

## Alpha Reid chapter 9 -

9 REID I don't know what it is about a woman in red lipstick that I find so damn attractive , but when that flame – haired little vixen descended the packhouse stairs tonight in a tight little skirt and red lips , it immediately did something to my dick . I've been sporting a semi all night , barely able to think straight around Serena . Hardly able to breathe . I'm actually somewhat relieved when one of the girls suggests they go take shots and I'm given a little bit of a reprieve to collect my thoughts . " So how's it been going ? " Gray asks as soon as the girls are out of earshot , turning his attention to me .

" Good , " I mumble absently , eyes glued to Serena's ass as she heads for the bar . The crowd fills in behind her and I turn back t o the guys , meeting Gray's dubious stare . " Yeah ? " he asks skeptically . I shrug . " Sure . I mean ... as good as it can b e going ? " I scrub a hand over my face , chuckling wryly . " Fuck , man , I don't know . I can't get a read on that girl at all . A s soon as I think I have her figured out , she pulls something that has me guessing all over again . " Gray sighs , leaning back on his barstool . " I mean , you can't know anyone after just a couple of days , right ?

" The girl's been through it , " Brock grumbles from beside me . " Give her time . " Jax leans in , dropping his voice low . " Has she told you anything else about her time a sa prisoner or how she got away ? " I give a little shake of my head . " Not yet . Like I said , I'm not gonna push her until she's more settled here . " " Well don't take too long , we need all the intel on the shadow pack we can get , " Theo says gruffly , lifting his beer bottle to his lips and taking a swig . " Another round ? " Sophie asks as she approaches our table , reaching in to collect the empty bottles . I like Sophie , I really do , but I'm still a little pissed about how she fucked with Serena earlier . Not that she'd know it- I pride myself on my ability to conceal my emotions .

Think first , react second . " Sure , thanks Soph , " I nod , grabbing the last few empties off of the table and handing them to her so she doesn't have t o lean over me to retrieve them . She flashes me a smile , hustling away as I turn back to the guys . " What were we talking about ? " I ask , lifting a hand to rub my temple . All the beer I've consumed is making me a little fuzzy .

" How you're gonna get some shadow pack intel from that mystery mate of yours , " Theo supplies , smirking . I blow out a breath . " Yeah . We'll see . Like I said , I wanna be careful with her . She's fragile . Innocent . " " Uh , Reid ? " Jax mumbles , eyes wide . " Hm ? " He points a finger , his eyes focused in the direction of the bar . I turn to follow his gaze , seeing a bunch of commotion around it . Jax clears his throat . " That fragile , innocent mate of yours is climbing up on the bar .....

I see a flash of red hair as Serena tosses it back from her seated position on the bar , grinning as she twists sideways and starts to lean back . What the fuck is she doing ? I shoot to my feet , stalking in her direction . I'm pretty sure my wolf is steering this ship , not me- I'm not forming a single coherent thought as I push through the crowd . So much for thinking first and reacting second . Serena starts to lie back on top of the bar ,

propped up on her elbows , and when the bartender comes over with a liquor bottle and she pulls up her shirt to expose her stomach , I suddenly realize exactly what's happening- this girl is about to let someone do a body shot off of her like . she's at a goddamn frat party .

Then when I put together which one of these idiot guys put her up to it , it's a miracle I don't lose : my shit on the spot . Alpha Vaughn's son Chase is right beside Serena , egging her on and grinning like a fool . I push closer as the bartender hands Serena a lime and she just stares at it for a moment , her throat working as she swallows hard . She's still holding it in her hand hesitantly when the bartender starts to tip the tequila bottle , the first few drops splashing Serena's belly as I step forward and the crowd hushes . The bartender looks up and freezes , her wide eyes coming to mine .

I shake my head and she immediately yanks the bottle of Patron into her chest and starts to back away . Time moves slow as I stare down at Serena and she turns her head toward me . Her eyes collide with mine and she draws a short gasp . My knuckles crack as I ball my fists at my sides , going to great lengths to maintain my composure . " Up . Now . " " She sits up quickly , her mouth hanging open . Clearly at a loss for words . I take a step closer , bringing a hand to her waist and leaning in , speaking through gritted teeth . " What the hell are you doing ? " " Hey , what's it to you , man ? " Chase protests , stepping up beside me . The fucking kid is pissed that I'm ruining his fun . I whip my head sideways to shoot him a warning glare . " She's my mate , " I snap .

I watch as the realization washes over Chase , his jaw going slack . He holds his hands up , eyes wide . " Hey , I had no idea , I swear ... " " 1 " Leave . " I turn away from Chase and his buddies as they scramble to clear out , because honestly , though I believe him , I don't give a shit what anyone other than Serena has to say right now . Yesterday she was blushing under the stare of a few people at the pizza place , and today she's offering body shots in a crowded bar ?

Nothing adds up . It's like the more I get to know her , the more questions I have- and maybe it's time I actually start asking them before this girl makes me lose my damn mind .. Serena swings her legs over the edge of the bar , moving to hop down . With one hand still on her waist , I bring my other hand to the opposite side and lift her down gently . " Sorry , " she says with a sheepish smile as I set her on her feet . " I was just .... " Fuck , our bodies are so close . All I see are those blue eyes , those red lips . I flex my fingers around her narrow waist , drawing a deep breath in an effort to keep it together .

" Let's go , " " I growl , steering her away from the bar and toward the exit . To my surprise , she doesn't protest- she just looks embarrassed . Her cheeks are stained red as I lead her toward the door by an arm , the other patrons in the crowded bar staring inquisitively as we make a quick exit . > As I push the door step outside , open and the cool night air slams into me , a stark contrast to the thick , stagnant air inside the bar and the stifling heat resulting from packing so many bodies into one place

. I feel Serena shiver beside me as the cold air hits her exposed skin , and as soon as the door swings closed behind us , she wrenches her arm free from my grasp . I let her- and when she takes a step back , putting space between our bodies , I let her do that , too , because it's the only way my wolf and I will settle down . " You gonna tell me what that was ? " I ask calmly , folding my arms over my chest and staring at Serena . Drawing deep breaths in an effort to keep my cool .

She looks up at me , defiance in her eyes . 44 " You've never done a body shot ? " My temper flares , my wolf pushing forward- but by some miracle I rein us both in , drawing another breath and taking a beat . " What the hell is going on with you ? " I ask , narrowing my eyes . " This isn't like you ... " 33 " You don't know me , " Serena responds quickly , looking away .

I have no retort because she's right , I don't . I swallow hard . Her eyes come back to mine and I just stare at her for a moment , trying to get a read on her . Trying to piece together what's going on inside that beautiful head of hers . " Let's just go , " she says with a flippant wave of her hand , turning on a heel and strutting across the parking lot in the direction of the Mustang . I take another deep inhale of air and watch after her for a second , the clack of her heeled ankle boots echoing off the pavement .

What the fuck am I going to do about this girl ? I can't remember the last time I was pushed this close to the edge of losing my shit . I'm always in control . I scrub a hand over my face , blowing out a breath and starting after Serena , reaching into my pocket for the key fob and unlocking the car doors . By the time I reach the Mustang , she's already in the passenger seat . I take my spot behind the wheel , a heavy silence hanging between us as I turn the key in the ignition and rev the motor . I pull out of the lot and onto the road , and though the drive back to the packhouse is short , neither of us say a word in the five minutes it takes to get there . It isn't until I've pulled into the driveway and cut the engine that I break the tense silence , turning to Serena with a heavy sigh . " You're right , " I say , reaching up to rub my temple in exasperation . " I don't know you , Serena . " I turn to face her , furrowing my brow . " I'm fucking trying to , though . " B She narrows her eyes on me in challenge . " Why ? " It's not a question I expect , and honestly ,

it's a fucking ridiculous one . " Why do you think ? " I scoff . " You don't want me as a mate , " she grumbles with a shake of her head . M I feel the flames of anger licking inside of my chest , threatening to consume me . Still , I manage to keep it together . " Don't presume to know what I want , little girl , " I murmur , my voice steady . " I've been waiting a long time for you .

" " Sorry to disappoint , " Serena snaps . " Who said I'm disappointed ? " I fire back , raising my voice as I feel my blood start to boil . " Please . It was written all over your face tonight . " She throws her car door open , climbing out and slamming it behind her . I'm quick to hop out on my own side , flinging the door closed and walking around the front of the car to head her off . " Hey ! " I call , but she doesn't look at me , just attempts

to charge past me . I step in her path , not letting her around me . Hey ! ” I repeat , more firmly this time as I reach out to grasp her arms , holding her in place . “

She begrudgingly looks up at me , fury and the silver of her wolf flickering in her blue - eyed gaze . ” You’re right , I don’t want you doing shit like you did tonight , ” I grind out through clenched teeth . ” That doesn’t mean I don’t want you , Serena . Because I do . But if you’re going to be Luna of this pack , you can’t be pulling that kind of crap in front of them . >> ” I never asked to be Luna of any pack ! ” she shouts , wrenching her arms out of my grip and stomping a foot like an insolent child . ” Besides , your pack didn’t seem to have a problem with what I did tonight . You were the only one who seemed to have a problem with it . ” She points a finger into my chest , staring up at me with wild eyes .

” Yeah , I do have a problem with it , ” I bark , raising my voice to match her volume . I’ve fully lost my cool now ; this girl has pushed me over the edge and then some . ” Why would I want some other dude slurping tequila off your stomach ? You’re supposed to be mine , Serena ... ” ” Oh , so that’s what this is really about , huh ? ” she chuckles wryly , folding her arms across her chest . ” Some possessive Alpha shit where you assert your claim over me ? ” I scowl , shaking my head .

” No , I just don’t want you doing shit like that , it reflects poorly on both of us . ” I scrub a hand over my face , heaving a sigh . Seriously , what were you thinking ? ” ” L ” Honestly , Reid ? ” She throws up her hands . ” I wasn’t ! I was just letting loose , having fun . Have you ever fucking tried it ? ” ” Watch your tone , ” I snap , my patience wearing razor thin . ” What are you gonna do , punish me ? ” she spits , rolling her eyes . My own go dark . ” Do you want me to punish you ? ” I hear her breath catch in her throat as she stares up at me , eyes widening in surprise and ... interest . It’s the last thing I expect – well , the second to last thing . The last thing is when she purses her lips , her cheeks flushing pink as she whispers ” ...yes .

I take a step closer , my chest slamming against hers as I trap her body between mine and the Mustang . She gasps , her wide eyes searching my own as I trail my fingertips up her bare arms . She shivers under my touch . ” Turn around and put your hands on the hood , ” I command . Serena draws another sharp breath and I see a tremble of excitement run through her as she complies , spinning around and bending over to place her hands on the hood of my sportscar .

She arches her back and sticks that perfect leather – clad ass out toward me , her skirt so short that her ass cheeks are peeking out under the hem when she bends . ” Like this ? ” she pants , tossing her hair back and looking at me over her shoulder . Fuck . Me . Is this really happening right now ? Should this happen ? I’ve done this with other women , but they were submissive by nature , and none of them had a past like Serena’s . Or the past I assume she has . I realize that I’ve been operating completely on assumptions when it comes to her , building a picture of a girl from a stack of papers in a file that clearly doesn’t match the person in front of me right now . She says she wants this , and fuck , I need it . I’m all riled up and this is the only catharsis that’ll bring

me back down . I answer Serena's question by way of a growl of approval , setting my hand on her back , trailing it down the delicate curve of her spine . " Exactly like that , gorgeous .. "