

Chapter 140

75 - Kennedy

They are all just staring at me and this is what I hate the most. The pity in their eyes. There is nothing any of us could have done differently. That much I have come to accept. The situation is what it is. The only part I seem to struggle with is the memory of sitting there, trapped, with my parents' lifeless bodies.

I take a deep breath and Ryker pulls me even closer. I just noticed that he is holding me, in public, and I don't feel uncomfortable at all.

"It was more than three years ago. I'm not saying it doesn't hurt sometimes, but I can't play the victim forever. The nightmares have gotten better, which makes things easier for me." I look up at Ryker as the revelation hits me. My nightmares got better when I moved here. Even at my lowest with him, they didn't return. I wonder if he noticed the change too?

"What?" He pulls back to look me full in the face.

"I'm not sure." He looks confused and I can't blame him, but I can't explain it either.

We finish eating and I go bundle back up so we can head to the training grounds together. This time I ride with Ryker in his truck. We don't talk, but I don't feel like the silence isn't awkward either. 1

As soon as my feet hit the ground, I am scooped up and thrown over a shoulder to a chorus of laughs.

"What the hell?" I push up off the back of the beast who has me and realize it's Danny. "What are you doing?" He's skipping, literally



skipping like a child and it's doing a number on my bladder.

"Bennet and the Bossman have had enough of your time, you are my partner today!" He cackles and starts jogging as Ryker yells at his back to stop messing around.

The kids all squeal and laugh at Danny's antics and I have to join in. This is so stupid, but it's fun. He sets me down on the far side of the training grounds, as far as we can get from Ryker, Josh and the pups.

"Alright, Luna, you've been out of the game for a little bit. Let's see what you've got." He starts bouncing around like we are in a boxing ring.

I wonder if he knows that Greta has been coming to train with me in the packhouse gym? I'm not anywhere back to my full strength but it's getting better. I am also bundled in snow pants and a down jacket. They are thin and easy to move in, but it's going to be different moving like this than in my regular workout clothes. But I guess I should have a working knowledge of what it feels like to fight like this since if I'm ever targeted, it won't be at my convenience. This might be embarrassing for both of us. Either way it should be fun and I am sure to laugh the whole time.

About thirty minutes in and I now know Danny's true intentions. He has a score to settle with Ryker and apparently I am the way to accomplish that. This suits me just fine. I have a score to settle too and I know we have his attention because of all the whooping and hollering coming from the teen side of the field. He's distracted and Josh keeps winning sparring matches of whatever movement they are focused on. About every other time we spar, Danny manages to touch my butt or get me in a hold that puts us face to face, pressed together from the chest down. He's also gotten me into some positions that are worthy of a Twister game. I seem to have Ryker's undivided attention when my ass is in his full view.



It's good to know I can get his undivided attention when I'm bent over.
It's giving me a few ideas.

Danny comes at me again when he thinks I am distracted, but he's got another thing coming. I duck under his arm and thwack him on the back of the head for being cocky before I push him away. It feels so good being out here. I know he's still being gentle with me, but I am sweating like a pig so I don't care. I had to take my coat and snow pants off a little while ago and I'm just working in my thermal leggings and top. Another form fitting distraction for Ryker. I just smile to myself as Danny and I reset.

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When the session is over, Ryker makes a beeline straight for me with a menacing look in his eyes. Danny chuckles, kisses me on the temple and runs like his ass is on fire.

"COWARD!" I yell after him laughing.

Ryker doesn't stop as he barrels right into me, picking me up so my arms are around his neck and my legs barely lock around his waist. He's looking right at me, so I'm not sure how he even knows where he's going.

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