

Chapter 28

Warning - Mature/Sexual Content!

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Zander's POV

I'm a complete love struck puppy as I stare at my goddess of a mate. She's so perfect and I don't want to think about what would have happened if I didn't show up when I did. The thought of it makes my blood run cold.

As soon as I stand up, I walk over to the tree line where a clothing box is set in the ground. Opening the lid, I pull out a set of clothes that's been stored and I slip on the gym shorts before walking over to Nicola to pull my large t-shirt over her head.

"Let's go home." I say as I scoop her up in my arms and carry her back to the pack house.

Her body is exhausted from the recent events and she falls asleep as I carry her up the stairs. I take her to my room and tuck her into bed, placing a kiss on her forehead before walking out of the room and shutting the door. Rivers has been trying to mind link me for the last two hours so I leave to go see what he wants while she continues to sleep.

I make my way down the stairs to his office and open the door. He's frantically pacing back and forth as his hands pull at his hair. I'm surprised he hasn't gone bald.

"Is she okay?" He asks as soon as he sees me.

I nod to him. "She's okay."

Relief floods his face as he lets out a long breath. Dried blood covers his clothes and various parts of his skin still look angry from wounds that have freshly healed.

"Are you okay?" I ask him, concerned about what happened.

Emotion flickers in his gaze that I can't quite make out... gratitude? They quickly turn to astonishment as he looks me over. I glance down and assess myself to see I'm still wearing nothing but gym shorts as dried sweat, dirt, and blood clings to my skin.

I look rough.

"She marked you." He says with surprise in his voice and I notice he's staring at my neck. "I thought I felt a different connection but I've been so stressed out I didn't have time to focus on it."

I smile at him as I think about the woman sleeping in my bed at the moment.

"She's the only reason I'm still alive you know." He continues, catching my attention.

"What do you mean?" I try not to think about my mate putting herself in danger.

He points to the armor in a pile on the floor, gashes all over the front.

"She gave this to me a few days ago and I've been training in it to get used to the feel. I still had it on when I came back to her house. When I was fighting with the faerie that broke in, he tried to plunge a silver dagger into my chest but this stopped it." He pats his chest plate.

"The shock when he realized I wasn't dead gave me a chance to turn the situation around and kill him. She gave this set to me early, before anyone else, because she knew something bad was going to happen. It saved my life." He says, his eyes filled with respect and thankfulness.

I grab him and pull him into a hug as I slap him on the back. "Glad you're okay brother."

Our emotional moment doesn't last long and turns serious again as Rivers switches back into Gamma mode.

"We need to start getting all of the warriors fitted in the next few weeks so they can all have time to train in the new gear. The blood moon is coming in two months and we need to be ready." He says and I nod.

"You're right. I'll talk to Nicola about it later and we'll get things going as soon as possible. Plus who knows what else Rand has up his sleeve

before then." I grimace.

I start to think about Nicola laying in my bed alone and fear starts to creep in. Why did I leave her alone after everything that's happened? Who knows what other tricks he has or who he has watching us right now. I quickly end my conversation with Rivers and head back to the bedroom. I'm practically running down the hall and throw the door open to see my mate still lying in bed asleep.

She jerks awake from my noise and looks around the room, startled as her eyes land on me.

"What's wrong?" She asks worriedly.

I walk over and sit on the edge of the bed. My wolf is reprimanding me for waking her up and huffs in annoyance at my carelessness, pretty much telling me I'm already being a shitty mate.

"Nothing is wrong love, sorry I startled you." I say as I run my fingers along her cheek. "I'm going to take a shower and then I'll come to bed." I plant a kiss on her head.

"Can I join you? I feel gross." She says as she picks at the shirt stuck to her body. A smirk plays on her lips and the look in her eyes doesn't go unnoticed.

I start to imagine her naked in the shower as water runs down her body and desire takes hold of me. I pick her up and pull her legs around my waist as my mouth claims hers. My need for her grows as I carry us to the bathroom, lips never parting. Our tongues fight for dominance and I set her down to pull off her shirt and step out of my shorts. I turn the water on and immediately find her body again as I wrap her around me.

"You're so fucking hot." I growl against her mouth.

I push her back up against the wall and suck on her neck as warm water flows down our bodies. She moans as I trail kisses down her jaw and my grip on her hips tightens. Even though I just had her less than 4 hours ago, it feels as though I've been starved of her for years. The need to have her over and over again has me and my wolf in a lust induced craze.

We're both on fire as her hands pull hard on my hair to bring me deeper

into the kiss. I can feel her want for me as I adjust our bodies to slide into her. She moans loudly into my mouth as I bury myself inside, pausing for a minute to give her time to adjust. After a few moments, her hips start to rock into me, causing me to bite down on her neck gently.

I start to thrust in and out as I pin her body to the wall. Her cries sending me into a haze that I've never felt before in my life.

"Please, please more" She begs me and I deliver.

Grounding my hips deeper into her, she screams out my name. I can feel her tighten around me as I claim her mouth against mine. I groan as I find my own release and give her every last part of me. This woman already has my soul. I press my forehead to hers as we both slowly come down from the sexual high and my hold on her slowly releases as she slides down my body to her feet.

The warm water is still raining down our bodies and I pull Nicola further into the spray of the water. I take shampoo and squirt some in my hand to rub in her hair. My fingers run through her dark brown strands as she leans back against me, enjoying the feel. After her hair is washed, I grab a washcloth and add soap to lather her skin. I gently run the rag over her body, memorizing every inch of her along the way.

After I'm satisfied that my mate has been taken care of, I quickly wash myself. I get us each a towel to dry off before I sweep her back into my arms and carry her to the bed. We get tucked in and I pull her body tight against my chest. I feel her nuzzle herself closer to me and a sigh of contentment leaves her chest, making my wolf purr. Awe and pride fills me as I stare down at my beautiful mate who has already fallen asleep.

After a while of my pathetic staring, I decide I should also get some sleep too.

"I love you." I whisper as I press a kiss to her shoulder and allow the night to pull me in.