

MY ALPHA'S WOLFLESS DAUGHTER

Chapter Twenty-One



Future Beta Nate

Duke and I were having a great time kicking the s**t out of Jaden. Mitch was having fun kicking Lucas' ass. He was the one dancing with my sister and pulled her outside. Both of these guys we went to school with. They were in our grade and we may not be close anymore, but I thought we were friends in school.

Why anyone would listen to Bailey boggled my mind? Max's sister Emily was kicking the s**t out of her and her friends in our new training program. And the more

I watched, the more I noticed all the awful things about her. She was rude and had the worst attitude toward anyone who she deemed beneath her. Yes, she was the current gamma's daughter but there was no need for her attitude. Gammas are supposed to protect the Luna. But I could tell that she believes she was Luna material by the way she treated others. Even though she wasn't acting like Luna material either.

I never noticed it before because I never paid close attention to her in the first place. She was just Mitch's younger sister. Sure, she's pretty on the outside, but I was never attracted to her enough to make an effort. Also, after she started sleeping with all of Mitch's friends, it was a put-off. Not that I'm judging, okay, maybe a little bit. But it's hard to look at someone and know they've been with all of your friends. That they've all been inside of her.

The alpha commanded everyone to keep their mouths shut about Ayla, but we have upped security around our borders. And we are taking training up a few notches. We all have to be ready for whatever happens now that Ayla being the black pearl mermaid princess is no longer a secret.

“The knight in shining black fur got the beautiful princess.” Duke howled in my head.

“She isn’t ours just yet. We still need to mark her.” I corrected him.

“She let you have s*x with her without protection. She could be carrying our pup!” Duke exclaimed. And I instantly stopped. I left myself open for an attack and Jaden took it, punching me in the gut. It was the only blow he could land and all because my wolf had distracted me.

I recovered quickly and hit Jaden square in the jaw, knocking him out. I was too wrapped in my thoughts to care about his unconscious body. Could Ayla be pregnant? I thought mermaids had to be claimed and could only get pregnant under a full moon.

“But she’s also half wolf and we could get pregnant anytime. So she could be.” Duke said.

“Nate, you okay? You look like you’ve seen a ghost.” Mitch said, coming up beside me.

“Um, yeah, fine.” I stammered, unsure how to answer. My mind was racing with questions and nowhere to get the answers.

“Nate,” I heard my name being called and I turned to find Alpha Jim standing on the side of the training field. Jaden let out a groan and I turned back to look at him, now moving on the ground.

“I got this one. Go see what Alpha Jim needs.” Mitch said, patting me on the shoulder. I nodded to him before I jogged over to Alpha Jim. He was watching me with a smirk on his face.

“Alpha Jim?” I acknowledged him as I jogged up to him.

“Nate, are you feeling better?” He asked me, looking behind me. I looked at where he was looking and saw Mitch helping Jaden up. He was covered in his own blood.

“Well, he’s not dead, so it could be better,” I told him and he chuckled.

“I would have done the same. That guy is dumber than a stump if he thought you wouldn’t scent him on your mate.” Jim said, shaking his head.

“Anyways, where is your phone?” He asked me and I furrowed my eyebrows, confused.

“I think it’s in my truck. Why? Did I need it for something?” I asked him.

“Well, my granddaughter has been trying to reach you. I figured it had to be important if you weren’t answering her calls.” He said, and before he could get another word out, I took off at full speed. I could hear him laughing as I raced towards home.

Ayla was calling. She was able to talk to me. I didn’t think I’d hear her voice for another twenty-nine days. And yes, I was counting. When I reached my truck, I threw open the door, uncaring if I ripped the door off the hinges. I heard the buzz of my phone ringing and I found it under the front passenger seat.

“Hello?” I answered, breathlessly. I didn’t even check the number.

“Nate? I’m not interrupting you, am I?” Ayla's soft voice came through the speaker of my phone.

“Baby, are you okay? I’ve been so worried about you?” Relief flooded through me. I sat down in the passenger seat of my truck waiting for her to answer.

“I miss you. How are you doing?” She asked me.

“I miss you. And I will be better once I’m with you,” I told her, and I heard her sigh.

“And is Ruby okay?”

“Ruby is good. She has been talking to Mitch and she’s been worried about you.”

Future Beta Nate

Duke and I were having a great time kicking the s**t out of Jaden. Mitch was having fun kicking Lucas' ass. He was the one dancing with my sister and pulled her outside. Both of these guys we went to school with. They were in our grade and we may not be close anymore, but I thought we were friends in school.

"I'm sorry, Nate. I didn't want to leave. But my dad said I could die if I didn't shift. He told me my mother died because she refused to shift not in the car accident. I was scared." I could hear her sadness.

"I understand, baby. I don't want anything to happen to you," I said. I was trying to think of a way to bring up the chances of her becoming pregnant but I didn't want to worry her.

"How was the journey?" I asked her instead.

“Oh, Nate. It was magical. I can’t wait for you to see everything. I swam with blue whales and giant manta rays swimming around our island. And the palace is massive. Just like a fairytale.” She gushed and I felt a twinge of jealousy.

“I can’t wait to show you, Nate. Even if you have to use scuba gear. And I can’t wait for you to see me shifted. For you to see me for who I truly am.” I couldn’t help but smile. She sounded so excited.

“I can’t wait to be there with you baby,” I said.

“What are you doing? Why were you out of breath and not answering your phone?” She asked, suspiciously.

“The alpha has added more training, so I was out on the training field when alpha Jim came to inform me

about your phone calls. I ran all the way home to find my phone, which I left in my truck.” I explained. There was a pause and then she let out a sigh.

“I’m sorry, Nate. I shouldn’t have questioned you. I have no right to. I just didn’t expect any of this and it’s hard.” She confessed, her voice cracking.

“Baby, as long as I get to hear about all the wonderful things you are experiencing, I’ll be okay here. I miss you so much and I thought I couldn’t speak with you.”

“I miss you so much, Nate.” She sniffled.

“And I heard what Jaden did,” I told her.

“It’s why my dad wouldn’t let you near me. He was protecting you, Nate. I’m so sorry.” She pleaded.

“Ayla, I’m not upset with you. You had no control over

the situation. I should be thanking you for protecting my sister. And I should have been protecting both of you. I'm sorry, Ayla." I sighed.

"Nate, we are a team. I promised I would protect your sister and I meant it. If we are together, then your family is my family. And we are together?" She said it more like a question than a statement.

"I want to be with you. I know this is rough right now and I wish we had more time to figure our relationship out. But I won't reject you unless you ask me to. And even then, I don't think I can give you up."

"And I want to be with you, Nate. More than anything. Maybe I can ask Xander about seeing you before the full moon. He told me I'll be training and learning how to be the future queen but I should be able to visit you." She told me and I smiled.

“I’ll make myself available whenever and wherever we can meet. I’m not doing much here anyways.”

“Xander said that humans can’t cross our magical border, but I wonder if wolves can. You’re more than human.”

“I’ll take a boat into the middle of the western sea if it means I get to see you, princess. And now I know you can call, I’ll have my phone on me most of the time. If I’m on patrol I might not have it, but for the most part, it will be in my hand, waiting for your call.” I told her and she giggled.

“Have you always been so sweet?” And the sound of her happiness had my heart fluttering like damn butterflies.

“Only for you, baby.”

Ayla

After speaking with Nate, I felt so much better. I was sitting on my bed in my massive bedroom, with a balcony that overlooked the ocean. The balcony even had a pool. The sea breeze chilled my skin as it blew in through the opened windows. The sun was beginning to set and I should have asked Nate what time it was there. A knock on my door pulled me from my thoughts.

“Come in,” I called out. I was looking out the open balcony doors when Xander walked in with a tray in his hands. The smell of bacon hit me and I turned to see him with a smile on his face.

“Hungry?” He asked, setting the tray in front of me and sitting down across from me.

“It smells amazing, Xander. But you didn’t have to

bring it to me. I could have found the kitchen.” I told him and he raised an eyebrow at him.

“Okay, I could have tried to find the kitchen.” I giggled and he chuckled.

“Better get used to being brought your food, your majesty.” He bowed his head and I smacked his chest.

“Stop. None of that crap from you.” I gave him a pointed look. And he lifted the lid off the tray to reveal French toast, bacon, and fruit.

“You know me too well.” I smiled, my face lighting up, I picked up a piece of bacon and took a bite.

“Breakfast for dinner,” he exclaimed, and I giggled.

“You really didn’t have to do this. I know you must be

tired.” I told him and he shrugged.

“I have my orders,” he said, and I felt a ping in my chest from his words.

“I’m sorry, Nate. I didn’t want to leave. But my dad said I could die if I didn’t shift. He told me my mother died because she refused to shift not in the car accident. I was scared.” I could hear her sadness.

“So our two years of friendship were just orders?” I asked him, looking out onto the ocean. I no longer felt like eating.

“f**k, no. I’m sorry, Ayla. I didn’t mean it like that. I just mean it’s my job to take care of you and keep you safe.” He sighed, frustrated.

“Xander, I don’t need you to take care of me. I want you to be here because you want to be. I’ll understand

if you need to get back to your life.” I told him, looking back at him. I could feel the tears in my eyes.

“Please don’t cry, princess. I want to be here. It’s just hard for me.” He whispered the last part.

“I don’t understand. Are we not friends?” I asked him, confused, and he sighed.

“Men in my position aren’t friends with the future queen of our kingdom.”

“And what position is that?”

“I’m a warrior. My father is the kingdom's lawyer but I didn’t want to follow in his footsteps. So I became a warrior. I didn’t expect to be ordered to take care of you in a human city. After my father held the first interview with you, he called the queen and she ordered me to protect you.” He explained.

“So, because I was working for your father, you were ordered to protect me.” He nodded.

“I’m sorry, Xander. I’ll understand if you don’t want this position any longer,” I told him and he looked hurt.

“Ayla, I’ve been hoping for a different position, but if I can’t have the position I want, I’ll stay as your personal protector.” He said and I stared at him.

“You should eat. It’s been a long day,” he said, as he stood up. He was about to leave but I grabbed his hand.

“You want to be with?” I breathed out the question I already knew the answer to.

“I was ordered not to fall for you, but you’ve made it

impossible not to.” He confessed.

“But you set me up with Jordan. I never thought you saw me as anything more than your disaster of a friend.” I told him and he sat back down.

“I never set you up with Jordan. He was there when you came to the bar. And it always bothered me how much he took you for granted.” He growled.

“Then why didn’t you say anything?”

“I didn’t want to be that guy. And I wasn’t even supposed to want you. And then you met Wolf Boy.” He shrugged.

“Xander, you will always be my best friend and I love you. And I want you here. I understand because I never thought you were attracted to me in that way. And to be honest, look at you. You look like a Greek

god and could get anyone you wanted.”

“I don’t just want anyone. I want the one woman I can’t have.”

“Xander, why didn’t you just tell me how you were feeling?” I asked him.

“Ayla, you’re a princess, you can’t claim a warrior,” he exclaimed.

“But I can claim a wolf?” He didn’t answer.

“Ayla, eat and get some rest. It’s been a long day.” Xander said before leaving my bedroom, closing the door behind him.

Ugh, I sighed, shoving another piece of bacon in my mouth. I ate mindlessly as I thought about what Xander had just confessed. Things would have been

different if I had been with Xander from the beginning. But then what would have happened when I met Nate?

Would he have gotten a second chance without meeting me if I was already claimed? And then I felt guilty for having feelings for Xander. I knew I loved Nate, but with Xander, it would be easier. We are from the same world. And then Nate could get a second chance with someone from his world.

I never would have involved Nate and my father in this mess I call my life. But then my grandmother would have made me give Xander up for a prince because he is a warrior and, to them, not worthy of my love. And in the end, my life may end before it truly had a chance to start. My life isn't my own with King Kaden hunting me.

f**k, maybe Xander was right. I just needed to eat and

get some sleep before my mind exploded. There were still so many things I didn't understand and I can't make a decision without having all the answers or at least most of them.

Once I finished my breakfast for dinner, I moved the tray to the coffee table in the sitting area of my room. I didn't want to go find the kitchen. I got ready for bed before I climbed under the blanket of my very comfortable bed. It was like lying on a cloud. I snuggled comfortably but I was missing something. My phone chimed, pulling me from my thoughts.

Nate: I miss you so much, baby. Xoxo.

I smiled as I read his message. I missed him too. But now I was wondering if knowing how Xander truly felt changed how I felt about Nate. I did care about Xander and then guilt twisted my stomach. I care about both of them. I just now know that Xander cares

about me as well.

Me: I miss you, Nate. Xxx

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

MY ALPHA'S WOLFLESS DAUGHTER

Chapter Twenty-two



Warrior Xander

Leaving Ayla's room, I knew I had f****d up when I told her my feelings. She was going to be with Nate and there was nothing I could do about that. I just

want her happy and I'm in no position to give her what she deserves. After everything Ayla has been through, she deserves the moon, the sun, and all the stars.

Ayla is going to make the perfect queen, even though I might not be able to stand by her side and watch her love another. With Jordan, it was easy. He was an i***t, and every time he canceled she would hang out with me. But I never knew why they were together for so long. I thought maybe a couple of dates, but months, almost a year.

Maybe if I had just told her from the beginning, we could have been together. Then there wouldn't have been a Jordan or a Nate. But there would still be two princes who her grandmother wanted to marry her off to. And I knew I was never in the running to be hers.

"How's protection duty?" A voice pulled me from my

thoughts as I hesitated to enter my room. It was located across the hall from Ayla's. I wanted to make sure I would hear if anything were to happen.

"Prince Silas! What the hell are you doing here?" I exclaimed. He pushed off the wall he was leaning against and walked over to me. We shook hands in greeting.

It's been a few years since I've seen him. He came here to train when I was still a warrior. The western sea prides itself on having one of the best militaries. King Samual wanted his son trained by the best.

"My father sent me to help with the princess. No wolf toy?" He asked and I chuckled.

"I'm sure he'll be here soon enough."

"Well, Chase will be here tomorrow. Apparently, the

queen wants one of us to win over her granddaughter.” I pushed my lips in a line. Not only do I have to see the love of my life with her supposed mate, but now I’ll have to watch two princes fight for her love.

“But it would seem the princess has already chosen her merman of choice,” he said, giving me a pointed look.

“You should get some rest. We start training in the morning.” I told him before entering my room, closing it behind me.

With a sigh, I got ready for bed. If only things were different.

Ayla

My sleep was plagued with nightmares. If my mind

wasn't filled with images of Nate kissing Bailey, it was filled with Nate catching me with Xander. What the hell is wrong with me?

I groaned as I got out of bed. I couldn't take seeing it anymore. Deep down I think I knew I couldn't be with either one of them. If I claimed Nate, he would find another if I died. But Xander wouldn't get a chance to have kids. He would forever be claimed by me and I couldn't do that to him. I didn't know what was going to happen, but I knew I couldn't ruin anyone's life. Claiming anyone was off the table until I knew I was coming back, alive.

And I was scared. I've never done anything like this before. I didn't have any training and I barely knew anything that was going on. King Kaden is going to squish me like a bug. And I didn't even know why he wanted a war. So many unanswered questions and my head ached.

I got dressed and went for a walk around the palace. It was very early in the morning and I didn't want to wake Xander. I'm sure I'm safe here or I wouldn't have been brought here.

I made my way outside as the sun was just starting to rise. The palace shined in the early morning light. I was in awe as I walked up the pool where a massive waterfall was built into the front of the palace. The pool was deep enough to calm the water before it rushed over the edge of another waterfall as the water made its way into the ocean. A beautiful stone bridge connects both sides of the pool.

The bottom of the pool illuminated as it had in the ocean when we arrived. There was an ocean ecosystem right through the palace, making this place feel truly like home. Fish swam through the coral and I wonder if there was a way for them to come and go

without having to go over the waterfall.

Looking around and finding no one. I pulled my leggings off before pulling the sweatshirt I was wearing over my head. I placed my clothes with my phone, which was in my leggings pocket, on the edge of the pool before taking a deep breath. Standing on the edge naked with my eyes closed, I jumped into the pool. Letting out a small scream as my body hit the cold water. The water muffled my scream as I sank below the surface of the water.

The water rushed around me as I felt my legs still, becoming my beautiful scaled tail. The shift didn't hurt and not long after, I pushed myself up to the surface, whipping my hair in the most dramatic way possible. Feeling like a model as my hair flew back over my head and away from my face.

I laughed as I shook my hair out and splashed my

hands in the water. I don't think I'll ever get over this feeling. I swam over to the edge and pulled myself up onto my elbows on the side of the pool. I grabbed my phone to take a selfie to send to Nate. I held the phone above me so he could see more of my mermaid body and scales. But my face was looking to the side with my eyes closed.

Looking at the photo I took, I felt beautiful. I never felt comfortable in my own skin, but maybe that was because I was supposed to be wearing scales.

I sent the photo to Nate with the caption, wishing you were here. Xoxo.

Smiling, I put my phone away, flipping my body before diving under the surface to explore the bottom. I love being able to breathe underwater. Nothing has ever felt better than being in the ocean. Well, maybe being wrapped up with Nate is a very close second. Both

felt a part of me but both were so contradicting. How is a mermaid supposed to live away from the sea or a wolf away from the forest?

Warrior Xander

Leaving Ayla's room, I knew I had f****d up when I told her my feelings. She was going to be with Nate and there was nothing I could do about that. I just want her happy and I'm in no position to give her what she deserves. After everything Ayla has been through, she deserves the moon, the sun, and all the stars.

I know he could shift here and there's more than enough room to roam behind the palace. But he wouldn't have a pack. Our children wouldn't have a pack. And wolves need their packs.

I was lost in my head as I mindlessly swam around the pool. I forgot all about the animals and creatures

because I couldn't get out of my own head. I was a problem solver and I felt like no matter what I chose to do, it was going to be a loss for all of us involved.

I wish my mother was here to tell me what to do. If this was what she had to deal with, I understand why she ran away. The situation with my father, not so much. But I've been here for less than a day and I already feel like I am going to crack under the pressure.

What looked like a sea otter pulled me from my thoughts as it swam in a blur in front of my face. I couldn't help but smile as I chased after it. Who wouldn't want to snuggle with a sea otter? They are so fluffy.

I broke the surface with my dramatic hair flipped and laughed at the headrush I just gave myself. Something furry brushed against my chest and I

looked down to see a sea otter looking up at me. Suddenly, I didn't know what to do. Can I pet him? He was so adorable with his big brown eyes. I was instantly in love.

“Aren't you just adorable?” I squealed as more sea otters popped their heads above the surface. There was an entire family of them.

The little one who was the closest to me brushed up against me again and I couldn't resist patting him on the head. He made a purring sound before he snuggled up against me and I held him like a baby in my arms. I was ready to burst into tears of happiness. How the hell can this be happening right now?

A commotion coming from inside the palace had me turning my head to the door where I came out from. Then I saw Xander and Prince Silas storming out of the doors with a bunch of warriors who all took off in

every direction. I looked around at the sea otters and they looked just as confused as I felt. Or maybe they always looked confused.

I looked back to where Xander was having what looked like a heated conversation with Prince Silas. I watched him with a smirk on my face until his eyes finally snapped to mine. I could see him physically relaxing as we looked at each other.

He looked like he had just gotten out of bed before he went into full-on panic mode. He and Prince Silas rushed over to me while Xander was calling out to the other warriors.

“Found her!” Found her? Like in me? Was I not allowed to leave my room? I was confused as he approached me with the prince on his heels.

“Ayla, what the hell are you doing?” He rushed out.

“Swimming with sea otters, obviously,” I said, rolling my eyes, and Prince Silas chuckled.

“Can you just come here, please?” He asked, kneeling down.

“Can you take a picture with me holding this adorable otter, please?” I asked, pouting and giving him my best puppy eyes. Xander groaned, before taking my phone and snapping a picture.

“Bye, baby boo.” I cooed the otter before I lifted him up and snuggled him before placing him back with his family.

I didn’t want to get out of the water. The otters had the best puppy eyes and I couldn’t look away. I just wanted to snuggle them forever. Prince Silas groaned and it pulled my attention away from the otters.

“Stop.” I heard Xander growl.

“I can’t help it. Did you explain how to turn it off?” Prince Silas retorted, not looking away from me.

“What’s wrong?” I asked, concerned.

“Nothing, but I’ll have to explain how to turn the mermaid charm off. Prince Silas here is having a hard time with yours.” Xander growled the last part.

“Come, let me help you out,” Xander said, motioning for me to swim over to him. But I hesitated. Was the mermaid charm really that strong? And what did it actually do? My mind was full of questions.

“I’m fine, Ayla. Please?” Xander pleaded and I finally nodded before swimming over to him.

“Think of your legs.” He said before I placed my hand in his.

Closing my eyes, I thought of my leg and began to shift back. Before I could open my eyes, Xander pulled me out of the water and into his arms. We were both standing and I could feel his breath against my cheek. I opened my eyes and found him watching me intently.

Someone cleared their throat and Xander let go of me, moving back. He looked me up and down before moving back and whispering in my ear.

“You’re bleeding,” I gasped. Looking down, I saw blood running down my thigh. My cheeks burned and I scrunched up my face, embarrassed.

“It’s okay. Breathe.” He whispered. Tears started running down my cheeks and I didn’t know why.

Usually, this kind of stuff wouldn't bother me. It's just blood and it's not like it's unheard of for a woman to bleed.

I just didn't understand why I was bleeding now. My cycle has always been regular and it's too early. And I always cramped at first, so I knew it was coming. God damn hormones.

I couldn't look Xander in the eyes as I moved to pull on my leggings. I pulled them up under my dress and pushed my phone into the pocket before pulling my sweatshirt over my head. Then I wiggled my arms out of the dress and pulled it down my body. When it hit the ground, it exploded into purple flowers, which the wind started to carry away. I heard a gasp but I didn't lift my head to look around. I shouldn't be embarrassed by this, but I just hated that I didn't know my own body. I hated that I didn't have anyone to talk to me about all of this. My mother wasn't here and I

really didn't want to talk about this with my grandmother. I didn't trust her not to sell me to the highest bidder.

I know he could shift here and there's more than enough room to roam behind the palace. But he wouldn't have a pack. Our children wouldn't have a pack. And wolves need their packs.

Xander pulled me from my thoughts when he took hold of my cheeks and lifted my gaze to meet his. He wiped tears off my cheeks with his thumb.

"It's fine. It could be worse, you could have a raging boner." He said seriously. I sucked my lips in trying not to laugh and he chuckled before I burst into laughter.

"And how is that worse?" I chuckled, shaking my head, and he shrugged.

“Come on, I’ll take you back to your room. Breakfast will be served soon and you can get ready.” Xander said as his hand found the small of my back.

Before I could move, I winced and grabbed my chest as pain ripped through it. My breathing became labored as I tried to breathe through the pain. My hands found my knees as I leaned forward, willing myself not to cry.

“Ayla,” Xander exclaimed, leaning down. I shook my head, unable to speak.

When the pain was less intense, I straightened myself. I rubbed my chest, as I composed myself. What the hell was that?

“Ayla?”

“I’m okay, I must just be tired,” I answered him.

“Let’s get you back to your room and you can rest.”

Future Beta Nate

I was walking back from night patrol with Max and David when my phone chimed in my pocket. I smiled when I saw I had a message from Ayla but it was the photo she sent me that stopped me in my tracks. She was gorgeous, water dripping down her skin as her scales were different colors of black and purple. The sun caused a glare off her scaled hip.

The scales covered her like an off-the-shoulder top with the front cut open down to her lower stomach. She wasn’t looking at the camera and she looked like a model posing for a magazine.

“Damn.” David whistled, he was looking over my left

shoulder and Max was looking over my right. Duke let out a growl and David held his hands up in surrender.

“f**k, you got lucky, man,” Max said as we started walking again.

“Please say you’ve hit that?” David pleaded. I didn’t tell them about the time I spent with Ayla at her house before the mateball.

It felt weird telling them about our personal time together. I knew I smelt like her the day of the mateball, but maybe it wasn’t as strong as I thought it was. f**k, I was smiling like an i***t when Max punched my shoulder.

“Finally popped your fucken cherry!” he exclaimed.

“Yes! And you picked a hot one at that. Damn.” David yelled and Duke growled again.

“Come on, Nate. Say it was more than once.”

“That’s the reason I was late for the mateball.” I grinned and Max grabbed my shoulders.

“Yeah, it was.”

“Lucky bastard gets to f**k the alpha’s daughter.” David proclaimed and I shook my head.

“Are you forgetting she’s my mate?” I shook my head.

“Even if she wasn’t, you’d still be the one to get the princess,” Max said, and I chuckled.

“Damn straight we got the princess,” Duke growled in my head.

“Calm down. They are just excited for us.” I told him

and he huffed.

“She’s ours and I don’t like anyone else looking at her like a piece of meat.” He growled before retreating to the back of my mind.

We had almost made it back to the pack house when Bailey started walking towards us.

“Nate?” She called out. I internally groaned. I didn’t want to have to deal with her this morning. I just wanted to call my mate and get some rest.

“Bailey,” I nodded.

“Can we talk in private?” She asked me shyly, looking at the ground.

“See you tonight,” Max said, smacking my shoulder.

“Have fun thinking about your mate.” David teased and I punched him in the shoulder. And he and Max laughed. I rolled my eyes and shook my head before turning back to Bailey. She was watching me intently now.

“What’s wrong, Bailey?” I almost growled out. It was easier to be civil with her when others were around.

“I just wanted to apologize for the other night. I shouldn’t have hit your mate.” She said, not meeting my gaze now.

“Bailey, you shouldn’t hit anyone unless your life or a pack member's life is at risk.” I scolded her.

“I know. And I’m sorry. I tried to reach out to Ruby but she didn’t respond. I know she is Mitch’s mate and he hasn't even spoken to me since that night.” Bailey confessed, sounding defeated.

“And what do you want me to do about it? Ruby has every right not to speak to you. I wouldn't if I wasn't the future beta.” I told her and she winced.

“I just wanted to say I'm sorry.” She said, reaching out, she touched my forearm.

“Prove it by being a better pack member,” I told her before walking past her toward my house.

None of us will ever be able to trust her again. She showed her true colors and I'm just sorry it took me so long to see them.

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

[MY ALPHA'S WOLFLESS DAUGHTER](#)

Chapter Twenty-Three

Ayla

My embarrassment and the pain in my chest were still front and center as Xander opened my bedroom door for me. I know I shouldn't be embarrassed and, besides, it's Xander. Whenever I was in pain before, I would just complain to him and he would always send me chocolate. He said he would send it because then I wouldn't be able to start an argument with him. It always made me chuckle. And then, after I had eaten my chocolate and I was feeling less grumpy, he would always come over with comfort food and we would eat and watch movies together.

I wonder if he was doing that because he cared or if it was because he felt like it was an order. And now my mind was spinning out of control with all the memories of us and my heart twisted more painfully as I knew it wasn't real. I was a job to him. Simply an order until I was to be brought back here. I know he said he cared about me, but how do I know what was true and what was an order?

"Ayla," Xander said, and it pulled me from my thoughts. I didn't notice I was standing by the window looking out.

"Why did you leave your room this morning?" He asked and I turned to look at him.

"I couldn't sleep. I didn't want to wake you. Am I not allowed to leave my room?" I asked him and he closed my bedroom door, stepping fully into my bedroom.

“Of course, you are allowed to leave your room. You aren’t a prisoner. I’m sorry. You should have woken me. I thought something had happened to you.” He breathed out.

“Are you okay? How is your chest feeling?” He asked, concerned, but didn’t close the distance between us.

“I’m okay. More embarrassed than anything.” I shrugged, sitting on the edge of the bed.

“I can answer all your questions,” he said, and I shook my head.

“No, and I don’t want to ask my grandmother either. I wish my mother was here.” I sighed.

“Would you like to speak with my mother?” He asked and I looked at him.

“My mother is a doctor here and she’s been asking to meet you. She’s seen everything so nothing embarrassed her.” He chuckled.

“I would really like that, Xander. Thank you.” I told him with a smile and his face lit up.

“There should be products under the sink in the bathroom for you. I’ll have breakfast sent up. Just take your time. I have some things to take care of, but I’ll be back.” He said before he left the room and I let out a breath.

I’ve been here less than a day and have already embarrassed myself in front of not only Xander but Prince Silas. I shouldn’t care but I’m supposed to be a princess. I will be the crown queen. If I live long enough to ascend to the throne, I used to be comfortable in my goofy skin, but now I needed to act

like something I wasn't. I'm not a princess, I'm just me.

My phone chimed, pulling me from my thoughts. I stood up from the bed and pulled out my phone before heading into the bathroom to have a shower. I smiled when I found a message from Nate.

Nate: gorgeous, baby. I can't wait to see you. Xoxox.

Me: thanks. Are you busy?

My phone rang in my hand and I abandoned the bathroom and headed back into the bedroom.

"Hey, you, good morning," I answered.

"Good morning, baby. How was your first night in the palace?" He asked me. I didn't want to tell him about my nightmares or that I had embarrassed myself

earlier this morning.

“It was okay. Just a new place. But I did get to snuggle a baby sea otter this morning.” I told him.

“The photo you sent me was beautiful, baby. It’s my new phone background.”

“Replacing Duke, are we?” I chuckled and he laughed.

“Trading him in for a sexier model.” I could hear Duke growling through the phone and I started laughing.

“You guys are so lucky. I would love to have my best friend in my head,” I told him.

“I guess it depends on the wolf. Mines a pain in the ass.” I rolled my eyes.

“Anyways, what are your plans for today?” I asked, changing the subject.

“Bedtime for me. I had night patrol. And how about you baby?”

“I have the morning off, so I’m just hopefully going to relax. Then I think I have training with Xander,” I told him.

“Sounds interesting.” He said and I could hear he wasn’t happy.

“You have nothing to worry about. Xander is the warrior assigned to my protection. He is a really good friend and that’s it. We are friends.” I tried to reassure him and he sighed.

“I'm sorry. I just miss you. And I hate that others get to see you as a mermaid and I haven't yet.” He

grumbled.

“Others have met Duke and I haven’t,” I countered.

“True.”

“Nate, we just need more time together. I’ll ask about you visiting here, okay?”

“Okay, I’d like that. I feel like we were just getting to know each other and then you had to leave.” He said and I felt the same way. A knock on the door caught my attention.

“Get some sleep. I need to eat and get ready. I miss you.”

“I miss you, baby.” He replied before I ended the call.
Ayla

My embarrassment and the pain in my chest were still front and center as Xander opened my bedroom door for me. I know I shouldn't be embarrassed and, besides, it's Xander. Whenever I was in pain before, I would just complain to him and he would always send me chocolate. He said he would send it because then I wouldn't be able to start an argument with him. It always made me chuckle. And then, after I had eaten my chocolate and I was feeling less grumpy, he would always come over with comfort food and we would eat and watch movies together.

The knock sounded again and I answered the door to find a young woman carrying a tray. She can't be older than I am. And she bowed her head, not making eye contact.

"Princess, I brought you breakfast." She said shyly.

"Thank you, I really appreciate it. Let me take it." I told

her, before taking the tray from her.

“I can help you,” she tried to say.

“I have it but if you could close the door, I’d appreciate it,” I said, and she nodded. I stepped back into my room and the woman closed my door behind me.

I placed the tray on my bed before I went into the bathroom to get myself cleaned up. I probably should have rushed to the bathroom first. I’m sure these leggings are ruined. Looking under the sink, I found feminine hygiene products. I pulled a few out before hopping into the shower.

I stood under the hot water, hoping to wash all my fears away. I wonder how much time I have before I have to confront King Kaden. Is it days, months, or even a year? How was I ever going to be ready to face him, knowing I may have to kill myself? Or

knowing he will probably rape and torture me?

When the water ran cold, I shut off the tap and wrapped a towel around myself before I inserted a tampon. Usually, I would use a diva cup and period underwear, but for now, this will do.

Walking back into my room, I got dressed before I sat down on my bed to eat. I noticed a few books and a chocolate bar on my bed beside the tray. Xander must have snuck in here while I was in the shower.

I moved the tray and picked up the books and the chocolate bar. I ripped open the bar before leaning back in bed with one of the books. The title of the first book was 'mermaid biology'. I figured there had to be some answers in there about my body and cycle.

Taking a bite of the chocolate, I instantly felt better as I flipped open the book and started reading.

After I was done reading the first book, I had a better understanding of why my cycle changed. If, under the full moon, a mermaid doesn't become pregnant, a few days later, she will get her period. Merbabies from the age of two can shift and I now know why my mother kept me from the sea or any salt water for that matter. I would have shifted. It also explains the town to the back of the palace. It's where all the families live until their babies can shift. I wonder if this place was just one of the islands they live on or if there are more.

I also found a few chapters on this mermaid charm I keep hearing about. It's a defense mechanism for us. It's to charm potential enemies into being lost in our presence. It doesn't affect members of the same pod of mermaids. And since I wasn't a part of this one officially, that's why mine was affecting Xander and his was affecting me. I wonder why he didn't turn his off? I still didn't understand how to turn it off, so I have

Xander explain it to me later.

The next book was all about the monarchy of this mermaid kingdom. My grandfather, King Tobias, married my grandmother, Andrea. They had my mother who was set to marry King Samuel of the Northern Sea, but then she left. My grandfather died from sickness a few years ago and it's been my grandmother ruling alone ever since.

Now if only I could get ahold of a book of King Kaden's history. I don't understand why he'd want to start a war with his own people. I understand humans. I'm sure mermaids have been hunted for millennia for our scales, but why make your own people suffer? Why not work with other supernatural beings and make alliances with them? And then it hit me, maybe that's my job.

Maybe I'm here to bridge the gap between wolves

and mermaids. If we could get the protection of wolves on land, we would be much safer. Did my mother know this? But how would she have known about King Kaden years later? And then how does me, being a black pearl, play into this?

“f**k,” I growled, slamming the book close. None of this makes any sense and until I can speak with King Kaden, I don’t think it will. I need to know his thought process. What he is thinking and why he feels that way.

A knock on my door had me grumbling as I sunk back into the pillows on my bed. I didn’t want to get up so I just called out for whoever it was to enter. I was feeling frustrated and hormonal. I just wanted this day to be over with.

Xander entered my room and let out a chuckle when he noticed I was still in bed, wearing a pout.

“What’s wrong? Not enough chocolate?”

“I would never say no to more, but it’s not just that. Do you have a family history book on King Kaden? I want to understand more about him,” I asked him.

“I don’t. I’ve only been told so much about him. I know he wants to take over the kingdoms and then the land. But Prince Silas and Prince Chase might have more information about him. Lots of this has been made hush-hush so it doesn’t scare the masses.” He said, sitting on the edge of my bed, beside me.

“Xander, I’m scared. I don’t know how long I have until I have to face him. I don’t know how to fight and I’m scared he’ll do the unthinkable if he gets ahold of me. Being claimed won’t stop him from hurting me. I won’t be able to give him a child, but that doesn’t mean he’ll just let me go.” I confessed, feeling the

tears building.

The knock sounded again and I answered the door to find a young woman carrying a tray. She can't be older than I am. And she bowed her head, not making eye contact.

"There's a meeting with the council and military heads. Hopefully, they will be able to give you more answers. I'll train you to fight and we can start this evening if you are feeling better. As long as I'm with you, Ayla, I won't let anything happen to you." He told me and I knew he was being sincere.

"Can you feel your claim cheating?" I asked him and he sighed.

"If the claim is complete, you can. Why do you ask?" I shrugged.

“Nate was telling me about the mate bond and how if your mate is with another it will cause them pain. I don’t want him to feel it if King Kaden does get me.” I told him.

“You’re more worried about Nate than you are yourself.”

“It’s one thing to experience something terrible, but I couldn’t imagine feeling someone I love going through something like that and being unable to stop it,” I explained my thinking.

“I understand. And I’m sorry you’re going through all of this. Honestly, I never thought your grandmother was going to bring you back here. She doesn’t talk very highly of your mother or her actions. She’s never said anything to me directly but I’ve overheard her talking with my father.” Xander said, and I sighed.

“Are your parents not together?” I asked him and it was his time to sigh.

“It’s a long story. They are claimed by each other but they don’t spend any time together,” he answered.

We sat there in comfortable silence. I was worried about Nate. He may have to reject me until we can figure out this war with King Kaden. But then what if he gets a second chance while I’m still figuring out my life? I smashed my eyes closed and willed myself not to cry.

Just the thought of letting Nate go twists my heart painfully. I hate this so much. I should be spending all my time with Nate. I’m sure he can train me and then Xander can teach me the mermaid stuff. Maybe the war can be defused before it even starts and we can all just move on with our lives. I can pass the throne to someone else and move beside the sea with Nate.

“Xander, what happens if I don’t take the throne?” I asked him and he looked at me.

“I’m not sure who would be next in line. Why?” He asked me.

“I don’t know if I can do this. I’m hoping we can defuse this war, but once it’s over. I don’t want to be queen. I just want to be me.” I told him.

“And who said you’re not the future queen of the western sea?” He explained, raising an eyebrow.

“Xander, you know me. I’m not a princess. I’m not elegant or graceful. I’m just me. I wasn’t raised to be a princess or a queen.” I sighed.

“How about you don’t make any decisions until you talk it over with Nate? Come up with something that

will make both of you happy,” he said.

“Maybe you’re right. I’m overthinking everything. But you know I can’t help it.” I told him and he chuckled.

“Always the problem solver. Come on, we should get to the meeting room. Hopefully, you can get all your questions answered.” He said, standing up from the bed.

“I’m just going to get ready,” I told him, climbing out of bed and heading to the bathroom. I needed to make sure I looked presentable.

Xander's phone started to ring and he pulled it out of his pocket before turning his attention back to me. I was about to step into the bathroom.

“I have to take this. I’ll wait for you in the hallway.” He said, and I nodded before he left the room.

I went into the bathroom to make sure I wasn't leaking and to braid my hair before going into my closet to find something more professional to wear. I was about to head into a meeting with some important people.

I'm thankful someone went shopping. I found tight black slacks with a lilac-notched neck and bishop sleeves blouse. And I paired it with a pair of nude heels. Looking at myself in the full mirror, I noticed my body had changed. My hips are wider and they made my lower stomach look flatter. As I left the closet and headed to the door to meet Xander in the hallway, I wondered if it was because of the shift.

I found Xander leaning up against the wall, looking deep in thought with a scowl on his face. My face instantly fell as I looked at him. My stomach twisted in anxiety as I knew the news wouldn't be good.

“What’s wrong?” I asked him and he turned his head to look at me. His facial expression changed to neutral but I knew something was wrong. I could see the fury in his eyes.

“Nothing's wrong. Come, the meeting is about to start.” He said, motioning me to follow him.

We were both silent as I walked beside him, following his lead to the meeting room.

I had a really bad feeling about this.

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

[MY ALPHA’S WOLFLESS DAUGHTER](#)

Chapter Twenty-Four





Future Beto Note

“Note, get up!” The olpho yelled in my heod. I was hoving the best dreom about my mote until her fother hod to ruin it.

“Alpho?” I grooned, rubbing my foce to woke up. It felt like I hod just follen osleep.

“Meet me ot the northeost corner of the territory.” He soid, before closing the link.

I yowned os I got out of bed. I pulled on o poir of shorts ond grobbed o shirt before moking my woy out of the house. I wos curious os to why the olpho colled me. He knew I hod night potrol ond would be sleeping.

“You forgot your phone.” Duke huffed ond I grooned.

“I’ll just be quick. Aylo knows that we are sleeping.” I told him.

“She’s worried about you being faithful.” He growled as I took off my shorts and shifted. Duke picked up the clothes in his mouth and took off.

“Why would you say that?” I retorted.

“Because you already did. And now she’s worried.” He answered and I sighed.

“I know what I did was wrong and I apologized. And you should know I would never give our mate a reason to reject us. Ever.” I told him and he huffed.

He didn’t say anything else as he ran to where the alpha told us to meet him. Is Aylo really scared I would cheat on her? I won’t do this. I even told her I didn’t

wont o second chance mote. I just wont her ond to figure out how we ore going to moke this work. Especially since she will be the queen of the western seo. I should probobly just leove this pock ond join her ot her poloce if I con. There's no point in us stoying owoy from eoch other ond I need to leorn about mermaids os well.

Duke cougth the olpho's scent ond ron foster, shoking me from my thoughts. And now I was worried about whot the olpho hod to show me. My fother ond the olpho were stonding together os Duke opprooched. He shifted bock ond I got dressed. I couldn't see around them so I still didn't know why I was colled out here.

"Alpho, dod, whot hopped?" I soid, moving beside my fother. Duke let out o murderous growl os he come forword to look ot the scene before us.

There was another mermaid's body with the head missing. It looked to be a female and she had been despoiled. There was a picture of Aylo coming out of my house before the Mote Ball, with the caption. 'It won't be long now'.

"What the hell do we do now?" I yelled.

"Note, it's not safe for Aylo to return to the pack. It could have been anyone who took this picture. Anyone in this pack or the other pack members who attended the Mote Ball. Whoever it is, wants us to know they can get to her," Alpha Atlos explained.

"I will protect her with my life. No one will hurt her!" I roared, unable to hold back my anger.

"Note, you need to calm down and have a clear head about this. She is my daughter and I also need her to be safe. I've called Queen Andreo and she is sending

her people to pick up the body. She is going to try to identify which kingdom this victim is from. It should give us a better idea of where they are finding their victims.”

“Then what am I doing?” I asked him.

“You will accompany the body back to the western sea port and keep my daughter safe. I will get to the bottom of this here and, hopefully, she will be able to come back with you. I don’t know if they know about her rarity or if they think she is just another mermaid.” The elf informed me.

“Note, go get yourself packed and be ready to leave within the hour. You have a long trip ahead of you.” My dad said, grabbing my shoulder, and giving it a squeeze.

“I’m trusting you, Note. Keep my daughter safe and

don't let her go into the open ocean. We don't know where this threat is coming from." The olpho growled.

"I won't let anything happen to her," I said before Duke shifted and took off towards home.

We made it home in record time. Shifting, I ran into the house naked. I only cared about one thing at that moment and it was Aylo. Before I even got dressed, I picked up my phone to call her. I needed to make sure she was okay. It rang a few times and went to her voicemail.

"Dommit," I cursed. I threw down my phone and went into my closet to get dressed and pack a bag.

My mind and heart were racing as I tried to calm down my breathing. I should be there with her, protecting her. The hunters are going after her and they are so confident they are touting us.

“Try Xonder. Aylo said she was training today. She may not have her phone.” Duke chimed in.

Before I was even done pocking, I rushed over to my bed and picked up my phone, going through the outgoing calls. I found Xonder’s number and pressed the call button. With every ring, my anxiety grew and my stomach twisted painfully.

“Xonder speaking.” He answered.

“Where’s Aylo?” I rushed out, not able to stop myself.

“Who is this?” He growled and I just about lost it.

“It’s Note, who the hell else would be calling you asking for Aylo!” I yelled.

“Note, Aylo is getting ready for a meeting. What’s

wrong?" He asked calmly and now I felt like an ass.

"Xander, we found another mermaid's body on our territory. There was a picture of Aylo attached. It was when she was here for the Mote Ball." I heard him curse before the phone went silent.

"I'm going to start training her this evening after the meeting with the council and the military heads. I will protect her with my life." He finally said.

Future Beta Nate

"Nate, get up!" The alpha yelled in my head. I was having the best dream about my mate until her father had to ruin it.

"My alpha has already contacted Queen Andrea and she's sending someone to transport the body back to the palace. I'll be coming with the body." I told him.

“My elphe hes elreedy contected Queen Andree end she’s sending someone to trensport the body beck to the pelece. I’ll be coming with the body.” I told him.

“Nete, she is sefe et the pelece.” He tried to reessure me.

“Not the point. This is serious. Someone is wetching her end they infiltreted our peck. And I’m not going to sit here end weit for something to heppen to her. I’ll be leeving in ebout en hour end I’ll be there es soon es possible,” I declered. I wes telling him, not esking for his permission to see my mete.

“I will inform her of your errivel,” he seid before ending the cell.

“Fucker,” I growled, throwing my phone on the bed.

“He likes our mete.” Duke sneered, end I would heve

to agree.

“I figured, but right now we have more important things to worry about,” I told him.

I went back into my closet to finish pecking. Ayle would never cheat on the bond, would she? I found myself doubting her even though she has never given me a reason. And she said we were together, surely she would never take a free pass for what I did.

“Ayle would never hurt us. She could be carrying our pup.” Duke said.

“I hope you’re right,” I sighed. I finished pecking, grabbed my phone, and headed to the peck hospital.

My mother was waiting out front as I walked up. She quickly wrapped me in a hug.

“Nete, please be safe and keep Ayle safe.” She cried as I hugged her back.

“I will, mom. And hopefully, I can bring her home soon.” I told her and she sniffled. She pulled away before taking my cheeks in her hands.

“I know this is hard on you, but I promise she is worth all of this.” My mother’s voice cracked as she looked at me.

“I’m not letting her go without a fight,” I said, and she nodded.

“Good,” she said, kissing my cheek.

“Be safe and text me. I have to head back in.” She said, giving me another hug, which I returned.

“I will. Love you.” I called out as she was walking back

into the hospital.

“I love you, son.” She turned to say before heeding back inside. I mind-linked my father to let him know I was waiting.

“I’m outside the hospital, waiting.”

Warrior Xander

Ayle and I walked in silence as I led her to the council meeting room. It did bother me that her mother was coming here so soon, but I was more disturbed by what he said. Another mermaid's body but this time there was a picture of Ayle etched. I was starting to question if she was safe anywhere. With Nete here, someone would be with her almost twenty-four, seven but deep down I was hoping to have more time with Ayle. I wanted to explain to her that she wasn't just a job to me. I truly care for her and it's going to be hard

to watch her with her mate.

The fact she hes e mate really threw me for e loop. Mermaids get to choose who we spend our lives with, but wolves are fated to another. How can you truly love someone if you don't even know them? I hated to admit it but I knew something was there the moment Ayle's eyes found his when we were watching her house burn. I could feel the sparks between them.

Shaking the feelings away, I pushed open the door to the council meeting room. I held the door for Ayle and she gasped as she walked in. The room was done in white marble with accents of ocean blue. One wall was windows and it faced out looking onto the ocean. The sun was high in the sky and you could see the white tips of the waves.

In the middle of the room, set e white stone table with oak chairs. Most of the chairs were taken as the

council, and the military heeds were seated with Queen Andree at the head of the table.

With my hand on the smell of Ayle's back, I led her to the other side of the table to sit across from her grandmother. I pulled the chair out for her to sit and took the empty chair to the left of hers. Ayle was still looking around the room, ignoring the people in front of her. Honestly, I don't blame her, this has to be overwhelming for her.

I noticed Prince Siles and Prince Chase were also in attendance. I wonder if there is more to this meeting than Queen Andree disclosed to me. The Queen cleared her throat and Ayle snapped her attention to the head of the table.

"Granddaughter, before we start this meeting, I'd like to introduce you to a few people. Prince Siles, you already know, and the young man across from him is

Prince Chese of the southern see.” The queen paused.

“Nice to meet you, Prince Chese,” She acknowledged. I could see her watching him intently. Surprisingly, he looks a lot like Nete, with dark hair and blue eyes. Less rugged and more pretty boy.

“Always nice to see you, Princess.” Prince Siles interrupted Prince Chese. Ayle looked at him and rolled her eyes.

“It’s nice to meet you as well, Princess Ayle.” Prince Chese said, both of them ignoring Prince Siles.

“Now, Ayle. These are our council members on the right and the heads of the military on the left.” The Queen announced, and Ayle looked around. I knew she was about to say something the queen wasn’t going to like.

“Where ere ell the women?” She esked, crossing her erms over her chest. She wesn’t wrong, the queen end princess were the only women in ettendence.

Prince Siles sterted to leugh es the others were scowling, except for Prince Chese, who wesn’t sure whet to do.

“Princess Ayla. These are some of the oldest members of our kingdom. Show them respect.” The queen demanded.

“Princess Ayle. These ere some of the oldest members of our kingdom. Show them respect.” The queen demended.

“There ere no women that ere old enough to sit on the council or femele werriors?” She esked end I wes even trying to hold in my grin. I love how she

questions everything.

“Young lady, how dare you disrespect these people and your council,” one member huffed. One of the councilmen started to laugh and we all looked at him.

“You will make a fine queen, indeed. Andrews don’t scold the princess. Questioning everything is what’s going to make her a great queen.” Councilmen Thompson chuckled.

“Thank you.” She said, giving him a smile.

“Now, I know you aren’t familiar with our laws and customs. I’m sure you will find all you need to know in the library. But what are some of the questions you have that you won’t find in any book?” He asked her.

“First, I would like to know why King Keden is doing what he is doing?” She asked, right to the point.

“Princess, we only have rumors from other merpeople who have been exiled and have come here seeking refuge.”, heed commander, McGregor answered.

“So nothing we have is facts. We are just going off of reports that have not been proven?” She asked.

“Ayle, we are preparing for the worse. It takes months to get the armies ready if King Keden decides to attack,” The queen answered.

“Has anyone spoken with him?” And they all shifted uncomfortably.

“Well, I would like to speak with him. I don’t see why we can’t end this peacefully, especially if none of you know why he wants this war in the first place.” Ayle commended.

“Ayle, you are too valuable to this kingdom and to our people. You can't just go talk with our enemy.” The queen scolded her.

“Am I here to help or be held prisoner? I didn't sign up for any of this and I don't want to see innocent people die, but there is a reason my mother kept me from this world. Also, how am I supposed to help if I don't have all the answers,” Ayle retorted.

“Princess, the plan is to train you before we use you as bait to lure out King Keden. We haven't asked him because none of the kingdoms can find him.” Prince Siles answered and Ayle was taken aback. She looked at her grandmother before looking back at Prince Siles.

“So what happens when he comes?” She asked Prince Siles.

“You kill him and take over the east.” He shrugged.

“So, none of you are concerned about my safety?”
She only but growled.

“Ayle, we all have to make sacrifices,” the queen said.

Ayle flew up from her seat so fast it felt behind her. I could feel the power radiating from her as her eyes turned to storm clouds. Her eyes never left her grandmother.

“Ayle,” I yelled out, but she didn’t acknowledge me.

Ayle balled up her fists, smashing them against the table and the entire thing exploded, sending everyone to the floor in panic. Her forearms and hands had shifted and her nails extended into sharp points. She was ready to kill.

“That’s bullshit and you know it! I’m not sacrificing myself for anyone. This isn’t a plan, it’s an execution. And if this is how it’s going to be, I should join King Keden’s side. At least he’ll be honest as to why he wants me.” She screamed and it felt like a sonic boom.

When she moved away from the rubble, I moved closer, grabbing her hands and pinning her up against the wall with my body. She was fighting to get free and her strength surprised me. She wanted the queen deed.

“Aye, breathe. Look at me.” I repeated to her until her eyes finally snapped at mine. Her eyes returned to normal and she looked at me confused as to why I held her arms and body pinned up against the wall.

“It’s okay, breathe.” I soothed her, and she buried her face into my chest. I could feel her heart pounding in

her chest.

“Xender, whet heppened?” She mumbled. I let go of her hends end moved enough so she wesn’t pinned egeinst the well.

“I don’t know. I’ve never seen anything like this before. You don’t remember?” I esked her end she shook her heed.

“Okey. It’s okey. Let’s get you into the weter so you cen shift fully end then we cen telk ebout whet heppened.” I told her, wrepping my erms eround her shoulders.

When I moved ewey, my hend rested on the smell of her beck es I led her out of the room. My ettention wes fully on Ayle. Before we left, she cried out, her neils digging deep into her chest es her breething beceme lebored.

“Ayle,” I cried out as she leaned forward, placing her hand on her knee. It took her a moment to catch her breath but she finally answered me.

“I’m okay,” she groaned. She whimpered as she removed her nails that she buried in her chest. Blood stained her shirt and you could see the top was shredded. Ayle still looked pained as she stood up and looked at me.

“It would seem your wolf isn’t so faithful.” Her grandmother smirked. Ayle’s eyes snapped at hers before she lunged at the queen.

I grabbed onto Ayle’s waist, trying to hold her back from killing her grandmother. She just had to poke the bear. And Ayle was strong, stronger than before. I could see the terror in the queen’s eyes as Ayle struggled to break free of my hold. So I blurted out the

one thing I knew would calm her.

“Nete’s coming here.”

“Princess Aylo. These are some of the oldest members of our kingdom. Show them respect.” The queen demanded.

“There are no women that are old enough to sit on the council or female warriors?” She asked and I was even trying to hold in my grin. I love how she questions everything.

“Young lady, how dare you disrespect these people and your council,” one member huffed. One of the councilmen started to laugh and we all looked at him.

“You will make a fine queen, indeed. Andrews don’t scold the princess. Questioning everything is what’s

going to make her a great queen.” Councilman Thompson chuckled.

“Thank you.” She said, giving him a smile.

“Now, I know you aren’t familiar with our laws and customs. I’m sure you will find all you need to know in the library. But what are some of the questions you have that you won’t find in any book?” He asked her.

“First, I would like to know why King Kodan is doing what he is doing?” She asked, right to the point.

“Princess, we only have rumors from other merpeople who have been exiled and have come here seeking refuge.”, head commander, McGregor answered.

“So nothing we have is facts. We are just going off of reports that have not been proven?” She asked.

“Aylo, we are preparing for the worse. It takes months to get the armies ready if King Kodan decides to attack,” The queen answered.

“Has anyone spoken with him?” And they all shifted uncomfortably.

“Well, I would like to speak with him. I don’t see why we can’t end this peacefully, especially if none of you know why he wants this war in the first place.” Aylo commanded.

“Aylo, you are too valuable to this kingdom and to our people. You can’t just go talk with our enemy.” The queen scolded her.

“Am I here to help or be held prisoner? I didn’t sign up for any of this and I don’t want to see innocent people die, but there is no reason my mother kept me from this world. Also, how am I supposed to help if I don’t have

all the answers,” Aylo retorted.

“Princess, the plan is to train you before we use you as bait to lure out King Koden. We haven’t asked him because none of the kingdoms can find him.” Prince Silos answered and Aylo was taken aback. She looked at her grandmother before looking back at Prince Silos.

“So what happens when he comes?” She asked Prince Silos.

“You kill him and take over the east.” He shrugged.

“So, none of you are concerned about my safety?” She all but growled.

“Aylo, we all have to make sacrifices,” the queen said.

Aylo flew up from her seat so fast it fell behind her. I

could feel the power radiating from her as her eyes turned to storm clouds. Her eyes never left her grandmother.

“Aylo,” I yelled out, but she didn’t acknowledge me.

Aylo balled up her fists, smashing them against the table and the entire thing exploded, sending everyone to the floor in panic. Her forearms and hands had shifted and her nails extended into sharp points. She was ready to kill.

“That’s bullshit and you know it! I’m not sacrificing myself for anyone. This isn’t a plan, it’s an execution. And if this is how it’s going to be, I should join King Kodan’s side. At least he’ll be honest as to why he wants me.” She screamed and it felt like a sonic boom.

When she moved away from the rubble, I moved

closer, grobbing her honds ond pinning her up ogoinst the woll with my body. She was fighting to get free ond her strength surprised me. She wonted the queen deod.

“Aylo, breathe. Look ot me.” I repeoted to her until her eyes finolly snopped ot mine. Her eyes returned to normol ond she looked ot me confused os to why I hod her orms ond body pinned up ogoinst the woll.

“It’s okoy, breathe.” I soothed her, ond she buried her foce into my chest. I could feel her heort pounding in her chest.

“Xonder, whot hopped?” She mumbled. I let go of her honds ond moved enough so she wosn’t pinned ogoinst the woll.

“I don’t know. I’ve never seen onything like this before. You don’t remember?” I osked her ond she

shook her head.

“Okoy. It’s okoy. Let’s get you into the water so you can shift fully and then we can talk about what happened.” I told her, wrapping my arms around her shoulders.

When I moved away, my hand rested on the small of her back as I led her out of the room. My attention was fully on Aylo. Before we left, she cried out, her nails digging deep into her chest as her breathing became labored.

“Aylo,” I cried out as she leaned forward, placing a hand on her knee. It took her a moment to catch her breath but she finally answered me.

“I’m okoy,” she groaned. She whimpered as she removed her nails that she buried in her chest. Blood stained her shirt and you could see the top was

shredded. Aylo still looked pained as she stood up and looked at me.

“It would seem your wolf isn’t so faithful.” Her grandmother smirked. Aylo’s eyes snapped at hers before she lunged at the queen.

I grabbed onto Aylo’s waist, trying to hold her back from killing her grandmother. She just had to poke the bear. And Aylo was strong, stronger than before. I could see the terror in the queen’s eyes as Aylo struggled to break free of my hold. So I blurted out the one thing I knew would calm her.

“Note’s coming here.”

“Princess Ayla. These are some of the oldest members of our kingdom. Show them respect.” The queen demanded.

“There are no women that are old enough to sit on the council or female warriors?” She asked and I was even trying to hold in my grin. I love how she questions everything.

“Young lady, how dare you disrespect these people and your council,” one member huffed. One of the councilmen started to laugh and we all looked at him.

“You will make a fine queen, indeed. Andrews don’t scold the princess. Questioning everything is what’s going to make her a great queen.” Councilman Thompson chuckled.

“Thank you.” She said, giving him a smile.

“Now, I know you aren’t familiar with our laws and customs. I’m sure you will find all you need to know in the library. But what are some of the questions you

have that you won't find in any book?" He asked her.

"First, I would like to know why King Kaden is doing what he is doing?" She asked, right to the point.

"Princess, we only have rumors from other merpeople who have been exiled and have come here seeking refuge.", head commander, McGregor answered.

"So nothing we have is facts. We are just going off of reports that have not been proven?" She asked.

"Ayla, we are preparing for the worse. It takes months to get the armies ready if King Kaden decides to attack," The queen answered.

"Has anyone spoken with him?" And they all shifted uncomfortably.

"Well, I would like to speak with him. I don't see why

we can't end this peacefully, especially if none of you know why he wants this war in the first place.” Ayla commanded.

“Ayla, you are too valuable to this kingdom and to our people. You can’t just go talk with our enemy.” The queen scolded her.

“Am I here to help or be held prisoner? I didn’t sign up for any of this and I don’t want to see innocent people die, but there is a reason my mother kept me from this world. Also, how am I supposed to help if I don’t have all the answers,” Ayla retorted.

“Princess, the plan is to train you before we use you as bait to lure out King Kaden. We haven’t asked him because none of the kingdoms can find him.” Prince Silas answered and Ayla was taken aback. She looked at her grandmother before looking back at Prince Silas.

“So what happens when he comes?” She asked Prince Silas.

“You kill him and take over the east.” He shrugged.

“So, none of you are concerned about my safety?” She all but growled.

“Ayla, we all have to make sacrifices,” the queen said.

Ayla flew up from her seat so fast it fell behind her. I could feel the power radiating from her as her eyes turned to storm clouds. Her eyes never left her grandmother.

“Ayla,” I yelled out, but she didn’t acknowledge me.

Ayla balled up her fists, smashing them against the table and the entire thing exploded, sending everyone

to the floor in panic. Her forearms and hands had shifted and her nails extended into sharp points. She was ready to kill.

“That’s bullshit and you know it! I’m not sacrificing myself for anyone. This isn’t a plan, it’s an execution. And if this is how it’s going to be, I should join King Kaden’s side. At least he’ll be honest as to why he wants me.” She screamed and it felt like a sonic boom.

When she moved away from the rubble, I moved closer, grabbing her hands and pinning her up against the wall with my body. She was fighting to get free and her strength surprised me. She wanted the queen dead.

“Ayla, breathe. Look at me.” I repeated to her until her eyes finally snapped at mine. Her eyes returned to normal and she looked at me confused as to why I

had her arms and body pinned up against the wall.

“It’s okay, breathe.” I soothed her, and she buried her face into my chest. I could feel her heart pounding in her chest.

“Xander, what happened?” She mumbled. I let go of her hands and moved enough so she wasn’t pinned against the wall.

“I don’t know. I’ve never seen anything like this before. You don’t remember?” I asked her and she shook her head.

“Okay. It’s okay. Let’s get you into the water so you can shift fully and then we can talk about what happened.” I told her, wrapping my arms around her shoulders.

When I moved away, my hand rested on the small of

her back as I led her out of the room. My attention was fully on Ayla. Before we left, she cried out, her nails digging deep into her chest as her breathing became labored.

“Ayla,” I cried out as she leaned forward, placing a hand on her knee. It took her a moment to catch her breath but she finally answered me.

“I’m okay,” she groaned. She whimpered as she removed her nails that she buried in her chest. Blood stained her shirt and you could see the top was shredded. Ayla still looked pained as she stood up and looked at me.

“It would seem your wolf isn’t so faithful.” Her grandmother smirked. Ayla’s eyes snapped at hers before she lunged at the queen.

I grabbed onto Ayla’s waist, trying to hold her back

from killing her grandmother. She just had to poke the bear. And Ayla was strong, stronger than before. I could see the terror in the queen's eyes as Ayla struggled to break free of my hold. So I blurted out the one thing I knew would calm her.

“Nate's coming here.”

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.

MY ALPHA'S WOLFLESS DAUGHTER

Chapter Twenty-Five



Ayla

I let out a scream as my body hit something cool. My mind was racing as I tried to bring on my memories of

what happened. I remember talking with the council and then everything after was blank. What the hell happened?

I screamed as my body started to shift and the shift became painful as my legs became my fins and the scales covered my body. A moment later, something grabbed my wrist and I was pulled up toward the surface. I knew it was the surface when my head breached the surface and I opened my eyes to find Xander staring at me. Concern was written on his face as I tried to return to my senses.

“Xander,” I breathed out. He moved my hands to his shoulders and wrapped his arms around my hips. I felt exhausted and was thankful he was doing all of the work.

“Ayla, are you okay?” He asked me.

“What the hell happened?” I asked, shaking my head, trying to keep myself awake.

“We don’t know,” I heard a voice, but it wasn’t Xander. And then I heard a groan.

“I know, try not to look directly at her.” I think it was Prince Silas.

“Ayla, take a deep breath and calm down your heart rate,” Xander instructed, and I closed my eyes and did what he said.

Taking deep breaths, I felt my heart rate slow to a more normal pace. With my heart rate slowing, I felt this nagging sensation in my chest. I must have made a confused face because Xander answered my question before I asked it.

“That feeling in your chest is your charm. Breathe until

you feel the sensation in your belly.” I did what he asked and soon found the sensation less intense and moved down to my belly button. I opened my eyes to find Xander smiling at me.

“That’s it. It will get easier to control. It’s hard when your heart rate is up.” He clarified and I nodded. I heard Prince Silas let out a breath with someone else behind Xander.

“Thank you, princess. You’re already sexy enough without the charm.” Prince Silas chuckled and Xander groaned.

Xander moved to the side of me, with an arm still around my waist. I now could see Prince Silas and Prince Chase, sitting on the edge with their legs in the water. I wonder why they weren’t shifting.

“We can control the shift. It’s another thing to master.”

Xander said as we swam towards the edge.

At the side of the pool, I crossed my arms and rested my head on top of them. I felt exhausted as I closed my eyes. I'm not sure what happened, but whatever it was, couldn't have been good if I ended up in the water with Xander.

"So what happened?" I mumbled.

"First, that was badass, princess. I don't think I've ever seen a room of grown men ready to s**t themselves." Prince Silas chuckled. I opened my eyes to look up at him and he was watching me.

"Ayla, you partially shifted again. Your eyes were a storm and even I was having a hard time holding you back. It seemed you came out of it but only for a minute and then you were ready to kill again. You honestly don't remember?" Xander asked from the

other side of me. I turned my head to look at him.

“I don’t. I remember asking about King Kaden and then nothing. What was said?” I asked him and there was an uncomfortable silence. All of them shifted uncontrollably.

“First, they said they were going to use you as bait to draw out King Kaden.” Xander started to say.

“You smashed the table and it was awesome!” Prince Silas exclaimed. I snapped my head to look at him.

“I what?” I yelled and he chuckled.

“Your fist hit the table and poof it was rubble.” He emphasized with the movement of his arms.

“And then what?” Not knowing if I wanted to know the answer or not.

“I was able to pull you from the trance you were in and then you doubled over in pain and you stabbed your nails into your chest. You said you were in pain and then the queen made a comment about Nate and you lost it again.” Xander explained, cautiously.

“And what did she say about Nate?” My voice shook and I knew it was bad if I lost it again. Xander let out a sigh and he hesitated before he answered.

“She said he wasn’t being faithful.” My breath lodged in my throat as I tried to comprehend what Xander just told me.

I slammed my eyes closed and willed myself not to break down. He wouldn’t have cheated, would he? My chest twisted painfully as I tried to breathe in much-needed oxygen. This can’t be happening.

“Ayla, breathe. It’s going to be okay.” I heard Xander say and I just shook my head.

“How?” I whispered.

“The pain you’ve been feeling in your chest can be associated with your mate cheating,” Xander mumbled, but I heard him clearly.

“What?” I yelled, pushing away from the edge. I looked at all of them. They were all looking at me with pity.

“Ayla, I’m not sure what you are feeling. But I know Nate is on his way here. He can explain when he gets here.” Xander said, moving towards me.

“I don’t understand, why is Nate coming here?” I asked him, confused. Last time I talked to Nate he was going to bed because he said he was on night

patrol.

Ayla

I lat out a scraam as my body hit somathing cool. My mind was racing as I triad to bring on my mamorias of what happanad. I ramambar talking with tha council and than avarything aftar was blank. What tha hall happanad?

I scraamad as my body startad to shift and tha shift bacama painful as my lags bacama my fins and tha scalas covarad my body. A momant later, somathing grabbad my wrist and I was pullad up toward tha surfaca. I knaw it was tha surfaca whan my haad braachad tha surfaca and I opanad my ayas to find Xandar staring at ma. Concarn was writtan on his faca as I triad to raturnd to my sansas.

“Xandar,” I braathad out. Ha movad my hands to his shouldars and wrappad his arms around my hips. I

falt axhaustad and was thankful ha was doing all of tha work.

“Ayla, ara you okay?” Ha askad ma.

“What tha hall happanad?” I askad, shaking my haad, trying to kaap mysalf awaka.

“Wa don’t know,” I haard a voica, but it wasn’t Xandar. And than I haard a groan.

“I know, try not to look diractly at har.” I think it was Princa Silas.

“Ayla, taka a daap braath and calm down your haart rata,” Xandar instructad, and I closad my ayas and did what ha said.

Taking daap braaths, I falt my haart rata slow to a mora normal paca. With my haart rata slowing, I falt

this nagging sensation in my chest. I must have made a confused face because Xandar answered my question before I asked it.

“That feeling in your chest is your charm. Breathe until you feel the sensation in your belly.” I did what he asked and soon found the sensation less intense and moved down to my belly button. I opened my eyes to find Xandar smiling at me.

“That’s it. It will get easier to control. It’s hard when your heart rate is up.” He clarified and I nodded. I heard Prince Silas let out a breath with someone else behind Xandar.

“Thank you, princess. You’re already sexy enough without the charm.” Prince Silas chuckled and Xandar groaned.

Xandar moved to the side of me, with an arm still

around my waist. I now could see Princa Silas and Princa Chasa, sitting on the adga with their legs in the water. I wonder why they weren't shifting.

"We can control the shift. It's another thing to master." Xandar said as we swam towards the adga.

At the side of the pool, I crossed my arms and rested my head on top of them. I felt exhausted as I closed my eyes. I'm not sure what happened, but whatever it was, couldn't have been good if I ended up in the water with Xandar.

"So what happened?" I mumbled.

"First, that was badass, princess. I don't think I've ever seen a room of grown men ready to s**t themselves." Princa Silas chuckled. I opened my eyes to look up at him and he was watching me.

“Ayla, you partially shiftad again. Your ayas wara a storm and avan I was having a hard tima holding you back. It saamad you cama out of it but only for a minuta and than you wara raady to kill again. You honastly don’t ramambar?” Xandar askad from tha othar sida of ma. I turnad my haad to look at him.

“I don’t. I ramambar asking about King Kadan and than nothing. What was said?” I askad him and thara was an uncomfortabla silanca. All of tham shiftad uncontrollably.

“First, thay said thay wara going to usa you as bait to draw out King Kadan.” Xandar startad to say.

“You smashad tha tabla and it was awasoma!” Princa Silas axclaimad. I snappad my haad to look at him.

“I what?” I yallad and ha chucklad.

“Your fist hit tha tabla and poof it was rubbla.” Ha amphasizad with tha movamant of his arms.

“And than what?” Not knowing if I wantad to know tha answar or not.

“I was abla to pull you from tha tranca you wara in and than you doublad ovar in pain and you stabbad your nails into your chast. You said you wara in pain and than tha quaan mada a commant about Nata and you lost it again.” Xandar axplainad, cautiously.

“And what did sha say about Nata?” My voica shook and I knaw it was bad if I lost it again. Xandar lat out a sigh and ha hasitatad bafora ha answarad.

“Sha said ha wasn’t baing faithful.” My braath lodgad in my throat as I triad to comprahand what Xandar just told ma.

I slammad my ayas closad and willad myself not to braak down. Ha wouldn't hava chaatad, would ha? My chast twistad painfully as I triad to braatha in much-naadad oxygen. This can't ba happenning.

"Ayla, braatha. It's going to ba okay." I haard Xandar say and I just shook my haad.

"How?" I whisparad.

"Tha pain you've baan faaling in your chast can ba associatad with your mata chaating," Xandar mumblad, but I haard him claarly.

"What?" I yallad, pushing away from tha adga. I lookad at all of tham. Thay wara all looking at ma with pity.

"Ayla, I'm not sura what you ara faaling. But I know Nata is on his way hara. Ha can axplain whan ha gats

hara.” Xandar said, moving towards me.

“I don’t understand, why is Nata coming here?” I asked him, confused. Last time I talked to Nata he was going to bed because he said he was on night patrol.

“Your father found another mermaid in his territory. Nate is coming with the body. He is also coming to protect you. There was a picture of you attached to your body in their pack.” Xander explained, and I gasped.

I could feel my chest constricting, as my mind raced to try to comprehend what Xander was telling me. Not only was Nate coming here, but there was a dead mermaid. And whoever put it on my father’s territory made a point of threatening me. Why is this happening?

“Ayla, Nate will be here soon and then we can come up with a plan. None of us want to go with the queen’s plan.” Xander said, pulling me against his chest. My head snapped at the princes before I looked up at Xander.

“What?” I stuttered.

“Princess, we aren’t just going to feed you to the sharks. And if King Kaden wants you, then he has to go through us and your wolf.” Prince Chase said. I could feel tears starting to pool in my eyes.

“Really?” I sniffled.

“Really, really,” Prince Silas chuckled.

“Now let’s get you some food and rest,” Xander said as he pulled me back towards the ledge.

“But we need to train,” I protested.

“You want to run,” and I groaned. Xander chuckled, knowing full well I hated running.

“I didn’t think so. We can start training tomorrow. This way, Nate is here to help as well. You have a lot to learn in a short amount of time. I’ve been training for the last ten years.” Xander said, and I sighed.

“But if you go full wolverine on their asses they won’t stand a chance.” Prince Silas winked at me.

“Was I really that bad?” I winced.

“You were ready to kill. And you were strong. I was having a hard time holding you back.” Xander admitted.

“Oh,” I said, sheepishly. Now I just needed to figure

out how to turn it on at will.

“Come on, Princess, think of your legs.” Prince Silas said, grabbing my hand. Before I was done shifting, he had lifted me up out of the water. My feet finally touched the cold stone and I heard Prince Chase gasp.

“If you didn’t already have a wolf toy, Chase and I would be fighting over you.” Prince Silas said with a smirk and I pushed his shoulder and rolled my eyes.

He grabbed his chest like I just broke his heart and chuckled. I grabbed the skirt of the dress to tie it close.

“Ignore him, princess. Silas isn’t much of a gentleman,” Prince Chase stated.

“And I’m not much of a princess. You both could do

better than me.” I told them, as Xander’s hand touched my back.

“You two go get us something to eat and meet us in Ayla’s room.” He told the princes before he led me away from them and into the palace.

“Don’t ever sell yourself short. Either one of them would be lucky to have you.” Xander told me, as we walked to my bedroom.

“Xander, I’m not a queen. And I don’t want to be,” I sighed.

“Yet, you conduct yourself like a queen. You demand answers and you care about the well-being of your people. Also, you’ll kill anyone who threatens your family.” Xander rambled.

“I don’t want the responsibility. I know that may sound

selfish but this is all too much.” I rushed out and he stopped.

“Ayla, I know this can be overwhelming but everything will settle. Just don’t make a decision until you have all the answers and you’ve spoken with Nate.” He said.

“I’m sorry, this is just so much. And then I have King Kaden to worry about. My life seemed so much simpler with my house burning down and I was homeless and almost broke.” I sighed as we finished walking to my room. Xander opened the door and we both entered.

“How about after morning training, we can head to the library? And I’ll ask my mother to meet us there and she can answer some of your questions.” He shrugged, as I sat on the bed.

“Getting some answers will help put my mind at ease. I think it’s the unknown that scares me so badly. How am I supposed to protect my people if I can’t protect myself?” I told him and he sat down beside me.

“I know you are scared, but neither Nate nor I will let anything happen to you. We will be heading into the unknown together.” He told me, wrapping an arm around my shoulders.

“Do you think Nate was cheating on me?” I breathed out, tears filling my eyes. Xander stiffened beside me.

“I don’t think Nate would cheat on you. I’m not sure what you were feeling, but I don’t think it was Nate.” He answered and I nodded, resting my head on his shoulder.

We sat in silence until I remembered I should clean myself up. I keep forgetting I have my period without

those dreadful cramps reminding me. I should probably just be thankful, I'm not pregnant yet. We have more than enough to worry about.

"I'm going to go get cleaned up for dinner. Let the guys in when they get here." I told Xander before getting up and heading into the closet to get a change of clothes.

"I'm going to go get changed as well. I'll be back."
Xander informed me before I entered the bathroom.

After I was done, I entered my bedroom to find Prince Silas and Prince Chase had arrived with dinner. My tummy rumbled as I breathed in the aroma of steak.

After I was done, I entered my bedroom to find Prince Silas and Prince Chase had arrived with dinner. My tummy rumbled as I breathed in the aroma of steak.

“Hungry?” Xander chuckled and I nodded.

“Starving.” I breathed out. I took a seat beside Xander on the loveseat and the other two took the couch. The plate in front of me was full of steak, green beans and mashed potatoes. They had placed it on the coffee table. My mouth started to water as I picked up the plate and moved it into my lap.

“So, do you guys have a plan?” I asked them before stuffing a fork full of mashed potatoes into my mouth. I had to hold back the moan that was about to escape. These had to be the best-mashed potatoes I’ve ever tasted.

“Well, we think we should wait for the wolf and then head into the eastern sea. King Kaden may not be available, but his younger brother is running the kingdom for now,” Prince Chase answered.

“Is King Kaden older than you?” I asked Prince Chase. I knew I was older than Prince Silas, but I wonder why Kaden was now king while the others are still princes.

“Kaden and I are the same age. Both of us are twenty-four,” Prince Chase said.

“Then why is he king and you are not?”

“Ayla, King Kaden killed his father. The rumors are he killed him because he sold his mother to the hunters.” Xander answered and I gasped.

“I know why he would want to take over the land. That’s awful.” I exclaimed.

“It’s just rumored. No one actually knows what happened to the former queen. Maybe it was spread to justify what King Kaden is planning. We don’t

know,” Prince Silas explained.

“I haven’t seen Kaden in a few years. We used to be really good friends until his father’s death and the takeover.” Prince Chase told us.

“So, we will go speak to his younger brother and hopefully he can point us in the right direction. That’s the plan?” I asked them.

“It’s better than nothing. But first, we should see how you train. You can’t go in there unarmed. Even with the four of us to protect you.” Xander said, and I sighed.

“Please don’t make me run?” I pleaded.

“And what happens if you need to run away from danger?” He asked, raising an eyebrow at me.

“I run faster, scared anyways.” I shrugged and they all chuckled.

“It’s not so bad. And since you’ve shifted, it will be easier than before.” Xander insisted, but I don’t think I believed him. He took me to the gym once and I was winded before I even stepped foot inside. So many stairs.

“I’ll try, but I should get a gun. At least I know how to shoot,” I told them.

“Not sure how well that will work underwater, but I’ll show you have to use a spear.”

“I’ll just have to learn how to bring my claws out.” I chuckled, remembering I stabbed myself in the chest earlier. I looked down my shirt at my chest before looking at Xander.

“The water healed you. It wasn’t a life-threatening injury so it didn’t take long.” He answered the question before I asked it. I let out a breath before I yawned.

“When is Nate supposed to get here?” I asked, placing my empty plate on the coffee table.

“He won’t be arriving until late or early morning. I’ll be notified of his arrival and I’ll bring him up here. You should get some sleep.” Xander said while gathering up the dishes.

“I don’t think I’ll be able to sleep,” I said with a yawn and he chuckled.

“Somehow I think you’ll manage.”

After saying goodnight, the guys left my room and I changed before hopping into bed. I was anxious to

have Nate here with me, but I was also exhausted from today. Whatever happened to me was draining and my body ached.

Snuggling under the blanket, my mind wandered to the pain in my chest that I'd been experiencing. Could Nate really be cheating on me? He said he was going to bed since he was on night patrol. Was someone with him? My heart twisted painfully. I didn't want to think about him with someone else. But my mind wouldn't shake the image of Nate kissing Bailey at the club. f**k. Why does this have to be so hard? I don't have a reason not to trust him, we weren't together when that happened. And I told him I was okay with it, but I knew I wasn't. But that was crazy because we weren't together.

My mind was racing in a circle and I couldn't stop it. I slammed my eyes close and shook away my fear. If we were going to make this work, I needed to trust

him and Duke wouldn't let Nate do something like that to me. I can't explain the random pain, but I don't believe it was caused by Nate. Now I just had to make my heart believe my mind.

I must have fallen asleep, I woke to strong arms wrapping around me and a warm hard chest pressed into my back. I couldn't help but breathe in his scent.

"Go back to sleep, baby." He mumbled, kissing my cheek. I snuggled back into him, enjoying the comforting feeling I felt being wrapped up in his arms. It didn't take me long until I was fast asleep.

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know < report chapter > so we can fix it as soon as possible.