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Ensuring the paper was buried far beyond where I could see I stormed off in the opposite direction, so many thoughts swirled through my head. 1

Buried memories resurfaced and with them a barrage of emotions I had no intentions of dealing with.

How dare she? How fucking dare she think she could call herself my mother.

"Ahhhhh. That bitch" I yelled.

"Seems you have a thing for cursing, we'll have to get rid of that habit. But no worries, I'm here to help"

I rolled my eyes, "Not now Sage"

"When princess?"

"Stop calling me that." A groan slipped past my lips.

"You already know my response to that princess."

" You're never giving up are you?"

"Not in a lifetime"

"Good thing I'll live longer than you"

"Whatever let's you sleep at night princess" he walked up to me, "who upset you?" How voice came out low

I scoffed, " acting like you're innocent and actually care. Tired of deceiving the rest of the pack?"

"Who knows?" He shrugged, then leaned in, "you might just fall for my charm. Now, who hurt you? stop trying to change the topic" his pupils sharp as ever locked into mine.

"Stop looking at me that way" I mumbled, my toes curling.

"Like what" he asked, gazed fixed on mine, his hands toyed with a strand of my hair, his breath fanned mine. I could hear my heart try to pound its way out of my chest.

"Like you want to devour me" I mumbled.

"Maybe I do want to devour you, what do you say princess?" he took my hands in his, biting down softly, my body tingled at the contact.

My cheeks flushed, I snatched my hands away instantly, "You...." I glared at him.

"Yes... me?" He asked shamelessly,

"Pervert" I spat.

"If spending time with my mate makes me one, then I don't see anyone complaining" he argued, his eyes lazily sweeping around.

"Doesn't mean you can just do whatever you want" I grumbled, what the hell was wrong with his brain.

Lena squealed, "Face it Lilith, sooner than later you're going to give in to the bond. Better let it happen naturally"

I ignored her, crazy wolf. I refuse to let either her or her mate get to me. I turned and began walking in the opposite direction of where Sage stood.

I could hear his heavy footsteps trailing behind me, making no attempt to hide his presence.

" Why can't you just let me be?" I wondered.

"There's no you and there's no me. There's only an US princess" he said casually like it was the most normal thing in the world like he didn't know how much I detested his presence, how much I craved — no not crave, I didn't want him right?

Keep lying to your self Lilith" a tiny voice replied,

"Get off my head" I snapped at it, pushing down everything. It must be this stupid bond.

Yes, the stupid bond was trying to corrupt me.

"Let it happen princess, even your body is more truthful than you" he whistled from behind.

I raised my hand, tempted to turn and give him a hard smack, but controlling the urges I forced my hand down.

"Let me be Sage" I could hear the exhaustion in my own voice, he was wearing me down.

"Sure princess. Just a kiss to wish the monster away" he said like it was the easiest thing.

" What are you? A Disney Prince?"

"No. But you'd find that kiss will be definitely worth more than you're letting on" he said almost eagerly.

Great. Not only am I mated to a psychopathic maniac he was a horny pervert too, a kiss. Seriously.

Outwardly I was calmly walking but I was a mess inwardly, his footsteps and presence kept messing with my thoughts.

His scent clouded my senses, I could literally feel the electric spark between us, how the heck am I supposed to think if he won't go away.

"His lips don't look bad. You can kiss him away princess" a voice mocked.

No. I snapped at the voice. But it was already too late, the corners of my eye had already caught sight of those red, slender, pouty lips that looked so welcoming.

They were nothing like that bastard's Cruz, damn, to think my life has revolved around him at some point.

"Keep drooling and I might get the wrong idea princess" a voice said, right into my ear.

"Ahh" I nearly jumped out of my skin. "What the hell" I turned to source only for my fore head to crash right into a pillar, no a chest.

I rubbed my forehead, ready to flare at him only for my breath to hitch, he was impossibly close to me, I stepped back, but he dragged me closer..

"W...w...what are you doing? Let go of me" I stammered, flustered.

"About that kiss princess" he leaned down to my height but stopped, not moving forward or backward, his two arms locked on my waist that I couldn't move, his body taking up my space, I could literally feel his heartbeat. It was calm, like a river.

"Release me" I gritted, "people will see" my voice lowered of their own accord, the screams in my head reducing to mere whispers.

"You know what to do," he muttered.

"Fine. Do it and get it over with" I mumbled and shut my eyes, my heart racing expectantly,

After what felt like an hour, I half opened an eye only to see him staring straight at me, I fully opened my eyes, embarrassed.

"Can't believe I made a fool out of myself" I cursed slowly.

He shook his head, "I want you to kiss me princess." He said hoarsely, his breath getting heavier.

"Huh?"

"You heard me. Kiss me princess" he said in

a hypnotic way, I didn't realize when my lips connected with his.

The kiss was slow, with me clumsily leading, I pulled away after a minute, "You've got what you wanted, let me go" I just hoped the ground could open and swallow me whole, watching those eyes of his watch me in a bored manner.

He chuckled, "not before teaching my princess how to kiss"

"What are you—"

His lips smashed into mine, interrupting me and cutting off my airflow all at once, I tried to resist but soon found myself lost in his claim. His hands rested on my ass, squeezing lightly, a moan slipped through my lips silenced by the kiss.

He released after what felt like ages, my lungs couldn't breathe, I heaved heavily, trying to catch myself, even my lips felt sore.

"Take care of yourself princess, Don't want to go farther than this for now" he winked and disappeared.

My knees wobbled, I held onto my staff to stabilize myself before my legs would give way.

"That was — intense" Lena chirped, I could hear the sarcasm in her voice.

"Not now." I shut her off instantly.

"I have to say, I do agree with her" Mercelyne added

"Mer" I called out.

"Fine, fine, I'll stop," she paused, "for now." She added with a giggle.

My eye saw a white piece at the far corner, reminding me of the invitation I had rejected.

Sigh, like it or not, she has raised me for 20 years and I had genuinely considered her my mother.

"You're not going," Mercelyne snapped.