

## Chapter 165

88 - Kennedy

Oh sh\*t! I did say it. I was so caught up in getting Emily taken care of that when I was telling Ryker to keep his distance so the wolfsbane wouldn't affect him, I told him I loved him. He didn't say anything or react at all, so I thought maybe he doesn't feel the same or I imagined saying it. I laid there last night, holding onto Emily, worried about what today would look like when he completely took me by surprise and kissed me goodnight then whispered I love you softly in my ear.

He has a small smile on his face as he lets me process all the things that happened in the last couple days. I can't believe it was just yesterday that I threw Amy out of the packhouse and Ryker let me break down a few more of his emotional walls.

"How do you feel now? I know that the wolfsbane wasn't as bad for you, but it did affect you." He rubs my arms and goosebumps erupt with the tingles. He's watching the reaction intently while I watch him.

"I feel okay now." I take a deep breath and shudder as a chill rocks my whole body. He just smiles. "I spent a lot of time with our healers back in Silver Crescent. We found a solution that I take pretty regularly. Doc Bradshaw has been making it for me too. It keeps me from getting sick and I heal faster than a regular human. That's what she gave me last night. I have a couple of places where the juice from the crushed plants irritated my skin, but nothing else."

"How was Emily this morning, since all of you let me sleep through your check-up." He finally looks me in the eye.

"What?! You were so cute sleeping sprawled all over that cot." I laugh at him. It really was a sight. The cot was basically big enough to fit his head

down to his butt. Each leg was off the side, feet resting on the floor, one arm over his eyes and the other across his stomach. "The Doc said you didn't sleep much either, so I wanted to leave you alone as long as possible. We have some work to do today."

"What kind of work? Because I was planning on following through with Alpha's threat. Which requires the rest of the day being spent alone with you." He wraps both arms around me pulling me tighter to his chest. I don't fight him. Instead I wrap my arms around his neck threading my fingers through his hair earning me a growl. "This is not making me want to work any harder, just so you know." Those green eyes are so hypnotizing. I don't even remember the question. He closes his eyes and grips my hips, digging his thumb into the crease at the top of my thigh and his fingers into my ass. "I am so scared, you have no idea how terrified I am of hurting you." He takes another deep breath. "But I want you too bad to hold out any longer. We need you, both Alpha and I." He continues to grind me into him. I am just holding on for the ride. I'm not sure where he is going with this yet. Copyright © 2024, Miss L. Writes and Ember Mantel Productions 2

He's mentioned a few times now that he's afraid of hurting me, but needs me. I just don't know what he is referring to. If it's s\*x, that's easy. I'm not the virgin here. Maybe he's afraid he'll lose control. I've heard of guys going a bit feral in the heat of the moment. I've never experienced that, so it's something we'll have to work through. Maybe it's the marking, but I can't imagine it's super pleasant for anyone to be marked.

"Whatever you are going to do, it needs to be quick. Because this feels so good, I'm not going to last much longer." I let out a moan that doesn't even sound like me and my shallow breathing is making it hard to talk. "Ryker, uh. Please."



"I really like that word out of your mouth." He's gradually increasing our pace. I don't even remember the last time I dry humped somebody, let alone org\*smed from it. But, I am well on my way now.