



## Chapter 25

"Shh." Waylon whispered in my ear so low that I barely missed it.

My back arched as my head landed on his shoulder. Absent mindlessly, my arm snaked around his neck as his hot breath moistened my neck. A shudder of satisfaction ran through me. "Waylon." I whispered back. My legs already started shaking in anticipation.

Waylon wrapped his other arm around my waist and pulled me back, deeper into the cave. I think the men left but all I could focus on was his hands touching me. "Do you like that?"

"OH Waylon!" I moaned in his ear.

"Yes, princess? Tell me what you want."

"Mark me." I spoke without thinking. My mind was so fuzzy that it didn't even register what I was saying until it came out. His whole body froze as my words sank in. Shit! "I'm sorry. I- I didn't mean that. Heat of the moment." I was so embarrassed that I pushed away from him. Fixing my pants and keeping my back towards him, I walked to the opening of the cave. Some distance between us felt good. It was killing me that Waylon hadn't said anything back but I felt pain run through him.



"Charlotte." He said finally. "You-you know I can't right now."

I'm not sure why those words hurt so much. I knew why. My brain understood why but my heart didn't. "I know."

"Charlotte..." Waylon took a step towards me.

"No. Don't. I'm okay. I think I am going to lay down for awhile." Walking over to a random spot on the floor. I tried to get as comfortable as I could. It wasn't easy but eventually, my eyes were able to close. Since my back was to Waylon, he didn't see the stray tear that rolled down my cheek.

I didn't hear him move or even make another sound. Eventually, my curiosity got the best of me and I looked. He was sitting at the entrance, like a body guard with his head rested against the cave wall. My stomach growled as we haven't ate lunch or supper.

"Arlo is bring us food." Waylon whispered. He must have heard my stomach. Opening my mouth to respond but decided against it and closed it again. Until the food gets here, I will lay in my bed of shame.

Waylon POV

Welp, one brick down just for her to put three more up. That backfired in the worst way possible. Of course her body was begging to be marked. The embarrassment she felt as soon as she said it told me I shouldn't have even touched her.

This last time, it helped her break down the wall so I was hoping I could keep weaseling into her heart. It has been the only way to get her to trust me. Until now, I never realised that her body was the only thing she had to give me. By her giving me her body, she was putting her trust in me to keep her heart safe. Then when she asked to be marked, I froze.

Stupid! Stupid! Stupid!

We both understood why I couldn't mark her yet but that didn't mean her body wasn't going to want it each time I touched her. My hands are going to need to stay away from her. I'll have to earn her trust a different way. How? I'm not sure.

"Supper has arrived." Arlo mumbled as he carried some freshly killed rabbit. It didn't look appealing but we couldn't exactly have pizza. The smell alone would not only attract animals, it would attract the people we are hiding from.

"Looks wonderful." I muttered sarcastically as I started to clean them.

"She sleeping?" Arlo asked.

"Yeah. Not much to do in here."

"What's up your ass? Get into a fight with the misses?" Arlo poked.

"Dude, shut up." Arlo was like a little brother to me. I trusted him with my life but he could be a royal pain in the ass.

"Is that rabbit?" Charlotte stirred.

"It is. Nothing but the best for our princess." Arlo even did a dramatic bow.


"One of these days I am going to punch you in the mouth and then you will be gnawing on these bones. Move over, let me." Charlotte rolled her eyes at Arlo as she took the rabbits from us. "You have mutilated them!"

We sat there and watched her expertly remove all the meat from the bones, skin the rabbit and toss everything out of the cave. Next. She took a few of the twigs she found on the back of the cave and piled them up. Grabbing a rock and some dead grass, she created some sparks from hitting the side of the cave with the rock. Arlo and I were amazed she was able to create some smoke. Wrapping the meat in the rabbit skin, she placed it on the singed grassed. The rabbit fur started smoking. Setting it down, it started slowly burning away at the fur. After about 20 minutes, the fur was all burnt off and all that was left was the charred skin.

Charlotte grabbed it gently and opened it. The meat was perfectly cook at little more rare than I like but still decently. "Supper is ready."

"W-where did you learn that?" Arlo asked as he took a bite of the rabbit. He moaned as it hit his tongue.

"Ran into a rogue family when I was younger. They took me in and we lived in a cave like this for almost a month before



I had to leave. They taught me many things about living off the land."

That admission shocked me. I know not all rogues are bad. Some are just families that didn't agree with their alphas and decided to live that way. The trouble is, when wolves don't have an alpha, they tend to lose their mind. I wanted to ask if she had to leave because their mind started to turn or was it something else. Either way, it was a miracle that her mind was still intact but I guess she never denounced her ties.

"Damn girl. Jack of all trades!" Charlotte smiled at Arlo and took a bite of the meat herself. Reaching out, I only took two pieces before walking over to the entrance and sat down. There was so much I didn't know about her. So much she casually shared with random strangers she met yesterday. To be fair, I was probably a random stranger to her as well. Someone she is forced to physically respond to. As much as I tried not to care, it burned me she wasn't sharing those details with me.

Anger consumed me just thinking about all the time I have lost with her. If King Thomas would have never done this, I probably would have met her years ago. I needed him gone. I needed Jasmine gone.

After taking the last bite of the smoked rabbit, my mind was made up. "When the sun sets, we leave to head back to my pack." I said loud enough for them to hear me.

"What? That is hundreds of miles away!" Charlotte looked shocked.

"You were the one that suggested I hide you there. How did you think we were going to get there?"

She looked taken aback by my harsh tone. I was mad at the world and damn if I was going to waste more time on stupid shit. Charlotte opened and closed her mouth a few times but eventually just took another bit and looked at the ground.

Arlo was shaking his head at me. "I think I am going to head back. I'll do a little recon to see where they are at and let you know but best of luck to you. Obviously, let us know if you need anything. We will be there as soon as we can."

"Thanks, man." Arlo held out his hand for me to shake. It was a firm handshake but a respectable one.

"Princess." He bowed before climbing back down. The sun was started to shrink behind the trees. It will probably take us a few days to make the trip. For this to work, I can't tell anyone. Maybe Axel can know but again, maybe not. Not like a warrior can meet us half way with a vehicle.

"I'm sorry." Charlotte came to sit by me. I was a little taken aback by her apology.

"What for?"

"Asking you to mark me. Not sure why I did it."

"It's natural. The bond wants to mate with your mate. Your body is literally begging to be marked." I answered nonchalantly.

"Your's isn't?" She pushed.

"It is." I wasn't going to lie to her about it. "But we can't. Like I said, until you are free, we can't mate."

I felt her get defensive and angry. "But it is okay for you to touch me? You never asked me if I was okay dangling my heart out like that! What kind of man takes advantage of his mate's vulnerability to fuck like that?"

I knew I should have kept my mouth shut but it just spilled out. "Do you think this is easy for me? I want to fuck you so bad it hurts but I can't. I want to wrap those legs around my neck and eat you out until you lost your voice from screaming. Instead, I have to find a way to free you. I have to put not only my life but everyone around me that I care about in jeopardy. If the palace found out about any of this, those guys down there, Axel and Patrick would all be thrown into jail. I would be in jail. You aren't the only one struggling right now with their emotions."

The hurt in her eyes was like taking a knife and shoving it into my heart then twisting it. Even though those words were true, it shouldn't have said it. "I'm sorry I'm such an inconveniences to you. Just leave and I will figure it out on my own."



"You aren't going anywhere. I have already put too many people in the firing line for you to decide you don't want to do this anymore. Things are already in motion and cannot just be dropped." It was hard to not roll my eyes as her as I turned away and studied the sun. It was almost time to go. We needed to head due north. The only way across the boarder into Canada undetected is through a tunnel. My only hope is I don't run into anyone I know.

"Fuck you!" Charlotte's eyes were glowing. She was pissed and rightfully so but damn if I was going to just let her go at this point.

"Your aura isn't going to work on me. I am your mate. You cannot command me to do shit. Right now, you have two options. One, you come with me willingly. Two, I will knock you unconscious and drag your ass with me. So, which is it? The hard way or the easy way?"

"I'll be dead before I let you touch me again." Charlotte said as her eyes changed back to her beautiful shade of green. However, the anger in them caused them to look a little more black.

"Okay." I wasn't going to argue with her over something we both knew was a lie. Turning away from her, my shoulder rested against the cave wall. I could hear her pacing behind me. Even a few times she walked up to me like she was going to start yelling again or maybe even try strangling me. It was almost amusing to feel her internal battle with herself.



Finally, the sun was set enough that we needed to get moving. As I turned around, she must have decided to try walking up behind me again because she ran straight into my chest. "Wow, if I knew you were going to be throwing yourself into me, I would have turned around sooner."



**Mrs. Smith**  Author

"*Thank you all for reading!!*"

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