

Denied by Destiny: Trapped in the Shadows of the Mate Bond

C 222 - 225

Hector POV

I should have known better than letting her go to the hospital without me, she used her gift on Rosa. She was exhausted, whatever she had taken from Rosa had exhausted her. She needs to learn that she can't do this, that this isn't the answer, putting herself in danger like this.

She refused to stay at the alpha house and with Than on site, I didn't want her out of my sight. She was ghostly pale, and something about her scent was sweeter...I couldn't put my finger on it.

Orpheus has never been subtle, so when he bursts through the door of Rosa's room I have to pull him back to explain our sudden intrusion to both her Father and now Riley.

"Alpha?" Riley stands, taking a mindful step to place his body between the bed and the door.

"It's okay Riley, this is Alpha Orpheus...he just wants to check something.." I communicate to Riley through the mind-link. For Orpheus to act so abruptly and possessively...it can mean only one thing... "What happened to her?" Orpheus growls out as he moves past Riley, not waiting for him to move.

"The doctor said she is suffering from PTSD...I'm sorry, who are you?" Rosa's father questions as he stands up to join Riley by her bedside.

"I am Alpha Orpheus of the Red Thorn pack."

"Alpha?" Rosa's Father's eyes dart to mine in a warning look for this unknown male to be approaching his vulnerable daughter.

"Nobody here will harm Rosa, you have my word."

"Rosa.." Orpheus lets her name run off his tongue, his words are just audible.

"What happened?" His eyes dart to mine as he takes a step towards her, letting his finger run up her forearm before he bends down and smells her neck.

"Our borders were being watched, she ventured off pack grounds when she thought she found her mate..."

"Thought?" Kaia's eyes dart to me and I reach out for her hand, pulling her close into me. I can't imagine anything more worse than finding your mate like this, finding your mate for the first time broken.

Yes, when I found Kaia she had been through hell but she was strong, she wouldn't let her past break her...and again, she's proven how strong she is, how strong of an Alpha and Luna she is.

And I will spend the rest of my life standing by her side as she makes sense of the fate handed to her. I will help her, be with her, comfort her...love her.

As soon as Kaia's colour starts returning to her face, I know the energy she had taken from Rosa was leaving her.

Her strength was returning to her.

But it meant...so was Rosa's.

As soon as Rosa's eyes open, she's like a wild animal possessed...screaming at the unknown male standing above her.

She sits up trying to claw at him, both Riley and her Father springing into action to restrain her.

I feel the coldness of Kaia's movement as she steps away from me and exits the room, as Than watches her exit taking a step to follow her.

"Don't you fucking dare!" I growl at him, taking a threatening stance towards him.

She quickly returns with the doctor in tow who starts to prepare a syringe.

"No!" Orpheus lunges for him, knocking my head doctor to the ground.

Kaia moves towards the bed and the only real threat I see is Kaia using her gifts again now in a crowded room with an audience.

"Don't even think about it." I growl into her ear as I move forward, blocking her behind me as Riley manages to push Rosa back down on to the bed. "It's okay Sis, its going to be okay..."

"Move!" Orpheus pushes Riley out of the way as he tries to restrain her himself. His alpha aura releasing onto the room.

"Alpha..." Riley turns to me with shock but I place my hand up commanding silence in the room.

"Mine." Orpheus announces to the entire room to a reaction of gasps.

"No, that can't be..."

"I am her mate...who is the bastard that dared to touch my mate." He snarls, his growl a low thunderous rumble.

"Mate?" Riley looks between me and Orpheus as does his father.

"He is dead, I killed him myself." I respond preparing for the alpha wolf's anger.

"He was a pack member?" Orpheus stands, his shoulders puffing out, his spine elongating. He was trying to overpower me, but I wouldn't allow it.

I respond as my own body meets his stance, my body preparing to throw him out of this room, through the window if necessary.

"No..." My eyes dart to Than, whose mouth is slightly opened...guilt heavy in his expression.

"Orpheus man, I'm sorry..."

"Sorry?"

"He was a pack member of mine, but I didn't give the order...of course I didn't. I surrendered him to Hector..."

Kaia's eyes flash to me as I give a grunt.

He only surrendered the bastard after trying to use him as a bargaining tool for Kaia, only when I refused did he finally give him to me.

"You killed him?" Orpheus's eyes burn back at me.

"Yes Orpheus, he laid hands on our Rosa...I wouldn't let him live."

If I thought Rosa's reaction to finding Orpheus standing above him wasn't a catastrophe enough, then nothing prepared me for her reaction to now locking eyes with Than.

She changed from screaming to a threatening growl as she makes a lunge for him...

"You..." Her ferocious growl is unworldly and if Orpheus didn't stop her, I think she would have caused some harm to Than...a pity really that she was stopped.

"Hush...I've got you..." Orpheus shows a tenderness I have never seen from him, something I didn't even know he possessed. He rocks her back and forth in her arms as she continues to fight against his hold, her teeth snapping for Than. Kaia takes a step forward and a disapproving growl escapes me before I am cut off by her own aggressive growl.

I watch, the others nonethewiser, most likely thinking it is the luna command.

But it isn't, she is taking energy from Rosa, I can see it...see Rosa become sleepy in Orpheus's arms as her head leans back onto his chest....her body finally caving in to the need for calming deep breathes.

"That's enough." I growl at her, earning an odd look from Orpheus who looks up at Kaia...tilting his head as he also notices her paling complexion.

Fuck's sake.

"Sshh, no one will hurt you again. You have my word." Orpheus places his nose in the nook of Rosa's neck, inhaling her scent like a wolf starved. "Let's give them some privacy." Kaia commands to the room.

"But.."

"Riley...she needs him now...you can come back later."

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Hector POV

As Orpheus and Than arrived together, and it looked like Orpheus would now be staying for a while, I leant Than a pack vehicle, he needed to be gone.

I needed more information, more information than Jude's research books could give me. If Kaia keeps insisting on putting herself in danger, I need facts to give her the wake up call she needs. Jude's contact might be the only one who can give us that information. Samson might be dead but I didn't know what Alpha Marc might know.

A risk I wasn't willing to wait for. I needed to act and act now.

There were too many missing pieces, things that didn't make sense. Beckett was cold, brutal...but was he capable of killing his own mate? For sinning against the moon goddess even more so by killing his pack?

He dared to warn me, asked if I was her true mate...that he knew what it takes to keep the white wolf safe.

Is that what he thinks he was doing, keeping his mate safe by killing her....

Kaia needed to rest, a long car journey was the last thing she needed but I wanted to hit the road as soon as possible.

This contact might change her mind tomorrow, it was only by Jude's negotiation skills that she agreed to see us today.

I also needed to find out how Jude managed to find her in the first place and build up a level of mutual trust between the pair of them.

I expected the location to be by a coastline but whoever this contact is, she clearly wanted to be as far away from the reminder of water as possible...her location as the most central part of the country. Luckily an area that was human owned, no pack lands were for miles...which meant I didn't have to prearrange with an alpha prior to entering their lands.

Both Kaia and I were free to roam. However as the trees by the side of the road became more dense the closer we got to the location, I did start to regret bringing Kaia with me.

The overwhelming desire to protect her washes over me, it a constant flow that courses through my veins but the fact I am willingly taking her into a potentially dangerous situation doesn't sit well with my wolf, and why should it. This goes against his very nature.

She places her hoodie over her legs, her hand touching the climate fans in the car.

She was cold...I bite down on the desire to make a comment about how she helped Rosa again.

"Are you cold?"

"I'm fine."

"Promise you won't shift?" My command stopped working on her the moment she accepted her alpha title., but that's not to say I won't still try.

She had a knack for putting others first, another reason I was growing more concerned about her newly discovered skill.

""Not unless I have to."

"That doesn't ease my qualms about this."

"Why don't you want me shifting?" Her eyes turn to me as I concentrate on the thinning road ahead.

"Deniability, until she sees your wolf for herself...we can deny it is truly you. We can't go into this with trust Kaia, we need to be on edge."

I park the car and cover it with some broken tree branches, I didn't want passersby to be inquisitive of the SUV parked in the woods.

I've spent my entire life running through woods, but this one seems different somehow... it had ears and eyes of its own.

With every step deeper into the woods, a spine tingling shudder would run up my back. Sending warning shockwaves to my wolf.

We shouldn't be here, something or someone was warning us away.

"Stick by me, at all times." I pull Kaia into me, my hand gripping around her back and holding her hip.

We walk for miles, the trees and woodland floor getting thicker and harder to walk through.

It was getting to the point where roots were making it difficult to step, almost impassable. If we had only human eyes we would need a torch by now.

"Look." Kaia's voice enters my mind, as she looks to the right of me.

She points to a single hut. A tiny small hut tucked away under tree branches that had entwined themselves acting as some kind of thick layer to protect the badly constructed hut from the elements.

If the sun managed to hit this spot at any part of the day, then it didn't for long.

This was a dark wood...in source of light as well as something else. Something I couldn't put my finger on it.

"Do we just knock?" Kaia looks up at me a smirk on her face.

"No, I'll let you in." A voice comes from behind.

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Kaia POV

I almost jump out of my skin from a voice coming behind us. I thought we were being watched and part of me is glad it was her and not what I thought... the trees.

She had long silvery hair that was thinning slightly on top. Her eyes were a grey blue that seemed to be covered with something, almost like she was currently in a mind-link and they were glazed over...like a white shadow.

Her lips were more purple than a soft red and she had aging spots on her face, neck and arms but rather than be a translucent brown...they were purple.

She pays Hector no mind, he was the biggest thing in this woods but she seems unbothered by him. Her eyes only for me.

"We were sent..." I try to cover the awkwardness that had settled between us.

"I know who you are. You should come in...never can be careful of who is watching." Her eyes turn behind her, her level of paranoia was unsettling.

It had me feeling at unease but I wasn't sure if it was to where she was looking behind her or from actually not wanting to enter the small hut with her.

She picks up some kind of wooden bucket off the ground before moving past us and towards her hut. She opens the door, leaving Hector and I both watching from a distance.

A soft glow of a fire provides a source of light in the otherwise dark wooded area.

I take a step forward, Hector's arm coming out to stop me.

"Maybe we should head back." His voice is a low growl.

"It would look rude."

"Sweetheart, I don't give a fuck about pleasantries..." He barks back at me, my eyes closing to calm the rising unsettling feeling within me.

Of course I wanted to head back but she had seen us now and we may not get another chance to meet her.

"It's fine, she might have answers." I place the palm of my hand on his chest before I follow her path and take my first step inside the hut, Hector breathing down my neck as his hands wrap around my waist. His touch was addictive, and I wanted more. "Put her down, I won't hurt her!" The woman clicks her tongue as she places water from the bucket into a pot on her fireplace.

"I can hold my mate all I like." Hector growls out, tactfully moving ahead of me. He was on edge...but I don't think she will harm us. She seems...sad to me.

I watch her as she moves to a counter, grabs a bottle of something and walks back to the fireplace.

She adds a few drops of liquid from the small bottle into the water before stirring it with a large wooden spoon.

The best way to describe her was as some kind of hermit witch that had been banished to the woods from her coven, but I know she wasn't a witch but the woods outside still left me spooked.

She plunges a cup into the boiling water, places it to her lips and drinks it down in one go.

A painful gasp leaves her lips as they part. Her body starts to shake as her hands clasp at her throat before a muffled pain escapes her. Whatever she just took, caused her severe pain. "Are you alright?" I call out to her, her eyes reopening as they turn a spectre white.

"What did you just take?" Hector growls, pulling me into his lap as he perches against a dusty armchair where the fabric had all but worn away.

"Wolfsbane." She responds as if we just witnessed a normal thing and we were the crazy ones.

"What?" Hector roars, standing up and pulling me behind him in one swift movement.

"I knew this was a bad idea.." He growls.

"Why did you take it?" I ask out as Hector backs me towards the door.

"It's the only way to keep them out."

"To keep them out?"

"The pack."

"Pack? Aren't you rogue?" I push against Hector as he almost has me out of the door.

"I'm a fate worse than rogue, I'm in my own never-ending purgatory. A product of my own creation." She sighs out before sitting on a small chair by the fire.

It was clear she wasn't willing to chase after us. I don't think she physically could.

She was no risk to us.

""How so?"

"I rejected my mate and the pack, but he did not accept my rejection." Her eyes close, her hands clenching by her side. "Pack?"

""The White Moon." She mutters as she starts to sway on her seat.

"The White Moon? That was your pack?" I was keen to get as much information as possible before she passed out on us.

Samson mentioned a pack called the White Moon when he had been roped to the bed.

"Yes, my mate, he is the alpha. He still hunts me now.."

"Which is why you take the wolfsbane, to suppress your wolf, to suppress the bond." Hector asks understanding that we might not have long. "Yes." Her eyes flash open to look directly at Hector.

"She's not as old as she looks, if she is taking that every day, it would take a toll on her body." My wolf's voice enters my mind. My sadness for her was only growing. "It would explain her appearance." I agree with my wolf.

It explains her shadowy eyes, her purple lips and her age spots...her body continues to fight against the wolfsbane, the poison that had been torturing her every day. "He cannot find me." She snarls, which without her wolf coming forward is a little lack lustre.

"Why, what happens if he finds you?"

"You are the white wolf?" Her eyes roam upon me and I feel Hector shuffle behind me. "Yes, yes I am."

"But you have lost your memory." She tilts her head.

"I have amnesia."

"We were told you would help us, that you would cooperate." Hector rumbles next to me.

"And that I will. But first I have to be sure you are of no threat to me."

"We are no threat to you!" Hector rattles out, his patience was wearing thin.

"How can we prove that to you?" My eyebrows furrow.

"You must drink the water." She points to the pot on the fire.

"Not a chance in hell." Hector roars, the flimsy hut shaking like trees moving in a storm.

"That may be boy, where you end up. The choice is yours. I have nothing to gain by helping..."

My teeth flash at the way she speaks to Hector. She needs to know I do not appreciate her tone directed at him.

"Come Kaia, we are leaving. We will have to find another way." Hector wraps his arms around me protectively, her eyes not leaving mine once.

"There is no other way. What I have to say you will not find in research books." She chimes out confidently, a small smirk entering on to her lips.

I look at her, this frail female before me before looking up at the strong physical height and broadness of my mate. We needed to stay, we needed to hear her out.

He reads my expression, but he also must feel a sense of my emotions through the bond because he has never once had to second guess me, he's always known what I am feeling and how to approach me. The mate mark on my neck giving him a source of intelligence.

Would me marking him give me that same level of awareness, make me more cognizant of our bond with one another.

"No Kaia..." He shakes his head as his hand pushes on the flimsy wooden door.

"It's a test."

"I know it is, one we are not taking." His aura smashes into me.

"I was told you were the true mate of the white wolf?" The woman shouts out.

"I am.." Hector's shoulders tense before his chest puffs out.

"Then prove it."

He seems to ponder for a moment, his eyes looking between me and the woman.

"Only I take it, she doesn't." His finger points at his chest.

"She has a wolf..so no.." She shrugs.

"She doesn't take it." He takes a step forward, his aura swirling around the hut, spreading on to her.

"I can agree to that." She smirks.

"Hector no." I quietly protest, pulling him back towards the door. I didn't like the idea of this.

"Just be ready to run if this goes tits up." He walks to the fire, plunging the cup into the water pot.

"No Hector." I pull at his arm, stopping him from placing the cup to his lips.

"There must be another way." This was wrong. She must see that we are no threat to her. "I'll be fine, just keep her talking so my wolf can recover."

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Hector POV

"I'll take it..." Kaia tries to snatch the cup from my hand but I place it high, out of her reach.

"You've only just got poison out of your system. You think I can stand by and let you drink this."

"Oh because it's easy for me." She retorts back at me.

"She can sense my wolf is ready to bring this hut down into splinters. Just keep her talking." I whisper into her ear, with her wolf this female won't hear my words only meant for Kaia. "Hector.." Fear for me pushes through the mate bond... the incomplete mate bond.

"Trust me my love, do you trust me?"

"Yes. Of course I do." She sighs out, rolling her eyes at me.

I place the cup to my mouth, my lips already burning from the liquid I was about to consume...willingly.

Fuck me.

I swallow it on one go.

There's no point stringing this out. The liquid burns at my mouth, at the back of my throat, down through into my stomach.

I can feel its journey as it burns like I've swallowed the fire itself.

It takes my breath away and my hands involuntarily go to my throat, my wolf trying to claw at the pain.

It works immediately, my wolf starts to recede into the darkest depths of my mind... his unsatisfactory growl becoming quieter and quieter the more he is pushed away. Until silence. "Hector?" Kaia's hand touches my arm as I try to shake the feeling of dread out of my system.

"I'm fine."

"Are you sure?"

I open my eyes to find my vision is slightly blurry. As if a shadow has covered my eyes.

The thing that bothers me the most is I have temporarily lost my tie to Kaia, as if she doesn't bear my mark upon her neck. Whatever was in the water was more than wolfsbane.

It had the ability to fully block a mate bond. If she's been taking this for years, which I assume she has, no wonder she looks like something that has just walked out of a nightmare. "I've proved myself, proved we can be trusted. Now keep your end of the bargain." I seethe out as I spit out some saliva coated in blood.

"You are good on your word. So I will be on mine. Ask away." She places her hands out in a welcoming gesture.

"How old are you?" I ask out first, keen to know if my theory is correct.

"I'm 38."

I cough out at her answer, I knew she was younger than her external image claimed her to be. But 38? She looked at least 80.

"It's the concoction. It's the prize to pay for invisibility." She slowly nods as if understanding my reaction.

"Why take it?" Kaia asks as she moves to stand in front of me. She was creating a block between this female and me, it was unnecessary.

With or without my wolf I would move heaven and earth to get Kaia out of here unharmed.

"I would have been dead long ago. To me every day is an extra blessing on this world before I return to the Moon Goddess."

"You said you rejected your mate. The alpha?" Kaia continues to fire questions.

"The White Moon pack are living descendants from the original pack, the Moon Goddess's first pack created here on earth."

"The children of the moon." Kaia mutters almost to herself.

"Yes. My mate is now the alpha of the pack. I rejected him but he refused to accept my rejection. If my wolf were forward he would feel the bond, he would be able to find me."
"Why don't you want him to find you?"

She shakes her head, rumbling on to herself about something that I can't make out.

"Answer her!" I demand. We had kept up our end of the deal, she couldn't now go silent on us.

"I have information that could prove very damaging to the pack, to his leadership. If the truth was known..."

"What truth?" I press.

"That it no longer exists to serve the Moon Goddess, it hasn't for centuries."

"It has been corrupted?" I ask out.

"Yes, it no longer serves to bring peace and harmony amongst the shifter and non shifter souls. We became tainted, tainted by power and revenge. That's when your first ancestor was created Kaia, to bring balance." "Samson, an ex beta..." Kaia asks as she, like me, tries to make sense of this.

"I know who he was." The female nods, she was well informed of things outside these woods she now inhabits.

"He said that he would return me to them, that I belonged to them."

"That was a lie!"

I knew it.

My wolf isn't channelling but I have enough anger for the size of a pack.

"Samson would have been told a lie, they all are. We all were. It is ingrained into them from birth or when they join the pack. They can't help it."

"Then what would they have done with me?"

"They would have sacrificed you to the moon goddess Kaia, they believe it will pay for their past sins. Return the White Wolf to the Moon Goddess and their lands will be revealed to them." "Lands?"

"From what I understand Alpha Beckett found the lands that housed the first pack?"

"He did?" Kaia turns to me, shock written all over her face. I am less shocked.

The Nightshade Reformed pack lands, no wonder Beckett was so determined to build a pack there, he had found the lands of Kaia's ancestors.

"How did the White Wolf leave the pack?" I was trying to make sense of what she was telling us. Trying to get as much information as possible.

"Her mate got her out. He wasn't of the same pack...much like your Father Kaia. He was from a different pack and joined the Clear Waters pack on finding his mate. Your ancestors created the Clear Waters pack to house her. To defend her.

After many battles, many deaths, the Clear Waters pack was approved to live in harmony as long as the White Wolf kept herself to herself. As long as she was no threat to the White Moon pack." "Threat, what kind of threat am I?"

"Kaia, the white wolf was created to keep the originals in check. You were created to be the wall between werewolves and humans. You were created to protect the humans. Even from your own."