step closer and he did the most foolish thing imaginable- he attacked me. I was taken off guard and I had to admit that the boy was fast but I was faster and I was able to avoid his punch.

Even though I avoided his first punch, he rushed me with a flurry of punches and kicks. I could hear Amelia screaming but her voice was hoarse and she could barely get any sound out. I heard footsteps rush towards the room and I knew that Clara and her family heard the disturbance.

I was distracted by the sound that the boy managed to get a hit into my jaw. He smirked in victory and I reared my hand back and punched him so hard that I heard his nose crack. Blood spurted out and he had to place his hands over his nose in order to stop the blood from gushing out.

"What is going on here?" I heard Pamela ask and when she took in the scene in front of her, she gasped.

She made no move to stop me or to get involved in the fight despite Amelia screaming at them to do something. I was angry that she was trying to defend her lover and I grabbed him by the collar and slammed him so hard against the vanity that it broke. I heard him groan in pain but it wasn't enough, I wanted him to suffer and I wanted to hear every bone in his body crack.

He wasn't weak- that was for sure. He tried to hold his own against me but I had fought opponents worse than him. There was not much he could do but try to defend himself from my assault. All I could see was red as I delivered blow after blow on him. I wanted to see him bloody and lifeless. I wanted to see him pay for daring to touch my mate.

Somehow during the fight, I had half shifted and I didn't even realize it until I grabbed him to slam him against the wall again and I noticed that my hands had turned into

claws. The boy was staring at me with fear in his eyes and I decided I was done with him so I threw him right out the window.

The glass shattered from the impact of his weight and I heard him grunt as he hit the ground. I took my time going to check up on him and decided that if he was still there then I was going to kill him. I moved towards the window and I heard a sharp intake of breath. I turned to the source and saw my mate staring at me with wide eyes.

That brief moment of distraction caused the boy to get up and run. I turned back towards the window just in time to see him dashing into the woods. It was like he had never existed and the only trace of him was the broken window and a few splatters of blood on the grass and on the floor. I

wanted to chase after him but I knew it was futile, the boy was fast and he had a head start. It would have also meant leaving Amelia and I didn't want to do that.

Seeing that he had left, I was finally able to get my head calm and I looked around the room. I had completely wrecked it in my rage. The dresser was a mess on the floor and there were holes in the wall. Dust rose in the air and the floor was a mass of wood and blood.

I turned to Pamela. "Send me the bill and I will have it fixed."

She was completely silent and all she could offer me was a soft nod. Neither she nor her family had crossed the threshold of the door during the fight and I didn't blame them. In that state, there was no guarantee that I would not have accidentally hurt them.

My wolf was still on edge and I had to mutter a few words under my breath in order to calm myself down and shift back into my human form. My shirt was completely torn so I took the rags off my body and threw it on the floor. I heard a small squeak and I was finally able to look up into the eyes of my mate.

She had dragged herself up to the corner of the bed. Her knees were pressed to her chest as if she had tried to fold into herself and there was a dazed and crazed look in her eyes. My wolf leaped in my chest and wanted to reach out to claim her especially since I could still smell that wolf on her.

I took a step towards her and she tensed but did not move. There were splatters of blood on my knuckles and arms and I could see her eyes fixated on them as I moved closer to her and sat at the edge of her bed. Her eyes left my wounds and moved over to my face.

There was an emotion swirling beneath her lids and I couldn't tell if it was shock or if it was fear.

## CHAPTER 39

### AMELIA'S P.O.V

When Blake leaned down to kiss me, my first thought was to turn my head to the side and avoid his kiss. I was angry with him for leaving me. I was angry with him for keeping me in the dark about everything. I wanted to know how long he had been aware of the plans my father and Brittany had against me. I wanted to know why he felt so comfortable with leaving me. I was furious but I couldn't bring myself to pull away from him.

There was something comforting and familiar about his touch. There was something warming about his hold and I couldn't help but just lie there and allow him press his lips to mine. Even if I wanted to, I was too weak to push him away and so I did nothing.

I barely had time to process his lips on mine when the door flew open and Kaden appeared. He was drenched by the rain and his clothes were wrinkled as if he had put them on in a hurry. His body was dripping wet and his hair was plastered to his forehead. At first there was shock on his face but it was quickly replaced by anger and something else- something dark that was akin to murder.

I was worried because of the way he was staring at Blake. There was a deadly and raging inferno in his eyes and I knew it was not going to end well but I couldn't find it in myself to say anything to warn Blake because my eyes were completely transfixed on Kaden. Although he was furious and I knew I should be scared, I couldn't look away.

Blake attacked him and I knew that a large fight was about to break out. I couldn't bring myself to separate them so I screamed as loud as I could. My voice was hoarse and I knew I wasn't loud but it was enough to summon Clara and her family. They watched the scene with wide eyes but no one made a move to stop them.

I watched the entire fight in shock and I couldn't help but admire the way Kaden moved. He made fighting look enticing and like a skill. It was like watching a professional dance; he moved so fluidly

and with such grace that I couldn't look away.

My heart was pounding furiously and I knew it was not out of fear. A wave of heat hit me square in my chest and it felt like I was shifting all over again except this time, I knew I wasn't shifting. I could not explain the emotions that were warring inside of me and the effects my body was having to his presence.

Suddenly, I felt my wolf stir from within me. It was as if she had been summoned simply by his presence alone. I wanted to ask her why I felt that way but I couldn't form any words or coherent sentences.

As if she heard my silent question, she spoke. "Mate,"

At first I thought I had heard her wrongly but she repeated the word and then she said it again. She repeated it more times as if she was trying to cement it in her mind and mine that Kaden was our mate. I couldn't believe it, I didn't want to believe it. All my life, I thought I was never going to have a wolf or a mate and now I found out that my mate was Kaden.

"Are you sure?" I asked my wolf and she hummed in barely contained glee.

"Our mate is finally here," she said in excitement.

Blake was thrown out of the window which snapped me out of my daze and a gasp left me. Kaden's eyes snapped to mine and I took in the entire room in shock. It looked like a tornado had made its way around the room and I couldn't believe that one person was responsible for that much damage. Most of all, I couldn't believe that person was my mate.

Of all the wolves in the world, I never would have expected to be mated to the most feared Alpha. Mates were supposed to be equals in every way but I was no equal to Kaden. I was a late bloomer

and I wasn't even as strong or as swift as he was. I was terrified but most of all, I felt inadequate like the moon goddess had made a mistake in pairing us together.

Kaden's eyes watched me like a hawk and I couldn't help but feel self-conscious. I pulled myself to the edge of the bed and pulled my knees up to my chest. A part of me wanted to run as fast as I could away from his territory because from the way Kaden stared at me, I felt like prey. I felt like a lamb walking around in a lion's den and it terrified me.

Another part of me however wanted to stay put and stay under his protection. He was my mate and therefore he was also the best person to protect me. He had protected me so far and I knew that my father and sister were probably still out there planning and trying to kill me. Kaden was my only option for safety and both parts of me warred for dominance.

Kaden slowly made his way over to me and I analyzed him carefully. I didn't know what to say and it was like everyone collectively held their breaths waiting for a reaction from me. He sat at the edge of the bed and I resisted the urge to crawl further into myself at his close proximity. I could feel the searing heat of his skin from where I was seated and it made me crave it all the more.

"Mate?" I asked softly wanting to be sure that my senses were not deceiving me and he let out a sigh of relief.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Clara smile softly and she gave me an encouraging nod before she disappeared with her grandparents. Their expressions led me to believe that they already knew about Kaden being my mate. I wondered how long they knew and if they had plans to tell me about it or they wanted me to figure it out by myself. As soon as the door shut behind them, Kaden leaned forward and claimed my lips with his. I was shocked and taken aback by the action.

It took me a few seconds to gather my bearings. Kaden's hands wrapped around my body and pulled me impossibly closer to me. He held me with an ironclad grip as if he was terrified that I was

going to evaporate from his hands. His grip was so tight that I didn't doubt for a second that it would bruise later.

His lips moved against mine expertly and with such precision and care that I couldn't help but reciprocate it. There was something about him that pulled me in and called to me. It was almost like he was coaxing my lips and gently stroking it. He licked my lips open and then his tongue slid in. I had never been kissed that way by any man before and it was a completely different feeling.

There were no words to explain how exhilarating and exciting it was. It felt like my skin had come alive and I didn't know what to do. I was unsure of how or where to move my hands but Kaden didn't seem to care, he was so content with kissing me and holding me that it was like the entire world had faded into the background.

My wolf was practically doing a happy dance with the last of her strength. I could tell that she was happy and excited about the prospect of having a mate and I couldn't help but share in her joy as well. I was so lost in the contact with him that when one of his hands moved up to angle my head, I let out a small moan.

He groaned deep in his throat and pulled me impossible closer as he kissed me with reckless abandon. Everything was speeding up and heating up too fast and it felt like I was losing a grip on reality. I needed to come up for air so I pulled back and Kaden rested his forehead against mine. His lips were red and swollen and I was sure that mine looked the same.

I pulled back to look at him properly and his eyes ran over me freely. There was need in his eyes and I knew that he wanted me. It felt good and it made me feel powerful and lightheaded to be needed by someone. It was a luxury I had never been afforded up until this moment.

From my vantage point, the scar on his face was very close and I couldn't help but reach out my hand to run down his scar. He tensed when my hands got close but he didn't stop me and I couldn't



help but trace the raised skin. It was rough to touch and I couldn't help but wonder how he got it and what had happened. I traced the entire length but he never made a move to stop me.

He just kept staring at me and I realized how uncomfortable it must have been for him so I pulled away. Before I could put my hands at my side, one of his hands reached out to grab mine and keep it in place. I was left shocked by the action and where he grabbed me, I could feel fireworks dancing across my skin.

I had heard of a mate's touch but I had never felt it before. I still couldn't believe that he was my mate. Even though his hand was holding mine and I could smell his woody scent, I couldn't believe it. It felt like a fever dream and I used my free hand to pinch myself to be sure I wasn't hallucinating.

Kaden noticed the move and the corner of his lips tilted up. "It's not a dream, it's real. Feel this."

He placed my hand over his chest and my fingers flexed over the feeling of his warm skin. I could feel the thumping of his heart. It was beating in sync with mine and that lightheaded feeling of power rushed over me again as I marveled at the feel of his bare skin beneath mine.

He smiled at me and I attempted to smile back but I was soon reminded of how weak I was. My wolf had gone quiet and all my strength had gone with her. Before I could utter another word, the world went black and the darkness consumed me.

## CHAPTER 40

### BLAKE'S P.O.V

I fell through the window with a large crash. My entire body ached and it felt like I had been run over by a freight train. My eyes were half closed and swollen because of the hits and there was dried and crusted blood on my nose and lower lip.

I expected the man to follow after me through the window but when he didn't immediately, I rushed to my feet and into the woods. I hid behind a tree and watched what was happening. I saw him glance out the window as if he was debating following after me but he decided against it and walked back into the room.

Judging by the aura emanating from him and the unnatural strength that he had, I knew he was the Alpha but I couldn't imagine what the Alpha was going in Amelia's room. There was no reason why he should be bothered with a lower pack member like Amelia unless there was something he wanted from her.

I tried to peek into the house from my position but I couldn't see anything and I muttered a small curse. I took a small minute to try and regain a little of my strength. I had to lean



against a tree trunk because I was very weak. I don't know what I was thinking by attacking the Alpha of the pack. I had just felt a huge wave of possessiveness and I wanted to mark my territory by protecting Amelia from him.

I couldn't believe that she was my mate. As if summoned by the word mate, my wolf stirred within me. He was excited and he was practically giddy. If he wasn't as weak as he was, then he probably would have been dancing around in my head.

"Did you feel the mate bond?" I asked him and he hummed within me. "I thought I was imagining it. I can't believe that she is actually our mate."

"It's there but it is weak," he told me. "It wasn't completely broken when you rejected her because her wolf was not awake then so she could not accept the rejection."

I was excited to know that Amelia was my mate and I still had a chance with her. It felt like I had won the lottery and I felt energized all of a sudden. I couldn't believe the good news. It was like the moon goddess had dropped a blank cheque in my lap. I muttered a small thanks to her unable to form any other words.

I forced myself to my feet suddenly excited to go and tell her the good news but my wolf stopped me before I could go further. I was annoyed that he had bothered me but I decided to stop and listen to him.

"She isn't just going to accept you," he reminded me. "Don't you remember that you rejected her for her sister?"

I felt shame hit me like a ton of bricks and I was flooded with images of Amelia's heartbroken face. I broke her heart for not having a wolf and I was willing to mate with Brittany just to have the Alpha position. I felt like a fool for hurting her that way and I knew that it was going to take a lot for her to forgive me because she felt very betrayed by me.

I ran my hands through my hair in frustration as I realized the hiccup in my plans. I knew she wouldn't accept me easily but I was determined to get one last glance at her before I left. I owed it to myself and my wolf to see her and make sure that she was okay and the Alpha had not hurt her.

I dragged myself into a standing position and I slowly made my way back to the house. I knew the window I had been thrown from was not a good spot because it was probably being watched so I decided to turn around the house and find another entrance.

I was quietly walking around the house when I caught sight of a pair of feet in front of me. I looked up and they belonged to the older woman in the house. I assumed she was the grandmother due to

the graying hair on her head and the fact that she was too old to be the mother of the other young girl I saw.

She crossed her arms over her chest and stared down at me like I was a fly. I was not going to let her intimidate me so I stood to my full height and squared my chest. Before I could say anything, I heard another set of footsteps and the older man walked towards us. He placed his hand softly on the woman's back and I instantly knew he was her mate.

"You need to leave," the man said without hesitation. "You are not wanted or welcome in our house."

"I need to see Amelia and make sure that she is safe. I have no problems with you and I just want to make sure that she is fine."

"Amelia does not want to see you," the woman cut in and I narrowed my eyes at her. "If she wants to see you then she will request for you. We do not welcome strangers or people who sneak into our house like thieves. Leave now before we call the Alpha and make this a bigger deal than it already is."

"I'm not scared of your Alpha," I said trying to keep a false sense of bravado.

The older woman took a step towards me and her eyes turned bright red. I stumbled back because I had never seen anything like it before. I had known wolves to have black eyes but I had never seen anything of that color. The color was a cross between a raging inferno and freshly spilled blood.

"I will not ask again," she warned. "You have three seconds to get out of my house."

My wolf picked up a sense of urgency in me and despite wanting to see Amelia, there was something pulling me away from the house. I could tell that there was a more powerful wolf on the grounds and my wolf's sense of self preservation was a lot stronger than my ego.

"Get out, now!" my wolf told me and without another word to the older couple, I turned on my heels and I ran.

I felt like a coward for running but my wolf assured me that it was the right thing to do. I didn't want to believe it because I knew I could have taken on those two but that crippling feeling I felt at the base of my neck was what had me running.

"I have never felt power like that," my wolf told me. "Whoever that dominant wolf was, he was not someone that you wanted to mess with. We can see her another day, for now let us focus on getting back to the pack before Brittany."

I muttered a curse under my breath because I had completely forgotten about Brittany and Gregory. I ran as fast as I could to the border and I saw that they had already left and the patrol was back in their position. I had to climb the trees and jump on them in order to get out of the territory unseen.

It was uncomfortable and difficult and it wasn't just because of the trees. The birds on the trees seemed to watch me with human like and wise eyes. It felt like they were tracking my every move and it made an uncomfortable feeling run down my spine. Something about the Dark Fangs pack was not right and I didn't want to spend any longer trying to figure it out.

As soon as I got out of the pack borders, I made my way to my car that I had hidden beneath some tree trunks and I floored it all the way to the pack. I prayed that I would arrive before them because if Brittany were to arrive before me then she might find out where I went or find out that I still have feelings for Amelia.

By the time I got to the pack house, I let out a sigh of relief when I didn't see Gregory's car. I parked mine in the usual spot and took off into the house. I had barely gotten in when I saw Gregory pull up. I rushed into the room to take a quick bath and wash off the traces of blood from my body.

Thankfully, my wolf had worked on my healing so my eye was back to normal and so was my nose. I took the fastest shower I had ever taken in a while and threw my dirty clothes into the washer. I changed into something casual and walked out of the room like nothing had happened.

I knew that Brittany and Gregory were not going to see me anytime soon so I decided to look for them. I wanted to see if I would be able to get any information out of them. They weren't in the office or in Gregory's room when I checked and I had started to give up when I heard their voices.

It was a bit far away but I could still make out what they were saying. They must have thought the hallway was empty which was why they were not whispering like they normally would.

"The Beta promised she wouldn't be a problem," Gregory mumbled and I was confused as to what they were talking about. I hid behind a wall so I could hear them better.

"Do you believe him?" I heard Brittany ask.

"What do you think?" Gregory asked. "I asked you to come with me so you could learn how to read these meetings. You will be engaging in them soon enough."

Brittany paused for a second before answering. "I don't know, he is very good at masking his emotions but does that not imply that he has something to hide?"

“Very good,” I could practically hear the pride that was seeping from Gregory. “Although at the same time it could just be that he does not like people on his territory. Whatever it is, we need to approach with caution, I will-”

They trailed off and I realized it was because they could see my shadow from where they were standing. I cleared my throat and pretended as if I was just walking past. I feigned shock as I saw them and I saw Brittany and Gregory exchange a wary glance as if wondering how much of their conversation I overheard.

“I heard you were back, I missed you,” I said as I made my way over to Brittany. I tucked a strand of her hair behind her ears and pecked her lips softly. “You were gone for a very long time. Where did you go?”

“That’s not important,” she brushed me off and then she wrapped her hands around my neck. “Why don’t you come show me how much you missed me?”

I knew she was trying to change the subject but I allowed her and let her lead me away. As we turned around the corner, I felt eyes on me and I turned back to catch Gregory staring at me in suspicion.