

Chapter 14: Call Me Kieran

~Kieran~

At the east border, Kieran had watched as Alexia rushed from one warrior to another, aiding in whatever way she could. His warriors had no fatality. Two of the rogues got away, but the rest were all dead. Those on patrol may have been outnumbered, but their fighting skills evened the odds.

"Let me help." Alexia offered help to one of the pack's gammas, Seth. He was the warrior who took down five of the rogues. Despite being one of Kieran's best fighters, Seth was still wounded.

Alexia did not care for herself, or the fact that her clothes were dirtied, or how her left arm had been scratched. Kieran saw only worry in her eyes; worry for others and not for herself. He could not help but think of how she had natural luna qualities, despite her lack of training.

"Luna, I'm fine." Kieran heard Seth say to Alexia. Seth must have noticed how he was staring at him, that his gamma tried to reason with Alexia. "Really, luna. You don't need to - agghhh!"

"Of course, I need to. We need to stop the bleeding," Alexia answered as she covered Seth's wound. She was covering Seth's arm with a cloth she had torn from her top!

With this realization, Kieran growled inwardly. He did not realize it then, but now he saw her shirt was halfway torn. The fair skin on her stomach was on display that Kieran unknowingly clenched his jaws, his fangs lengthening.

Kieran looked away.

After saving her from the rogue earlier, she rested on his back. She embraced him from behind and appeared to be comforted by his fur. It wasn't him, but at least his black fur was part of him.

It wasn't the time to start an argument with Alexia. Besides, she was only helping his warriors. After thinking about how to proceed, Kieran returned his attention to Alexia and Seth.

Still in his wolf form, he gazed at Seth and mindlinked, 'Don't. Even. Look at her. Close your eyes!'

'Yes, alpha. Yes,' Seth promptly replied while shutting his eyes.

Alexia had just tightened the bandage around Seth's arm. She frowned, looking at the wound.

Kieran thought she decided it needed more cloth because she was about to tear another part of her blouse! 'Does she not think of how my men will see her bare skin?'

"Stop!" It took everything in Kieran to calm his nerves. He sucked in a breath and said to her, "The medics are here. No need to attend to Seth."

"Besides, your arm is also wounded," Kieran added. He lowered his head, and with his snout, he lifted Alexia's arm. "Rae needs you too."

"Rae? Oh, Goddess. I forgot about Rae! What happened to Rae?" Alexia sought, and her forehead creased with worry.

"She is back at the packhouse with Jaxon, but she needs you," Kieran insisted.

As more of his men showed up, he assured Alexia, "Don't worry about the warriors. Help has arrived."

Alexia nodded. She stood up and said, "Let's go."

Kieran lowered his head, suggesting that Alexia should ride on his back again. After he stood on all his fours, he turned to Seth and commanded, "Can you take over?"

"Yes, Alpha Kieran. I can manage." Seth stood. He bowed and said, "And thank you for coming to our rescue, alpha."

~Alexia~

"Rae!" Alexia called out, finding Rae in the room she shared with Jaxon. She was sitting on a sofa with a towel around her body.

Alexia's eyes watered at the sight of Rae's leg. She had bite marks on her left leg, one that would definitely leave a scar. Blood still oozed from the wound, that Rae kept putting pressure on them with a cloth.

Behind her shoulder, Alexia saw a claw mark, which was being treated by Jaxon.

"Rae," Alexia called again.

"I'm fine, Alexia. This is nothing. I'll be fine. Jaxon had already licked

my wounds. It's going to heal faster with the mate's bond. But he just wanted to take me here!" Rae rolled her eyes. "Jaxon was just being so overprotective."

Mindlinking, Rae explained to Alexia, 'He doesn't want other male wolves to see me naked! I'm sorry I left you, but I knew Kieran had already come to your rescue.'

Alexia forced a smile, but it still hurt her to see Rae wounded. She said, "I'm sorry I could not help. It was my -"

"No, Alexia. It wasn't your fault," Beta Jaxon said. "No one predicted the rogues to attack, and since you could not shift, we must protect you, being your older pack members. Besides, you are our luna."

"I'm sorry, I wish I could fight," Alexia repeated.

"Shhh." Rae stood up. She tightened the towel around her body and put her hands on Alexia's face. She said, "When you have your wolf, Alexia, you can protect me. However, while you are still twenty, let me be the bigger person and protect you."

"It is not only my duty to protect you as our luna, but as your friend, my heart will always choose to do the same," Rae added. "If our roles were reversed, I was twenty, and you were twenty-two, would you do the same for me?"

"Of course!" Alexia said confidently.

"See!" Rae pointed out. She and Alexia wound up hugging each other.

"Thank you, Rae, and thank the Goddess that you are safe," Alexia said under her breath.

After Rae had her wounds covered, she and Jaxon left for the town's hospital.

Werewolves heal on their own, especially when they have come of age. Plus, Jaxon had already licked Rae's wounds. The mate's bond would work its magic, and from there, the curing process would be expedited. It was one of the Moon Goddess' gifts to their kind; the power of a true mate's bond.

Now, all Rae needed was to have a doctor stitch up her wounds.

Alexia watched as the car, Jaxon and Rae rode in, disappear from her line of sight. She let out a sigh, relieved that they were all safe. When

she turned to the packhouse's entrance, she saw Kieran, already in his clothes and freshly bathed. He said, "Let me take a look at your wound."

~Alexia~

Alexia's heart was going wild.

After bathing, she had put on a new set of clothes. When she stepped out of the bathroom, Kieran was waiting for her with a medicine kit in his hand.

"Let me take a look at your wound," he ordered. He glanced down at the bed and instructed, "Sit."

The next thing she knew, Kieran was sitting beside her in her bed, treating her cut. She gasped, thinking, 'Why is he doing this? Why did he insist on treating my wound himself?'

"It's not so deep. You'll heal in a few days," Alexia heard Kieran say in his usual deep voice.

Faintly, she replied, "Thank you. Thank you, Alpha Kieran -"

"Kieran," he said.

Alexia's forehead creased, confused by what he meant. She asked, "Excuse me, Alpha?"

"Just call me... Kieran," he said. "You are the pack's luna, and it is only fitting that you call me by my name. The pack would find it strange."

"Oh," she answered before analyzing his actions. 'He cared about the opinion of others. Still, it was an improvement, right? But why was he this way, anyhow?'

"Alexia, I," Kieran sucked in a deep breath. "I."

Alexia observed how Kieran rose from the bed. He stopped in front of her and clenched his jaws. He seemed to be struggling with what he was about to say.

"Yes?" She asked.

"About the wedding day," he finally said. "I." He shut his eyes, and again, he took a deep breath. He groaned and let out a low growl. Kieran shook his head and said, "I'm sorry I raised my voice at you."

Alexia's mouth fell open. She marveled if this was really the Kieran she

had come to know. Her eyes fluttered, her gaze locked on him. After seconds of gawking at him, she said, "It was my fault."

"Yes, it wasn't the social standard, but the king didn't mind. I should not have overreacted," he admitted. "I still expect it won't happen again."

Alexia unknowingly smiled. She replied, "Yes. I promise it won't."

Her eyes lit up, and she asked, "Can I really call you Kieran?"

Kieran nodded. He did not smile. He did not show any emotion whatsoever. He simply said, "Yes, you can call me Kieran."

Alexia's smile stretched, and her eyes gleamed in contentment. She responded, "Thank you, Kieran. It means a lot to me."

"Take a rest first. I have security matters to discuss with Jaxon and the gammas," Kieran suggested. "Will you join me tonight for dinner?"



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