

Chapter 9

MADDOX

Her eyes flicked to mine, filled with surprise and determination. I had no idea what caused the surprise, but it seemed that she was figuring out that I was not just a handsome face.

I managed to land another hit on her, but she got two in on me. Those would definitely bruise.

I was a damned good fighter. I was trained to be lethal when need be. Beauty was on an entirely different level though. Truly, I had underestimated her when she claimed to have been trained since she could walk. It certainly proved to be true though. This level of expertise was proof.

I got an elbow to my jugular, making me nearly falter, but I pulled myself together. In turn, she got a hard deck to the jaw.

Round and round we went, clearly both refusing to give up. She had landed more hits on me in total, but I was a determined fucker.

She got a perfect roundhouse kick in with enough force that I was unable to stop my plummet down. Of course, she wasted no time in taking charge of the situation.

"Do you submit?" she asked, straddling me.

There was an arm across my neck, knees dug into the juncture of my hips, and the elbow of her other arm was pressing against my shoulder to make sure that I was unable to move in order to free the arm that was trapped behind my back.

This would be the first time that I ever submitted. Dad did not believe in allowing me to submit. The only way that my training finished was if I was rendered unconscious.

"Are you willing to let me move so that I can at least shake your hand?" I asked, flashing her cheeky grin.

"Not a chance," she deadpanned.

Her body felt fucking amazing like this. I was certain that she could feel the semi that had been forming over the course of the match. Sadly, not even that was deterring her.

The hand that was touching the floor tapped it three times. It was one of the hardest things that I have had to do in a while.

Instead of seeing her look smug or victorious, she simply hopped up. Then she surprised me again and held her hand out to me. I grabbed it before she could think twice. Perhaps this little match had helped a little bit.

"You fought well," she said with a smile.

Before I could respond, the teacher called her over. She turned around and jogged across the gym.

KALEN

I had not anticipated that I would enjoy that match as much as ended up happening. Maddox was extremely skilled. Had I been trained by anyone else, then he would have probably handed me my ass.

"Kalen," Mr. Hall said once I reached him. "I wanted to tell you that I've assigned you to be with Zion. He's the only other one that's up to your level and vice versa. Did you hold back at all with Maddox?"

I rubbed the back of my neck and nodded. "Not much actually, but I had to just a little bit because I wanted it to be a fair fight. I'm not someone who throws my shit around just to dominate others."

I did the same thing during pack training. The only people I did not have to pull back with were Mom and Dad. See, Dad had been blessed with additional strength once he and Mom mated. That seemed to have passed down to me.

"That's what makes you an honorable person as well as future Alpha. Then it's a good thing that you and Zion will be matched fairly. We're just about done for the day, so you're with him starting tomorrow."

I nodded my head and went to grab my water bottle.

Zion and I have sparred over the years, so I was excited that I would be able to truly spar with him. The Precoza blood made him stronger than typical vampires even if he was only half.

"You must think that you're some tough shit," someone said from behind me.

"Do you actually want something, or are you simply tossing around insults in hopes of it hurting me?" I asked David as I turned around.

He stood there with his arms over his chest and eyes that were hardened as colds as glaciers.

"You're fucking pathetic. Your father would do best to hold onto his

title until your brother is ready. Your pack will fucking fall into ruins, and he'll have nobody to blame but himself. He would do best to remember how precarious his position really is and how many of the other packs would never accept a female Alpha. Wouldn't want anything to happen to your meager Dark Moon."

Was he being serious right now? I did not give a shit about what he thought of me or said about me for that matter. He was downright initiating a threat against Dad and my pack. I never would have said shit if Dad had decided to pass by me as Alpha because it was his decision. However, he chose for me to be Alpha heir, and I was proud of that.

I took a step closer to him and pinned him with the coldest glare that I had. It hit the mark if his gulp was any indication.

"If I didn't know any better, that right there sounds like a threat against my Alpha and my pack. Those two things, I'll fight until my final breath to protect. You need to focus on yourself because your pack is screwed if you think that your behavior is reminiscent of how an Alpha should behave. Sort your own shit out because you don't worry me one bit. I know my worth and my abilities. I know how to stand before my pack as an Alpha and will do it with my head held high."

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The next period passed uneventfully.

My next class was an independent study course. I had gotten permission to do mine in the library.

Running up the stairs, I turned and made me way down the hallway. I

was passing by one of the storage rooms when someone grabbed me and pulled me inside the dark room.

Something hit me upside the back of the head hard enough to throw me into the wall. Pain immediately exploded in my head. There was a roaring in my ears that was damn near suffocating.

Then I felt something jab me in the neck, and my body went slack. I hit the floor hard, panicking because I could not move a single muscle.

If that was not enough, the person decided to rail me with blows from their steel toe boots. It was dark but I could clearly see that David had a fucking death wish.

MADDOX

'Why are you so fucking agitated?' I asked Neo as I washed my hands in the bathroom.

'Something's wrong. I can feel it. We need to move. Let me direct you,' he demanded.

Instead of asking him to clarify anything, I let him direct me. He was clearly rattled, so I would follow his lead on this. It took a lot of rattle a wolf like Neo. He was more suited to be an assassin wolf.

I ran up the stairs and down some hallway that I had never seen before.

'In there,' he said, pointing his paw at the door of a storage room.

I took a steadying breath to get myself settled before I opened the door, knowing that anything could be behind it.

The metallic scent of blood hung in the air. The fucker that Beauty had thrown into the bleachers that day had his leg in the air, about to bring it down onto someone on the ground. My blood boiled when I scented who it was.

I was across the room and had him pinned against the wall before he fully realized that they were not alone. My hand was wrapped around his neck. He struggled to break free, but there would be no getting away from me.

Thankfully, Neo had felt drawn here. No idea why, but I did not care about the reason. All that I cared about was that we got here before anything worse happened.

"What the fuck do you think you're doing?" I asked him coldly.

I was a man who had a dangerous fuse. When it was lit... well, we were not getting into that right now.

He refused to answer and was clawing at my hand to get free. Like that would work. I was a sucker for pain and had a love affair with it. His little attempt was nothing.

"I know that she would've kicked your fucking ass unless you did something to her. Tell me now, or I'll just pay you back for what you did to her. Your choice."

"P-paralytic," he gasped out.

I pulled his head forward before knocking it hard into the concrete

wall behind him. It did nothing to calm the storm raging inside of me. What the fuck kind of pussy did that shit?

I turned him, wrenching his hand behind his back and walked him over to the corner where I pushed him down.

"You get up from here, and I'll personally kill you. Don't fuck with me because I'll do it without hesitation. Understand?"

He saw the fury in my eyes and nodded. Good choice. My claws punctured his shoulder as a reminder of it.

I moved over to Beauty and gently turned her onto her back. She groaned but that was all she had done. Fuck. He did some serious damage.

"Hey there, beauty. Open those gemstone eyes of yours," I said, biting my lip to keep control of my emotions.

Her eyes fluttered open, and I was struck with the pain in them instead of their normal brightness.

"There you go. Can you link anyone? I don't have anyone from my pack in this school."

She gave a very small nod, groaning when her head touched the floor again. Fuck. I had no idea how many injuries she had.

Not even five minutes later, a group of people showed up at the door. There were plenty of growls, but the loudest one came from the fucker that loved throwing his arm around her.

Someone flipped on the light, and we could easily see the damage that he did. She had a white top on, and we could see that blood was

seeping through in different spots. Then there were a few bruises that were visible. There was no telling what else was wrong.

"I happened across that fucker of there in the middle of attacking her. He gave her a paralytic to keep her from fighting back," I said.

The twins from earlier went over and hauled him up. I tuned them out because he was in good hands.

"Fucking hell," he said, trying to rein in his anger. At least we could agree on something. "C'mon then, K. You know the drill," he told her.

I watched as he bit into his wrist and placed it against her mouth. Was he fucking serious? This really pissed me off for some reason.

"What the fuck are you doing?" I demanded to know.

"What does it look like? It's either this, she goes to a healer, or she heals on her own. I know for a fact that she'd prefer this just like she did any other time it was necessary. Vampire blood has a nifty ability to heal," he explained as if I was stupid.

Who did this fucker think he was? Why did it irritate me so much that he apparently had a close relationship with her? I swore this chick had my mind so fucking messed up.

I had never seen the process of healing by vampire blood, but it was miraculous. After a couple of minutes, she was able to pull herself up and lean against the wall. The small pools of blood on the floor just served to infuriate me even more.

"Thanks, Zion," she said flashing him a tired smile.

Then she turned to me and stared at me as if I was just as much of a

puzzle to her as she was to me.

"And thank you too. Had you not come when you did..." she trailed off and shuddered. "If he would've kicked my ribs again, it would've punctured my lung."

"No thanks necessary. I'm just glad that I got here in time."

One of the twins came back over and knelt down next to her and tilted her head to look at the back of it. Another growl left his lips from whatever he saw.

"Aunty called your father who was with Uncle Jackson at the time, so they should be here very soon. She apparently said that it was necessary given Little Mr. David's recent threats."

That caused her and the fucker to snort and chuckle.

Okay, so I was seeing a close connection between the twins and her. Were they related? It would appear so or at least close.

"Our fathers are going to rip him apart. I swear that they are damn near twins with their ruthlessness instead of just being brothers," Kalen said with a little giggle.

'Ah. He's her cousin. I don't have qualms with him anymore,' Neo said with a shrug.

'Still a fucker though,' I replied. 