

Chapter 23 Running Away

Alana

I cried myself to sleep that night knowing that I really have to leave the palace and William's side once he married that beautiful woman.

Yes, I am his mate but what could a mate like me do for him? My father doesn't want me. He treated me like a slave. I don't have a family. I don't have anything in me for me to be worthy of William.

I have nothing against the princess.

I am nothing when compared to her.

With a small bag in my hand carrying some clothes for me to last a few days, I sneaked out of the room to leave the palace.

Droplets of rain pouring down on me but that doesn't stop me from crying, the brief memories of me and William in the times that we have been together begin to assault me.

I don't know but leaving him like this hurts more than the abandonment of my own father.

"Alana!" I heard William's voice from my back but I did not stop and just continued walking beneath the rain with my head down, tears flowing together with the rain.

I must have been imagining because there is no way William would know that I am gone. I am sure he is still sleeping in his room because I peeked at him for the last time.

"Alana!"

Someone gently hugged me from behind, his strong arms snaked around my stomach and held me there as he buried his face into the back of my neck.

"Alana, what are you doing?" he whispered in my ear just above my sensitive earlobe.

I froze when I heard William's voice. Despite the sounds of the rain, I know it's him. I know it's William. Something wild inside me is reacting with his touch. All of my nerves are too sensitive whenever he's around just like now.

Biting off my lip and clenching my hands, I tried not to respond to his presence by shutting down my eyes.

"I have to leave now, William. I don't want to be a nuisance to you anymore."

I tried to untangle his arms around me but he only tightened his grasp on me. It's like budging against an immovable metal pole.

It's useless.

"You are not a nuisance to me!"

He gently turned me around to face me but I kept my eyes closed feeling my tears mixed with the shivering cold rain splattering around us drenching our clothes.

"William..."

I shook my head denying myself to see him because I know I will definitely give in. The second I see his eyes, I know I will not be able to stand with my decision.

"I have to leave you for your own sake. You are the alpha prince, the future of this country as the alpha king while I am..." I swallowed the lump in my throat, "while I am nothing. I don't have an identity. I am just an abused woman that you had saved."

He gasped as he spoke in a pained voice like he is much more hurt hearing me say these things. "Alana, you are so much more than that! You are my mate! The other half of my life! How can you even think of leaving me when you are my world? You don't have an identity? We will find it together. Who cares if I am the alpha king? This title won't matter without you by my side!"

He kissed my closed eyes as gently as possible, which led me to burst into tears.

"Please don't leave me, Alana. Do not go please," he pleaded to which my heart sank.

Why does the alpha prince begging for someone like me to stay? Until now, I could not comprehend how this man could care and love me so much.

Until now, I could not understand the concept of being a mate to someone.

I pushed him back and this time, he let me go.

"No, alpha prin-"

He did not let me finish as he drew me into his arms and captured my face in a firm grip as he leaned down to kiss me on my lips.

His mouth and tongue moved in a manner that shocked me. It happened so fast that all I could do was just stand there under the rain like a log not knowing where to put my hands in the air.

His mouth tasted like the wine that Francine gave me last night. Sweet, bitter, and fresh, if that makes sense and so I could only stay my eyes closed while I let him steal away my first kiss.

He withdrew for a second just to let me catch some breath before kissing me again.

"Stop, William! Someone might see us. Please, stop it already."

"Alana," he breathed, pressing against my swollen lips, "there is no way I would let you go. Not a million years to come."

His eyes a flaming red reminiscent of the time when he saw me first in his room wearing his shirt. Heat got down on my stomach as fear latched onto me. How could I even think of going away if this is how he makes me feel?

Caressing both of my cheeks together, William trapped my gaze with his fiery eyes.

"I am a fool for even trying to hide you from the world. I should have proudly paraded you around because now, I have hurt you so much by not introducing you to the world."

Fear and insecurity gnawed on me again. I feel like I would only be a disturbance in his life as the alpha prince. He can't properly do his duties because he always has to think about me.

"Please William. Just let me go. Please."

But he only kissed me again and then again when I asked him the same thing.

"Please William. Stop this already," I said panting of an indescribable feeling rising inside me.

I felt so hot that I wanted to be touched by him over and over again.

This is bad! This is dangerous! Why am I feeling this way?

"I won't stop even if you beg me to. The only thing that would make me stop kissing you now is if you tell me you are not going to leave me. Alana, you are my fated mate that I have waited for almost a decade! I prayed for the moon goddess for you and she let me meet you now. I cannot let you run away from me."

I let out a whimper before I hugged him and cried in his arms.

"I'm sorry... I am so sorry, William! I don't really want to leave! I want to stay here with you!" I bawled my eyes out as he stroked my back to comfort me, chuckling in a split second.

"W-William?! What are you doing?" asked the quivering voice as lights descended upon us.

William tensed as he protectively wrapped my arms around me.