

Other Things

Caelan swept me into his arms like a new bride, and without another word, he carried me out of the arena, stepping carefully over the unconscious bodies as we left.

"I need you," he breathed, placing kisses along my jawline as he made his way toward the pack house.

I moaned softly at the sensation it stirred within me. "And I you."

He carried me up to his bedroom, kicking the heavy door closed behind us. I wiggled in his hold, expecting him to set me down, but his grip only tightened.

"I need to clean up," he said as he headed toward the bathroom. "And I got blood all over you, so you're coming with me."

He held me as he turned on the shower, letting the water warm as he ripped the ruined dress right off my body, peppering my skin with kisses.

"I know we're waiting to have sex," he panted. "And I'm good with that, but I need to feel your skin against mine."

I wrapped my legs around him as he picked me up and stepped into the spray. He set me down, his heated stare dancing across my lacy underwear. He moved to grab me, but I put my hand on his chest, stopping him.

I looked directly into his eyes as I reached behind me and unclasped my bra, letting it fall to the slick tile floor. His breath hitched as I slipped my thumbs beneath the waistband of my panties and slowly dragged them down over my hips before kicking them to the side.

Caelan was on me so fast, I barely had time to blink. He gripped my waist, pulling me into his hard body as he kissed his way along my jawline and down my neck.

I gasped as he sucked on a spot just above my collarbone, ready to give him everything if he did it again. His fingers gently stroked down my naked flesh, leaving a trail of electricity in their wake.

He pressed my back against the wall, holding me tight as our mouths crashed desperately together. Desire arched through me as his hardness pressed firmly against my stomach.

"Sorry," he apologized, pressing his forehead to mine. "I know you're not ready for that."

"I don't mind," I admitted shyly.

His lips were on mine again as he reached for the soap, lathering me up and running his hands all over my body.

"I'm not the dirty one," I teased, taking it from him and washing away every speck of grime from the night.

My hands slid lower, my pulse hammering as they slipped around his waist toward his front. He grabbed my wrist, stopping me before I reached his stiff shaft.

"Don't," he begged, his voice strained as he closed his eyes. "I'm trying really hard to be a gentleman here, Shade, but if you touch me there, I won't be able to control myself."

"What...what would you do?" I asked with a gulp.

He leaned down to place a soft kiss against my mouth. "I'm still going to wait until our marking ceremony to take you, but"—he paused, sucking on that spot above my collarbone—"there are plenty of other things I could do to you."

"Other things?" I gasped, my voice growing huskier as his lips trailed a path toward my chest.

"Mm-hmm," he hummed, his breath leaving goosebumps across my skin. "Things I think you might enjoy. Things that might help you get prepared for when you're ready to take this further."

"And you want to show me these things?"

"More than anything," he groaned as he nipped at the soft flesh on the top of my breast.

I moaned softly. "Okay."

He looked up, his gorgeous hazel eyes meeting mine. "Are you sure?"

I nodded. "I want to be with you, Caelan."

He lifted me up, his hands gripping my ass tightly as I wrapped my legs around his waist. His hard muscles rubbed against my core, sending a thrill of pleasure through me as he carried me into the bedroom and laid me down on the bed.

He climbed up between my legs, his lips locking onto mine in a searing kiss. He ground his hips against mine, his hardened shaft brushing against my center as a low whimper escaped me.

Oh my Goddess! That feels incredible.

His hand found my breast, kneading it softly as the other slid along my thigh, slipping between our impossibly close bodies.

I gasped, arching into him as his fingertips brushed against me, gently stroking along my slick folds. Heat built in my core, delightful sensation rippling through me at the delicious friction. I clutched him tightly, wanting more.

He groaned, his lips leaving mine and moving along my neck. "Baby, you're magnificent," he whispered against my skin. "And all mine."

His mouth closed over my breast, his tongue lapping over my sensitive nipple. My fingers twisted in his hair, my throaty moan echoing in the room as I pulled him closer.

He let it go with a pop, eyes on my face as his fingertips explored my wet core.

"Are you sure you're ready for this?" he asked, his tongue icking out across my other peaked nipple.

"Goddess, yes, Caelan! Don't stop!" I breathed.

He pressed a finger against my opening, sinking it into me slowly and watching me as I cried out from the sudden fullness. His thumb found the bundle of nerves at my center, and I closed my eyes at the abrupt explosion of stimulation, stars flashing behind them as I ground my core against his palm.

"Caelan!"

My breath came in short pants as the feeling built, higher and higher until I was certain I'd implode from the overwhelming sensation. When I thought I couldn't take another second, Caelan kissed me, his finger curling inside me and sending waves of pleasure crashing over me.

I quivered, clutching him tightly as they pulsed through me until they finally started to fade away. He withdrew his hand as I collapsed against the mattress, placing a kiss against my neck.

"Absolutely magnificent," he murmured.

His fingers traced patterns on my skin as we lay in bed, still awake despite Caelan's amorous attentions.

I'd never felt more relaxed in all my life. My body was loose, still buzzing from the second time.

I smiled as I intertwined my hand with his. *I want to do something for him. Make him feel as good as I feel right now, but I'm too embarrassed to ask what to do. Maybe I can ask Ta'y what men like tomorrow. If I can work up the courage.*

"So, you used your ability on me?" he asked.

"Yes," I replied, my voice soft. "I couldn't help it, Caelan. Dillon said we couldn't interfere, even if they were going to... I just couldn't stand by and watch them..."

The images flashed through my mind. *The teeth tearing into his flesh. His blood spilled on the ground. Huxley's jaws around his throat.*

Tears spilled down my cheeks.

Caelan brushed them away with his thumb, and I looked at him, surprised he wasn't angry with me for going against the pack's traditions.

"Thank you," he said. "I wouldn't have survived if you hadn't helped."

"You're not mad that I interfered?" I snickered.

"Of course not, baby," he soothed, kissing me gently. "Huxley was fighting dirty. I can't take on eleven trained fighters at once. But I'll be damned if I was going to tap out and let him win. You are my mate, and the only way he was getting his hands on you was over my dead body."

His admission only made the tears fall harder, and he wrapped his arms around me, hugging me tight.

I could've lost him tonight. I could have lost this chance. All because of ignorant, power-hungry wolves who don't know when to leave well enough alone.

"Hush, baby," he whispered. "It's all over now. My wounds have practically healed, and you're in my arms. I told you, we can get through anything together." He placed a soft kiss to my brow.

"I didn't even realize you could use your gift like that."

"I didn't either," I admitted. "I've never done that before."

"We may need to explore this ability of yours further," he murmured. "Especially now that the pack is aware of it."

"The pack?!" I squeaked, my body stiffening. "Why would the pack know anything about my amplification?"

"Shade, they've seen me fight before," he said with a chuckle. "I'm good, but not *that* good. They'll want answers. I think it's best we tell them what you can do."

"You want to tell the pack?" I asked nervously.

"Yes. You're going to be their luna. They should know how powerful you are," he replied.

Thunder Moon had been ready to cast me out once they discovered my connection to their heightened emotions. It was only my mother's will that kept them from doing so. Harvest Moon was more accepting, but would they be that welcoming to something like this?

"I don't know," I muttered hesitantly.

"Trust me. I promise nothing bad will come of it," he swore. "I mean, you just used your gift to save their alpha. If anything, they'll be grateful."

"What if they're afraid that I'll try to manipulate them or something?"

"You're my mate and their luna. They'll have to trust that you have their best interests at heart and won't do anything to harm them," he said with a shrug. "If it makes you feel better, we can reveal what happened slowly. Start with some of the high-ranking wolves before telling the rest of the pack."

I nodded.

"Okay, I'll call a meeting tomorrow. I swear you have nothing to worry about though. Everything will be fine." He gave me a salacious look. "In the meantime, I'd very much like to hear that breathy way you say my name one more time tonight."

He pulled me closer, kissing me passionately as he rolled over me.