

Chapter 23

Zander's POV

Shortly after my speech I try to find Nicola, but everyone else had a different idea for what I should be doing. I got bombarded by people wanting to shake my hand and talk as soon as I stepped off the stage and women were practically throwing themselves at me. While I was slightly uncomfortable, Liam was in pure disgust.

Her scent still lingers in the air so I at least know she's here and hasn't left yet. I continue to talk to yet another alpha as the smell of wildflowers starts to grow stronger. I look around to see if I can catch sight of where she may be and finally spot her at the bar with Rivers. I'm thankful no one else is trying to entertain her, but just as soon as I think this, he leans in closer. It looks as though he's trying to console her and I can't help but feel jealous by his actions. He knows she is mine.

As her eyes meet mine, it's as though I'm unable to look away and I don't want to. She is so beautiful and captivating and all I want is for her to be by my side. To wrap my arms around her and spin her around on the dance floor with everyone watching, knowing who she belongs to me. Suddenly, there's a shift in her gaze and I vaguely notice someone who has stepped up next to me, but I'm still unable to break my focus away from my mate.

I feel a finger slide across my forearm and the sudden need to cringe at the foreign touch makes me look down. A female is staring up at me with hopeful eyes and I scowl before I step away. Nicola meets me halfway as I walk over to her and I notice how amazing the red dress she's wearing looks on her. The way it wraps around her body has a slew of dirty thoughts running through my head but they soon die as I get closer. The smell of Rivers and another male is all over her and it causes me to step back.

"Why does it smell like my Gamma has been all over you the entire

night?" I ground out.

This back and forth game we've been doing since we've met has left my wolf on edge and our fuse short. The calling to be with her only gets stronger as the days go on and there's only so much I can do to control the primal instincts. My wolf wants his mate.

"What?" She's momentarily caught off guard by quickly recovers.

"Probably because we've been at the bar drinking and danced." She replies.

Even though Liam isn't happy with the thought, it's not what bother me. What does is the other scent that lingers on her, the familiarity of it not sitting right with me.

"What about the other male?"

"It was Alex." She winces as she tells me. "But I swear Zander, it was just a dance, and not even one I enjoyed."

That son of a bitch. I search the room for him, but when he's no where to be seen I proceed to storm outside. At this point I'm on the hunt, which isn't good for the alpha, because I guarantee he's never been the prey like this before.

Sparks surge up my body as I feel her grab me and stop me in my tracks.

"Hey." Her voice is soothing and the rage in me simmers as she wraps her arms around me.

"You're mine." I let out a frustrated growl that dies as I pull her close.

She nods at my words and the simple conformation from her makes me relax slightly. I take a deep breath in and let it out, trying to rein myself back in. "Have one dance with me." I say to her and the smile on her face has me mirroring it.

We walk back to the ball room and it seems as though the party is still in full swing. People glance at us with curious looks as I hold her hand and try to push our way through the crowd of people. I casually search

for Alex along the way, but it seems as though he's already left, which is a shame. He should at least see her in my arms to know that she belongs to me. But then again, I'd probably just want to kill him if I saw his face.

I can hear a few curious whispers as I place my hand on Nicola's lower back and begin to sway us to the music playing. She looks uneasy from the remarks around us but I make sure to keep my eyes on her and her only.

"They would never compare." I whisper and she slowly melts into me.

I glide us through the music and our bodies seem to be in sync as we flow across the dance floor. Sparks burst from her touch and I can't help but pull her tighter, needing more of her. I place my face into her neck again and internally cringe at the fact that she stills smells like another, but I'm about to resolve that.

"What's wrong?" I hear her whisper to me.

"You still smell like him." I say as I run my nose across her neck. "You should smell like me." I continue to breathe along the curve of her neck as she shivers.

My tongue starts to lightly trace down the curve to her shoulder and then slowly back up again before she lets a soft moan escape. I swirl over the spot where my mark should be and I let my teeth graze her skin, letting her know just how much I want her. Want this. Her grip on me grows and I can hear her breaths getting heavy.

"Zander" she groans my name and it makes me want to take her right here and now.

I'm not sure how many songs we dance to but it's not enough. I've become so deeply lost in this woman that it feels as though we are the only ones in the room. I twirl her around a few times and she lets out an adorable laugh that makes my heart melt and want to do it over and over just to hear it again.

Voices are talking next to me but I have no clue what was said as I pull Nicola to me again. She seems to stiffen at whatever it was and I peek

down at her face.

"Just ignore them." I say lightly, staring into her eyes.

There's a few lighter green streaks with a thin band of brown around her pupils and I drink them in, wanting to memorize every last detail of the way she looks at me. The annoying pitch next to me starts again, which has Nicola turning her head. The loss of our eye contact makes my wolf whimper and I'm desperate for her to look my way again.

"Hey, it's mine turn." I hear a whine as someone grabs my arm and tries to pull me away from my mate.

All logic is out the window as my animal surges forward and grips Nicola tighter. There's no way in hell someone is taking my mate from me and if I have to die protecting her, so be it. A possessive growl rips through my body as the wolf inside of me starts to take over.

The room becomes quiet and I can feel the everyone has shifted their focus to Nicola and I, which is good, because I want everyone to know.

"Mine." I call out as I stare down at her.

Some gasp and others start to murmur at my claim, causing me to strengthen my hold on her even more. She reaches up and cups my face knowingly as I nozzle into her hand.

"Yes, yours." Her voice is soft and reassuring.

The tension in my body begins to fade as I slowly gain control back from my wolf. I look up to see shocked faces from everyone in the room who just witnessed the primal side of my animal. Turning my head, I also see a terrified female, who I can only assume is the source that started my frenzy.

"Sorry." I murmur, but it's not all that sincere.

I pull my mate off the ground and cradle her close to my chest as I stride out of the ball room. I'm well aware I probably look like a caveman but it doesn't matter, I need to be alone with her. I shove open the doors that lead out and begin to march my way down the hall, continuing to

carry her all the way to the bedroom.

Chapter Comments :



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