

## Deity Forbids

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I hadn't realized I had fallen asleep until there was a knock on the door of the room. I rose up, realizing that I was still naked and it was morning. How had I slept for so long? I wrapped the linens around my body, but not without noticing the bloodstain on the sheets, the proof of my lost virtue. I carefully hid it as I watched Kaden enter the room. He closed the door and stood by it, staring at me.

"I'm sorry," he apologized. I felt the guilt seep through the bond for a moment before it faded away. He was locking me out of his mind, and I couldn't even think of peeking into his mind in the first place.

I nodded in acknowledgment of his apology. The deed was already done, and there was no need to cry over spilled milk. I had done enough crying last night. As a matter of fact, I had done a lot of crying since I arrived at this pack.

I got up from the bed, ignoring the fact that his gaze was still fixed on me, making sure that the linens were wrapped around my body properly. I had almost made it to what I assumed was the bathroom door when Kaden stopped me by my hands.

"Who did this to you?" he asked, referring to my scars, the red lines across my back and arms. I didn't respond. His face scowled, and he peeled the sheets off my body, leaving me naked. He turned me around and trailed his fingers across the lines on my back. "I will not ask again," he said sternly.

"Alpha Samuel ordered it as my punishment," I said straightforwardly.

"What?" he was a bit confused. Now it was my turn to frown. I removed myself from his grasp.

"Somebody had to pay for the sins of my father," I gritted out.

"I did not order this," he said in guilt.

"It doesn't matter anymore. You should be rejoicing. I have suffered just as you were suffering. That is what you desire," I said sternly before marching into the bathroom. Thankfully, it was indeed the bathroom, saving me from the embarrassment of having to walk out the door foolishly.

I soaked myself in the bathtub, the warm water soothing the aches in my thighs. The sex was good, it was wonderful, but at the mention of Freya's name, everything turned sour. I felt like an intruder in someone's life. Freya's shadow lingered around me and around the pack.

After I had washed my body and the sheets, I wrapped the clean towel I found in the bathroom. It had no werewolf scent, so I knew it hadn't been used.

I walked out of the bathroom, thankfully, Kaden was gone. A dress and undergarments lay on the bed, and I was grateful that I didn't have to repeat what I had worn yesterday.

I wore the dress, and thankfully again, it was my size, and I sat back on the bed. There was a knock on the door, and after the second knock, a female walked into the room.

"Excuse me, miss. I have brought your breakfast, and I am here to take the sheets for washing," the girl said as she placed the tray on the table in the room. She appeared quite young, around eighteen or nineteen. Although I was young myself, I felt aged due to the troubles of life.

"Thank you. I have washed the sheets. They are in the bathroom. Can you help me dry them?"

"Of course, miss," she replied politely as she excused herself.

"My name is Louisiana," I told her as she exited the bathroom.

"I am called Joan, Miss Louisiana," she responded, once again politely. This girl was nice, far better than the redhead Ciara.

"Louisiana is fine. Anna is better. My friends call me that," I smiled at her softly. Maybe we could be friends. She was younger, but she seemed like a decent person. She was also beautiful, with her golden

blonde hair complementing her pale skin. However, my past could negatively impact her life here at the pack, and I didn't want her to be treated differently because of me.

"Okay, Anna. It was nice meeting you," Joan smiled brightly. "The Alpha wants you in his office. I will be back to lead you to him when you are done with your breakfast," she added.

"Okay, I nod. Give me ten minutes," I said.

"Okay, I shall leave you to it. Enjoy," she said gleefully, and she left the room.

It took less than ten minutes to finish my meal. I hadn't realized I was that hungry until I was devouring the toast and eggs rather too quickly. When I was done, I had to wait patiently for Joan to come get me.

Just as soon as the ten minutes had passed, there was a knock on the door, and Joan came walking in immediately. One would think she had been waiting outside the door the whole time.

"The meal was lovely, Joan," I smiled as I commented truthfully. It felt strange to have someone deliver food and pick up after me, but for now, I wasn't complaining. This might just be one of the few times I get to enjoy this privilege, but I would prefer Joan not to serve me anyway.

"I am glad you liked it," Joan said as she picked up the tray. "Shall we go now? I will lead you to the Alpha's office door, and then I have to return the tray to the kitchen. Is that good?"

"It is, thank you."

Joan led me to the door of Kaden's office, and she smiled politely before excusing herself. I already had my hand on the doorknob and was about to open it when I heard moaning sounds coming from the other side of the door.

I knew what I was going to find when I opened this door. I knew the image of betrayal that would be painted before me. And I knew I shouldn't open the door, but I did. I just had to. Kaden was not the man I loved, and I was not the woman in his heart. So I had to. And there it was—a half-naked Ciara straddling Kaden's lap. That would explain why she hated me so much.

Kaden appeared clothed from my view, but I could be wrong. His lower half was not visible to my eyes, and one does not need to be fully naked to have sex. A zipper down would be enough for a man's member to be set free from its enclosure.

I felt jealous, and I knew that Kaden could feel it as well through the bond. I had not put up a wall on mine.

Kaden removed Ciara from his lap rather too gently for my liking. If he truly cared for me and my feelings, he would have flung her off his lap. In fact, he wouldn't have let her straddle him in the first place. Kaden had acted like he cared about me when he saw my scars, but I was mistaken. He did not care. That must have been his wolf, angry at the sight of his battered mate.

I was not going to hope for anything from Kaden, though I would be stuck here forever. That does not mean I will not have a life of my own. I will find a job and stay out of his way. He will not mount me again; the first time had not been his choosing, and he had always had lovers to satisfy him.

"You sent for me," I said, acting unaffected by the situation before me. Ciara was glaring at me, but I could not care less. I was not the whore here; at least Kaden is sure of that. I do not have to feel below her.

"Ciara, leave us!" Kaden ordered. Ciara wanted to complain, but Kaden shot her a warning glare, and she got up and scurried out of the office.

We were now left alone. "I wanted to ask if there is something you want to do around the pack?" he asked.

"I would like to work. You once said you hate freeloaders, and I would like to stay in the pack house," I responded boldly.

"The full moon rises tomorrow, and your shift will come. You will need me," he said. There was a hint of desperation in his voice. Did he want me to stay here, in this house, and watch him hump his lovers? We may mean nothing to each other, but that does not mean I was not a person without feelings, and this mate bond between us was not helping matters to begin with.

"That is true. I shall leave after the full moon has passed," I said calmly. I was puzzled by the new strength in me. I was surprised at how

confident I sounded. Was this an effect of the bond?

"You should stay here. You can work, but I want you to stay here," Kaden said, almost pleading. What was happening? He hated my guts so much, then why would he want me to stay here with him?

"I refuse, Alpha," I said. "There is nothing between us. I simply see no reason."

"There is something!" he banged his fist on the table. I flinched a little bit, but I was quick to regain my composure.

"Yes, you are right. There is something truly between us, and that is hatred. You do not want me, and this mate bond has been forced upon us due to circumstances. I do not wish to witness your sexual exploits. You are a free man," I boldly spoke.

He scowled. "You are suddenly bold, I see. And are you jealous?"

"Maybe I am. I was bold before I was broken, and with time, I will find myself again," I said. "I might be jealous, but that is the bond's effects. However, I have no intention of pursuing such exploits myself, as you know, I am not actually a whore."

"I hurt you yesterday," he said, sadness contoured on his perfect face.

"What is done is done. You meant to hurt me from the beginning. You have made that very clear since the first day," I answered. His actions were confusing me. One minute he cared, and the next he sought my pain.

Mentioning Freya's name yesterday while we mated had enlightened me a lot. Kaden may whore around with several women in the pack, but there was just one woman in his heart, and that was Freya. If I was going to compete with someone for a place in his heart, that would be Freya. But Freya was no more, and I do not intend to fight for a man who would not fight for me.

"You will stay here!" he demanded.

"I will not!"

"You will. You are now a weakness of mine, and you need to be protected," he said. I almost laughed at that statement. A weakness of his? He survived Freya's death without running mad like my father. If I

died, he should rejoice. His bad luck would finally be over, seeing that the goddess had blessed him with a second mate. She might even bless him a third time, and this time it would not be the daughter of his worst enemy.

"I am no weakness of yours. You did well in announcing how evil and worthless I was in front of your pack, how you wanted me to suffer. You should rejoice at my death!" I yelled. Kaden's face contorted more in anger, and he growled before yelling out a statement that completely shook me and my entire existence.

"You might be with child. The Deity forbids I lose another pup again!"