

Chapter 22 Emporer

Blake

It takes years to build an empire, but only seconds to witness its’ fall. Kelsey’s empire had faltered, her tough walls were now cracked and quickly tumbling down. I stood dangerously close behind her, feeling the thin pieces of cloth separate our bodies. My body acted on its own accord, my hand gently tracing her smooth neck as her body froze under my touch. I watched as her fingertips carefully traced the letters on the tree, my eyes locked on each letter she caressed. “Do you remember that promise I made you?”, I whispered in her ear. When I felt her entire body tense up tightly, it was the only response I needed to know that she was undoubtedly recoiling that promise in her mind too.

That promise haunted me since the words of my rejection rolled off my lips. At that moment, I meant every word I said and I still mean them, even if I’ve done a piss poor job of it. I had visited this place often when Kelsey had first left, submerging myself in my own failure. As the years grew, I found myself coming here less and less, visiting only when I felt desperate for any remaining trace of her.

While I wasn’t sure how Kelsey would react when she saw the marking on the tree, it was that promise that I needed to remind her of. I had hoped that the conversation would have gone otherwise, I had intended to apologize and explain my decision behind my rejection. I had hoped that she wouldn’t hate me more than she already did but I knew that she deserved the truth regardless of how cold it may be. As I watched emotions flood her face as she stared at the marking, I felt her vulnerability hit me in violent waves. That’s when I realized her tough foundation had cracked. It didn’t matter how hard I fought, I couldn’t chalk up the words. Maybe it was better to have her hate me for her own sake rather than the painful truth.

I was weathering apart, certain that Kelsey would forever own me. Something I wished that she knew. My heart raced as I watched her intently. It was like I was falling in love with her all over again. Every glance. Every small smile. Every whiff of her scent. It was all colliding together like a tornado inside of me.

She pulled away abruptly from my touch, the primal need to give into her mate on the brink of collapse. It was like she couldn’t have gotten out of the forest fast enough, not even bothering to stop and look back at me. My wolf whimpered, feeling abandoned by our mate but I masked my emotions and followed instead, not a word from either of us to be uttered as we rushed through the forest.

When I had emerged from the forest, I found Kelsey leaning against my mustang with her arms crossed across her chest. I had seen that look on her face far too often, I could tell she was deep in thought, bothered and fighting against her own thoughts. “I’m going to shift and take off, I’ll see you around,” she said, refusing to look at me.

My heart pounded in my chest, “get in the car Kelsey,” I said in a low, commanding tone that seemed to catch her off guard.

She whipped her body around, her emerald green eyes locking with mine and giving me a deathly glare. I could make out the slight ridges of her canines beginning to protrude under her lips, fury blazing from within her. Fuck, she looked so sexy when she was angry. “I said, I’ll find my own way back. I don’t need a babysitter,” she spewed.

I growled, both of our chests heaving in unison as we silently stared at each other for a moment. I could feel the daggers she was throwing at me with her eyes, my patience running dangerously thin at her defiance.

“Last warning Kelsey. As your Alpha and your mate, there’s no chance that I’m going to let you roam home alone. We aren’t even in pack territory for fuck sakes” I demand, not realizing the intensity my voice held.

Kelsey cocked her head in interest, stalking toward me and pushing her index finger against my chest. “Oh, so that’s the game you’re pulling? My Alpha and my mate? You may be my Alpha, Blake, but you sure as hell aren’t my mate,” she yelled, her words stinging like shards of glass piercing through my heart.

The small shred of control I had been clinging onto, cracked in half, ceasing all control. I clenched my jaw tightly and gritted my teeth, wrapping my bulky arms around her and cupping that round ass with my hands that I’ve been desperately resisting from touching and lifting her up. I wrapped her legs around my waist and pushed her small frame against the hood of my car. As her body thumped against the hood of the car, I gripped her face roughly in my large hands, “you are mine, don’t you forget that.” My wolf was pressing forward, my eyes now dark as night. Kelsey gasped, her eyes wide, and her bottom lip starts to quiver. The passion was building up between us, the longing we’d both been fighting.

Feeling her panted breaths against my lips, I felt the mate bond bind tightly. Her vulnerability slowly caged her in. I held her stare just long enough until I felt that damn empire crash down and pressed her lips roughly against mine. It was like an atomic bomb had been set off as we both gave into our primal needs.

Her mouth moved desperately against mine, her tongue tangling with my own. As I bit her bottom lip, she moaned and tilted her head back, giving me access to her smooth neck, and proceeded to spread small bites all over. My canines grazed the spot where my mark would be, and the moment I made contact, I felt her withering away under me. She pulled her legs against my waist, wrapping tightly against me as I felt her center grind into mine. My cock was pulsating, a need shooting through me to be buried deep inside of her tight hole.

I unknot her red flannel shirt, pinning her arms over her head against the hood of my car. Taking in the sight of her lacy black bra, “fuck Kelsey”, I muttered under my breath and ripped it off in one clean swipe, her perky tits spilling out for me. I lean down taking a nipple inside of my mouth, flicking my tongue against it before I sucked harder. She let out an urgent moan, pushing me further on the edge.

My hand trailed down to her center, my wolf desperate to please his mate. I unbuttoned her short jean shorts in a fluid motion and slid a hand underneath her matching panties. I felt her violently claw at my shirt as she opened her legs wider, giving me full access to her little treasure. I let my fingers run down to her wet clit, feeling her squirm under my touch. Her wetness clung to my fingers as I proceeded to rub small circles against her pearl.

“MATE”, she yelped, her tender body shaking under my touch. Those words, those words I had longed to hear.