

Chapter 36

Nicola's POV

Light peeks through the curtains as I roll over to find the other side of the bed empty. I lift my head up and begin to look around when the bathroom door opens, revealing Zander in nothing but a towel. Water slowly rolls down his chiseled chest and abs before disappearing into the defined V that's barely covered by the towel.

"Good morning, beautiful." His voice is husky and I look up at his face to see a knowing smirk.

Maybe I should be embarrassed that I was full on eye raping him, but I'm not. Not even in the slightest. He is the definition of perfection and it's been way too long since we've been intimate with each other. Zander has been holding himself back ever since my injury, acting as if I'm made of glass and I'll break if he's not careful. It's all been extremely frustrating.

"You're up early." I say to him and slowly move my legs out from under the covers. My movements are slow, but I'm able to work my legs more and more everyday.

"Big day." He says and I look up at him. "Put this on." He tosses me some clothes.

I'm surprised when I see the jeans and long sleeve shirt he threw me since I've mainly been wearing workout clothes for physical therapy. I stare at him for a minute in disbelief when I also realize he's not coming over to help me like he's been insisting on. For the last few days he's barely let me blink on my own, let alone clothe myself. Worry draws his brows together as he takes a step towards me.

"Do you need help?" He questions, guilt starting to cloud his face.

"NO!" I say almost too loudly. "No. No I got it."

He steps back a little hesitant, but when I start pulling the shirt over my head he nods in approval.

Strong arms grab me under my legs and behind my back as I'm lifted into the air and tucked tightly against a thick wall of muscle.

"Zander, what the-" I start to chuckle.

"It's a surprise baby." He kisses me on the forehead.

Soon we're outside, on the edge of the training field where the warriors are training and prepping for the upcoming war. He slowly sets me down and grabs my waist to steady me on my own two feet. When he's assured that I won't fall down, his grip loosens but his hands remain in place. Slowly, he helps me as I walk closer to the guys on the field and my face lights up at seeing them all again. I feel home.

We stand and watch everyone for awhile before my legs start to grow tired and I feel the need to sit down. I watch in awe as the training session changes and everyone shift into their wolf form, sporting their newly designed armor. A hand rests on my leg and gives me a light squeeze and I look over to see Zander smiling at me.

"This was all you." He says with pride in his voice.

This is by far the best thing that's happened in weeks and it's exactly what I needed to get me out of my funk. He knows me so well and my heart soars knowing he's taken the time out of his busy schedule to do this for me.

"I love you." I say to him and his entire face lights up.

"Sorry, I just- I-" I bite my lip nervously as stare back at him.

It feels like I've loved Zander for awhile now but neither of us have said it, except for the time I let it spill when I was sure I was going to die. We have yet to bring up that fight that happened between us beforehand and I think we've both accepted we should just move on from it.

Both hands grasp my face and pull me into a strong kiss. His tongue darts out and enters my mouth causing me to moan. God, how I've

missed the taste of him. He pulls back with lust in his eyes before he presses his forehead to mine.

"I love you." He says to me and my entire body feels lighter.

Later that night I'm waiting for Zander to come back into our bedroom while I sit on the corner of the bed. He's been helping me into the bath and running the water since it's been difficult for me to keep my balance while climbing into the tub. Deciding I don't want to wait any longer, I slowly start to walk towards the bathroom. Each step is still a bit shaky and I grasp the porcelain tightly once I reach the edge. It takes much longer than normal to get into the water, but I sigh in contentment once the soothing warmth covers my muscles.

"You know you shouldn't have done this by yourself." I open my eyes to see Zander propped up against the doorway, his arms crossed.

A smile spreads across my face as he walks over to me but it slowly fades, my eyes turning hungry as he starts to strip out of his clothes. My gaze is glued to his body and I can feel my own burning with desire as he stands in front of me completely naked.

"Wh- what are you doing?" I ask as I shift around in the water. I can already feel myself aching for him.

He smirks as he stalks over to me, as if he's a predator and I'm his prey. The water is dangerously close to overflowing as he slides into the tub behind me. Grabbing my chin, he lifts my head up towards him before leaning down for a slow kiss. I feel like I'm about to melt into a puddle as his mouth explore mine and I can't help the moan that comes out.

We both wash up before he helps me out of the bath tub and dries me off. Picking me up, he carries me over to the bed and gently sets me down before turning to get clothes out of the dresser. I reach out and quickly grab his wrist to pull him towards me. There's no way I'm strong enough to force him back onto the bed, but he willingly sits down next to me. I tug on his arm to pull him down further so I can steal a kiss from his lips.

My hand snakes into his hair as I deepen our kiss and he hums in pleasure. Running my hand down his chest, I trace the outline of his

missed the taste of him. He pulls back with lust in his eyes before he presses his forehead to mine.

"I love you." He says to me and my entire body feels lighter.

Later that night I'm waiting for Zander to come back into our bedroom while I sit on the corner of the bed. He's been helping me into the bath and running the water since it's been difficult for me to keep my balance while climbing into the tub. Deciding I don't want to wait any longer, I slowly start to walk towards the bathroom. Each step is still a bit shaky and I grasp the porcelain tightly once I reach the edge. It takes much longer than normal to get into the water, but I sigh in contentment once the soothing warmth covers my muscles.

"You know you shouldn't have done this by yourself." I open my eyes to see Zander propped up against the doorway, his arms crossed.

A smile spreads across my face as he walks over to me but it slowly fades, my eyes turning hungry as he starts to strip out of his clothes. My gaze is glued to his body and I can feel my own burning with desire as he stands in front of me completely naked.

"Wh- what are you doing?" I ask as I shift around in the water. I can already feel myself aching for him.

He smirks as he stalks over to me, as if he's a predator and I'm his prey. The water is dangerously close to overflowing as he slides into the tub behind me. Grabbing my chin, he lifts my head up towards him before leaning down for a slow kiss. I feel like I'm about to melt into a puddle as his mouth explores mine and I can't help the moan that comes out.

We both wash up before he helps me out of the bath tub and dries me off. Picking me up, he carries me over to the bed and gently sets me down before turning to get clothes out of the dresser. I reach out and quickly grab his wrist to pull him towards me. There's no way I'm strong enough to force him back onto the bed, but he willingly sits down next to me. I tug on his arm to pull him down further so I can steal a kiss from his lips.

My hand snakes into his hair as I deepen our kiss and he hums in pleasure. Running my hand down his chest, I trace the outline of his

hardened abs with my fingernails before proceeding down further. He tenses up slightly when I grasp him and, even though he's already rock hard, I can feel him about to pull back from me.

"Please Zander." I whisper before stroking him up and down a few times.

He closes his eyes as lets out a growl and I can tell he's battling with himself on what he should do. Finally giving in, he crawls on top of me, arms on each side of my head as he pins me to the bed.

"I don't want to hurt you." His tone is hushed but serious.

"You won't." I whisper before I lightly trail kisses down his jaw.

I nip at his ear then start to work my way down, sucking on his neck and running my tongue across his skin. His breaths are getting heavy and soon I get to the base of his shoulder where I've marked him. A hand grasps my hip tightly and he uses the other to reach in between my legs, pushing them open before his fingers run up my thigh. I'm practically purring when he dips one inside me and I roll my head to the side in pleasure.

"Oh god." I moan before I lean forward and bite down on his shoulder.

A low rumble comes from his chest as my teeth graze his skin and I flick my tongue over the mark.

"Fuck." He groans loudly before I feel him enter me in one swift motion.

Neither of us last long as we continue to explore each other with out mouths and we're both panting for air while we come down from the sexual high.

"I love you so much." He says into my ear as he pulls me tight against his body.

"I love you more." I mumble before I drift off into a deep sleep.

