

The Alpha's Little Rogue by Lovey Dovey #Chapter 21 - Read The Alpha's Little Rogue by Lovey Dovey Chapter 21

Chapter 21

Chapter 21 POV Alessia's POV I've started coming out of my room more often. Mostly to chat away with Scarlett, play with Lucy and the other kids, or simply to grab a quick snack from the kitchen. Today happens to be one of those days where I'm simply grabbing something from the kitchen. I reach up for the cupboard where the snacks such as Doritos and chips are kept. With a frustrated groan, I do in search of the stool I normally used to grab the snacks. Why they put them so high up was far beyond me. Do they think everyone was just naturally that tall? I drag the chair over and climb onto it, using it to open the cupboard and bring out the Doritos bag that had brought me out of my room in the first place. With a smile, I proceed to demount from the stool when the legs start wiggling. My eyes widen as I realize what is going to happen next. I clutch the Doritos to my chest as a form of support and brace myself for the impact which doesn't come. "Are you ok up there?" A voice calls out from below me. I look down to find bright blue eyes tw in k l i n g up at me with concern ingrained in them. The stranger got hold of the unstable chair and saved me from a painful fall. I quickly hop down from the death contraption and smile at the person who saved my a s s. "Thank you," I say. Then since this is the first time I'm meeting him- not including the few times that I've hand passed him in the hallway or sat across him at the dining table- I introduce myself, stretching out my for a handshake before I can stop myself. "I'm Alessia," I inform even though I'm sure he probably already heard about me from the rumors mill flying all around the pack house. Not trying to brag or anything but I'm the talk of the pack.

He smiles, looking down at my hand and accepting it. "I'm Jake. I'm a warrior of the pack," he introduces, holding my hand for a while longer than socially appropriate. I awkwardly pull my hand from his and shift on my foot, looking for a proper way out to head back to my room. "I and some other friends are playing some games in case you want to join us." He ends his request with a shrug letting me know that the choice is up to me, and that he wouldn't mind if I choose to escape to my room. I look at the place he gestured to and find a crowd of people, most of them my age and some looking older. They're all surrounding a table and playing what looks to be a card of game with alcohol at the side. I know wolves didn't get drunk so the alcohol was probably just there for fun. I chew on my bottom lip, conflicted on what to choose. Finally, I look back at Jake who's still standing dd MMB B BBBBBBBB Chapter 21 patiently and waiting for my answer. 95% 11:25 "Yes, I'd love to join you guys, I offer. "Though I'm not really good at cards. I grimace at the end of my words. That was an understatement. I sucked terribly at cards. He chuckles, heading for the fridge. "It's ok. It is not a serious game. We're just trying to while away time." he explains, pulling out a beer from the fridge and I breathe a sigh of relief. "You could just come sit with us and watch" I could do that. It doesn't seem like a big deal so I nod and follow him to the table where everyone is huddled together. "Guys, this Alessia, Jake announces, gesturing to me. "She's joining us." Heys, Hellos, and a

few smiles are thrown my way as I take a seat beside Jake on a couch. Jake rattles off some names that I try my d a m n e s t to memorize.

“So, Alessia where are you from?” A guy sitting at my other side asks, Frank I think was his name, and conversations hush as everyone turns to stare at me. I swallow. “From the neighboring town,” I answer, praying they don’t see through the lie. The guy opens up his mouth again, probably to ask another question but is cut off by Jake. “You all need to stop bothering my new friend. I don’t want you driving her away,” he jokes and everyone laughs, turning back to what they were doing before the question was brought up. I throw Jake an appreciative smile. He has officially saved me more than once. “Aren’t you playing?” I ask Jake, noticing another hand was being dealt but he didn’t get any cards. I tear into my Doritos and dig in. “I lost the last round so I have to wait until the next game. I suck at cards too,” he admits, smiling at me evilly as he dips his hand into my bag of Doritos. Normally, I wouldn’t let such behavior pass with me but on second thought, I decide that Jake isn’t all that bad so I let him have a share of my Doritos. However, he still finds the need to sneak and shove his hand in when he thinks I’m not looking. We watch the others play while munching on our snacks. Jake managed to get kicked out in the first round of the game so we have to wait for a long time before the second game starts. We both managed to lose in the first round again and are attacked by comments from all angles about how bad we were at the game. We ignore them and continue eating what would be our third bag of Doritos. We throw questions at each other while waiting for the next game so we could join again and probably lose in the first round again. All in all, this isn’t such a bad way to spend one’s afternoon.

Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Caden’s POV They’re laughing and having the time of their lives. 9% 11:25 I snarl as I watch Alessia throw back her head and laugh at something Jake whispered to her. I eye the non-existent space between them and my wolf growls just as I feel my claws dig into my palms. Before today, I haven’t taken much notice of Jake. He is my pack member and a fine warrior but he didn’t warrant any focus from me. As I watch him talking with my mate, I suddenly wish that I’d gotten rid of him a long time ago. Anything would have been better than seeing the two of them chatting away like they’ve known each other since forever. “I know that look on your face,” Rapheal taunts, looking at the view where my gaze is fixed. “They look like they’re close. I wonder how long- I don’t hear the rest of his words because I’m walking out of the pack house and heading straight for the woods even as my wolf hollers and screams for me to go back and get our mate away from Jake. A good, long run is exactly what I need. I’m not even deep in the woods before I’m shifting into my wolf with my clothes still on and ripping them into tiny pieces. Running around my boulders for a while, I try to push the image of Alessia and Jake out of my mind but end up failing. After a while, I give up and change back into human form. That’s when Alex and Raphael join me by my side in their wolf form. They shift into human form like me and Alex throws me a pair of jeans and a t-shirt from the bag he had been holding with his teeth. We all get dressed and start our daily patrol in

silence until Raphael breaks it by asking Alex a question. "How is the house coming along," he asks, looking towards Alex for an answer.

I also turn to face Alex, curious to hear what the answer will be. "They're doing the finishing touches. Scarlett and I should be set to move in next week." He has a huge grin on his face as he says this. I obvious that he's looking forward to leaving the pack house and living in his. new home with his mate. Scarlett is pregnant and the two of them decided to build a house for themselves and the kids like so many other mated couples did. Alex has been working on getting the house ready for the better part of a year, planning it even before Scarlett got pregnant. "We are going to miss you guys," Raphael injects and I silently agree with him. I'm going to feel the loss of my beta even if he's still going to be living close by. d' d' M M G G Chapter 22 BBB 95% 11:225 Alex shakes his head and clears his throat, trying to hide away the light moisture in his eyes. "Enough about me." He looks at me and I silently dread what is coming out of his mouth next. "What about you and Alessia? Raphael told me that you saw her with Jake and had an angry fit." At his words, I shoot a deadly glare to Raphael who shrugs with a smirk fixed on his lips. d. I groan, sniffing around for any unfamiliar scent before turning back to the conversation at hand. "Nothing is going on between us," I answer, shooting another glare at Raphael and his loud mouth. Hopefully, he'll find a mate of his own and stop sticking his nose in my business. "Then why haven't you rejected her?" Alex asks with an eye roll. Suddenly, I'm glad that he's going to be moving out of the pack house soon enough. I don't answer his question, instead focusing on checking out the boulders like they ought to be doing as well. "You aren't being fair to her," Raphael mumbles lowly and I whip my head to him. "You're stringing her along. You have no intention of even acknowledging that she's your mate yet you don't want to see her with other guys." He scoffs. "Sounds selfish to me if you ask me."

It's a good thing I didn't ask him then. I open my mouth to tell them to butt the hell out of my business. I know they have my best interest at heart but I was done listening to all this nonsense about Alessia and me. "You would have had to eventually arrange a marriage to another wolf even if you hadn't met her. The elders wouldn't have let you remain unmated forever." He glances my way. "You're lucky the Moon goddess gave you another chance. Don't throw it away." How can't they understand my reasoning for not wanting to acknowledge Alessia as my mate? They were the ones by my side when I lost Kiara and nearly also lost myself. They were the ones who helped me to keep my head straight. So why do they keep pestering me on this topic? "I don't want to hear another word on this topic." There were a few times that I had to reinforce that I was their Alpha. This was one of those times. "I don't appreciate having my decision questioned." They mutter words of understanding and I walk away from them, my head a loop of mashed-up thoughts. Why did the Moon goddess do this to me? Haven't I already suffered enough? Why did she feel the need to dangle a supposedly second chance mate just when I was coming to terms with losing the first one? Alessia draws danger to her wherever she goes. Maybe not intentionally but she sure as hell didn't try to avoid it. She wants to go head first into it and something tells me the danger is far greater than either one of us anticipates. If something happens to her, will I be able to survive losing another mate? MMB B B B B B B B B B

Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Alessia's POV A knock comes on my door and I furrow my brows, looking at the clock mounted on the wall that reads. eight pm. Who could be knocking at my door by this time? I push myself up, lift from my bed in my nightwear and move tentatively to the door. Caden stands on the other side with a bored expression on his face. "Get dressed in something and come on outside. We're going somewhere," he commands. He's dressed in a pair of jeans and a plain white T-shirt. Not something that is sleepwear appropriate. He's heading somewhere and plans on dragging me along with him. I hide a groan. "Do I have to?" The training for today had been more intense than usual and all I wanted to do was to sleep on a bed. "There's no one around and there's absolutely no way I'm leaving you all by yourself," he says, looking at me like he expected me to bolt past him and head for the door. This time, I don't hold back my groan. "I already said I'm not going to run away." He looks down at my current outfit. "Get dressed and come out," he husks out. "Where are we going to?" I ask, accepting fate. There's no use fighting with Caden on this. I'm sure to lose. this round. "You'll find out when we get there. Just get dressed and come and meet me downstairs." He turns around before he can see the glare I shoot his way. With another groan, I slam the door loud enough for him to hear and dig into the closet, looking for an appropriate outfit for an occasion I didn't know. I finally settled on a pair of jeans and a shirt, something similar to what Caden was wearing since that was all the clue I got. If I happen to be overdressed or underdressed, it will be Caden's problem. In fact, maybe embarrassing him a little will teach him something. I finish dressing up and head down to meet with Caden as he basically ordered. When I get downstairs I notice something off. The pack house is usually quiet at this time of the day

but never this much. I couldn't even hear a single snore and everywhere was eerily silent. Where did everyone go to? "Where's everyone," I ask Caden when I join him. 1/3 Chapter 23 UZ N95% 11:26 "They're in the woods, he answers, walking ahead of me, I follow him. "What are they doing in the woods?" I ask again, tired of his vague answers and monotone replies. o answer my We step out of the house, heading in the direction of the wood when Caden finally decides to questions with a straight answer. "Alex and Scarlett are moving out of the pack house next week and into their new home and the pack members decided to throw them a farewell party," he grunts, leading us deeper into the woods. I knew that not everyone lived at the pack house. It wouldn't have contained all of them. I just didn't know that pack members threw a farewell party in celebration. Is it just Caden's pack that does that? Or is it because the people leaving are the beta and his mate? Either way, it was nice to know that they all went out of their way to do something this thoughtful for them. I followed him for the rest of the way without any complaints, actually excited to see how the party his. I hear the music and the sound of people talking before we get there. I smile as I see the designs and decorations set up. It must have been hard for them to set all this up in record time. Caden disappears out of the blue, leaving me alone, even though I know that he's definitely watching me wherever he is. I go in search of the celebrants. I may have not been here for long but I had made a friendship with Scarlett so it was only right that I congratulate her on her new home.

Finding both Alex and Scarlett together, I walk over to them with a smile on my face which Scarlett returns when she sees me approaching them. "Congratulations," I say to both of them. Scarlett pulls me into a tight hug and keeps me at arm's length when she pulls away. "Our house isn't very far from the pack house. You're always welcome to come visit us if you something," she tells me, a wide grin on her face, her eyes sparkling. I nod, keeping it at the back of my mind. After chatting with Scarlett for a bit, I discreetly moved away so that the other guests could get to her. Then I grab a bottle of drink and go in search of a quiet place to rest off my tired muscles. I find an old log of wood on the floor at the far end of the party and take a seat on it. It gives me a perfect view of everything happening around me. Watching the crowd of people dancing and chatting together, I feel an ache of sadness form within me. Is this what it's like when you belong to a pack of your own? You're thrown a party and told about how 2/3 of the pack will be away. deeply you'll be missed when you move. Will I ever experience something of this sort for myself? My mom was my constant and forever until she wasn't. I've never belonged to a pack and I've never wished to belong to one because I never knew what I was missing. Being here and surrounded by all these people who were here for Alex and Scarlett leaves me feeling empty. Somehow, I wish that I'd get to experience this for myself one day. -σ & MMB BBBBBBB BBI

Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Alessia's POV *PZN 957 17:26 I sit alone, wallowing in self-pity and tired to the f u c k i n g bone. What had started out as a wonderful night has now left me depressed and more tired than I was before. Sighing. I lean back against the tree behind me, wondering when Caden will deem it fit for us to go back to the pack house. It isn't going to be anytime soon that's for sure. "I thought I saw you," A voice says from above me and I look up to find Jake staring down at me with a beam on a face. "Hey, I say, my mood lifting up a little with the presence of my new friend. He lowers himself and sits on the log with me. "How are you enjoying the party?" He drops the bottle in his hand onto the sand. "It's fun. I may not have done much since I got here but even then I have to admit that the party is lively. My sullen mood just won't let me make the most of it Since I have Jake beside me, someone who has been a member of the pack forever, I ask him the question on my mind, "Do you all throw a party for anyone moving out of the pack house?" I ask, turning my body a bit to the side to face him. He smiles as though remembering fun memories. "We mostly do. Though sometimes, we just have a special dinner when we can't find the time to throw something of this sort. He gestures to the extravagant decorations around us. "And Alex and Scarlett have important places in the pack so it was a must that this party was held." Turning to face me. "Why did you ask?" I shake my head, turning the face of the party again. "No reason. Was just wondering." "You guys didn't do this at your pack?" He asks. I stiffen. This is the first question that Jake has asked me in relation to my other life and I think he just realized that

too. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to p r o d," he rushes out, looking frightened at the prospect of upsetting me. Sighing, I shake my head. "You didn't p r o d and no, we didn't do this from where I'm from." Jake was my friend and he deserved to be told a little truth. "I didn't live with a pack," I whisper lowly, praying that somehow he wouldn't hear me. But

he did. His breath hitch. "You're a rouge?" He sounds more surprised than anything and that gives me hope that he won't suddenly start avoiding me. add MM BBBBBBBBBBBB Chapter 24 "Yes, I am," I confess, waiting to see what the verdict is. Is he going to start avoiding me or is this moment going to provide me with a trustworthy friend? I wait on bated breath for his next words or action. "That must have been hard on you," he says and my head whips in his direction to find him giving me a look that I could only describe as sympathetic. "I can't imagine not being in this pack. How do you do it?" My eyes water, the sadness within me encompassing at his question. 1126 His hand falls to mine resting on the log. "You have a pack now." He smiles weakly. "You may not have the pack link but you have me as a friend and I would love to be in a pack with you. I turn away, blinking rapidly to hide the tears trying to escape. I didn't expect this. "Enough about this emotional c r a p. He chuckles, standing up and downing the rest of his drink in one go. Then he drops the bottle back onto the floor and smiles at me mischievously. "Do you want to see something cool?" I nod without thinking and follow him further into the woods, not caring about what Caden may do when he finds out that I left. Jake leads us further and further into the woods until he stops at a...cliff? rocks. It's breathtaking and I stare at it in

1 inch closer and look down the edge to see waves crashing into awe, mesmerized by the way the tides and waves seem to be at war. "It's beautiful," I breathe out, still looking at the sight down the cliff. "It's one of the best places in the pack. A lot of people know about it but at night, it's the perfect place to sneak away to for a little me time." He looks over to me, lifting a brow. "Do you want to jump in?" My eyes widen as I look down at the rocks I can see in the water. Someone could get seriously injured if they landed on them. "Nah, I'm good," I say, inching away from the edge, my self-preservation skills kicking in. "Suit yourself. I'm going in." He whips off his shirt and shoes, and jumps in, screaming along the way. Waiting, I search for any sign of him in the bottomless water and let out a sigh of relief when his head pops out. "This is f u c k i n g awesome," he yells out and I laugh, lowering myself down to the ground and sitting at the edge to watch him play around in the water. He gets out of the water about half an hour later all wet and dripping. He shakes his hair, spraying the water all over me like a dog. Well technically, he is one. I shriek, hiding my face behind my hand. "Am I going to go back to the party in this state?" I ask. "No." He bends down and picks up his discarded shoes and clothes. "I'm going to call it a night and head 2/3 ✓ MM BBBBBBBBBBBB I Chapter 24 back to the pack house." He looks over at me. "Are you coming?" UX N 95% 11:26 I pondered for a moment. I know Caden has probably noticed my disappearance by now and is

looking everywhere for me and I'm dreading the inevitable screaming that's going to take place. "Yes, I'll go with you." I'll deal with Caden tomorrow. Right now, I just want to sink into my bed.

Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Alessia's POV 95% 11:26 As expected, I got the screaming of a lifetime the next day and Caden took out his anger on me the next few days at training. It's been a

week now and I can still feel his gaze digging a hole into my back, watching my every move like a hawk. It's all so suffocating and g o d d a m n annoying. Exhaling loudly, I sink into the sofa in the living room, the only place aside from my room that I'm permitted to be in. Even with being confined in this tiny space, Caden's watchful gaze follows my every movement from the place he sat at the other end of the room with Raphael. Alex and Scarlett moved out two days back and for someone that I've only known for a few weeks, I miss her presence already. The front door opens, revealing Scarlett with Alex right behind her as though summoned by my thoughts. up, smiling as I walk over to her to be engulfed in a big warm hug. I stand "How are you doing?" She asks, squeezing me tighter. "I'm good." I pull away from her when I feel something poking me in the belly. I look down and my eyes widen at the sound of another heartbeat coming from Scarlett's body. The bump isn't all that noticeable unless you're looking at it closely. "You're pregnant." I try my best to keep my voice as low as I can. I haven't heard any news about her pregnancy around so she may be trying to keep it on the down low. I don't want to be the one to ruin her fun. She nods excitedly, her eyes sparkling with joy and her skin glowing with what I can only assume to be a result of her impending motherhood. She's radiant. "The crib just came in today. Do you want to see the crib?" She's practically bouncing on her feet and I know that she's just downright giddy at the prospect of showing me said crib.

I nod without thinking and my mood deflates as I remember Caden's insistent on me not leaving the pack house. "I'm sorry. I can't come with you to see it." I give her a sad smile to display my apology. "Why not?" Her face is crestfallen and I m e n t a l l y curse Caden to hell at the look on her face. I throw a pointed look to where he sitting and chatting with her mate and Rapheal. "He won't let me even step out of the front door," I grumble, already at my whisk end with this house imprisonment. It is not like I had anywhere to go but since this house arrest has been placed on me, I find that I suddenly want to go to a lot of places. Seriously, anywhere would do. A & M MB B B B BBB BU Chapter 25 She glares in their direction and starts stalking there before I can hold her back to talk some sense into her. I catch a few words that she says to Caden on the other side of the room and with each word my eyes widen even further. It ranges from something about Caden being an a s s h o l e to her wanting to shove something up his... behind. Is she trying the get herself killed? I know that she's the beta female but there has to be a limit to the leinancy that she can have. Ridden with fear for Scarlett and her baby, I watch as Caden's face turns into different shades of red. Then Scarlett walks back to me with a victorious smile on her face that leaves me in a state of confusion. "He said you could leave the house," she announces, grinning widely. I immediately turn my gaze to Caden, getting a whiplash in the process. Caden is staring at is with a grim expression on his face but he does nothing when Scarlett takes my hand and drags me to the door leading outside. I hold my breath until we're outside the house, not wanting to jinx this sudden change of fate. "How did you do that?" I ask incredulously, puzzled as to how she used mere seconds to achieve something that I've been trying to do for days. "Let's just say that I know things that would make him very sorry," she replies smugly and I stare at

her in awe. "Let's go see the crib now." She claps her hands together and starts skipping ahead of me. I watch her worriedly but thankfully she doesn't trip on the five-minute journey to her house. Admiring the house in front of me, I take it in and all its glory. The walls are painted with an off-white color and the front door is a warm brown color. I walk to the porch, standing on a you're welcome mat placed outside the front door. The overall home has a homey vibe that is completed with a tiny overhead light. She opens the front door and lets me in. "Let's go and see the crib," she squeals, dragging me before I can take in my environment but from the few things I could see, the house is beautiful inside as it is on the outside. She pulls me into a room that is obviously designed for a baby. It's painted in a light blue hue with drawings of stars and wolves. Two of the wolves were leaning toward each other lovingly. Alex and Scarlett's wolves. The wooden crib is sitting in the middle of the room and is painted white. It looks like it has been taken off the front page of a baby magazine. Their baby is going to be protected by both his or her parents. They hadn't even arrived into this world. 2/3
Chapter 25 MMB BBBBBBBBBB and yet, they were already greatly loved. Z 95% 11:26 I want to have this. I want to have a baby that I can love and dote on. Sadly, I don't think I can have that with Caden as my mate. 田

Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Alessia's POV Ever since Alex and Scarlett moved out of the pack house, my new sitting partner has become Jake. Whenever it's time for dinner, Jake gives me a small smile and pats the seat beside him in invitation. I've been having my dinner with him ever since and it hasn't changed. What also hasn't changed is the glare I always feel on the side of my face whenever I'm seated beside Jake. A glare that I'm feeling right now. Jake makes a funny remark about something from his teenage days and I find myself laughing. My ears perk up at the sound of a low growl coming from the other end of the table. I look over there, meeting Caden's black eyes and gritting teeth then I quickly turn my attention back to Jake, not wanting him to notice Caden staring at us. Jake goes silent beside me and I turn to face him to find him looking at the end of the table where Caden is seated. "Why does Alpha Caden keep staring this way?" He looks at me confused. "Is there something going on between you two?" Deny. That's the first thing that comes to my mind so that's exactly what I do. "Of course not." I scoff. In the past week, I've managed to make Jake believe that I had an issue that I escaped from and that Caden had been the one to help me with it. "He's just a friend of mine who lent me a helping hand when I needed it." The growl on the other end of the table gets louder, drawing the attention of the other people seated around the table. Though none of them dare to ask Caden what the issue is. It doesn't take a genius to know that Caden is listening in on our conversation and apparently, he doesn't like what he's hearing. "I'm done here. Do you want to go outside to the porch?" I ask Jake, standing up with my emptied plate in my hand. "Sure," he answers, standing up with his plate and following behind me into the kitchen. We place our plates in the sink and head on outside to the porch. There are a few people seated

around. but overall, it's a quiet night and the cool breeze warms my skin. Outside with us is a couple, far away from us but it's still very visible that they're cuddling up with

each other. The guy has his arms wrapped around the girl while she's sitting on his lap and resting her head on his chest. Jake is watching the couple as well with a wistful and longing gaze. It's one that I've seen on several occasions and one that I've always tried to ignore because truthfully, it's none of my business. Jake's gaze catches onto mine before I can turn my head away. He gives me a smile that doesn't reach his eyes. "Do you ever wonder if I have a mate?" AJ JAN B B B B B GB BGG Chapter 26 UZN It's a question that I've asked myself a few times. Most of the wolves around Jake's age have found their mates. Except for a few like Raphael. I have wondered why Jake hadn't found his yet but I knew it would be insensitive to ask him, especially when I was keeping secrets from him. He chuckles at my silence. "I'll take that as a yes" With a sigh, he falls back on the ground, gazing up at the stars. "I've been looking for my mate ever since I turned eighteen. I've visited packs and searched everywhere possible for her." I follow his movement, lying down on my back and keeping quiet, not wanting him to stop talking. "Six years later. I gave up and I haven't searched for her ever since," he laughs bitterly. "I keep seeing everyone my age with their mate and starting a family together. Decided that maybe she just doesn't exist or maybe she's dead." I suck in a breath at his words, feeling the cloud of sadness surrounding him. I have no words to comfort him so I keep quiet, hoping that my presence may just provide some feeling of companionship. I decided to give him a little truth too. "I-i found my mate recently, I mutter in a low voice, not wanting anyone else to catch wind of my words. Jake shuffles, leaning on his side to face me. "You did?"

"Yes." I sit up, needing to prepare myself for the words coming next. "He hates me and I don't know why but I wish he didn't." I rub my suddenly itchy eyes. "It's stupid because we act as though the other doesn't exist and anytime we try to talk, it ends in a fight." I hear Jake moving beside me and then I feel his hand on my back. "It's not stupid. He's your mate and you're going to feel emotions for him that you'll have no way of controlling." I confide in him a bit more, saying something that I'm not willing to admit to even myself. I'm thinking of rejecting him. The words come out and my heart squeezes, aching at the thought of it. "No! Zuri hollers, whimpering at my words. You can't do that! We need Caden." I ignore her, pushing our barrier up and locking her away. This isn't something that I just thought of in the spur of the moment. It's something that I've been debating over for weeks now ever since I learnt about the possibility of rejecting one's mate. "A-are you sure about that?" Jake stutters, disbelief evident in his voice. I know how it must sound to him- someone who has been looking for his mate for the better part of his life- but unfortunately, even some of us with a mate still have it difficult. If Caden isn't going to reject me then I'll just have to. ađ & HNB B B B B BBBBI

Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Caden's POV 95% 11226 My ears twitch as I listen in on their conversation. What could he be saying that's making her laugh that hard! My lips curl, releasing a growl when I hear her tell him that I'm simply a friend of hers. A fuckin' friend?! Is that what they're calling one's mate NOW! I'm very much aware that I have no excuse for my behavior. Alessia may be my mate but I've never treated her as such. In my defense, I also haven't rejected her. She doesn't have the right to court someone else

when I'm still her mate. Though, I don't know if she fancies him or is simply a friend to him but why else would she be laughing so hard at his jokes that aren't even all that funny? The most annoying part of it all is that I can't do anything without raising a few brows. People are definitely going to wonder what our relationship is if I go across the dining table and drag her away from Jake. It doesn't stop me from considering the option though. And then the fuckin' bitch dared to excuse herself and leave the dining hall with Jake following behind like a lost puppy. Didn't he have anything to do other than stick himself to Alessia? Am I not giving the warriors enough tasks? This is on you, Raphael mind links and my gaze goes away from Alessia's empty seat to Raphael who's sitting beside me and eating away like he didn't just instigate something that could blow into a fight. I hold myself back. What is on me?" I mind link back, taking the path of acting clueless. I want to believe that the stern warning I gave to him and Alex was enough to make him back down. 'It's your fault that Jake is all over her and it's also your fault that you can't do anything but watch them. He

gives up the pretense of eating and smirks my way, knowing that there's nothing I can do to him in this crowded dining hall. I grit my teeth, my claws digging into my chair. I hate Raphael annoying a s s and I most especially hate the fact that he's right. Abruptly standing up from my seat, the chair drags loudly on the ground, drawing everyone's focus away from their meal to me. Giving one last glare to Raphael and ignoring the awkward stares directed my way, I start heading for the door where Alessia and Jake walked out. My footsteps stall until I come to a stop, staring at the image in front of me. My vision blur as a rage none like anything I've ever felt curls around my spine. Jake, the person who's about to be a dead man very soon, has his hand on my mate's shoulders as he 1/3 J JAMB B G BBBBBB MPBBBBBBBBBBI Chapter 27 94 11:26 whispers something to her. They talking in hushed voices and try as I may, I couldn't pick up anything from the conversation, not unless I risked going closer to them. Alessia smiles at him and the rage burns like an inferno of hell. My wolf is growling and drawing his fangs out, wanting to show Jake what happened to people who lay hands on our mate. I force him to stay back, deciding on another route. If I can't find a way to stop Jake from getting closer to Alessia without drawing eyebrows then I'll just have to try out another option. Turning around on my heels, I go straight for Alessia's room. Opening the door, I don't bother with the light and go to an armchair in the corner, ready to wait for her appearance. It doesn't take long for Alessia to walk back into her room. As soon as she walks in, she stiffens, clearly seeing me in the shadows.

"What are you doing here?" Her footsteps sound on the hardboard as she walks over to me. The moonlight streaming in through the open window illuminates her as she advances to me. I stand up and meet her halfway. "I want you to stop seeing Jake," I command, going straight to the point. Alessia's mouth falls open. She gape at me in an expression that I can only describe as incredulous. Then that expression turns to anger and her eyes flash black. "Who the fuck do you think you are to dictate to me who I can and can't befriend?" She cocks her head to the side. "Your mate." As soon as the words leave my mouth, I immediately know that I've fucked up. Perhaps that's why I did what I do next. Alessia's mouth falls open and just as she's about to produce what I know will be lashing words, I pull her into my arms and silence her with a kiss. Her lips

are stiff beneath mine as I press her tighter into my body, the kiss that had simply been to keep her quiet morphs into something more. My hand slides up her back to her neck, holding her still for my exploration. Just as I'm sure that she's going to be standing still throughout the kiss, Alessia lets out a soft moan, and her lips part. I take advantage of the opportunity, sliding my tongue into her mouth for a taste. A groan forms at the back of my throat just as Alessia's arms snake around my neck. My sweatpants press uncomfortably to my now hard c o c k and Alessia's arousal fills the air. That's when I realize that things had gotten out of hand and that I need to put a stop to it. Having one last taste of her lips, I pull away, breathing harshly through my mouth. It unnerves me that no amount of workout has left me this breathless, yet just a few seconds of kissing Alessia has this effect on me. It also comforts me to find Alessia in the same state as I am; lips red and bruised, eyes nearly black and glazed over with her hot breath fanning my face. Chapter 27 I lower my lips to her ears and hear her breathe hitch. "I don't want to see you talking with Jake again, i whisper, taking her lobe between my teeth and biting on Alessia moans, still holding onto my aims.

I pull away from her, leaving her in her dared state, and exit her room into the hallway where I take a moment to collect myself. SEND GIFT

Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Alessia's POV Caden is avoiding me. And he isn't even bothering to hide the fact that he is 3 Z At first, it was restricted to ignoring my every presence but now, he's pawing me off to Raphael. "Raphael will be the one spar with you today," Caden says // already making a move to leave my sight. Raphael stands awkwardly to the side, eyeing Caden and me worriedly and looking like he doesn't want to be in the middle of whatever is happening. I have nothing against Raphael but he isn't the person I made a deal with. "Why aren't you training me yourself. I ask, waiting for a lame excuse. "I can't always be training you. I have other pack members I have to attend to as well." Looking over to Raphael. "Don't go easy on her," he says giving Raphael a pointed look and Raphael nods. Then Caden is walking away and heading over to a young man. I watch as he directs the man and corrects his posture. Sighing. I turn to face Raphael who smiles sheepishly at me. "I promise that I tried to make him reconsider but whatever happened between you two must have been really serious. He gives me a sad smile. "I may not be as good as Caden but I'm an awesome trainer. Don't worry, you're in good hands." I smile back at him. It's not his fault that Caden is being an a s s and it wouldn't be right to put on a sullen mood. Brightening up at his words, I walk over to the mat. "Come on then." I c o k a finger at him and take up my position. Raphael is a good fighter, maybe even as good as Caden. I have difficulty holding up my own and by the end of the training, I'm panting and dripping with sweat. "That was a good training. You're getting really good." Raphael wipes his forehead with the back of

his palm. I beam at the praise. "Thanks," I mumble, my gaze going back to Caden before I carr help it. He's all over Julianna who seems to be having the time of her life and failing on purpose just to have his arms on her. Caden seems not to notice this ploy and looks to be genuinely interested in helping her out. I roll my eyes, fighting back the

tiny sting of hurt in my chest. I find Raphael staring at me sympathetically and I lower my head, ashamed that he noticed me staring at them. "I'm going to go back to the pack house," I announce. My clothes were sticking onto my body and I'm 1/3 d' d' M M B B Chapter 28 irritated with Caden. A cold bath is exactly what I need to relieve this stress. "Sure. We're through for the day. It was nice training with you." He walks away, heading over to a cute girl I mainly see him with. I wonder what's going on there. I head on outside, going straight to the pack house where I'm planning to stay for the rest of the day. Ever since Jake has been assigned to an assignment outside of the pack- somehow, I know Caden has to be behind it I've been left to my device. So now, all I do is train, hide away in my room, eat, and then repeat the process again. I added a little extra routine earlier this week and it includes cursing Caden into the hell of eternal d a m n a t i o n. Today isn't going to be any different. "Alessia," a voice calls out. A voice belonging to Caden, the current bane of my existence. I halt, contemplating if it would be wise to face him when my emotions are still very raw. "What do you need?" I bite out. "Are you done training Julianna? Doesn't she need you to help her with finding her footing?" I cringe as soon as the words are out of my mouth. I sound like an obsessive jealous girlfriend and I'm so far from it that it's almost laughable. "This is what I was afraid of." His words hang in the air and I turn around to face him. "What is that?" I ask snarky, not able to keep the hurt out of my voice.

"This, he punctuates, gesturing to my person. "You're acting as though I promised you something when I didn't. I haven't accepted you as my mate yet you act like I hurt you." The blood running through my veins boils in an uncontrollable anger. "You kissed me!" I yell out, the frustration from the past few days pouring out of me in waves. "You came into my room and you kissed me!" He has the dignity to at least look a bit ashamed but then it's quickly gone just as soon as it came. "I admit that I'm at fault for that and I'll willing to accept the responsibility for any ideas that it may have given you." A pause and his eyes were saddened. "It was just a little kiss and nothing more. It would be foolish to make it into something more. Something that it isn't." My eyes sting and I clench my fist until I'm sure that my knuckles could cr a k. "I wouldn't dream of it," I grit my teeth and force myself to hold back the tears trying to escape. "Alessia, I'm sorry if I hurt you. It wasn't my intention." He truly looks like he's genuinely sorry: Well, f u c k his feelings. His apology means nothing to me. They don't matter at all. Not when I'm planning 10 put an end to this... whatever it's we have. If I was having second doubts before then this situation has solidified the fact that this isn't going to work out for us. I'm going to do it. I'm going to reject Caden and put an end to all this. 2/3

Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Alessia's POV I wake up feeling hot all over. My forehead is warm when I place the back of my palm on it. What's happening? Could I be falling sick? Weren't werewolves immune to illness? With a pained groan, I drag myself out of bed and into the bathroom to freshen up. I can't afford to miss a day of training when Caden is being an a s s. He'll probably take it as an opportunity to end my training The shower cools me down and I spend a longer time in it than I normally would. It's still fairly early in the morning when I head downstairs. Early enough that the living area is void of any soul.

This was the time I usually got up to head to the training grounds. It's the time that Caden set for me to have extra training lessons before others came by. Still feeling a slight headache and fever, I change my direction from the front door to the kitchen, hoping to find something to alleviate this illness. I halt in my step as I see a figure standing in front of the coffee maker. Jake." I call out, looking at his familiar brunette hair. I didn't expect him to be back so soon. He turns around, a smile fixed on his face. "Alessi-" The smile on his face disappears as his eyes widen and his nostrils flare. His eyes darken, nearly turning black. "Alessia, go away. Leave right now." He rounds the kitchen Island, not turning his back to me. My brows furrow in confusion and I move closer to him. "What's wrong? Is everything ok?" I ask, starting to get a little worried at this weird behavior. A sharp pain has me clenching my head, heaving and gasping at the immense pain. What in the hell is happening to me? Am I dying? "Alessia, you're in heat," he rushes out. "You need to go back to your room. I can't be around you right now. in the doorway leading out of the kitchen. The Please, go away," he begs desperately, eyeing my positi

only way out of here. I hear him but at the same time, my focus is on the throbbing in my head. "Alessia," he groans, his eyes darkening. Then he groans again and walks purposely towards me. He grips me by the forearm and starts pulling me towards the stairs. Not being able to fight him, I follow willingly, feeling like my head might just explode. I'm in heat. I know what that means. I need Caden to mark or mate with me, unless I'm going to be in unimaginable pain for a while. Jake is still dragging me and cursing harshly under his breath. Something about him not being cut out for 1/3 J 1 3 94 11:27 Chapter 29 this. I ignore him, too focused on my pain. What am I going to do? I need Caden but I know that there's no way in hell that he's going to think of even touching me. He hates me. Me being in unimaginable pain and despair isn't going to change that. Just as we reach the front of my door, my knees buckle and I fall down, grasping at the floor with my nails as blinding pain flashes behind my eyelids. Godddd, I don't think I can survive this pain. There has to be something I can do. At this point, I'm willing to do anything to get rid of this pain. "Mate," Zuri whines. "We need mate. We can't have him. I yell inwardly, not having the strength required to deal with a whining wolf. Jake is looking down at me worriedly, his eyes going over my hunched form on the ground. "You need your mate's help. F u c k that. If I can't get what I need from Caden then I'll just get it from somewhere else. I force myself onto my feet and move closer to Jake who tentatively steps back, looking ready to

bolt at any second. Jake, please help me." I don't exactly know what I'm begging for but I just know that I'll be able to get it from him. "It hurts so much," I beg, whining as another sharp pain hits me, nearly bringing me back to my knees. Jake's eyes are completely black now and his tongue slides out, running across his lips as he inches closer to me. I sigh, knowing I'm going to get the help I need. His fingertips graze my face as he cups my cheek and- A second later, Jake is on the floor and a raging Caden is on him, plummeting him to the ground. "How dare you lay hands on my mate?!" Caden growls. No, that's not Caden. It's Xavier. 1 gasp, my head reeling from the sudden change but thankfully, I have the brain to react quick enough. "Caden," I call out, rushing to them. "Stop it. You're going to kill him," I pull on his arm, trying and failing

to get him off Jake's unmoving form. Is he dead? My hands slip away from Caden's arm as I curl into a ball on the floor, my eyes stinging as another wave of pain hits me. Suddenly, I feel myself being lifted from the floor and held by a warm body. I sigh, burying my face into a muscular neck and breathing in their scent. They smell so f u c k i n g good. Will they taste this good too? Without thinking, my tongue slides out and I run it up the muscular neck, feeling the pulse beating widely. Hmm, they don't taste as good as I would expect but that's probably due to the fact that I'm licking a skin. I can't seem to make myself stop though. I fist my hands into the front of their shirt and bury my face Chapter 29 deeper into the place where their shoulder meets with their neck. More. I need more. So much more.

Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Caden's POV I'm physically fighting with myself. Forcing my wolf to stay back and fighting the urge to slam Alessia into her bed and take her like I so badly want to. Her licking and sucking on my neck like it's her very own popsicle isn't helping matters. I gasp- f u c k i n g gasp as her teeth sink into my skin, not deep enough that she's marking me but enough for it to send shock waves directly to my c o c k. Power walking into the bathroom, I place her on the counter and quickly put some foot between us. Not that it helps with my predicament because no matter what I do, Alessia's scent keeps whiffing into my nose. It's encompassing the whole room and I don't know how long I can fight it. "Undress," I bite out, clenching my fist and fighting the desire to do it for her. I remind myself that placing a hand on her will make all my good intentions fly right out of the window. Alessia hurriedly peels off her sticky clothes from her sweaty body. I force myself to keep my eyes fixed on her flushed face. Looking further down will break my resolve. Alessia kicks off her last piece of clothing- a cotton white panties which I can see in my peripheral view. Just that sight has my c o c k turning harder than steel. She is peeping at me beneath her lashes, observing me like a predator would to a prey. "Caden," she drags out on a breathless moan, and then I'm visibly shaking from the force I'm exacting to hold back. Her hands slide down the front of her body and my decision of not looking at her rips into shreds. I follow her hand through the valley of her breast and watch with bated breath as her legs fall open, revealing a soaking wet pink p u s s y. I groan, gripping the front of my pants to stop myself from coming like a pre-teen. Alessia doesn't stop there. Her fingers slide down further until they're pressed against her c l i t. With a moan, her head falls back on the mirror behind her, exposing her slender neck that begs to bear my mark.

My fangs slide out of my mouth, wanting to sink into Alessia's neck. Closing my eyes, I count to ten, thinking of the grossest thing I can come up with to take my mind off Alessia's beautiful body laid out on the counter for me. When I start feeling like I've got everything back under control, I peel my eyes open slowly, and like a dream, Alessia is still sitting on the counter with her legs spread open. I walk over to her, quietly closing her thighs shut before I lose control of myself. Then I pick her up again and head for the shower. Alessia hangs on my body, this time she's biting and G 3 1 Chapter 30 pulling on my earlobes and it's almost as arousing as when it was my neck. Walking into the bathroom with all my clothes on, I put on a struggle with Alessia to stand on her feet but

she insistently holds onto my neck until I concede. I turn on the shower head, placing it at the lowest temperature. We both need this cold shower. As soon as the water hits us, Alessia squeals and jumps out of my hold, pressing her back to the bathroom wall to avoid the harsh water. Moving closer to her, I draw her back into my hold. "You need it. It'll help you feel so much better," I explain, pressing her face into my chest and running my hand down her back. Being close to me- her mate- will also help reduce the ache. This much I can give to her. "Caden, I-i-" she clutches the front of my soak-through t-shirt, burying her face deeper into my chest and making me reconsider my choices.. Is it wise to have Alessia this close to me? "Please. I need you." Her head lifts and she gazes into mine, her eyes shining with tears. "It hurts too much." Her nails are now digging into my skin, leaving crescent marks that will be gone in the next minute. "Alessia," I grit out with a pained groan, conflicted with myself.

Alessia's hand starts trailing again, but this time, it's my body she's exploring. I stiffen, holding my breath as her hand falls to the front of my sweatpants...and then she squeezes. Before either one of us realizes what's happening, I have Alessia back in my hold again and I'm power- walking back into the bedroom. Alessia clothes are thrown at all areas of the room and I ignore them, heading for the big bed and swiping down the rest of her striped clothes to the floor. I place her in the middle and shrug out of my disgusting wet clothes that are starting to dry on my body. I leave my boxer on as a last act of self-control then I'm lowering my body into Alessia's opened arms and. locking my lips with hers. At first, I thought for sure that my mind had blown our previous kiss out of proportion, making it into this insane make-out that I never could get out of my head. I was wrong. In fact, I have reason to believe that I undermined the kiss, reducing it into something less because I couldn't bear to keep away after tasting those lips. Alessia sighs into the kiss and her legs fall open, pressing the outline of my c o c k into her p u s s y. Event through the weak boxer, I can feel her wet p u s s y pressed into my c o c k and I can f u c k i n g smell it. Can almost taste it. What difference will it make o take a little more from her? As long as we didn't mate or mark each other, σ A W Chapter 30 94% 11:27 the rules. then I could have a few more stolen tastes. I just have to get my freaking c o c k under control and a b i d e by