

Worthless to Priceless The Alpha's Rejected Mate

#Chapter 21 - Read Worthless to Priceless The Alpha's Rejected Mate Chapter 21

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KADEN'S POV

I was so

so annoyed at the fact that I had been called away from Amelia. It grated on my nerves because I had spent all of last night thinking of a way that I could spend more time with her without raising suspicions and I had finally found one.

I don't know the name of the woman who was interviewing Amelia but I made a mental note to give her a bonus for putting up with my outrageous demands. She knows there is no physical test and I have never gone into that office to check on their work before. The only reason I was there was because of Amelia. The woman looked so confused and she looked like she had stepped out into an alternate universe but she still played along.

For a second I thought she wouldn't understand and would sl*p up but she remained professional throughout and Amelia will never know that all of that is just so I can spend time with her.

I got to my office and pushed open the door only to see that it was already occupied. My mother was seated on the couch so I didn't notice her until I had entered the office. She was dressed up in a fitted blue a line dress. Her hair was tied up at the base of her neck in a chignon and not a single strand was out of place. Her face was covered in light make up her lips were painted a dark red.

but

Her hands were crossed over her chest and she had an impatient look on her face as she waited for me to cross the threshold. I tried to clamp down on my frustration as I walked into the door and shut the door behind me. I crossed the length of the room and she stood up from the couch to sit

down on the chair that was facing mine. I didn't say a word as I took my own seat and I watched her out of the corner of my eye.

“Are you avoiding me, Kaden?” she asked and I let out a sigh. “I haven’t seen you in three days and I have tried to see you. Your guards won’t tell me where you are no matter how hard I try and you wouldn’t even pick up my calls.”

“I’m not avoiding you,” I said simply. I couldn’t tell her that I had found my mate because I didn’t know how she would react. “I am Alpha mother and I have been very busy.”

If I know my mother, it would probably not be a pleasant reaction considering that I am sure she has a line as long as the pacific ocean of children of her friends that she will want

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mate with. I will tell her about Amelia but when I am sure that she is in a good moon. Right now, her mood seems very irritable and she looks one wrong word from away from blowing up.

My mother didn’t believe my excuse about not avoiding her- that much was obvious from the look on her face. But she just hummed instead of dragging out the issue. She sighed. and I saw a bit of

the tension leave her shoulders but then she sat up straighter and I knew that I was going to hate whatever she was going to say next.

“I have used the last three days to think about a few things,” she began. “And a friend of mine has a really beautiful daughter. She is a bit younger than you and she is from a very prominent family. I have arranged a date for the both of you at a five star restaurant. It is well within her standards and I know that you will just love her.”

I couldn’t stop the annoyance from building up inside me. I hated how she just made plans for me without asking me first and it was shocking how she still wasn’t asking my opinion but she was just telling me about the plans she had made. It was getting very frustrating to hear her shove her plans down my throat without giving me a choice in the matter.

I started to think of ways to avoid the date without actually telling her about Amelia. Maybe I can make up some excuse about a meeting or about being busy. That should be enough to get out of the date for now until I am ready to tell her about Amelia.

“Mother, I have-,”

“Don’t even start with your excuses,” she cut me off. “I knew you were going to try to get out of it. I knew you were going to start with your excuses which is why I took the liberty of asking Caleb if you had any meetings or things to do today and he said no. I know you are completely free so you have no reason to avoid this date.”

I made a mental note to kill Caleb when I saw him. He should have asked me before telling my mother anything. He probably didn’t think this was what she wanted to use that information to do which is why he gave it to her. I know if he was aware that this was what she had planned then he would have never spoken to her. That knowledge wasn’t enough to clamp down on my frustration. I still wanted to bash his face in with my fists.

He should have spoken to me before speaking to her. I am the Alpha and that position should come with respect. If I cannot get the two closest people I have to family to respect that position then I cannot hope for anyone else to do so. If my own mother and best friend cannot respect the position then what use is it? My anger was climbing and I had to

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try breathing exercises to calm down but nothing seemed to be working.

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I risked a glance at my mother and when she saw the raw and undiluted anger in my gaze, she swallowed thickly. She could clearly see that she had messed up.

“I didn’t do it for no reason, Kaden, you have to know that.” She began. “I have just been worried about you and that is why I am doing all of this. I am doing this for your benefit and you know it.”

I forced myself to breathe deeply through my nose to expel the anger from my b*dy. I rotated my shoulders and flexed my fingers before speaking.

"I know you've been worried about me since father's accident," I began slowly. "But setting me up to mate with random females is not the right answer. I'm not going to mate with someone I don't know just because you have a bond with her mother."

"At least just meet up with her. She is very beautiful with wide hips that are good for childbearing. Meet her first before you make any rash decisions."

I let out a deep sigh of exhaustion and pinched the bridge of my nose with my thumb and pointer finger. My first instinct was to just agree to get her off my back but Amelia was in the picture now and I tried to imagine what I would do if I saw her going on a date with another guy and blinding rage rushed through me.

I turned to my mother who was gazing at me curiously as if trying to figure out what had caused the sudden rush of anger.

"Wouldn't it be better if I waited for my mate?" I asked. "What if she happens to turn up? We are destined to be mated so our paths will have to cross at some point. Father was your fated mate, do you not want the best for me just like you had?"

My mother let out a deep sigh and I saw her shoulders deflate a bit as a sad look crossed her eyes. She always gets that look whenever I mention my father and I know it is because of how much she loved him. I know there is no bond greater than that of fated mates and she got to experience it so why is she against me experiencing it for myself?

"It has been years since you turned eighteen," mother argued. "You are supposed to find your fated mate at eighteen and she has not turned up since."

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"What if she was yet to turn eighteen?" I asked. "It is possible that when I was eighteen she was still too young and the moon goddess thought it would be best if we didn't meet at the

time."

"Kaden," mother sighed and she opened her mouth to speak but closed it as if she was unsure whether it would be the right thing.

A thick silence stretched across the room as she struggled to pick her words. I was curious. to know what she would say in response to what I had said. Amelia just turned eighteen and if I had met her when I was eighteen, she would have been too young for me.

"I'm not sure if a fated mate would be the best choice in your case," mother muttered under her breath and my head snapped up to hers immediately.

"What do you mean by that?" I was unable to keep the hostility completely out of my voice.

as I stared at her.

What does she mean? Is she trying to say that I am not good enough for a fated mate? She seemed to realize the error in her words as her eyes widened and she realized that I was truly getting annoyed.

"Listen, Kaden, just get dressed for the dinner." Her tone held no room for argument and she stood to her feet. "It is set by six in the evening and I will text you the details and everything you need to know."

Without another word, she walked out of my office leaving me in complete silence. As soon. as she walked out of the room, I found myself picking up my phone and dialing a number. It rang for a while

and just when I thought the person on the other end of the line wasn't going to answer, the call connected. Noise filtered in before I heard a door click shut and suddenly there was silence.

"Sorry, I was busy with some of the guards." Caleb's voice filtered through the speakers. "Is something wrong?"

"The next time you give my mother information on me, you will be banned from the pack office as a whole. I don't give a shit that you're the Beta. You would do well to remember that you answer to me and not her."

I heard his gasp of surprise and I knew he wanted to apologize but the last thing I wanted to

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do was hear that apology so I hung up the phone.

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Yelling at him did little to calm my anger and I still felt like I was a second away from an explosion. I grabbed the vase of flowers next to my window and I threw it against the door with a loud roar. It shattered on impact but the sight did nothing to help me.

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AMELIA'S P.O.V

After I left the building, I didn't know where else to go. Clara had told me that she would be back to pick me up in the evening but until then, I decided to roam the pack and try to sort out the multitude of thoughts that were swarming my brain.

I walked down the streets and I passed an ice cream van. I wanted to get some but I realized I had no money and it brought back to the forefront of my mind that I needed to get a job. I need to be able to do things by myself without depending on anyone. I am no longer at home where my status could get me little things.

I let out a sigh as I realized that life as I know it had completely changed. I would probably never see Blake again. Just thinking about him brought a pang of longing to my chest. Regardless of everything that happened, I still miss him and want him around. He did warn me about everything which means he must still have some feelings for me.

If he truly didn't care for me then he would probably have never warned me. He would have allowed them do whatever they wanted to me but he didn't. He wanted me to get to safety and he risked everything to tell me that warning. If Brittany or father had found him. warning me, he would have been in serious trouble.

Even

though he rejected me for Brittany and left me I couldn't help but still feel some sense of longing towards him. He couldn't possibly have just left me like that after everything we had been through together. What if father held something over his head? A week ago, I would never have considered

this to be a possibility but after father had sent men to kill me, I wouldn't put anything past him. It is possible that Blake only rejected me because he had to.

of me

A part of me felt I was being delusional about the whole thing but another part couldn't help but hope that I was right because the only other option would be that the man I had spent my life loving left me without a second thought. He didn't care enough about me to stay and was ready to give me up without a second thought.

If he could do that then what hope do the others have? Clara and her family have been nothing but nice to me since I arrived but when does that end? I can't live with them forever or maybe they might get bored and tired of me. I also cannot leech of their supplies and I would need to pay them back for everything they have done before leaving.

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The thought of leaving terrified me because I didn't want to be alone. I have never been alone in all my years of life and the idea of doing it now is scary. I would be solely responsible for myself and everything around me including my schooling. The thought sent shivers down my brain and I tried to push it out of my head.

I didn't realize how far or how long I had walked until I looked around me and realized that I didn't know where I was. I looked around trying to see if I could make out where I had came from but all I could see were unfamiliar buildings and the entire road was deserted. I couldn't see a single person for as far as I could look.

I decided to walk further a little and see if I would find someone to talk to. The more I walked, the more I thought I should turn around but for some reason I kept going forward until I heard a chorus of shouts. I decided to follow the shouts until I got to the edge of a forest. There were men around the forest and they seemed to be deep in conversation with themselves.

They were all wearing the same thing and they seemed to be engaging in some form of play fighting. Merely from looking at them, I knew they were the border patrol and I must have walked very far to have gotten to the border.

I started to leave when one of them noticed me and he started tapping his guys and soon all of them were staring at me. I felt very self conscious and uncomfortable but I swallowed down my discomfort and walked over to them in hopes that one of them would guide me back to the office so I could wait for Clara,

"Hi, I think I'm lost," I began as soon as I was within earshot. "Can one of you guide me on the way back to-,"

"Aren't you the little mouse that crossed our borders a few days ago," one of them teased. and I felt my cheeks heat up in embarrassment as I nodded. "Well damn, now I understand why the Beta was so insistent that you cross peacefully. He must have known that you were. one fine piece of ass."

Embarrassment and shame heated my cheeks as I took in their words. I could see that they were all staring at me in a way that made my skin crawl. They ran their eyes over me like they were slowly undressing me with their eyes and it made me feel sick. I have never been looked at like this before. Back at home, most people hated me too much to even look at me more than once and I found that I preferred their dismissal and dislike of me to the way I was being looked at now.

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“Can you help me find my way back?” I asked hoping to change the subject but they didn’t seem to bear the same thoughts as I did.

“I heard she’s staying with the Beta,” another guy piped up. “I can totally see why. You must be paying him back in kind for letting you cross the border. You know, I wonder if the beta is against sharing.”

“Sharing what?” I asked and they all laughed. I could see them taking closer steps towards me and I cleared my throat. “I think I’ll find my own way back.”

I turned to leave but I felt one of them grab my arm. I tried to push him off but he was too strong and another person came to my back to hold me in place. The men swarmed me and I heard them laughing as I tried and failed to fight them.

“The little mouse thinks she can beat us,” one of them mused. “I enjoy watching you squirm. Why don’t you fight harder?”

I knew they were mocking me but that didn’t stop me from trying my best to push them off. I was getting weaker but they were still holding me down and I felt tears begin to prick the back of my eyelids. I had started to accept what was happening when I heard a high pitched sound and an eagle swooped down and scratched one of them on the arm.

“The f**king b*tch’s pets,” I heard one of them scream as the eagle came back.

It attacked only them and while fending it off, they let go of me. I wasted no time in turning on my heels and running away. I don’t know how long I ran but then I saw Clara’s car approaching. She stopped in front of me and I let out a sigh of relief as I got in,

Once the door shut, the weight of everything came crashing down and tears started to fill my eyes. I hated how easy it was for them to hold me down and do what they wanted and if Clara hadn’t come to my rescue, who knows what they would have done to me? I have never felt as weak as I felt in that moment and it fully dawned on me that I couldn’t defend myself if I tried.

“Thank you for saving me,” I whispered without meeting her gaze because I didn’t want to see the pity in them. “I should have just waited for you in front of the building.”

“Are you okay?” Clara asked and I nodded but I could tell that she didn’t believe me and I didn’t blame her. My nod was very non convincing.

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"I should have been able to do something," I said after a beat of silence. "You probably would have been able to defend yourself if you were in my shoes."

"That's true but I was brought up on a training field," she said softly. "Both of my parents were warriors and I started learning to fight the moment I could walk. You can't compare yourself to me when we both had vastly different upbringings."

I chuckled dryly to myself. "I always wanted to train but my father said I was too weak. He would never let me anywhere near the training field."

I couldn't help but feel some sort of resentment and anger towards father. If he had simply allowed me train when I had asked him then I would have had at least the basic skills needed to defend myself from those boys. They would have never been able to hold me down like that and I wouldn't

have needed Clara to save me from them. I would have done it all by myself and I wouldn't be feeling the way I do right now.

"Do you want to train?" Clara asked and I turned to her. "If you're going to start from the basics then you might have to train with the children but do you want to?"

"Yes," I said without hesitation. I would train with infants if it meant that I was going to learn how to defend myself.

"Then it's settled."

I couldn't help the feeling of pride that rose up in me. I wouldn't be defenseless for long. As I thought about it, I suddenly remembered Kaden's words from the office and I muttered a small curse under my breath. I saw Clara glance at me out of the corner of her eye.

"Kaden said there is a test I need to take, a physical test to determine if I can be on the patrol team," I told her and I saw her eyes widened slightly before she laughed softly.

“He’s right,” she said with amusement lacing her tone.

I wondered why she was smiling so much. She was trying and failing to keep her laughter in check and after a second she sighed and turned to me.

“You need to take that test soon and learn to defend yourself because those guys are going to be your university classmates.”

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The bomb that Clara dropped played in my head the entire ride. Those boys would be with me at every second of every day. There would be no Clara to save me then so I would need. to be able to defend myself. The truth is that I’m not sure if I can do it. I am sure they have been training since they were children and I have never even stepped onto a training mat in my entire life. Would it really matter how long or how hard I train? They would always be able to beat me.

“You’ll be fine,” Clara assured me and that was when I realized that I was talking out loud. I flushed pink and she gave me a small smile. “Don’t worry about it, are you ready?”

“Ready for what?” I asked and she laughed softly.

“To get your car of course.”

I looked up and realized that we were in front of a large auto repair shop. I didn’t realize it was an auto repair shop because of how prim and proper it looks. The building had cream. walls and glass windows that prevented me from looking inside. When we walked through the front door, I was in awe.

It was large- larger than any repair shop I had ever been in before with rows and rows of engine oil and wipers and different things needed for car repairs. Before now, I have only been in a car shop once and that was when father sent me to get some engine oil

for the car. He had a guard who did most of the car repairs so maybe that's why I was in so much awe of the place.

I walked behind Clara as she weaved through the rows and stopped in front of the counter. There was an elderly looking guy there, he had to be in his mid forties and he had graying hair and warm brown eyes. He looked down at Clara and smiled wide revealing a gap tooth.

"You're here for the car aren't you?" he said and she nodded eagerly. "Well then, you both can come with me."

He led us into the back and I followed quietly. The back space was somehow larger than the front with at least six cars that I could see all being worked on. There were so many people

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walking around but they were all too busy doing their own thing to even pay attention to us. The man led us past all the cars being worked on to the very back of the shop and that was when I saw

my car.

It looked nothing like how I had previously left it. The windshield and the lights had been changed and there were no signs of breaks or scratches on it. The dents had been fixed and it looked like the car was given a new coat of paint. It looked brand new in comparison to how it had been the last time I saw it. Hell, even while I was back home, this car has never looked so good.

"You fixed it," I began and he shook his head.

"I didn't fix it actually," he said and I opened my mouth to ask when I heard footsteps from behind me.

"I did."

The voice was layered and soft, as if the person speaking had a tongue made of silk. I turned to find the source of the voice and I saw a very tall and attractive man standing behind me. He had dirty blond hair and piercing blue eyes and he wore a plaid shirt with the sleeves rolled up and washed out jeans. He winked at me and I looked away and smiled shyly.

"You can go Ronald," the mystery man said and the older man left. Once we were alone, he turned to me. "I'm Hunter and I fixed your car. Ronald is usually the one who attends to customers seeing as I have a lot of paperwork to do. Owning a business is not as easy as people think it is but I decided that I had to do this introduction myself."

He was flirting with me, that much was obvious and I didn't know how to react to it. No one other than Blake has ever flirted with me in my life. All I could do was smile shyly and duck my head as my cheeks tinged pink.

He laughed softly and turned to Clara. "I have to thank you for bringing me such a beautiful customer. I haven't had someone this stunning walk into my shop in forever."

"You might want to cut down on your playboy ways Hunter," Clara clicked her tongue in reprimand. "She isn't one of the cronies that you can play with."

Hunter raised his brow almost as if it was a challenge and before he could speak, I realized

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that I needed to fuse the situation.

I walked over to the car and ran my fingers over it softly. "Thank you for fixing it. You did an amazing jobs

My words broke their stare off and they both turned to me. Hunter nodded his head to me in appreciation while Clara watched me carefully but I avoided meeting either of their eyes.

"We should go Ameha, someone else will be here to pick up the car." Clara said and without another word, she turned on her heels and walked out of the door.

I knew she was expecting me to follow so I nodded to Hunter and started to leave. I had. barely walked past him when his hand wrapped around my upper arm keeping me in place. I looked up in shock and checked to make sure Clara hadn't noticed us but she hadn't. She was still walking in front oblivious to what was happening.

"I hear that you're new in town," Hunter whispered in my ear. "If you're ever in need of a part time job then we could always use a helping hand around here. It would be a nice change to having all these men around all the time."

I heard someone clear their throat and I noticed that Clara had stopped walking and was now staring at both of us. It made me feel like I was doing something wrong and I tried to jerk my hand out of his grip but he didn't seem to care about Clara's gaze.

"Think about it" he said and then finally released me.

He walked away as if nothing had happened and I quickly rushed over to Clara's side. She shot me an inquisitive look but I refused to meet her eye or answer her silent question. It filed away the job offer into a corner of my mind for future use. I might need it sooner or later.

Clara didn't say anything again about Hunter or what happened at the repair shop. She just drove quietly but then I noticed she was taking an unfamiliar route. I wanted to ask questions but I realized she knows the area better than I do and she wouldn't lead me where I would get hurt.

I quietly stayed in the car but then she pulled up onto a busy street. There were so many. shops and people walking around and I couldn't help but take in the environment with wide eyes. We had streets like this at home where people would mainly go to relax and have

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fun but I was never allowed there because I was always treated badly.

“If you ever want to have a good time then this is the place to go,” she began as she drove by slowly. “There is a cinema down the street and some of the best fast food restaurants are only a few blocks away. This is also where most university students come to hang out so there is a huge possibility that you will make friends here.”

She pulled up in front of a café and I saw so many people my age walking in and out. There wasn't a single person who I saw standing alone, they were all in groups of twos and threes and some up to five. They seemed happy and chattered away as if there was no care in the world. Clara introduced me to a few people and all I could do was smile shyly and wave at them.

I couldn't wait to start university and make friends for myself. I couldn't wait to walk these same streets with my own friends while we talked about classes and home work and the fun things we had to do. I could feel the excitement bubbling inside me as we made our way towards the cafe doors and that was when I saw the flash of movement to my

side.

I turned quickly wondering if I had seen right and I had. Kaden was standing there with a beautiful woman on his arm. She was tall with a slim figure and long legs that were gracefully accentuated by

her short dress. She had pin straight black hair and I couldn't see the color of her eyes. They looked like a perfect couple, they looked so prim and proper and as I watched them, it felt like someone had wrapped their hand around my heart and squeezed.

“They look good together don't they,” Clara said and I resisted the urge to say something.

bitter.

There is no reason why I should be feeling this way. I don't even know Kaden. He can be with whoever he wants to be but why do I feel like someone is stabbing at my chest repeatedly.

I saw Clara watching me quietly as if waiting for a response but I couldn't give her one without revealing this sick feeling in my chest that I don't even have a name for.

"I think they're a perfect couple," she added. "I wonder if Kaden is going to make her-,"

"We should go in." I cut her off not wanting to hear any more about Kaden and his date.

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They had disappeared into a car and even though they were out of sight, they were not out of mind. Clara nodded next to me and hooked her hand into mine as she led me into the cafe. She ordered a burger and fries for both of us and it wasn't until I started eating that I realized how hungry I was. The food was momentarily able to calm my raging thoughts. and as Clara asked me more questions, I was able to push the thoughts of Kaden and that girl into the back of my mind.

It didn't stay hidden though because as soon as we were home and I was alone in the comfort of the room, the thoughts came back. I couldn't understand why I felt that kind of way over a stranger. I couldn't understand why I even felt a little bit jealous when I had no right to. The more I thought about it, the worse it became.

I tried to push it out of my mind and fall asleep but it just wouldn't go. It didn't matter how tired I was, the thoughts continued to plague me until well after midnight when my brain exhausted itself and I drifted off to sleep.

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COMMENT

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KADEN'S P.O.V

My irritation was growing with each passing second. I was irritated that I had to go on that godsforsaken date with that girl. She was about as interesting to watch as drying cement. She could barely even hold a simple conversation and she kept trying to throw herself at me. I wanted nothing more than to get up and walk right out of that restaurant but I knew mother would never let me hear the end of it.

I spent the entire time thinking about Amelia and her scent and how soft her hair felt beneath my fingers. I thought about how peaceful she looked while sleeping and all the things I wanted to do to her. That was the only way I was able to get through that nightmare. I thought about her so much that for a split second when I was leaving the restaurant, I could have sworn that I actually smelled her scent but I knew it was impossible because I looked around and I couldn't see her.

I felt a pressure at the back of my mind meaning someone wanted to mind link me and I put my wall down instantly. My wall is down most of the time but I had to put it up during the date because mother kept checking in and asking me stupid questions about the girl. She would interrupt at the worst times, mostly when I was thinking of Amelia so I put it up to avoid any form of disturbance.

"How was your date?" I heard Caleb ask in a sing song voice and I couldn't stop the growl that rumbled in my chest.

I was still very pissed off at him. The only reason I was in this mess in the first place was because of him. If he had simply done his job properly then I would have been able to get out of the date, I would have never suffered those hours with that girl and now he comes to joke about it?

I didn't realize how angry I was until I heard the sound of glass shattering and felt a slight pain in my palm. I looked down and that was when I realized what I had been doing before he mind linked. I was drinking a glass of whiskey to calm myself and I had broken the glass. in a fit of rage.

I cleaned up my hand and the glass shards on the floor so I wouldn't get hurt later. My cut healed up almost immediately thanks to my werewolf genes and I didn't even need to fuss over it once. I washed the dried blood off my hands and that was when I realized the mind

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link was still open.

"I'm guessing this is a bad time," Caleb said a little more somber this time but I was still angry.

"F*** off," I spat and I felt him shrink a little more into himself at the venom in my voice. "You already ruined my day so let's not make it

any worse."

"I'm sorry," he said with sincerity lacing his tone. "I never intended to reveal your schedule to her. She broke into my office and took a look at it. I should have protected it better, I know that now. It won't happen again I swear."

I couldn't respond to him because I know that is something my mother can do. How did I not even realize that was what she did? She would never actually ask for something, her default setting is to scheme and connive until she gets what she wants. Her heart is always in the right place but her methods are questionable at best.

I knew it wasn't Caleb's fault but it was easier to pretend to be angry with him than to admit that my anger was unfounded and unjustified so I stayed silent. I could feel him waiting eagerly to hear a response from me, probably to hear that I had forgiven him and that I had no intentions of hurting him but I couldn't tell him that, instead, I stayed silent as well.

He seemed to realize that I wasn't going to be responding to him anytime soon because he sighed. He probably already knew that I wasn't angry anymore but he probably also knew that I didn't want to discuss the topic. What has passed, has passed and there is no use rehashing it and pointing fingers at people.

"I actually wanted to talk to you about Amelia," he began slowly and my hackles began to rise as I waited to hear what she wanted to say. "I told you that she said she had no wolf. I went further and did my research about her life in her pack and she was right. She was hated by everyone because she didn't have a wolf."

“What about her father?” I asked not sure if I wanted to hear what he had to say considering all I knew already about the man.

“He treated her twin sister better than her. It was a known secret that he loved the sister over Amelia. He would take her to meetings and sometimes tell people that he had only one child. Apparently Amelia was rarely ever seen because he found it disgraceful that she hadn’t shifted at her age.”

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Chapter 24

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Hearing how she was treated by her own family brought a fresh wave of anger into me. resisted the urge to punch a hole through the wall or better yet, her father’s face. No one deserves to be treated the way she was and no one deserves to go through the things that she did.

I also refuse to believe that she is wolf less because if she were, she wouldn’t be my mate. My wolf would have never recognized her as our mate if she didn’t have a wolf. I am sure whatever the reason is, it is more complicated than we think.

“If all this is true,” Caleb continued. “Are you sure she is actually your-,”

“Do not finish that question,” I cut him off with ferocity and he went silent immediately. “I know what I feel and I know what my mate feels. There has to be a reason she cannot shift and I am sure that her father either knows something about it or has something to do with it.”

“I don’t know about that Kaden. He didn’t care about her, he practically called her useless on a number of occasions because of her status.”

“If she were useless then he wouldn’t have sent rogues after her,” I reminded Caleb and he fell silent. “There is more to this story than we know and I am going to find out what it is.”

“Do you want me to organize a meeting between the both of you?” Caleb asked and I hummed.

“I want to meet him at the border. I don’t want him any closer to this pack than he needs to be.”

“Consider it done.”

He ended the mind link after that and I let out a long groan. There is only one person in the entire world who knows the truth about Amelia’s status and it is her father. I know he will not be willing to meet with me especially after I ignored him the last time he was at the pack looking for an audience with me but I didn’t know then what I know now.

I ran my hand through my hair in frustration and decided to take a shower to clear my head of all the thoughts plaguing them. I was stripping off my clothes when I heard a soft knock

on my door. I was confused as to who it was and then I heard the voice.

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Chapter 24

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“Hi, Kaden, it’s me Lucy,” I rolled my eyes- it was the girl from the date. “Your mother gave me keys to the house and I brought you dessert.”

I wanted to scream at my mother. How dare she give a random woman the keys to my house? I know she is insistent that I mate but would she truly go to these lengths? She knows more than anyone how much I value my privacy and peace of mind. Why would she bring a stranger knowing fully well I hate it when people are in my space?

“Get out,” I growled at the door. “I don’t want your f**king dessert.”

I could hear her gasp of surprise at the harshness of my tone. ©

"It is cheesecake," she offered in a much softer tone. "Your mother said it was your favorite."

"I said I don't want it."

She made a sound similar to a squeak and I heard her scurry off. I let out a loud groan as I pulled at my hair in frustration. I need to draw some boundary lines with mother. She cannot keep doing things like this and expect there to be no consequences.

"You smell like her," my wolf said to me with a disdainful tone. Her scent is so artificial and it smells like chemicals. Get it off now."

He didn't need to tell me twice before I was going towards the bathroom. He kept murmuring about how he hated her scent and how unpleasant it was as I stripped off clothes.

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"If you can tell me how to make her shift and realize that we are mates then you can have Amelia's scent as long as you want." I told him and he hummed at the idea.

He didn't respond to me but I knew he loved the idea. He disappeared into the back of my mind presumably to think of ways he could do what I asked. If there is one thing I know for sure, my wolf is very determined when it comes to getting things he wants and he wants Amelia.

I let out a small groan as I pictured her. With her rounded hips and her soft full l*ps, I couldn't wait for her to figure out that we were meant to be together. I couldn't wait for the moment where she would actually be mine and I would be able to pull her into my arms at any given moment.

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I would k*ss her until her l*ps were swollen and throbbing. I would bend her over every piece of furniture I could get my hands on and I would make sure that she never went a day without having my cum leaking out of her. My thoughts were taking a nasty turn and I could feel myself growing hard.

I stroked one hand along my hardened member imagining it was her hands doing the work. She would probably be gentle and scared of hurting me. I can almost imagine the soft and innocent look on her face.

I had barely started thinking of her and I already felt like I was going to explode. I may not know much but I know that Amelia has found her place in my head and she has no plans of leaving anytime soon.

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Chapter 25

Chapter 25

AMELIA'S P.O.V

Time seemed to fly by and my days got even busier. Clara took me to a store where I was able to get some things for school. The closer I got to school, the more terrifying the idea of it became. Kaden hadn't called me for the test yet so I was yet to train and I was scared of meeting those boys but the general excitement of going to school managed to water down my fear.

It took me hours of sitting in bed and squealing into my pillow before I managed to fall asleep and regardless of that, I woke up every other hour hoping that it would finally be morning. By the time I saw 6 a.m. on the clock, I practically leaped out of bed and rushed into the bathroom.

By 7, I was dressed in simple jeans and a cute top with a sweater over it and I paired it with sneakers and tied my hair into a low ponytail. I didn't want to dress too much so I wouldn't draw attention to myself but I also wanted to look good and I think I managed to get the exact look I was going for.

I waited patiently for Clara to knock on my door and when she did, she walked in wearing her night robe and she raised a brow at me fully dressed. I flushed pink because I knew I was early but she didn't tease me for it, instead, she gestured for me to follow her for breakfast.

Caleb wasn't at the table- he rarely ever is. I have stayed here for a week and I have only seen him two times and they were t dinner. Clara explained that he usually leaves very early because of his job and he returns very late. Pamela and Devin however were at the table however and they offered me wide smiles.

"You must be excited," Pamela broke the silence. "I remember Clara's first day of university, we had to drag her out of bed because she slept in."

A small smile left me and I saw Clara roll her eyes out of the corner of my eyes but she was smiling softly. She picked up a piece of toast and put it in her mouth before disappearing into her room to get ready for the day.

"You'll do great today," Pamela assured me with a soft smile before disappearing into the kitchen.

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Chapter 25

I allowed her words of encouragement marinate in my soul and I breathed a deep sigh. can do this and I will do great..

Clara wanted to drop me off at school but I offered to walk because I wanted to get used to the environment. I got the main building and my mouth fell open in shock. The school was large- much larger than the one at my old pack- There was a main building that I knew was the admin block and lots of other large buildings lining the walls. The entire campus was large and I wished I asked Clara to come with me so I don't get lost.

I squared my shoulders and made my way towards the admin office and I noticed people staring. At first I wondered if there was something wrong with what I was wearing but I noticed almost everyone was dressed similarly. As some boys began to whistle and cat call, I realized that they probably knew that I was new.

I tried not to feel too uncomfortable by their advances and I ignored them as I made my way to the admin office to get my schedule and school map. I met a woman by the desk, she looked to be in her mid 70s to early 80s but her eyes were sharp and looked like they were piercing through my soul. I offered her a small smile and although she didn't return it, her eyes looked kind.

She was in a pin up blouse with a long skirt and she had glasses resting on the bridge of her nose. Her grey hair was in a lazy bun at the top of her head and she looked up at me as if silently asking what I wanted.

"Hi, I'm new and I was told to come here for my schedule." I told her softly.

"What's your name?" she turned to her laptop that was open in front of her.

"My name is Amelia Blackwood," her eyes snapped up to mine at the mention of my last name and I swallowed deeply hoping that I hadn't said anything wrong.

"Did you just say that your last name was Blackwood?" she asked looking up at me through the rim of my glasses and I nodded.

"Yes, is there something wrong?" She shook her head.

"I knew your

your mother is all. I knew her by her maiden name but she married Alpha Blackwood." I wanted to ask her questions but the sound of the printer broke the spell and she moved her expression back to neutral. "You should get to your first class, it is starting

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Chapter 25

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I wanted to stay and ask questions about my mother but she turned away from me and devoted all her attention to her laptop. I knew that she was done entertaining me and so I took the schedule and map from her. According to it, my first class was holding in the East building and I made

y way over there.

I followed the map to a T and I saw the large building in front of me. As I made my way inside my assigned class, I noticed the guys from a few days ago- the patrol soldiers. I made to avoid them before they saw me but my plan didn't work because one of them looked and his eyes snapped up to mine. He smiled cruelly and I made to run away but they cornered me.

up

I swallowed deeply looking for any chance to escape but there was none. I was backed into a wall and no one seemed concerned enough to stop and help. They would just glance at me and then look away quickly as if staring for too long would make them switch places with

1. me.

"Hello little mouse," one of them teased. "It looks like we are in the same class. That is a huge surprise, don't you think?"

I opened my mouth to speak but then I heard an unfamiliar voice. "Don't you think it is too early in the school year to start harassing women?"

I looked towards the source of the sound and I saw an attractive young man standing there. There was something familiar about his features but I couldn't quite place my finger on it. He was standing tall with a lean b*dy and he had round glasses resting on his nose. He looked the typical part of a nerd and I feared they would turn their attention on him but instead they grumbled under their breaths and stepped away from me.

The guy

walked over to me and held out a hand to me which I quietly took. He led me over to an empty seat and after I was settled, he sat down next to me. I took the opportunity to really take him in. He had curly brown hair and his eyes were the color of melted chocolate. When I realized I was staring at him, I quickly turned away with my cheeks burning pink.

“My name is Aiden, by the way,” he told me without looking up. “What’s yours?”

“I’m Amelia,” I said softly. “Thank you for saving me from them. You didn’t have to.”

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Chapter 25

“It’s what any decent person would do,” he waved me off. “There’s no need to thank me for it.”

“No one else stopped to help me.” I hated how soft my voice was.

“Not many people are decent people. Besides, most people are scared of them, they are known to be bullies and no one wants to be the brunt of their jokes.”

“What about you?” I asked and he finally turned to me. “Aren’t you scared that they will turn their attention on you?”

“They won’t,” he spoke the words with such assurance and I couldn’t help but believe him.

I didn’t know what else to say after that so I looked away from him and I accidentally locked eyes with a random girl and she gave me a disapproving look. I wanted to ask what I did wrong and what I had done to deserve that kind of expression but the lecturer walked in and I was forced to pay attention to the class.

The class was long but it was really interesting. It was a history class and I found myself making notes throughout much to the amusement of the guy next to me who didn’t even bother to bring out a pen or even a book. At the end of class, I picked up my bags but then I was bumped into by the girl from earlier who looked at me weirdly.

Up close I could see her clearly. She had dark skin with honey colored braids and she was wearing jeans, boots and a crop top. She had an expression that clearly stated that she didn't want anyone talking to her accidentally.

I bent to pick my books and so did she. When we were down and at eye level, I heard her voice ever so softly next to my ear.

"Watch out for him." She stood up and walked away so quickly after that and I began to wonder if she had even spoken. I would have thought it was a figment of my imagination if not for the look she shot me as she walked out of the class room.

There was a free period so I decided to go to the student café. I was still shaken from the warning and I tried not to think about it but it kept settling in my head. I swallowed deeply. as I reached the large eating area and as I looked around, I noticed that everyone was sitting

with their friends"

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I didn't know where to sit and I didn't want to feel like I was intruding. As I looked around, I noticed the patrol guys and they were wiggling their brows at me. My skin crawled and I quickly moved away from the vicinity looking for another spot. As I searched, I noticed Aiden and when he saw me, he waved me over and I smiled.

As I got to the table, my smile fell when I noticed a girl walking over. She was wearing ripped jeans and a beautiful wrapped top. Her l*ps were painted a soft pink color and her hair was straightened. She sat next to Aiden and I watched as he smiled at her.

She wasn't wearing as much makeup but she was clearly the girl I saw with Kaden in front of the restaurant.

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Chapter 26

Chapter 26

AMELIA'S POV

My steps faltered and I wanted to run away and pretend like this just didn't happen. I looked over at her hoping that her figure would change before my eyes but even as she smiled, I recognized her as the same girl. I was about to leave when Aiden looked up at me. He pulled out a chair for me and I had no other choice but to take a seat beside both of them.

I noticed that the girl was also looking at me with a weird and analytic expression. Her eyes were piercing and I wanted to shrink under the gaze but I forced my shoulders to stay squared and I gave her a soft smile which she returned quickly.

"Amelia this is Lucy," Aiden said and I waved at her. She didn't wave back but all she did was give me a curt nod of acknowledgment which I took to be better than no response at all.

"It's really nice to meet you," I said to her and she smiled at me- even her smile was beautiful and I had to stop myself from comparing myself to her.

"Lucy is also new like you," Aiden told me and my eyes widened.

I would have never thought that she was new. She looked so comfortable around Kaden that day, I would have thought they knew each other for a while. Did she move here just because of Kaden? Did he ask her to move here so that he could be closer to her? I didn't know what the truth was but I was burning to know. There was an ache in my chest that would not be satiated until I knew what was happening.

I looked around the settlement and saw those patrol men. They were staring at me with barely concealed disdain but they made no move to come closer. I noticed that they were casting

frightened looks at the back of Aiden's head and I knew that it was because of Aiden that they refused to come to me.

"Why don't they attack you?" the question burst out of my mouth before I could stop it and Aiden raised a brow at me so I gestured to the men standing behind him. "They stopped when you told them to and now, they want to come here but they keep looking at you like they are scared."

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"It's probably because they are," he said and I cocked my head to the side in confusion. He laughed at my expression before continuing. "I am the Alpha's cousin, Amelia. His mother is my aunt. They are scared of me because they know any actions against me would be taken as an action against the Alpha's family."

My mouth fell open and Aiden laughed once again. I cast a glance at Lucy who didn't even

look surprised by the news, she just continued eating her salad like Aiden had even

dropped a major bombshell on us. Considering she was around Kaden, she might already have known.

"Why didn't you tell me?" I asked and he shrugged.

"I want to be known as my own person and not because of my cousin."

I understood why he would say that. I spent my entire life in the shadows of Brittany and I would have loved nothing more than to be my own person and not be referred to always as his sister. I nodded to show him that I understood his reasons.

"Have you met the Alpha yet?" Lucy asked me and at first I was shocked to know that she was talking directly to me and I nodded to which she scoffed. "It's alright if you haven't, there's no need to lie. Most people don't ever meet the Alpha."

“He was actually the first person I saw when I arrived.” I said and her eyes narrowed. “It was in the forest and I ran from him but then I was called back to his office and he allowed me stay here.”

“So you haven’t met him personally,” she said and I noticed that the tension had disappeared from her shoulders. “I have though, our mothers are best friends. I had dinner with him a few days ago and I’m even staying at his place.”

The news landed on me like a bomb on an open field and I couldn’t help the jealousy from clawing up my chest and rearing its ugly head. I tried to keep my emotions in check but I couldn’t seem to control it. I risked a glance at Lucy who had her hand over her mouth like she had just accidentally spilled a secret but from the glint in her eyes, I knew it wasn’t accidental; she was just marking her territory.

“I’m sorry, I shouldn’t have said that,” Lucy said softly but I could see a glint in her eyes.

“Is Kaden going to choose you as a mate?” Aiden asked her and she turned to him with a

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slight smile. “If you’re staying with him then it must be serious.”

“We are just getting to know each other for now. It is too early to decide.”

I forced myself to form a small smile despite the warring emotions in my chest. “I’m happy for you.”

She looked very proud of herself and started to drone on about how S*xy Kaden was. The longer she spoke, the more I clenched my fists. I dug my nails into the soft flesh of

my palm to prevent myself from saying something that would make me look crazy. I have never felt this way over anyone before, not even Blake and I didn't understand it.

"What about you Amelia?"

I was shocked that I was spoken to and Lucy looked annoyed that her story had been cut short but Aiden was staring straight at me. I pointed a finger at myself almost dumbly to be sure that he meant to speak to me and he laughed.

"You're funny Amelia. Where did you come from? We rarely get new people around here so tell me, how did

how did you get here?"

"I'm from the Two Moons pack," I said softly.

Their eyes widened and I knew they were aware of my pack. I would have been surprised if they didn't. My pack was one of the most powerful packs in the world. Obviously we weren't on the same scale as the Dark Fangs pack, I don't think anyone will ever be on their level but we were well known. Father was known for making cutthroat deals with other packs that would benefit his pack.

"I heard that the Alpha has a useless daughter," Lucy said with barely concealed venom and I felt my heart clench. "I have never even seen a picture of her. I heard that he treats her like she doesn't even exist and no one cares for her. Did you know her?"

"I did," I said softly and her eyes widened as if asking me to give more details. "I was her."

Her smile fell instantly and she opened her mouth to speak but no words would come out. Aiden muttered a small curse under his breath and I kept my eyes down waiting for the moment they would suddenly decide that they didn't want to be friends with me because I was useless. I didn't know that news about me had travelled to other packs. I assumed it was

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a secret within our pack but I was wrong.

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It wasn't just our table that fell silent, even other tables around us had stopped to listen. I didn't know anyone was paying so much attention to our conversation and in that moment I wanted nothing more than for the ground to just open up and swallow me so the embarrassment would be over.

I felt a hand on my wrist and I looked up to see Aiden smiling up at me. "Don't worry, there is more than enough time for you to find your talents here. If you ever need anything, you

can come to me."

"Thank you," I said even though his hand on mine felt weirdly uncomfortable. He didn't move it so I cleared my throat. "I need to use the bathroom."

I all but pulled my hand away from his and I rushed past the sea of students staring at me and whispering and I made my way into the bathroom. By the time I got in, I leaned against the wall and let out a deep breath. I thought I was alone, so the sound of the toilet flushing had me jumping.

A girl walked out of one of the stalls and I recognized her as the girl who had warned me to stay away from Aiden earlier. She was looking at me with a curious expression and I realized it was just the both of us and I was curious as to why she wanted to stay away from Aiden.

"Hi, I'm Amelia," I said to her and all she did was stare at me as she washed her hands. "You told me to stay away from Aiden earlier, is there a particular reason?"

Some girls walked in just before she could respond and she stayed silent. She washed her hands for what I thought was longer than necessary and then she finally dried off her hands. As she walked towards the door, I noticed that she was walking too close to me, I wanted to step away to give her space to pass, but she reached out and grabbed my arm.

"Do you want him to knock you up?" the question was uttered with so much venom and before I could say anything, she walked away leaving me pondering over her words for the rest of the day.

At the end of the school, her words hadn't left my head and I walked into the parking lot in a daze to search for Clara. I found her standing in the parking lot and I quickly rushed over to her.

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Chapter 26

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“How was

your

first day?” she asked and I shrugged. “Don’t worry

always sucks for most people.”

“It didn’t suck. I actually made friends.”

it always gets better. It

She smiled widely at me, “Don’t forget to tell Kaden all that when you report to him.”

I muttered a small curse under my breath. I had totally forgotten that I was meant to report. to Kaden every week. I was about to tell her that when I noticed Lucy walking out of the halls. Clara saw her too and I saw a foreign expression cross Clara’s face before she quickly schooled it.

“Are you taking me to the office?” I asked not wanting to spend any more time looking at Lucy and Clara shook her head. “How will I there?”

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“There’s someone to take you,” she gestured her head and I followed her line of sight to where a black SUV had parked and Kaden got out of it.

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Chapter 27

AMELIA'S POV

The entire school stopped to stare at Kaden and I am assuming that it isn't a normal thing for him to appear on school premises to pick someone up. I felt my cheeks heat up as his eyes found mine and he started moving over towards me. I could hear whispers from people all around wondering who he came for and a flash of movement to his side had my smile falling.

Lucy had the smuggest expression on her face as she made her way over to him. She walked like the ground was her personal runway and I couldn't help the feeling of envy as she proudly made her way over to Kaden. The whispers increased and got louder as she got to his side but to my surprise, he practically ignored her. The truth is, I don't even think he saw her because his eyes were fixated on me.

Her steps ceased as he walked right past her and I saw her mouth fall open as an ugly expression took over her features. I heard people snicker at her and I felt bad for her because people were outright pointing at her and whispering about her under their breaths. I could only imagine that the words they were saying were not nice at all.

Kaden stopped in front of me and it was like everything ceased. All the whispers stopped and I could feel all eyes on me as they held their breaths to see what he would say. Beside me, I felt Clara squeeze my shoulder and she left me standing there. I wanted to ask her to stay because I felt less exposed with her standing there but no words would leave my lips.

"Are you ready to leave?" Kaden asked and I almost swooned at his voice. I had forgotten. how good he actually sounded and hearing it again made my knees weak.

I don't understand how someone's voice could have such an effect on me but I forced my expression to stay neutral so no one would suspect how I felt and I nodded. He smiled at me and held out his hand for me to take so he could lead me back to his car.

I gently took his hand and my eyes widened at the obvious size difference. His hand dwarfed mine and it was so rough with calluses in contrast to my soft and dainty ones. What shocked me however were the sparks I felt erupt when our fingers touched. I looked up to be sure that he had felt the same thing but his expression was neutral and I couldn't see behind the walls he had erected for himself.

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It was like no one dared to speak or even breathe as they watched him lead me towards his car. I could only imagine what they were all seeing and judging by the stunned expressions of the few people I saw, I can only imagine that it isn't a normal thing for Kaden to do this to people. A part of me puffed up in pride that he was doing it for me but I had to remind myself that he was only doing this to make sure I wasn't a threat to his pack.

As we got to the car, I saw Lucy. She still had that expression on her face but once she caught my eye, it was like a switch was flipped in her and suddenly, she had the softest smile on her face as she walked over to us. Kaden was about to open the door to his car when he finally heard her footsteps and noticed her

presence.

"Hi Kaden," she said with a seductive purr and I felt him bristle beside me.

I wondered if there was something off between the both of them or if it was just my imagination conjuring up scenarios to fit into my narrative. Kaden ignored her but she wasn't going to let it drop.

"Is it okay if I ride with you?" she asked and this time Kaden turned his attention to her.

"No, you n't, I almost flinched from the emotion behind his voice but Lucy didn't even seem fazed. "I am working."

"But we're going to the same place at the end of the day," Lucy wasn't backing down and I didn't miss the possessive note that crept into her voice as she cast a sideways glance at me. She was trying to remind me that she lives with him and that was her own way of telling me to back off.

I would have walked away from the battle of wits that was going on at that point but Kaden was still holding my hand in his. If anything, he somehow squeezed my hand

tighter as if he didn't want me leaving. I knew that was impossible and it was probably just a subconscious reaction. There is no reason why Kaden would want to keep me around.

"I can't have you waiting around the office, I will send someone to pick you up." Kaden said leaving no room in his tone for argument and if I were Lucy, I would have shrunk into a shell of myself but she didn't look like she was the least bit worried.

"That would just be a bother," she waved him off. "I can go with you and wait in the office, I'm sure there is no problem. I just want to get out of here soon because people are staring and whispering."

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Emergency calls only

Chapter 27

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It was at that moment that we all realized we weren't in private. The entire school was still standing out and watching us. My cheeks heated up and I glanced at Kaden silently trying to convey that I wanted to get out of here as soon as possible. Kaden cursed under his breaths softly before nodding.

"Get in the car," he told her and she squealed and clapped her hands together in glee.

"I call shot gun," she began and moved to the front of the car but his hand shot out and held the door closed. Her eyes widened at his actions. "What's wrong?"

"Amelia takes shot gun," he said and although her eyebrows disappeared behind her hairline, she nodded and went to the back.

I was shocked that he had fought for me to take shot gun and I wanted to ask why but my main focus was getting out of the school parking lot as soon as possible. Kaden opened the door for me

and I thanked him and got in. He shut it behind me and while he turned to get into the driver's side, I caught Lucy's eyes in the mirror and there was a foreign emotion swirling beneath them. The intensity behind her eyes had me flushing and looking away.

The ride was tense

finally let out a sigh. Silent and it wasn't until we were away from the university that I

finally let out a sigh of relief. I knew that people would start making their own speculations and by tomorrow there would be a million different stories about what had happened today. I didn't want to think about the nightmare that it would be so I lay my head against the window and watched the trees as we drove past.

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"What work are you going to do?" Lucy asked breaking the silence in the car and I saw Kaden clench his jaw but he didn't say anything. "I can only imagine that it has to be important judging by the way you spoke about it before. Is it something I can help with?"

"No," I bristled from the harshness of his tone and I saw him glance at me out of the corner of his eyes before sighing. "I am making sure a new member is adjusting to the pack properly. It is something I have to do by myself."

I saw Lucy glance at me and her eyes narrowed slightly. He was ignoring her to have the report session with me and she knew it. I could tell that she was annoyed by that fact but she managed to keep her emotions in check and her facial expression neutral.

"It shouldn't take long then," she said finally. "I'll just wait for you to finish so we can go home together."

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Chapter 27

I saw Kaden clench his jaws at the mention of the word home but he didn't say anything else. The rest of the ride was so tense that I felt like I could cut the tension with a knife. As soon as we stopped in front of the pack house, I wasted no time in getting out of the car and I saw Laicy wait for Kaden to turn around as if hoping he would open the door for her. When he ignored her and walked over to my side, I saw her roll her eyes and get out of the car by herself.

We walked towards the front of the office building and a few guards bowed to us. Kaden's steps halted and I did too. Lucy must not have been paying attention because she bumped into me. I rushed to apologize and all she did was roll her eyes and wave me off as if I wasn't important.

I bit my lip at her actions but I didn't say anything. She should have been the one apologizing but I stayed silent because I guessed she was just in a bad mood at having to wait in the office.

"Take Lucy to the waiting room," Kaden said to one of the guards who nodded and rushed over to Lucy's side.

"Please don't take too long." Lucy said to Kaden as she went with the guards. "I want us to have lunch together."

Kaden clenched his jaw but didn't say anything and he gestured for me to go into his office and wait for him. I didn't want to move but I was also aware that this wasn't my pack yet and I had no right to

wait but some part of me didn't want to leave him alone with Lucy.

When Kaden walked towards Lucy, I knew he probably wanted privacy as he spoke to her and even though some inner part of me screamed against it, I started to walk away. I was almost:

at the office door when I heard Lucy's voice echo slightly around the room.

"How can a wolf less member be more important to you than me?" she asked and I didn't miss the venom that was lacing her words.

I felt my cheeks heat up in embarrassment and I wanted to wait behind and find out what Kaden would say in response but one of his guards tapped my shoulder slightly and gestured for me to walk into the office. As soon as I had, he shut the door behind me, effectively cutting off the rest of the conversation from my hearing.

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Dreame

Chapter 28

Chapter 28

AMELIA'S POV

It was only a few minutes that I spent waiting for Kaden to return but it felt like hours. I sat in one of the chairs and waited anxiously for him to return. I couldn't help but wonder what was being said in my absence. I wondered whether he would defend me to Lucy or whether he would take her side and call me a wolf less member. I heard those words every single day at my old pack but hearing it now felt like an even bigger insult.

This was supposed to be my new and fresh start but it was like my past kept following me no matter how much I tried to avoid it. It was like no matter where I went, all people noticed first was that I was wolf less. I couldn't help but wish I had a wolf like everyone else then maybe those words wouldn't have hurt.

All my life I had asked the question, why didn't I have a wolf? Was I cursed? Was I as useless as they all thought I was? Why couldn't I just be like the others? I didn't know if it was jealousy or envy but that emotion was roaring its ugly head inside of me no matter how far down I tried to push it.

I heard the door open behind me and I quickly sat up straighter. All thoughts of my wolf less nature left me as Kaden walked in through the doors. He locked it behind him and the sound of the door clicking shut resonated in my ears like a bomb that went off. I couldn't help but realize that we were actually alone and no one would be able to bother us. The thought shouldn't have been as appealing as it was.

He walked past me and took the chair opposite me and I couldn't help but admire him. He was wearing a button up shirt and black slacks and I could see how the shirt bulged around his biceps. I watched as he rolled up the sleeves of his shirt with wide eyes. It was like my entire mind and body fixated on that tiny movement and I tried to look anywhere else but my eyes wouldn't move.-

His hair was perfectly styled as if he had somewhere to be and I couldn't help but think about Lucy's words about lunch. Did he have plans to take her out to lunch? Is that why he looks so presentable? Jealousy reared its ugly head and I tried to shove it down by

reminding myself I had no reason to be feeling this way in response to the man who was to be my future Alpha.

I managed to push down those thoughts and I watched as he slowly unbuttoned the first

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two buttons of his shirt. My mouth dried up as I watched his adam apple bob as he swallowed. The action shouldn't have been as hot as it was and I didn't understand why I was being affected by his movements as much as I was.

He leaned back into his seat and I quickly closed my mouth and looked away. I hoped he didn't notice me staring or else that would have been so embarrassing for both of us.

"Tell me about your week," he said suddenly and I let out a sigh of relief at being able to think and talk about anything other than how he looked leaning against the chair like he had no care in the

world.

I answered honestly, telling him all about how much fun I had at Clara's house. I didn't want to tell him about the men from the border because I didn't want it to seem like I was reporting them to him so instead, I told him about how Clara took me to the repair shop and I saw what they had done to my car. As I spoke, I saw his frown deepen.

"Who did you see at the repair shop?" he asked and I flushed slightly as I remembered Hunter.

"I met a nice man named Ronald and I met Hunter- he said he was the owner," I told him. "He said he was the one who fixed my car and he offered me a job if I wanted."

"Stay away from there," his voice wasn't angry but there was a harshness to his tone that let me know that it wasn't a suggestion, he was giving me an order.

I started to wonder if he had previous issues with Hunter or if there was something about Hunter that I didn't know. I remembered what Clara said that day about him being a player and I imagined that was why he was asking me to stay away so I nodded. If both he and Clara were against him then there must be something about it that I don't know or they don't know how to explain so I nodded to let him know that I understood.

"Good," he said with a slight nod and a small smile. "How was your first day at school?"

This seemed like it was easier to happen so I regretfully told him about the men who tried to bother me in class. I didn't tell him that I had seen them before and I tried to downplay their disturbance to a little catcalling because I didn't want them to get n trouble.

Then I told him about Aiden saving me and sitting at lunch with both Aiden and Lucy. He seemed to be lost in thought as I spoke and when I finally said that the man who helped me

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was his cousin, his spine straightened. He frowned deeply and I stopped my story to watch his brows furrow.

“You need to stay away from Aiden as well,” he said and my eyes widened.

I was surprised that he was asking me to stay away from his own cousin but I remembered the warning of that girl in class. She seemed very insistent that I stay away and so did Kaden so I nodded. I had already planned to stay away due to what the girl had said and how passionate she had sounded when she spoke so hearing Kaden say it felt like a confirmation

that I should do it.

“I will,” I assured him and I saw pride fill his okay?”

eyes as he nodded. “I have a question, is it

“Of course,” he assured me. “What do you want to ask Amelia?”

There was a certain way he said my name that I liked. It was like he stretched out every letter and said my name like some sort of reverence. It caused goose bumps to rise across my skin and I forced myself not to dwell too much on it.

“I was wondering when we can take the test,”

He looked confused for a second but then understanding filled his eyes. “I think the weekend will be a good time for us. I will let you know.”

I let out a sigh of relief. The sooner we are able to do the test, the sooner I can start training and learn how to defend myself so I won't need anyone to protect me anymore. I thanked him and he waved me off as if it was not a big deal.

The air stretched into a comfortable silence and I watched as Kaden stood to his feet and walked around the table until he was standing in front of me. He leaned against the table in front of me and the air was charged with his presence. Standing, he was already so much taller than me, but while sitting, it was like he towered over me. I swallowed deeply as his imposing presence came over me.

I looked up at him only to see him staring down at me with an expression I couldn't place. I wanted to speak but my mouth was dry and my tongue couldn't form any words. All I could do was look up at him and hope that he would get the hint and speak first because I knew I wouldn't be able to.

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“Can I have your hand?” the question took me off guard and I gaped up at him. “I want to add you to the mind link.”

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At his clarification, I let out a sigh of relief and let him take my hand once more. Back at the school, I didn't have the chance to really admire how long and thick his fingers were. He had some scars on them as if he had broken them before and I couldn't help but marvel with wide eyes. His hands looked like the hands of someone who had spent their entire life working and something about them looked beautiful.

As his

and look

mine, I suddenly started to feel moisture. His hands were large and warm

and I wasn't sure if I was the one sweating or if he was. I tried to pull my hand away so he wouldn't get disgusted by the sweat but he held my hands close and refused to let go. I looked up at him but his eyes weren't focused on me. It was almost like he was seeing through me.

I wanted to speak but then I felt a pressure at the back of my mind. It wasn't painful but it felt like someone was trying to sneak into my head. It felt like the beginning of a headache and before I could say anything, I heard it.

"Can you hear me?" it was Kaden's voice in my head and I felt the mind link open like a bridge of thoughts between us.

"I can," I said unable to stop my glee.

He broke off the mind link but I could still feel the bridge like an ever present link between us and I couldn't help my smile. At my old pack, father told me I couldn't join the pack link because I didn't have a wolf and it wouldn't work. I can see now that it was all a lie probably to keep me isolated from the rest of them.

"Thank you," I said to Kaden and he waved me off.

"There's no need to thank me Amelia. If you need anything, just mind link me."

I was shocked that he was giving me that freedom and liberty. Back at my old pack, not many people had access to father's mind link. Only Brittany and his Beta did. He could mind link anyone he wanted at any time but they were not allowed to do the same. It thought it would be the same here. I wasn't expecting him to give me the freedom to mind link him as I wished so all I could mutter was a nod.

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Things here are a lot different than I thought they would be.

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Chapter 29

Chapter 29

AMELIA'S POV

Kaden stood in front of me like an imposing statue. My hands were still in his and I could feel the weight of his stare like an ever watching hawk. The intensity of his gaze was enough to make even grown men squirm. He stared like he knew all your secrets and he could see through your skin and bones into the deepest parts of your heart and soul and like he could see even the things you struggled to hide.

I tried not to squirm in my seat but it was difficult especially because I couldn't bring myself to look up at him. I could feel him boring a hole into me and I knew he wanted me to look up but I couldn't bring myself to do it. His gaze and his hands holding mine was leading my entire being into an overdrive and I didn't understand why that was happening.

Suddenly, I felt his grip loosen and I used that moment to pull my hands into my lap. It could still feel the pressure from his hold and somehow as I pulled my hands closer to myself, I felt cold. I almost missed the heat from his hold and I felt heat creep up my cheeks as the thought hit me like a freight train.

I realized in that moment that I needed to check these straying thoughts and emotions I felt when Kaden was concerned. He was the Alpha of the pack I wanted to join and it wasn't just any pack. He was the Alpha of the Dark Fangs pack and his reputation preceded him. If he knew I had these thoughts he wouldn't hesitate to end me.

The rumors that swirled about him were enough to make a grown warrior piss his pants. Kaden was like a predator and once he had his eyes set on you, it didn't matter who

you were, you had become his prey. He would stop at nothing to ruin you and make sure that he completely destroys you.

There was a story about how Kaden slaughtered an entire group of messengers from a pack that he was at war with. The story was that the Alpha of the pack wanted to call an end to the war and had sent those messengers to broker peace. Kaden didn't even listen to them and he killed all of them with his bare hands. There were over a dozen of

them and they were bearing gifts and he killed them all. Within the next two weeks, he had completely obliterated the pack and merged their land with his.

That was apparently how he got the amount of land that he owned- he would raze entire packs and communities to the ground and take their land and people as his own. He was

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the master predator and I needed to remind myself of that to clamp down on those raging emotions but it didn't seem to discourage them. I could still feel the heat of his eyes and it made me squirm, but not in a terrible way.

Kaden cleared his throat in front of me and I finally snapped my eyes up at him. I flinched from the intensity behind his eyes and they softened considerably. I tried to look away but something about his eyes captivated me and pulled me in. It was almost like a black hole, the moment I looked, I was sucked in and I couldn't look away.

"Is there anything else you think I should know?" he asked and at first I thought about the men from the border but I shook my head. "If anything happens or if you need anything. then do not hesitate to let me know."

"I won't," I assured him and I saw the hint of a smile grow on his l*ps.

It disappeared almost immediately and for a second, I wondered if I had just imagined it. The corner of his l*ps twitched slightly as he took me in and I expected him to move

back to his seat but he stayed leaning on the table in front of me and his legs brushed my knees. The action caused fireworks to erupt over my knees and in my belly but I forced myself to stay still and not jump.

I expected him to pull away but he didn't. He kept our legs brushing against each other and I don't know why but my heart started to beat a little faster. He cocked his head to the side as he watched me and I wondered if he could actually hear my heartbeat. I have heard about Alphas having better hearing, sight and strength than normal wolves. Judging by how powerful he is, I wouldn't be surprised if he could hear it.

I had this sudden urge to fill the silence but I couldn't force the words to leave my mouth. It was like I was tongue tied around him and the way he was staring at me. I wasn't sure if he blinked once

during this short time. I hadn't seen him blink and I know for a fact that he didn't once look away from me because I never felt a reprieve from the heat of his gaze.

I concentrated my gaze on our legs that were pressed together. I could feel that he wanted to speak, I could feel him tense but then, I heard a knock on the door. Just like that, the moment and the spell was broken. I heard Kaden clear his throat as he spoke to the person on the other side to come in.

I turned to the door and saw Caleb walk in. He looked at Kaden and I's position but he didn't say anything about it. I tried to read his expression but his face was carefully blank and Kaden finally rose from his position on the table.

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"Caleb will take you home," Kaden said to me. "But I need you to wait outside for him because I need to talk to him for a while."

I nodded and took the dismissal for what it was. I brushed past Kaden and Caleb and I gently shut the door behind me. Before it closed, I saw Caleb wave his hands around as if he was trying to pass

a point across. I wanted to know what they were discussing but I also knew that it was none of my business.

The guard at the door of the office led me towards the waiting room. I had totally forgotten about Lucy being there until I saw her sitting there with a mirror in front of her as she reapplied her makeup. She didn't look up as I walked in but I knew that she had sensed my presence because I saw her frown slightly.

I took the only empty seat in the room which was directly opposite her and I watched as she carefully applied her lipstick. No one would look at Lucy and think she was anything other than beautiful. She had naturally full lips, long legs that seemed to go on forever and a perfect figure. She was slim with a very defined waist and her features weren't too big or small, they were directly proportionate to her body.

Her dress seemed to make her breasts look even bigger and perky and I felt self-conscious because I have never had perky breasts. Try as I could, I couldn't look away from her. I guessed it was part of her charm to be unable to look away.

"Are you going to sit there staring at me?" she spat as she capped her lipstick and I felt my cheeks flush with embarrassment.

"Sorry," I mumbled and she rolled her eyes but didn't say a word. "You're really beautiful and I love how you do your makeup,"

She finally looked up at me and she had an expression similar to annoyance and frustration as she stared at me. She looked at me like I was the dirt beneath her shoes and I felt my cheeks heat up as I looked away from her.

"I know I'm beautiful," she said finally and out of the corner of my eyes, I saw her cross her legs in a way I can only describe as elegant. "What did you and Kaden talk about that took so long?"

I was shocked by the question and unsure of how to answer it at first. I blinked twice as she stared at me expectantly and I knew that no matter what I said, she would probably find

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fault in it. I was about to speak when she finally groaned.

“Did

you not understand the question?”

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“I did,” I said slowly. “He just wanted to make sure I was not a threat to the pack.”

She scoffed and then she burst out laughing. There was something dignified about her laughter but there was also an undertone of mocking. As if she couldn’t believe that I could be

any threat and she thought I was lying. When she was done laughing, she wiped a stray tear out of her eye and picked up a brush from her bag to fix the part of her makeup that was smudged by that single tear.

“How much damage can a wolf less female do?” she sneered at me as she fixed her makeup. “What did you really talk about? You can tell me, female to female.”

“There’s nothing to tell,” I said and her frown deepened. “He just wanted to make sure I was adjusting well and make sure I wasn’t a threat.”

Something prevented me from telling her about the mind link. It felt like such an intimate moment and I didn’t want to share it. She probably already had her own experience with him about it and I didn’t want her to taint it with her own memories so I kept it to myself.

Her eyes narrowed at me as if she knew I was hiding something. She slowly arranged her makeup things back into her bag and she sat up straighter as her eyes bored into me. When Kaden did it, it was intense and it made me squirm in a good way but when she did it, it made me feel weird and it made my skin crawl. I would have done anything to make her stop looking at me.

Her phone rang and when she saw the name, her lips curled up in a cruel smile. She picked up the call and put it on speaker. I didn’t recognize the voice on the other side but Lucy looked at me through her lashes with a victorious smile.

“Are you home yet?” the voice asked.

“Not yet, your son is in a meeting.”

Shock filled me as I realized that she was talking with Kaden’s mother. Lucy saw the exact moment that awareness settled on me and she smiled in victory.

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“I want you guys home soon for lunch.” She hung up the call and Lucy stared up at me with

a vicious smile.

She looked like she wanted to speak but Caleb walked in through the doors. As soon as I saw him, I all but rushed to my feet and gathered my bags. He looked between Lucy and I as if he knew something had happened and I knew he wanted to ask but I didn't give him the chance.

“I'm ready to leave.” I announced,

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COMMENT

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KADEN'S POV

I have never once been more grateful for the fact that Amelia is nervous around me than I have been today. Usually I hate her nervousness and I want her to be free around me but if she was then she would have noticed how many times I slipped up today. From the moment I picked her up at school, it was a battle not to haul her into her arms. When Lucy arrived and messed everything up, I was so frustrated and angry.

I was furious at my mother for setting things up with Lucy and I was even more furious that Lucy was now living at my house and there was nothing I could do about it. My anger at Lucy couldn't stay at the surface for long because Amelia was like a magnet. She was my kryptonite and she managed to drag my attention no matter how far in my thoughts I was buried. Her silence was loud and her words were even louder.

No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't help but be pulled and sucked into her world and axis. Speaking to her reminded me of being a teenager again and trying to talk to our crush and hoping she doesn't reject you. My palms got sweaty and clammy and a few times while driving. I would glance at her out of the corner of my eyes hoping she would just look at me. I caught Lucy intercepting some of my glances from time to time but I couldn't bring myself to care.

As soon as we got to the office, I knew I wanted to be alone with her and I had Lucy moved to a place where she wouldn't disturb us. I honestly miscalculated my strength when it came to Amelia because as soon as we were locked together in that office, it felt like my world was going to collapse. I tried but I couldn't focus on anything but her; the curve of her mouth, the way she furrowed her brows and how she had a tendency to bite her lip when she was thinking hard.

Every word out of her mouth was like a siren song to me and when I had to hold her hand. to help her with the mind link, I thought I was going to jump right out of my skin. I had to plead with my wolf to keep his urges in check so I wouldn't get hard from simply holding her hand. I was sweating through my shirt and when she tried to pull away, I had to keep her close. I couldn't have her moving away from me at the time. I couldn't stop the words from leaving my lips when I told her to talk to me whenever she needed. I could see the shock that registered on her face because it isn't normal for anyone to have access to an Alpha, she just doesn't realize that she isn't just anyone to me.

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I didn't want to let go of her hands, I wanted to hold them and kiss then. I wanted to intertwine our fingers and never let go. I wanted to feel her soft and dainty fingers on my skin, so delicate and careful. Add all that to her ever enticing smell, I lost my train of

thought a number of times while talking with her and I was very grateful that she didn't notice or else it would have been disastrous.

When Caleb came, I had no choice but to let her go. It was the last thing I wanted to do. In fact, my wolf was trying to convince me about all the reasons why I should carry her over my shoulder and take her back to my house but I had to remind him that doing that would only terrify her. I watched

her up until the moment the door shut behind her and even then, I wanted to stand up and tell her to come back but I couldn't because she had to go home and I had to go to Lucy.

"I have never seen you like this," Caleb said snapping me out of my thoughts and I suddenly remembered where I was.

Caleb was sitting on the chair that Amelia had just stood up from and he was looking at me with an amused smile on his face. I wanted to tell him to get up because he was tainting her scent but I knew it would only further the point he was making so I settled for leaning back into my chair and crossing my arms over my chest.

"I have no idea what you are talking about," I said simply but his smile didn't reduce. If anything, it grew wider the longer he stared at me.

"I'm just surprised that you are going through such lengths to be around her. I heard about the test that she has to take. Clara told me yesterday and I almost peed my pants."

"Is there anything useful you want to say Caleb?" I asked dryly and he laughed. The fucker actually laughed in my face.

I rolled my eyes at his antics and waited for him to calm down. It took a while though because he seemed perfectly content laughing and clutching his side like he had broken a rib. What he didn't know was that he was actually at risk of breaking a rib if he didn't stop.

"This is just golden," he wheezed once he had calmed down and he wiped a stray tear from her face. "If you're this serious then why don't you just go after her? Why are you keeping Lucy around and why are you going along with your mother's arrangements?"

The mention of Lucy's name brought a frown to my face and it took all my self control to

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not sneer. She has been a pain in my side since the moment she came to the pack and believe me when I say that I want nothing more than to throw her out of the pack but unfortunately I can't do that.

"I'm trying to sign a treaty with a nearby pack," I explained to Caleb. "The pack has a mine and I want to be able to use it as well as passage through their land for some of our imports. Lucy's father is best friends with the Alpha of that pack and I need his support for that Alpha to agree to my terms."

"That sucks," he said and I couldn't help but agree. "I'm guessing there isn't another pack that you could ally with."

"No pack has a mine as good or as fruitful as theirs."

Caleb just nodded in understanding. Other than the fact that he is my friend, Caleb also understands the nature of pack politics which was why I picked him as my Beta. He knows that as Alpha, I have a duty to my pack and I have to do things that I hate in order to do that Caleb will

always support my decisions whether he likes them or not as long as they are for the benefit of the pack.

"I organized the meeting with Amelia's father," he said out of the blue and my eyes snapped up to his. "It wasn't easy considering the fact that he was still reeling from the insult of not seeing him at the border that day but he agreed."

"Was there a catch? Did he ask for something in exchange for the meeting?"

"No, he just said he would be there and that he would be bringing his heir with him."

I found that strange but I didn't want to comment on it. Amelia's father should not have agreed that easily and I made a mental note to find out if there was something else happening behind the scenes that Caleb and I did not know about.

"I'll be there," I said finally and Caleb stood to his feet but I stopped him. "Amelia is not to know about this, am I understood?"

"I hear you loud and clear."

I nodded at him and rose to my feet too. He watched me carefully as I followed him out of the office and towards the waiting area. I waited outside the door for Amelia to appear and

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Chapter 30

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she was shocked to see me standing there. She actually did a double take when she saw me.

"What are you doing here?" she asked.

"I'm here to walk you out," she looked surprised by my words but she nodded and I gestured for her to walk in front of me.

I wanted to hold her hand again but I wasn't sure if I could control myself so I settled for watching her intensely as she walked ahead of me. Caleb was behind me and I could feel his amusement. I wanted to turn around and smack him behind his head but I managed to control myself.

I opened the door for Amelia and she thanked me softly before walking in. I shut it gently behind her and I turned to Caleb. I made sure my voice was as soft as a whisper before I spoke.

"Make sure she gets home safe."

I could tell he wanted to make a joke about it but he knew I was serious so he settled for nodding and I watched their car drive off until it disappeared from sight and that was when I felt her behind me. I hadn't even glanced at her once in the waiting room and I was so enamored by Amelia that I didn't even notice she was following.

I didn't meet her eye and instead walked over to my car. She stood in front of the passenger side as if she was waiting for me to open the door for her but I walked past

her and took my seat in the driver's side. I heard her huff and mumble some words under her breath but she finally opened the door and sat down.

"Am I not important enough for you to open my door?" she asked but I refused to respond because I was not going to rise to her bait. Instead, I started the car and focused my attention on the road.

I saw her reaching for my glove compartment. "Don't touch that."

"Now you want to talk to me," she said almost bitterly as she crossed her arms over her chest.

I ignored her as she spoke and my thoughts unwillingly moved to Amelia. I craved her like a drug and I thought about how Caleb would feel about me visiting around midnight again.

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Emergency calls only

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I just needed to see her once more and get my fill of her for the day.

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"You're not even listening to me," Lucy's voice cut through the haze and I forced myself to clamp down on my irritation as I turned to her.

"What did you ask?"

"I asked what good she is to the pack that you keep her around so much. What is so special about her?"

"All you need to know is that she is a very significant addition to the pack and there is something only she can do for us

I could tell she wanted to refute and she had so much to say but I turned away from her and faced the road and she took it for what it was a dismissal

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COMMENT

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