

## Chapter 142

76 - Ryker

I have never cared before now. I shouldn't care. But I keep my insecurities at the way she asked the question to myself. I have a bad habit of misunderstanding her intentions. I haven't learned to read her emotions the way Bennet, and now Danny, do. I just watch her looking at me, in wonder I think. Or maybe it's confusion, disbelief. I'm not sure. One thing I know is, I can't stop touching her. Running my fingers through her hair, caressing her cheek, her arms, the inch of bare skin at her waist where her shirt rode up.

I saved myself for my mate. It is probably the one thing that my wolf and I agreed on. We saved everything binding for our mate. I don't regret it, can't regret it. It was the most incredible experience for me. And it was only a kiss. Far more thrilling than my first shift or even my first kill in a fight. This woman in my arms has brought me to life. I had no idea I could feel...like this. My heart is still racing and the electricity is still flowing between us and all I can do is stare at her.

I know she wants more of an explanation, but there isn't one. No one else was ever going to have this part of me. All I can do is take her in. Her blonde hair is tangled and mostly pulled from her ponytail. She never wears a lot of make-up, but her eyes have black smudges all around them. Her cheeks are still tinged pink and her absolutely edible lips are swollen. But, it's her eyes, those blue crystals that have me in a trance. They are brighter somehow. I shouldn't have waited this long. I should have done this the first night she was here. I feel like everything that is broken inside of me is starting to heal. I feel stronger, energized. It was just one kiss and I am hooked, one hundred percent addicted.

"Ryker?" I have to blink to look at her and focus on her words. "Were



you planning on keeping me here all day?" She asks with a smile that is teasing. 1

I ask again. "What if I said 'yes'? What would you do then?"

She doesn't miss a beat and I see the fire light in her eyes. "Then I would tell you that that kiss is not going to be the only first you're giving up today." She presses her lips to mine, feather light and f\*ck me if it doesn't have the same effect as the deep possessive one we just shared.

I groan. "I can't. Not yet." I take a deep breath as I pull back and slide her down to her feet.

She rewards me by staying as close to my body as possible, grinding on my painfully hard c\*ck as she goes. I may have just made my situation a thousand times worse. I know what she tastes like, know what those pillow soft lips feel like against mine and it might be the death of me.

She doesn't argue though, which is another first. Either she understands or she is planning on blindsiding me when I least expect it. Both options are very likely. My feisty mate has experience. She knows exactly what she likes and wants in the bedroom. When I first found out I was just as pissed as my wolf, but after a heart to heart with my dad and understanding she's human and wasn't expecting this at all. I believe this is going to work in my favor. Has already worked in my favor. 1

I pull her close and breathe in her honey and spice scent mixed with the forest, dirt and sweat from the training ground. She smells delicious, but I resist and kiss her on the forehead. "I just need time, can you give me that? Please?"

What I don't say is that I'm not sure if I could keep my wolf from marking her if we do take this any further. I have heard of passionate markings and they can be brutal and painful for both mates. We aren't meant to

hurt our mates and I have never heard a story where the pain was intentional, but unmarked mates can be very aggressive during s\*x and the wolf's natural instinct is to mark and mate. That aggression can lead to uncontrolled marking where skin and muscles are torn or bones are broken. I'm already terrified of hurting her just by marking her, I don't need the process to be intensified by our clearly raging hormones.

She cups my cheeks again and meets my gaze. "I can give you time, but it can't be forever. Now I need to go take a shower and handle these female blue balls." She laughs, actually laughs at me as she walks away.

"Can I listen?"

"Not unless you intend to join me." She winks over her shoulder and I swear adds a sway to her step. F\*ck my life.

We both manage to shower and change for the day without any other distractions. I take her into my office to meet with Josh and go over the next phase of building we have. I have no idea what I will have her do, but I can't seem to be more than a few feet from her right now.

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"There you are Bossman. I thought maybe we lost you to the land of the laid. Considering your Luna actually seems to like you now." He's looking at a file and doesn't even glance our way.

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