

Alphas Bride 281

Chapter 281 - Heading To The Beach

When Talia and Damon descended to the main floor, they were welcomed by the clamor in the main hallway as the girls were getting ready to depart to the beach.

Maya was in the center of the commotion with Meg, Kalina, Mindy, and Tatiana facing her and asking questions related to what to expect at the beach.

Talia and Damon could hear from the top of the stair how Maya was reminding them that lunch will wait for them there and that they will also have beach towels, snacks, chilled drinks, bodyboards, balls, and snorkeling equipment.

Talia was looking forward to what was coming, and she hoped that she will get to swim with Damon, and maybe play a game with a ball in the water.

She once saw a group in the waist-deep water throwing a ball to each other, and she clearly remembered laughter and the good mood, and Talia always wanted to do that.

Talia gazed at Damon and for the millionth time since coming to the Dark Howlers pack, Talia was grateful for all the opportunities Damon presented her with. She never thought that she can be this happy.

Talia smiled at the thought of how she managed to put her red bikini on without showing it to Damon. She bought it that morning in the mall. Did Damon even know that she was wearing a swimsuit under her dress? What will be his reaction when he sees her in that bikini? Talia thought that it was too skimpy, but the girls assured her that the color suits her well and that Damon will go crazy when he sees her. Talia hoped that it will be good crazy and not crazy crazy.

The ladies wore light summer wear and the thin strings that peeked around their necks were a giveaway that they are wearing swimsuits underneath clothes, and Talia was glad to see that her choice of clothes more-less matched what her girlfriends were wearing.

But not only females were in the hallway.

Maddox stood on the side and his expectant gaze was on Tatiana who was chatting with Kalina and other girls like he was not there.

"See? We are on time.", Damon said to Talia.

She knew that he was rubbing it in because after their lovemaking on the floor she wanted to get ready, but Damon carried her to bed for another round while saying that they won't be late for their beach outing. Well, he was right. They were not late, but she didn't want to acknowledge it.

"What about the guys who went to train?"

"Caden is with them, and they will join us at the beach when done. They are still training."

Talia pretended not to notice that Damon was rubbing it in.

She knew that the group in the training center included Axel because he went there after the girls returned from the mall.

With that, everyone was accounted for.

"The van is waiting outside!", Maya said in a raised voice, obviously excited. "Feel free to pick your seat. When everyone is in, we will leave..."

Talia turned to Damon, silently asking him if that applies to them also, and he shook his head with, "We will take my car."

Damon had no intention of squeezing into a vehicle with a bunch of women who are not Talia.

Talia's eyes moved to Maddox whose expression dropped. It was obvious that Tatiana was planning to join the girls in the van.

Talia knew that Tatiana was making things difficult for Maddox so he had to work for it, but he won't be able to do anything if she keeps her distance.

No matter how much Maddox wanted to be with Tatiana, he is still an Alpha and it won't be good if he makes a fool of himself in front of others.

Tatiana was pressuring Maddox, and Talia had a feeling that no one will like the outcome if the pressure is too much, and Maddox explodes.

At the same time, Talia was confident that Tatiana wanted to be with Maddox, otherwise, she would reject him.

Stirred by an unknown resolve, Talia slipped out of Damon's hold as she moved swiftly and grabbed Tatiana's elbow.

Tatiana looked at Talia questionably, and Talia said, "How about you come with us in the car?"

It was not really a question; it was more like a command and Tatiana looked at Talia in a daze for a moment before agreeing.

"Alpha Maddox", Talia called in an official manner. "You should join us also."

Maddox looked at Talia with sparkles in his eyes, and if he had a tail, it would be wagging.

It seemed that out of everyone present, only Talia was willing to help him out.

Damon and Axel spent hours giving him advice, but that didn't count because nothing useful came out of it, and others either didn't care or were sabotaging him.

Suddenly, Maddox thought how Talia is a sensible person. Ah, if only his mate is so kind, they would have a nice conversation and figure out things, and he wouldn't need to suffer through the torture of guessing what Tatiana wants.

Damon stared at Talia with renewed interest. Did he feel Talia's aura impacting Tatiana for a moment, or did he imagine it?

Damon knew the feeling of Alphas forcing others to submit, but this was different. It was like Talia was the voice of reason that shattered Tatiana's defenses and made the latter think that was her idea, and the most surprising was that Talia did it naturally, without even trying. Fascinating.

Seeing that Tatiana didn't go with the girls, but was standing there and waiting, Maddox smiled at Talia gratefully and he decided that he will repay this favor. Somehow.

"Keep looking at her like that and you will be walking to the beach.", Damon growled.

Talia poked Damon in the ribs with her finger and spoke in a hushed voice, "Stop talking like everyone wants to seduce me."

Damon cocked an eyebrow at her. "Everyone wants to seduce you."

"That's all in your head."

Damon nodded earnestly. "My head is full of thoughts about seducing you."

Talia stifled a giggle. Silly man. "You seduced me a long time ago." Actually, it was not a long time ago, but she couldn't remember the time when Damon was not part of her life.

Damon leaned closer and his breath splashed on her ear, "And I will continue seducing you every day, kitten, for the rest of my life."

Talia's insides shook. Somehow, his words sounded like a promise, and she liked it very much.

Talia stared into Damon's endlessly blue eyes, and she smiled foolishly. That handsome male specimen was her mate, her other half, and he can seduce her anytime. She will welcome it.

Maddox was not interested in being anywhere near Talia and Damon while they were lovey-dovey (which was most of the time), but he thought how Tatiana might lower her guard toward him when she sees a couple that is openly expressing their affections.

He would allow Tatiana to poke his ribs as much as she wants, and then they would gaze into each other's eyes, and inch closer until they kiss, and then they will go upstairs and have sex (and lots of it!), and they would definitely skip on the whole beach idea. One can hope.

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When they reached the black armored Lexus SUV, Damon opened the door for Talia and helped her get in and buckle up. He stole a few kisses during that process and then he moved to sit in the driver's seat.

Following his example, Maddox opened the door for Tatiana with, "Do you need help with the seatbelt?"

Tatiana refused his offer. "I can manage." She knew that Maddox being so close might cause her will to crumble and give in easily.

Tatiana was grateful that Maddox was too nervous to notice how conflicted she was. The attraction was driving her mad, and she wanted to rip his clothes off and ride him wildly, but she also wanted to teach him a lesson for what happened that morning.

The delicious scent of coffee splashed on Tatiana when Maddox joined her in the backseat and she turned to look out of the window of the car in order to avoid staring at him.

The car hummed and Damon smoothly navigated through the winding road.

Talia's hand in Damon's fit perfectly with their fingers interlaced and Damon's thumb gently caressed the back of her palm, and their worlds were at peace.

In the rearview mirror, Maddox could see Damon's blissful smile and he really wanted to have the same.

Little by little, his right hand moved toward Tatiana's, and he silently prayed that she doesn't move her hand away.

Tatiana jolted when Maddox's hand covered hers. She looked at him only to see him gazing through the window on the side with an oblivious expression like he had no idea what was going on.

Tatiana's gaze moved to their connected hands. Her hand looked so small compared to Maddox's that gave her a feeling that it could hold the sky for her if needed, and it came with the warmth and the delicious sparks, and it felt so good that she closed her eyes and smiled a little.

Maddox was delighted by Tatiana's reaction and his heart soared when Tatiana's hand moved, and her fingers curved to hold his.

Holding hands. Maddox didn't remember if he ever held hands with a girl. It was such a simple intimacy, but he felt like he achieved something monumental.

Maddox hoped that Damon will keep on driving a few circles around the Darkbourne and probably more, because he didn't want to let go of Tatiana's hand.

Chapter 282 - At The Beach (1)

Maya reached the crowded beach with Meg, Kalina, and Mindy, and she smiled when she saw that things were in order.

Many bodies were present, on the beach and in the water, and one empty area in the middle stood out. It bordered the lake, it was nice and flat, and surrounded by "VIP" signposts that were placed strategically.

Several Omegas were moving there, bringing the food and drinks. Maya mind-linked them as they were approaching the beach.

The area was surrounded by warriors who wore swimwear in order to blend in with the crowd, but they had a task to keep our group safe. It's not that anything could happen with all the Alphas and high-ranking members, but if a crazed fan rushes in, the mood would be ruined.

For the purpose of having lunch on the beach, picnic tables with massive umbrellas sticking from the middle were arranged so that everyone can get a seat and enjoy their meal in the shade.

Omegas also had a task to make sure chilled beverages don't run out, and once lunch is over, they would clean it up and remove tables and chairs, leaving towels and umbrellas behind.

A camper van parked nearby held all the necessities for Omegas to serve their Alpha and his guests.

Maya was pleased that things were not delayed because Omegas who came here initially faced resistance when they urged people who were previously here to move. Why would they move? This was the best spot on the lake!

The fight nearly broke out and Maya sent a group of warriors to help stabilize the situation.

However, the rowdy bunch still felt wronged, and they eased up only when they heard that Alpha and his guests will be spending an afternoon at the lake.

The news spread quickly, and the crowd was now lively, eagerly waiting to see their Alpha and his guests.

This was more than just seeing celebrities or powerful individuals. Everyone who didn't find a mate was hoping to get closer because if one of those VIP guests is his (or her) mate, that's like a ticket to the life of rich and famous.

Most of the Dark Howlers pack knew by now that Alpha Maddox and Mindy were here because they saw them in the Shifters nightclub on the previous night, but based on the seating arrangements, it seemed that more people will be joining.

It was not unusual to see Damon among the pack members, but whenever he had guests, it was business-related and this looked like a purely social event. In addition to that, Damon would come to the lake only when it was part of training with soldiers, and this was definitely different.

The excitement rose when Maya appeared, her presence announced that guests started arriving at the lake. Most of them knew Mindy and Kalina, but Meg was a new face.

"Should we head to the towels first?", Kalina asked Maya.

Maya's eyes lost focus for a moment, and then she responded, "Alpha Damon was right behind us and the guys from the training center will be here within a few minutes. We might as well start with appetizers."

Four girls sat at one table that had fresh fruits and small pastries filled with vegetables, and they all looked toward the parking lot to see the black armored Lexus SUV pulling in with Alpha Damon at the driver's seat.

Damon stopped the car and rushed to the other side to get the door for Talia, and Maddox was quick to follow Damon's example and get the door for Tatiana.

Everyone at the beach was stealing glances at two couples, both arousing their interest.

Maya, Mindy, Kalina, and Meg were separated from others, but with all four of them being werewolves, it was impossible not to hear what people were saying.

[It seems that Alpha Damon is serious. They left the Shifters together last night, and look at them now...]

[Did Alpha Maddox also decide to date a woman?]

[Alpha Maddox was a free hunter last night at the shifters. I saw him leave with Kylie and Sandra.]

[Ah, I was close when he picked them up and I regretted not standing a bit further to the right. Maybe tonight he picks me.]

[The lack of closeness tells me he doesn't care about her. She is just a gold digger.]

[Really? But I never saw Alpha Maddox so chummy with a woman.]

[Mates can't keep their hands off each other. Once an Alpha finds his mate, they stay in the bedroom for days. This woman was not with him in the Shifters last night, so he picked her up today.]

[I agree. As long as they are not mates, she is just like everyone else. Neither of those two has a mark on her neck. When did you see an Alpha who found his mate and didn't mark her right away?]

'You don't think that Alpha Damon can hear you!?', Maya's angry shout blasted through the mind-link of the Dark Howlers pack, making murmurs stop abruptly.

Kalina's face darkened as she could hear echoes of the chatter even after it stopped.

Why did they assume her sister is a gold digger? So what if Alpha Maddox didn't mark Tatiana?

Tony and Kalina also waited a full week and that didn't make them less mates than any other mated couple.

Why can't people just be happy for them? It's none of their business!

Kalina's indignation was fueled by the fact that people at the Lightclaw pack were talking smack about her behind her back. Kalina heard them more than once, and she was painfully aware that what she heard was just a fraction of the whole picture.

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"It seems that your sister accepted Alpha Maddox.", Meg said to Kalina.

All of them knew what happened that morning and that Tatiana was keeping her distance from Maddox.

Kalina nodded in agreement with Meg's words, even though she was not sure how to interpret this.

Tatiana was cool on the outside, but Kalina knew that her sister was angry. Why did she suddenly decide to go with Maddox in the car? And she even waited for Maddox to open the door for her and help her out.

It's not that Kalina didn't want Tatiana to be with Maddox, but she knew that her sister doesn't let go of grudges easily, and what Alpha Maddox did that morning, definitely was grudge-worthy.

Seeing that Kalina was silent, Mindy spoke, "The mate bond only points out who your soulmate is. Even without the mate bond, if mates spend time together, they will realize that they are perfect for each other."

Kalina and Maya agreed with that, and Mindy continued, "No matter what Max did before he met Tanya, it won't change the fact that after they met, she became the center of his world. Resisting that pull would harm both of them. Only a foolish person would pick pride and reject the bond."

Maya and Meg didn't talk much with Mindy, but Kalina knew very well Mindy's attitude toward the mates, especially when one of the two is an Alpha.

"Did you change your opinion about the mate bond after your brother found his mate?", Kalina asked Mindy.

Mindy pressed her lips into a line. Did she change her opinion?

Probably not, but she realized that her actions hurt Maddox and she couldn't get the guilt off her chest.

Maddox's disappointed gaze directed at Mindy made a lasting impression and she acknowledged that she was not the supportive sister she should be.

Mindy remembered the time when she was looking at her brother in awe. She was following him everywhere, admiring his tenacity and fighting spirit. When did that admiration turn into envy?

Was it because everyone praised Maddox's achievements while ignoring hers?

Mindy was in her teens when she heard that no matter what she was doing, she will need to stop it if it doesn't align with what her mate wanted.

How come her brother gets to keep everything and his Luna is an add-on, while Mindy's past gets voided as she gets the identity of a mate?

Without realizing it, Mindy started hating that order, and she saw Maddox as part of it.

Yes, everything she said was true, but Maddox is an amazing Alpha who works hard and who achieved a lot with his own efforts despite immense pressure that was put on him even before he became a teenager.

Maddox was the future Alpha of the Blue River pack and everyone expected excellence from him, and he delivered or he kept on trying.

Even before he became Alpha officially, Maddox went above and beyond to take care of his pack members. He trained hard and treated everyone equally. He put his life on the line many times, and he accepted anyone who came to him for help and protection.

However, even though Maddox had many sides to him, one more amazing than the other, Mindy only spoke about his partying and philandering, portraying him as a lecherous Alpha who is abusing his power.

How can she look him in the eyes and not feel guilty?

Chapter 283 - At The Beach (2) [Bonus]

Talia's excitement mixed with anxiousness when she saw all the people on the beach, and most of them were looking toward the black armored Lexus SUV where she was sitting in the front passenger's seat.

Talia remembered that Maya said how they won't be disturbed, so Talia never thought they will have all this audience.

It was obvious that Maya arranged for them to have a piece of the beach only for themselves, but this was more like putting them at the center of attention.

Damon opened the door for Talia and asked, "Are you alright?"

Talia gave him a stiff smile. Of course, Damon could sense her emotions, and based on her personality, he had a good guess about what was bothering her. If Talia said that others should leave, Damon will probably do it, but she didn't want to be the bully. The lake and the beach belong to the whole pack.

"Yeah. Fine.", she responded choppily.

He leaned closer and his breath splashed on her cheek, "It's OK, kitten. I am right by your side no one will bother you."

"Everyone is watching." She tried inching away, but Damon continued leaning and maintaining that minuscule distance between them.

"Everyone was watching last night also, and you dared to kiss me." He smirked. "Do it again."

Talia fidgeted in her seat. Last night they were in the Shifters nightclub, and it was dark, and she got carried away by the mood and... "Maybe later."

Damon chuckled and pecked her cheek. "You will get used to it."

Talia was not sure about it. She loved every minute with Damon, but this attention made her feel like she had ants crawling under her skin.

Talia released a slow breath and steeled her resolve. "Let's go."

She didn't want to make a big deal out of her discomfort. If she can't push through this, then she wouldn't be worthy of being Damon's mate, and she would do anything to be with him.

Talia took Damon's hand that he offered her, and they walked toward the beach.

The more time Talia spent with Damon, the more she realized that they had one thing in common: they both grew up lonely.

Talia was alone in the attic, while Damon was alone as an Alpha.

She couldn't imagine the amount of pressure Damon endured with people watching his every step, scrutinizing and evaluating if he is a good Alpha.

Talia hoped that Damon knew he was not alone anymore because she was right by his side, and she was not going anywhere.

Damon paid attention to Talia's fluctuating emotions, and he was pleased to confirm that Talia was overcoming her insecurities, and she did all that without her wolf.

He admired her profusely.

Most of the werewolves let their beast handle conflicts, and without their wolves, they are sorry existences, yet Talia was facing the world on her own.

Damon was happily observing the changes in Talia as her wolf was waking up.

Talia was using her powers subconsciously like they were part of her from the beginning.

Damon confirmed that Talia's aura can suppress others on the level of an Alpha, maybe stronger. Talia healed him, delivered punches without touching opponents, influenced someone's mind, and Damon was wondering how strong she will become once she intentionally collaborates with her wolf.

Sure, the old girl (aka Talia's wolf) might give him some hard time, but Damon was used to facing challenges and he was confident that Talia's wolf won't reject him no matter how grumpy she might be because wolves cherish the mate bond above everything. Besides, Damon's wolf will handle Talia's. Hopefully.

While thinking about wolves, Damon realized that he could feel the presence of his wolf for more than a day, but the old guy didn't say anything, so Damon called, 'Are you there?'

'I'm here', his wolf responded.

'Why are you silent?'

'I didn't want to interrupt your time with mate. Besides, you are doing well without me', Damon's wolf said, and Damon could feel that his wolf was happy. The old guy was enjoying the show.

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Caden was driving a car with Tony in the front passenger's seat and Paul and Nate in the back. A second car was following them with Greg, Axel, Kai, and Tyler.

Those eight individuals were on their way to the beach after training.

The newcomers checked the training grounds, went over the schedule with Caden who introduced them to two generals who will help them train (aka Adam and Imre), and then they did a round of sparring.

"Don't be disheartened.", Caden said to Tony, breaking the stifling silence in the car. "It's only the first day. You came here to learn and improve."

"Of course", Tony responded stiffly, unable to conceal his displeasure.

Actually, Tony was not sure if he could look Caden in the eyes. He was embarrassed and his motivation was crushed. Can he even be an Alpha? He really wanted to snuggle with Kalina and not come out of seclusion until they are old. After the pitiful performance they displayed, Tony was confident that there are many candidates who are more capable than he was to take over the Lightclaw pack.

This morning was a complete failure.

What happened?

After they met Adam and Imre, Caden suggested a round of sparring so that they can gauge their abilities in fighting.

They drew lots to establish pairings, and there were four simple no-no rules: no deadly moves, no weapons, no shifting into wolf form, no using aura.

Tony was concerned about the no-aura rule because he would use it to suppress whoever wanted to give him trouble.

Without his Alpha Aura, Tony knew that he will need to rely on his speed, strength, and skill. He never trained seriously, so he was not confident in his skills, but his speed and strength are enviable, and he hoped it will be enough to compensate for his shortcomings.

Seeing that big-shots were preparing to spar, about a dozen of warriors who were in the area approached to observe matches, and more were trickling in by the second.

What Tony didn't expect was he and his three guys (Paul, Nate, and Greg) will be totally wiped out.

Paul went first, with Imre as his opponent, and Paul went down after about a dozen exchanges. To Tony's shock, it was obvious that Imre went easy on Paul.

Greg sparred with Kai, and Nate with Tyler.

Both Greg and Nate were pinned on the floormat in less than thirty seconds without a chance to land a solid blow to their opponents.

Axel sparred with Adam in a drawn-out fight that lasted nearly half an hour where both of them showed excellent stamina and skills. They stopped without clearly deciding on a victor and settling with a tie as an outcome, both pleased about the quality of the fight. Based on the cheers from the audience, the show was to their liking.

Next, Tony faced Caden who toyed with Tony like he was facing a child, at least that's how Tony saw it. For more than five minutes, Caden would avoid or block Tony's attacks with ease, without even attempting to counterattack.

Fueled by the embarrassment of being so helpless, Tony released his Alpha Aura.

"You lose by default.", Caden said to Tony before reminding him, "Aura is not allowed in friendly spars. It kills the purpose of comparing strength and skills if you subdue me with other means."

Tony quickly retracted his aura and apologized, but what truly shocked Tony was that Caden was only slightly affected by it. What kind of monsters are in this pack?

And it was not only the Dark Howlers pack, but Axel, Kai, and Tyler were also impressive. Sure, Axel is the future Alpha, but Kai and Tyler are just Beta and Gamma, and they don't even look so muscular, do they need to be so overpowering?

Tony wondered if these guys are exceptions, or if he and his group were so miserable.

Tony wished that Meg didn't go shopping. Other than being the smartest person Tony ever met, Meg is the fastest and the most skilled fighter in their group, and he was confident that Meg would be able to put up a solid fight against one of Damon's generals.

Chapter 284 - At The Beach (3)

A wave of excited murmurs swelled at the beach when two cars pulled onto the parking lot and eight impressive guys emerged.

Caden and Axel were well-known figures, Tony, Kai, and Tyler came next when ranked by popularity. Only a few recognized Paul, Nate, and Greg, but since they came with Caden and Axel, it was obvious that they were important.

Maddox and Tatiana were with Damon and Talia at the table.

Maddox was absolutely focused on Tatiana as they were playing some type of hot-cold game. Maddox was trying to get closer to Tatiana by putting food on her plate, offering to pass her drinks and fruits, and 'accidentally' touching her hand, and whenever he crossed some invisible barrier, Tatiana would give him a sour look which made him retreat a bit.

It was obvious that Tatiana enjoyed seeing this prideful man bending and twisting to please her, and Talia hoped that Tatiana won't push it too far. Luckily, Kalina, Meg, Maya, and Mindy were busy with their chatter, like nothing unusual was happening at the neighboring table.

Mindy was secretly paying attention to Maddox and Tatiana. She wanted to talk to Maddox and to tell him that she was sorry and that she will do better, but she didn't want to interrupt them. Maddox seemed to have a hard time with Tatiana and Mindy feared that by going there she will only make things worse.

Damon acted like he didn't notice Maddox's predicament. In private, Damon was eager to tease Maddox, but now they were in a public place, and Damon didn't want to make Maddox's situation more difficult than it is. Damon couldn't help Maddox, so the best thing was to not pay attention to them.

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When excited murmurs surrounded them, Damon glanced in the direction of the parking lot to see what caused the commotion, and when he confirmed that it was just the group with Caden, Damon continued focusing on food.

Damon wanted to feed Talia, but she told him how that's not necessary. With so many eyes on them, she didn't want to be served by Damon. They compromised by Talia allowing Damon to fill her plate with food, and she ate herself, but the sneaky devil would still manage to stuff food in her mouth with, "You got to try this...", like every next pastry was better than the previous one.

Talia knew what he was doing, and she could only resign herself to her fate. Damon was a doting mate, regardless of who was watching, and she loved every minute of it. He was cheeky and sweet and caring, and she couldn't be happier.

Talia had a mouthful of pastry that came with spinach and feta cheese, when her attention fell on the table where Maya, Mindy, Meg, and Kalina were. Talia nudged Damon with her elbow and Damon immediately understood what got Talia's attention.

The previously noisy table was now silent, and everyone looked at Meg who was standing and staring without blinking in the direction of the parking lot, and her expression was lit up like she saw the object of her greatest desires.

That could mean only one thing.

Mate.

There was only one question: who is it?

They all turned to look at the parking lot and it didn't take much to see which of the guys was frozen and staring back at Meg. It was Kai.

Talia excitedly squeezed Damon's hand.

From her short interactions with Meg and Kai, Talia liked them both and she was really happy for them.

The girls told Talia that witnessing the moment mates recognize each other is unique and special and rare, yet this was the second time in the same day! And it was barely midday!

Meg and Kai didn't break eye contact as they moved toward each other until their bodies nearly touched, and it seemed that the whole beach turned silent.

"Kai", he said, and she immediately followed with, "Meg."

Their lips lifted into smiles that were identical, creating an image like they were looking into a mirror.

It was fascinating to see two people who just met act like they knew each other forever. Soulmates.

Kai reached to hold Meg's hand and they both jolted upon contact. The sparks of their bond surprised them, and Meg giggled before grabbing Kai's hand and their fingers interlaced.

Axel released a short high-pitched whistle, and without looking that way, Kai raised his free hand and grabbed a small flying object that was on the path to collide with his shoulder. Car keys.

No words were spoken as Kai moved toward the parking lot and Meg followed while holding onto Kai's hand with both of hers, like she was afraid that he will slip away.

Talia was a bit disappointed that she didn't get to see the rest, but she also knew that the couple was looking for privacy because the rest will be X-rated.

Talia saw that Axel and Tyler followed the departing car with satisfying smiles on their faces.

Axel's Beta found his mate, which means that Meg will be a high-ranking member of the Midnight Guardians pack, the most mysterious pack among werewolves!

Talia remembered that members of the Midnight Guardians pack are saving themselves for their mates, and considering the electricity between Meg and Kai, it was obvious they will have sex.

Talia's cheeks flushed at the thought that it will be Kai's first time, and she thought how Meg is a lucky girl because she won't need to worry about Kai's exes.

With the newly mated couple gone, the excited chatter filled the space and Talia noticed one sullen face. It was Tony.

"What's up with Tony?", Talia asked Damon softly, only for Damon to hear.

Damon thought for a moment before responding, "Tony hoped that Meg will be his Beta. Considering the identity of her mate, she will not stay at the Lightclaw pack, so he can forget about it."

Talia nodded in understanding. Tony lost a person he thought he can rely on, however... "Tony and Meg are friends. He should be happy for her."

"He will be. Once he gets out of the self-pity."

"Hmm?", Talia hummed questionably. It was one thing to be sad for losing an important person, but Damon's words sounded like there was more to it.

Damon smiled at the little woman who was so eager to find out what was going on that she leaned on him completely, forgetting that they have an audience. Damon welcomed Talia's proximity by adjusting his position so that she was more comfortable, and he rubbed her shoulder gently with his hand.

Damon planted a small kiss on her temple and spoke in a low voice, "Their training went as I expected, and Tony faced the reality where he is not the mighty Alpha he believed to be." Damon knew this because Caden was mind-linking him as the training progressed. "Our bloodline gives us potential, but we need to work hard, or it will be useless..."

Talia listened attentively to Damon explaining how for werewolves, the human mind and body need to be strong and healthy for the wolf-part to show its full potential, and she connected that with her situation. After she came to the Dark Howlers pack, with proper food, rest, and care, her wolf started waking up.

Damon mentioned how every Alpha starts rigorous training from their early teens that is not limited only to fighting. A good Alpha needs to know how to manage a pack, deal with foes, establish alliances, and do many other things that are usually done outside the public eye.

Damon ended with, "Alpha Magnus didn't want to have competition, so he neglected to raise Tony as his successor which resulted in Tony being no better than an average Beta. Tony has a long way to go if he wants to stand on equal footing with Alphas of other packs. He never doubted his father and he gave in to a leisured lifestyle. Today was an eye-opener for Tony and it's up to him if this will crush him or he will rise to the challenge. If he takes over the Lightclaw pack as he is now, other Alphas will eat him alive and I won't help him."

Talia's brows came together in concern. "You won't?"

"I can help him once or twice but I won't be there all the time, and I can't fight his battles for him. Unless he can stand on his own confidently, my protection will only delay the inevitable."

"Tony's father didn't prepare him, and Tony allowed it to happen.", Talia summarized and Damon confirmed. Talia's eyes lit up. "But it's not all bad. Luckily, Tony has you to help him become a great Alpha to his pack."

Damon opened his mouth and then closed it. He wanted to say how this training was only a one-time thing, and considering Tony's weak body and mind, this week will only create a dent in the overall amount of work needed. Damon had no intention of taking Tony under his wing. Damon agreed to train Tony for the purpose of improving the relationship between the packs, with the goal to show Tony the ropes and the rest will be up to Tony.

However, Talia's confidence in Damon's abilities combined with her gaze full of admiration made Damon unable to say anything else other than, "I will do my best."

"I know you will.", Talia responded with a smile that made Damon's heart skip a beat.

He inched closer and pecked her lips once, twice, and then he put a pastry in her mouth because if they continued kissing he might lose control and do something that's not appropriate for the current setting.

Chapter 285 - At The Beach (4)

Since Meg left with Kai, Tony sat next to Kalina, on the spot where Meg used to sit.

"How was the training?", Mindy asked Tony to what Tony groaned.

"Could have been better?", Kalina could feel Tony's foul mood behind that crooked smile.

"It could have been better.", Tony admitted. "My body took a beating, but what's really bruised is my ego. I knew it was bad, but I never imagined it's this bad."

Kalina put her hand on Tony's and gave him a squeeze. "Bruises will heal, and you will do better next time."

Tony couldn't stop himself from smiling at Kalina's encouragement. "What would I do without you?"

Kalina hummed ambiguously and leaned into Tony's embrace. "How about I join you for the next training?"

Tony wanted Kalina with him, but he didn't want her to see him as a failure. "Let's talk about it later."

Tony really liked the way Kalina looked at him, like he was the most amazing man in the world, and he feared that might change if she sees his pitiful performance. If they didn't establish a solid schedule for the whole week, Tony would probably look for ways to avoid what's coming in the next days.

Paul, Greg, Nate, Caden, Axel, and Tyler also found seats.

The foldable tables could accommodate four people each, but they were placed so close that big umbrellas above were touching to give uninterrupted shade, so it looked like they were all together.

With everyone present, Omegas started bringing already plated dishes for everyone. Dawn, Zina, Ivy, and Lily were among the servers.

Dawn and Zina couldn't stop throwing glances at Talia and Damon.

Now that they knew Talia is their future Luna, two Omegas were bursting from the desire to tell everyone how Talia is important and they saw her first and they are friends and they even went drinking together! But Talia told them that it should be kept low-key for now, so Dawn and Zina suppressed those urges.

Talia felt awkward to have her friends work while she sits, but everyone else was acting normally, so she reminded herself to go with the flow.

If she grew up in a normal environment, Talia would know that friendships don't count when it comes to performing duties within a pack. Everyone has a role, and only by sticking to it, their pack can function and prosper.

Omegas were used to serving high-ranking members and doing menial jobs. Actually, they saw it as their way to contribute.

In this case, as a bonus, Omegas were getting unobstructed access to the VIP area while others get to watch, and after their work was done, others would swarm them with the hope to hear some juicy gossip. It made them feel important.

But the best benefit for today was that once they clean up after lunch, for the rest of the afternoon, they only needed to ensure there is a steady stream of chilled beverages and snacks which means there will be plenty of time for them to enjoy this slice of VIP heaven.

Dawn and Zina asked Talia if it will be OK for them to take a swim and relax on the beach during breaks, and when Talia confirmed, Dawn and Zina were delighted. Of course, they will stay on the side and not intrude on the activities of the VIP guests, but the fact that they can linger in that area was a big deal.

Working in the packhouse came with many perks, like eating special food and overhearing what high-ranking members of the pack are up to. Even without eavesdropping, Dawn and Zina knew when their Alpha is entertaining guests, who is visiting, and when he is away. However, this was in the open for everyone to see, so Dawn, Zina, and other Omegas served food with their chins raised high, like they were doing something really-really important.

Ivy and Lily never had a chance to experience these perks. Alpha Magnus and Luna Alicia are very strict about everyone staying in their lane. For Ivy and Lily, the idea of relaxing in the VIP area after the cleanup was something they were looking forward to with excitement.

Talia looked at the simple yet light dishes, perfect for the beach. There was soup, salad, rice with steamed vegetables, fish, and ice cream for dessert that was garnished with fresh fruits.

"Should we send food for Meg and Kai?", Talia asked Damon.

Damon's lips lifted into a wicked smile. "Trust me, the last thing on their minds is lunch."

Talia knew he was implying naughty things and her cheeks got a rosy tint, but her gaze didn't waver. "You could have said that it's not necessary."

Damon chuckled. "Isn't that what I said?"

Talia pouted. He knew very well what she meant! "It's impossible to talk to you seriously."

"Then, don't talk. You can always..."

Damon's next words were interrupted by Talia's kiss.

It was just a peck on the lips, but it was enough for Damon's eyebrows to shoot up in surprise.

He was quick to pull her closer and return that kiss with interest. His kitten was getting bolder by the day, and he had no intention to pass on the opportunity to get a taste of her.

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In the crowd on the beach...

Lisa was sitting on a towel and looking at the VIP area with a sour expression while ignoring five young women who were in a group with her.

Those five young women were Lisa's friends who would hang out whenever Lisa visited the Dark Howlers pack in the past, but now that Tony found his mate and abandoned Lisa, Lisa didn't want to mingle with anyone. Her old friends reminded Lisa that she is a used shoe left by the side of the road, and Lisa hoped that no one will recognize her.

So, how did Lisa end up with them?

Lisa left the apartment after telling her mother a lie that she will meet up with her friends. On her way to the beach, Lisa bumped into Ester and four more girls, and Lisa couldn't avoid them with another lie because she had a beach towel over her shoulder, just how Ester and four other girls had. Well, the good part was that Lisa really ended up with her friends, so she technically didn't lie to her mother.

And here was Lisa, on the beach, with five other girls who knew that Lisa used to date Tony and that Kalina is now in the place that Lisa used to hold.

Tony wouldn't take Lisa to official functions, but when it was just hanging out with friends, Lisa would accompany him. Lisa had many selfies as proof of such occasions, and she posted them on her social media account.

"Are you still thinking about Anthony from the Lightclaw pack?", a female voice reached Lisa. It was Ester. "He is the future Alpha, and she is his mate. By looking at them, you are only torturing yourself, Lisa. Or are you planning for more than looking? Unless you strap a bomb to yourself and jump in there, you won't be able to touch them with all the security."

That got Lisa's attention. "Security?"

Ester gestured with her chin toward the VIP area. "Most of the guys surrounding that area are warriors. If you try to get close without permission, they will block you."

Lisa pressed her lips into a line, unsure how to respond. What should she say? That she came here to confront Tony?

They dated for years and then Tony found his mate and acted like Lisa never existed. Even now he was huddled with Kalina at the table and talking to others. He used to say that his sense of smell was superb, how come he couldn't pick up Lisa's scent? Lisa wondered if Tony was ignoring her on purpose or if he was really not aware of how close she was.

What was Lisa hoping to achieve? She was not sure herself, but she knew that she couldn't leave it at this. She needed some kind of closure. Tony should give her comfort, compensation, or at least an explanation. Tony was her everything and they had plans, and then he moved on easily, leaving Lisa on her own to be ridiculed by everyone.

If her so-called friends knew what was on Lisa's mind, they would probably think that she was crazy, but Lisa was confident that by being patient, she will get her chance to approach Tony.

Lisa dejectedly observed the whole VIP area that was only a few steps away, yet it seemed like miles were separating them.

Lisa's mood was fluctuating from bad to worse.

She saw that Maya arrived first with Kalina, Meg, and Mindy. Omegas welcomed them like they were royalty.

Lisa also saw that Damon, Talia, Maddox, and Tatiana made appearances that stirred the crowd. How can two nobodies accompany Alphas, yet Lisa was ignored?

Next, Lisa saw Caden arriving with Tony and four other guys, and it turned out that Meg... a plain Jane from the Lightclaw pack found her mate who is actually the future Beta of the Midnight Guardians pack!

Maybe others didn't know who Meg is, but Lisa spent years in the Lightclaw pack, and she knew very well four faces that came with Tony and Kalina.

Watching all this from the sidelines made Lisa's insides churn painfully.

Tony and Kalina were whispering something, Maddox was hovering around Tatiana, Damon was lovey-dovey with Talia, other people were cheery and ate with smiles on their faces... and what about Lisa?

Chapter 286 - Meg And Kai (1)

In the packhouse...

Meg followed Kai into his room. He gestured toward the sofa, and she understood that she should sit there.

Meg thought that Kai will join her, but he raised his index finger, indicating to her to wait before dashing into the bathroom.

A second later, Meg heard the water running in the sink and she wondered what Kai was doing. She didn't see that he was dirty in any way, but then... maybe she missed it.

Kai was splashing cold water on his face in an attempt to compose himself.

While they walked, Kai was leading the way, maintaining a slight distance so that he is in front, not because he wanted to silently show who among the two of them will be in charge, but because he didn't want Meg to see his hard-on stretching his shorts. The arousal was maddening.

From a young age, every member of the Midnight Guardians pack learns meditation and various breathing techniques in order to control their lustful nature, and Kai was one of the best in managing his urges.

All those years of practice went down the drain from the moment he picked up the delicious scent of honey and connected it with the dark-haired beauty that was the owner of ravishing lips and big brown eyes. Meg was wearing a dress that didn't conceal her toned body with curves in all the right places, and when they touched, the sparks of their bond sent electric pulses straight into his groin area, and the only thing on Kai's mind was to eat up the exotic beauty that was holding his hand.

However, before he gives in to his instincts, they needed to talk. He can't just pounce on Meg like a horny teenager.

He waited for this moment twenty-one years, three months, and seven days (yeah, he was counting), so he should be able to hold back for a bit more.

Kai focused mightily on the task at hand, but the fact that Meg's image flashed in front of his closed eyes didn't help.

What did the Elders say? There are rules he needs to follow in case his mate is not from the Midnight Guardians pack. He needs to clarify a few things in order to avoid potential misunderstandings in the future.

Should he kiss her first? For how long? With or without the tongue? What about fondling? Yes, yes... fondling is important to set the mood.

No! They need to talk first.

Who can focus on talking? Meg was right there, on the sofa, waiting, and she wouldn't come with him if she was not willing.

What was he supposed to say?

Maybe he can touch her a little. He really wanted to arrange kisses all over her body and to explore her thoroughly. Will she allow him to do that?

Kai raised his arm and sniffed under his armpit. He showered after training, but what if that was not enough? He didn't want Meg to think of him as a stinky guy. Hygiene is important!

Kai knew that they need to talk about important matters, but all his blood pooled into his groin area and the arousal was rendering him unable to think. Ah, this will be a disaster!

'Get a grip, Kai!', he encouraged himself while splashing more cold water on his face.

In the bedroom...

Meg had no idea that her trip to the Dark Howlers pack will take this turn.

She came here on Tony's request to train.

Tony mentioned that he wants Meg to be his Beta, but Meg was not sure about it. It's not that Meg would shy from responsibilities; her grandfather was a Beta, and he would be super-proud to know that she will follow in his footsteps, and she was genuinely flattered by the offer, but Meg grew up in the Lightclaw pack and she knew that females don't hold important positions. And this was not just because of Alpha Magnus; other high-ranking members and Elders were of the same belief.

Meg didn't think it will work out the way Tony thought.

However, Tony asked her to come and give her best, and he promised that they will deal with any challenges as they come, so she agreed for the sake of their friendship even though she knew that Tony never stood up to his father.

She was confident that this story will end with Paul being Tony's Beta because Paul's father is the current Beta, but Meg didn't want to go into that discussion with Tony. She didn't have the right to meddle in the high-ranking structure of the Lightclaw pack.

Meg decided to treat this as a vacation, a unique opportunity to come to the Dark Howlers pack and stay in the packhouse, like she was someone important. That's why she didn't care much about training, and she was delighted when Talia invited her to go shopping with the girls. Meg really had fun. And then... she found her mate! This vacation-thing was getting better by the minute!

Meg closed her eyes and took a deep breath. Everything smelled of peaches, just like Kai. When he looked at her, Meg could see her reflection in his dark eyes, and she was ready to stay there forever.

Kai was taller than Meg by half a head, handsome, and confidence oozed from him. He was the mate from her dreams and Meg couldn't wait for the rest of her life with him.

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Meg jolted at the sound of Kai clearing his throat and she wondered why his hair was wet. Surely, the sound of water came from the sink. Did he put his head in there?

Now that Kai was standing there and not moving, Meg got a chance to take a good look at Kai's impressive physique that was not hidden with his t-shirt and shorts, and she really wanted to put her hands under that fabric and explore the landscape his muscles are forming.

That delicious-looking hunk was her mate, hers and hers only, from now until forever.

Meg swallowed hard at the sight of Kai's dark eyes directed at her. His damp hair was slightly messy with a few strands falling over his forehead, making him devilishly handsome and Meg pressed her legs together, suddenly aware of her appearance.

Was her dress too casual? If she knew that she will meet her mate, Meg would put some makeup on and fix her hair. What if he doesn't approve?

Kai stood at the door of the bathroom with hands in the pockets of his shorts and stared at Meg as possessed. She was beyond beautiful. His hands down there had the role of concealing his hard-on and he hoped that Meg didn't notice. She was observing him intently and he never saw a woman more alluring in his life. Everything about her was amazing.

Meg was not sure what to expect. She came to Kai's room with privacy on her mind, and she thought that they will explode into kissing, caressing, and wild lovemaking and this... just what was this?

Was he waiting for her to make a move? Probably.

Meg moved to the side of the sofa and patted the spot next to her. "Will you join me here?"

Without a word, Kai walked to her stiffly and only after he sat, he got his hands out of his pockets.

Meg really wanted to feel the addictive sparks again and she reached to hold his hand.

"We should talk.", Kai said while jerking his hand away.

Meg had no problems with that. "Sure. What do you want to talk about?"

She ignored Kai's weak attempt to avoid her hand and he closed his eyes when their hands touched.

Meg noticed that he was stiff. "Is this bothering you?" She was talking about their hands.

He wanted to hold much more than just her hand. "It's difficult to focus."

Meg smiled. "I know. But it feels good. Right?"

It felt amazing, and that's why it was difficult to focus, but he couldn't make himself to pry his hand out of her hold. Ah, this will be difficult!

Chapter 287 - Meg And Kai (2) [Bonus]

Meg was holding Kai's hand, and the delicious sparks danced through Kai's system, making it difficult to think about anything other than the raging hard-on in his shorts.

Kai focused mightily on what he needed to talk about, and he asked, "Tell me about your family."

Meg was surprised by this question. "My family?" When Kai nodded, she thought for a moment before responding, "I have a mother, a father, and a younger brother. They are all at the Lightclaw pack."

"Are you close to them?"

"Yes. We are a tight unit.", Meg responded, and a smile sneaked at the corner of her lips as she thought about her parents and brother.

Meg's mother is a strong woman with a Beta bloodline who moved to the Lightclaw pack after she found her mate (aka Meg's father).

Meg grew up under her mother's constant reminders that she shouldn't stand out too much and she shouldn't be better than the boys because that could backfire in a patriarchal pack like the Lightclaw pack.

"If you show that you are stronger or faster, that will hurt their egos and they might decide to teach you a lesson.", Meg still remembers her mother's lessons. "No matter how many of them you can win against in a one-on-one fight, can you win against five opponents if they attack you at the same time?"

Thinking back about her childhood, Meg was dejected. She was obviously much better than many of her peers, why should she hold back? Most of the time she would keep a low profile, but once in a while she would lose her cool and beat up a boy, or win in a sports competition at school.

Most of the time, others thought that Meg's performance was a fluke. And on a few occasions when someone challenged her to a showdown, her mother would appear and drag Meg out of it.

More than once, Meg asked her mother why they don't move somewhere else, and Meg's mom explained how there are places worse than the Lightclaw pack, and that the most important thing was that their family was safe.

Meg's father is a warrior and he trained Meg and her brother while encouraging them to improve because regardless of where they end up, their skills will be theirs to keep.

Now Meg reached the point in her life where she found out who her mate is and her future will be tied to the Midnight Guardians pack. Unfortunately, she didn't know anything about that pack other than they are mysterious because that pack is... well... mysterious.

"I assume there is a reason why you want to know about my family.", Meg said.

"You should know that I'm from the Midnight Guardians pack. We don't mingle with outsiders."

Meg's brows came together in confusion as worry bubbled inside her. "What do you mean?"

"As my mate, you will come with me. Your family can't come."

Meg stared at Kai for a few endless seconds while processing his words. "But I can go and visit them. Right?"

Instead of giving a simple answer, Kai asked, "How often do you see members of the Midnight Guardians pack?"

Meg remembered that the Midnight Guardians pack is labeled as mysterious because no one knows exactly where it is or how many members they have.

"Are you saying that I won't be able to see my family?", Meg asked.

Kai shook his head. "It's not never, but it will be challenging." Seeing that Meg's frown was deepening, Kai added, "There is a reason why we keep to ourselves, and once you join my pack, you will understand."

The only thing Meg understood was that she won't be able to see her family as often as she wanted. She didn't like the idea of her freedom being restricted.

Meg thought about Kai's words. It sounded bad, but in the society of werewolves, it was normal for mates to stick together, and a girl to accept her mate's pack as hers. Unless the girl's status is much higher than the guy's, she will need to adapt to whatever he is doing.

Another round of worry bubbled within Meg. Was Kai being nice by giving her heads-up, or was there something else behind his words? Was he reminding her how the Midnight Guardians pack is special, and she doesn't qualify?

"Are you telling me that I should be submissive? Or are you hoping to scare me into rejecting you?"

Kai sucked in a sharp breath. "No, no. I mean..." He pinched the roof of his nose. He thought that he said what Elders instructed him. How did she interpret that wrongly?

For Kai and other members of his pack, finding a mate is more than just the end of their single life. They are saving themselves for their mate because that's the only way to unlock their dormant potential, and since Kai was a Beta, that was important.

Kai looked at Meg with a complex expression while wondering how her mind is working. What made her think about submission and rejection? Of course, Kai didn't know that Meg immediately assumed the worst because in the Lightclaw pack females are not part of the decision-making process and they do as they were told.

But he couldn't tell her how much it means to him to find his mate, not until she officially becomes a member of the Midnight Guardians pack. And there was also the point that once he marks her and injects her with his venom, Meg might awaken some ability as well.

"Coming to the Midnight Guardians pack will be a huge change for you. My father is the current Beta, and I am going to take over that role once he retires. Other than training and handling some tasks within the pack, I am accompanying Axel when he travels. We don't practice staying away from our mates, and that means you will need to come with me."

Kai cupped Meg's cheek with his palm and continued, "You have no idea how happy I am that I found you." And horny also. "I didn't want us to seal our bond with marking without you understanding what's coming. That's all."

The knots in Meg's stomach loosened as Kai's words dispelled her insecurities. She leaned into his palm and smiled. "Thank you for telling me."

Kai licked his lips nervously. "So... are you OK with that?" There was much more, but he couldn't tell her. Not yet.

"Honestly...", Meg paused and rubbed her cheek against his palm. His scent, his touch, his warmth, the sparks... everything was rewiring her brain and she was confident that he can smell her arousal. "Even if you tell me that your pack requires regular blood sacrifice, I will agree to it."

It was crazy as they just met, but every fiber of her being was telling her that her future was with Kai.

A deep chuckle formed in his chest. "Does that mean you are OK with accepting the Midnight Guardians pack and our rules of isolation?"

"On one condition."

Kai was alerted. "What is it?"

"I want us to meet my family so that I can explain the situation, introduce you, and... say goodbye."

Kai felt a big burden falling off his chest. "We can do that."

Kai heard stories of mates not willing to leave their pack in exchange for living in seclusion, and he was relieved that Meg was so easy to get along with.

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Their eyes met, and the carefree atmosphere changed in an instant.

They were in Kai's room, and as newly-found mates, both of them knew why they came here. Their bond was solidifying by the second and urging them to get closer... much closer than they were.

Meg's heart was beating in her ears, and she was confident that Kai can hear it.

"Kai...", Meg called breathily.

"Yes?"

"I think this is the part where we kiss."

Kai's pupils dilated and his ears turned red. It's happening!

They were sitting on the same sofa, holding hands, and Meg was staring at him, so of course, she noticed.

"Kai?"

He swallowed hard. "Yes?" His voice came out a bit squeaky.

"Did you ever kiss a girl?"

Kai's whole face exploded in a blush and Meg's eyes widened in realization. He didn't!

Chapter 288 - Meg And Kai (3)

Meg heard the rumor that members of the Midnight Guardians pack are saving themselves for their mates, but she didn't think that included kissing also.

At the sight of his flustered expression, it was obvious that he never kissed a girl. Isn't he the best?

Kai was handsome, powerful, smart, kind, and untouched by a woman. If she ever pictured the man from her dreams, he would still fall short compared to Kai who smelled of peaches, the sweetest kind.

Meg regretted not saving herself for him. It's not that Meg was changing partners often, but she had a few boyfriends, and... it didn't matter. But what if it matters to him? What if he hates her? She pushed those thoughts away. What was done was done and she looked at the handsome man in front of her who was blushing profusely, and she couldn't stop herself from saying, "You are mine, Kai." He really was.

Kai wanted to say that she was his, but there was a big lump stuck in his throat and Meg was approaching him slowly and he sat there frozen without moving a muscle.

"Relax, Kai...", Meg's honey-infused breath splashed on his lips as she leaned into him. "We are mates. No matter what you do, it can't be wrong."

He didn't move as she pecked his lips once, twice... the electric charges jolted both of their brains, rewiring them in craving to embrace each other, and their arms moved in unison as Kai pulled Meg closer until her two soft mounds pressed against his firm pecs.

This kissing thing... he liked it.

Meg was obviously the more experienced one between the two of them, so Kai let her take the lead and she was pleased that Kai picked up what to do immediately.

Their light pecks became longer as their lips moved in sensual dance that made their hairs stand on ends. Everything was amplified by the pull of their bond and those addictive sparks.

Meg's tongue glided along the seam between Kai's lips and when their tongues connected, both of them inhaled sharply.

There was an otherworldly mix of honey and peaches, that was unique to them, and within seconds they were inhaling each other's breaths.

It was not Meg's first kiss, far from it. But she never sensed anything like this, and she knew that no other guy will ever come close to Kai. They were made for each other, and she loved the way his hand pressed on her waist. Even the smallest movements were just right, and she craved for more.

"Kai...", Meg called between kisses. "Should we move to the bed?"

Kai swallowed a mouthful of air and responded with a single sharp nod. Bed. Yes! Thousand times YES!

His insides shook. It's happening!

Meg stood up first and turned her back to him.

Kai was disappointed that Meg was out of his embrace, and he swiftly stood up to follow her. His erection was sticking out and stretching his shorts, like a pointer that showed him which way to go, but he was too distracted to care about concealing it.

He wanted to hold Meg's hand, but both of her hands gathered at her chest level, and he wondered what she was doing. Was she praying? Is she a religious person? All werewolves he met so far worship the Moon Goddess but what if Meg was different?

One step away from the bed, Meg turned on her heel to face him, and Kai's eyes widened to the point of hurting at the sight of Meg's unbuttoned dress that revealed her chest all the way to her navel.

She was not praying, but she was undoing her dress! Kai felt that his prayers were answered.

He watched without breathing as Meg's dress slipped from her shoulders down her body until it bunched around her feet.

With her dress on, Kai could see that Meg's body was impressive, but now that it was on a full display with only a dark brown bikini that looked like the most alluring lingerie, Kai realized that Meg's body is beyond beautiful.

His palms became sweaty. Can he touch her? Won't he disturb that perfection if he touches her?

Meg enjoyed Kai's flustered appearance. No one ever looked at her that way.

His arousal was obvious, and his eyes stirred with admiration and passion, and she knew that he was nervous. Well, she was nervous as well, but it was his first time, so she assumed that he was in a worse state compared to her.

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Meg wrapped her arms around Kai's neck and gave him a long lingering kiss, hoping that it will help him relax.

The fact that he was so nervous told her this was important to him, and she was genuinely moved that he was gentle and taking it slow despite his arousal.

She was in his room and willing, and most of the guys Meg knew would jump and go at it, but Kai showed otherworldly constraint and Meg admired him a lot for that.

"Let me help you with this...", Meg said while untucking Kai's t-shirt from his shorts.

She pulled the light fabric over his head, and Kai cooperated by lifting his arms.

While flicking his t-shirt to the side, Meg took a step back and eyed his toned torso with appreciation. His muscles were densely packed, showing that he earned them through many years of hard training, and she couldn't wait to feel him out.

Her palms landed on his pecs, and they snaked slowly lower, making sure not to miss a single muscle his impressive physique provided.

The bulge that strained the shorts in his crotch area whispered in promises of impressive size and Meg eagerly hooked her thumbs on the waistband of his shorts.

Kai thought that she will pull his shorts down, but Meg tugged him to move around her. He didn't resist. When the back of his legs touched the bed, Meg pulled his shorts down to the knee level, and then she put her palms on his pecks and pushed him down.

Kai plopped on the soft mattress and when he raised his head, he saw Meg staring at his erection that was waving at her. How embarrassing.

If he knew that Meg was appreciating his extraordinary length and girth, he would be more at ease, but he didn't know that, so he scrambled to conceal his cock with his palms as his insecurities kicked in.

Meg was quick to grab his wrists and Kai wondered if she was that strong or if he turned weak.

"We are mates", Meg said. "Let me see you. All of you."

Kai released a short breath and relaxed his arms.

Meg's lips lifted into a mischievous smile. She imagined many times how it will be when she finds her mate, but she never dreamed that she would end up being the hungry wolf, while her handsome mate is the scaredy rabbit.

Of course, Meg knew that Kai was timid only because it was his first time. He is a werewolf, with a Beta bloodline, and their roles will be reversed once he gets a taste of meat. But until then, Meg wanted to take advantage of this situation.

Kai was lying on the bed, with his legs bent for his feet to touch the floor, and Meg stood between his legs and taking in his naked form with hungry eyes.

She really wanted to eat him up.

Kai's eyes widened to the point of hurting as Meg placed her hot palms on his thighs and got on her knees in slow motion.

He didn't breathe and his whole body jerked when her hot palm closed in on his shaft.

Her face was moving closer to his cock and Kai wondered if there was a need for her to get that close. What was she doing? Was she really going to...?

"Ah...", he gasped when she took him into her mouth.

The sensation was moist and hot, and it came with sparks that jolted his nervous system repeatedly, and he couldn't believe that this was happening!

Meg was sucking him off! And it was amazing!

And just when he thought that it can't get any better, Meg raised her gaze and their eyes met.

Her eyes burned with fire as her tongue ran magic circles around his cock that throbbed in need of more.

Over the years, Kai used his hand to relieve himself many times, but how can that compare to what Meg was doing?

Kai thought that he was floating, hovering above that mattress as the whole room spun.

Meg reached for his balls and gave him a gentle squeeze, and that small action sent bolts of pleasure to every cell in his body. His ass buckled and the heaven and earth swapped places when he groaned and released his hot load into her mouth.

Kai's orgasm washed over Meg and she moaned. Ah, she wanted a release also!

Kai gasped for air while wondering if he lasted a minute. It felt like seconds, but he hoped it was longer. The story goes how a strong werewolf can go at it for hours, and this was definitely much less than that. Was she disappointed?

He watched Meg as she licked him clean, making sure that not a single drop was wasted, and it didn't seem she was bothered by the fact he came so quickly.

Chapter 289 - Meg And Kai (4)

Meg laid next to Kai to observe his chest rising and falling rapidly as he breathed.

Kai's blissful expression told her that Kai was still coming down from his high, and Meg took advantage of that time to take in his body in all its naked glory.

The fact that his erection stood ramrod straight made her imagine all kinds of racy images, mostly with that shaft inside her. Her arousal swelled.

Kai was staring at the ceiling while processing his mind-blowing experience, hoping that he will never forget the feeling of Meg's mouth and tongue, and the way she used those to suck him off. It was beyond amazing, and he wished it will repeat a million times over.

He turned to look at the dark-haired beauty by his side. His mate. His everything.

Meg smiled mischievously and smacked her lips. "Peaches."

Kai didn't get it. "What?"

"You smell and taste of peaches."

"Do you like peaches?", Kai asked apprehensively. Was she telling him that she dislikes his taste? Does that mean what just happened won't happen again? He was still hard and ready!

Meg smiled. "I love peaches. They are my favorite." Just like you.

Kai released the breath he was holding. "What you did just now. It was amazing."

"I'm glad I made you feel good."

It was beyond good.

Kai wanted to make her feel good also.

He reached for her shoulder, and with tips of his fingers, he traced an invisible line from her shoulder, down her elbow, all the way to her wrist.

That gentle touch made Meg shiver.

"Honey", Kai murmured.

"Hmm?", Meg hummed questionably. Did he just come up with an endearing nickname for her?

"To me, you smell and taste of honey.", Kai explained.

Meg was a bit disappointed. She would love it if he called her honey, but this was fine also. "Peaches and honey. We are a good combination."

Meg noticed that his gaze was drifting toward her chest area, even though his hands behaved. She took his hand in hers and placed it over her right breast.

Kai sucked in a sharp breath and looked at her with uncertainty.

Meg gave him an encouraging smile.

"I know you want me." Look at that gorgeous hard-on right there! "I heard that in your pack you practice control until you find your mate. I am your mate, there is no need to hold back. If anything bothers me, I will tell you and I hope you will do the same."

Kai appreciated that Meg didn't ridicule him. It was that unconditional acceptance only a mate can provide.

He wanted to thank her, but he thought that it will be too formal and too cheesy for their current situation. Besides, he will show his gratitude by doing what she asked.

Kai licked his lips nervously and moved to lay on his side.

Normally, nudity didn't bother him. Kai shifted into his wolf form the first time when he was twelve years old, and since then, many people saw him naked and he saw plenty, but it was never sexual... like now.

He was on the bed with Meg, his mate, and he hoped that she approves of him in every way. He didn't want to act like a savage, but she said that he can do whatever he wants, and he saw a few movies and thought of giving some things a try.

Kai pushed her bikini top higher, to reveal her breasts.

They were firm and round and perfect in every way possible, just like Meg.

Reluctantly, Kai cupped her breast with his palm, and then he inched closer to kiss her pink circle that looked like a guiding target.

"Ah...", a soft gasp escaped Meg's lips upon that contact. It was not just a kiss, it was the electricity that came with it.

Kai thought that maybe she doesn't approve, but then Meg's fingers laced into his hair, and she gripped him to stay there so he kissed her again, and again, and then he sucked in her pink bud into his mouth, and he enjoyed the feeling of her nipple hardening under his tongue.

Kai groaned lowly. She tasted like honey.

With every passing second, Kai moved more freely, and his hands started caressing Meg's body, feeling her softness, and enjoying the way she coiled under his touch.

He sucked and licked one nipple, and then he moved to the other one.

His teeth grazed her soft flesh and Meg shuddered.

Kai thought that he overdid it, but then she said, "Harder."

"Harder?"

Meg smiled goofily, her eyes clouded with lust. "Bite me, Kai. As long as you don't draw blood, it's fine." And even if you draw blood, I will heal in no time.

Kai's lips lifted into a wicked smile and then he dove toward the nipple with renewed vigor.

Her every gasp and moan made his cock lurch painfully and he couldn't wait to jab himself inside her. The scent of her arousal hit him hard and how could he resist that call?

Kai fumbled with the knots at the side of Meg's bikini bottom, and he gulped audibly when the damned fabric finally came off and Meg's neatly trimmed intimate bush was revealed. That's it. It's happening! She was right there, for him to plunder and... Kai had no idea what to expect.

Actually, Kai imagined many times how it will be when he finds his mate, but everything related to Meg was much better than his wildest imagination. She was fantastic.

Meg spread her legs around him, revealing the pink slit that glistened from her juices.

Seeing that Kai was frozen, Meg demanded, "Touch me, Kai."

When his hand moved in slow motion, Meg grabbed it and put it right there, at the cradle of her thighs.

Meg's hand was over Kai's, and she pressed on his middle finger, allowing it to sink between her folds.

"Ah...", a sigh escaped Meg's lips and Kai couldn't believe how soft and wet her flesh was under his finger.

"There...", Meg said breathily while pushing his hand lower until he felt her welcoming heat all around his middle finger.

"Kai...", Meg moaned while rocking her hips rhythmically, taking a bit more of his finger every time. It was just a finger, but the sparks of their bond made it ecstatic, and Meg feared that she will come within seconds just like that.

"I want your hard cock right there."

Kai was shocked by such a crass choice of words, but at the same time it turned him on. His mate had a naughty side and he liked it!

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"Wait a minute", Kai said, driven by his curiosity, and he pushed Meg's hand away from his so that he can move without obstruction. He really wanted to see what was going on down there.

Meg groaned in protest. "Kai..."

"Shh...", he shushed her. "We are mates. Let me see you."

Meg exhaled in defeat when she realized that Kai used her words against her, and Kai moved lower between her legs.

He spread her drenched folds with the tips of his fingers that were a bit shaky. He was excited.

Kai could see her entrance and there was a small bud above it. He pressed on the bud with his thumb and Meg's whole body shook in response.

Kai smirked proudly, like he found something important.

Was it normal for it to smell of honey? Every part of Meg smelled of honey and he wondered if it will taste the same. He looked at his thumb that was glistening with Meg's juices and he gave it a lick. Honey.

He wanted to lick her all over, but then he wouldn't be able to see her face that was flushed from arousal, so Kai decided to touch her a bit first and lick later.

He moved his fingers there, caressing and prodding while observing Meg's reactions. Her moans and sighs were music to his ears. He loved how her body responded to his touch.

"Kai...", Meg called breathily. "Now... Please..."

He wanted to play with her bud more, but how can he deny her when she said please?

He lifted himself on his knees and positioned his cock at her entrance.

"Here?" What he really wanted to ask was if this was the right time. Should he fondle her more? He wanted to lick here there also, but she had other ideas. Was licking not allowed?

Meg nodded frantically and reached with her hands to grab his firm ass and she pulled him toward her.

"Ah!", Kai exclaimed when he plopped on top of Meg clumsily. The only good thing was that he managed to put one hand on the side to support himself and not crush her with his body.

"Wait... wait...", Kai said while pushing himself back up. He was not ready and when he fell over Meg his cock moved on the side. It seems that thing doesn't go in on autopilot.

In the movie he watched, guy and girl got under the cover and then the guy did pushup-like movements and the woman moaned, and that was it; but now Kai confirmed that things are trickier than that.

Chapter 290 - Meg And Kai (5)

Meg was exasperated. Her mind was clouded from arousal, they were naked on the bed with Kai on top of her... addictive sparks danced all over her body, tugging on her nerve endings, and she really wanted a release, and then Kai said to wait? Wait for what exactly?

Kai was flustered. He was almost there, but then it didn't happen. Was he missing something?

In one swift move, Meg's right leg wrapped around Kai's waist, and she pressed on his shoulder to push him sideways.

Before Kai could figure out how to salvage the situation, the whole world spun, and he was on his back with Meg straddling him.

Kai was shocked. Did she just tackle him? He didn't know that her slender body packs so much power and it was obvious that she trained.

"Ah...", Kai inhaled a shaky breath when Meg started grinding on his shaft.

He could feel her heat pressing against his, as she spread her juices with every move she made. It was electrifying.

Meg's face was flushed, her breasts swayed as she moved, and the whole scene combined with her biting her lower lip was erotic beyond belief.

Kai wanted to move and touch her, yet he ended up laying there and staring at her as possessed. Everything was too stimulating, and he couldn't move a muscle.

His eyes widened when Meg held his erection and started lowering herself on him.

"Sss...", Kai hissed at the otherworldly sensation of Meg's hot flesh wrapping his cock in an airtight grip.

She started quickly, but when he was about halfway in, she slowed down her descent.

"Are you OK?", Kai asked when he saw that Meg's face was contorted in a grimace.

"You are big...", she breathed.

Kai's chest swelled with pride. Big is good.

He looked down at the point where their bodies connected, and he was lost in so far unknown pleasure with every fraction of his cock that disappeared inside Meg.

This is it... two bodies becoming one... sex... and it was much better than he imagined it will be.

Meg's moan mixed with Kai's groan when he was fully sheathed inside her.

Meg's watery eyes met Kai's incredibly dark ones and the whole world stilled.

Kai's hands were holding onto Meg's thighs, and she gripped his hands for support.

She moved a fraction and moaned when mind-numbing sparks shot straight into her brain, "Kai... Ah..."

The friction combined pleasure and pain and she thought that she will explode from emotional overload as Kai's feelings poured into her and amplified hers.

Love. Wonder. Desire. Admiration. Belonging.

The slightest of movements tugged on their nerve endings and she stared into his dark eyes that looked at her without blinking, as their bodies merged into one.

Meg couldn't believe how quickly her orgasm was building up and she really wanted it, but her legs were shaky, and she couldn't move faster no matter how much she tried.

Kai stared at the Goddess that was riding him in slow sensual movements and he was overwhelmed by everything that was happening.

The visual was enchanting, and he couldn't look away from Meg's lustful expression, misty eyes from desire, mouth slightly open, that sheen of sweat that glistened on her body... perfection.

Kai was almost there, on the verge of orgasm, but he needed something more, faster, stronger, yet Meg was slowing down.

In his daze, Kai groaned and grabbed Meg's hips, lifting her slightly.

Meg's mouth opened in a silent scream when he started vigorously thrusting inside her from below.

Kai's mind exploded. The sensation was unbelievable.

He heard that newly mated couples don't come out of their room for days, and he thought how that was ridiculous, but now that he could feel Meg's insides clutching him tightly as the sparks of their bond danced all over his body, he decided not to leave that bed as long as he has the energy to move... and when he runs out of energy, he will plop on the bed to sleep with Meg in his arms and once they recuperate, they will start all over again and they will have sex forever!

Meg's moans became louder, and she gripped his forearms a moment before her body arched backward and she cried Kai's name for Heavens to hear.

Meg's orgasm hit Kai full force. He groaned at the otherworldly feeling of Meg's pussy milking his cock and his balls tightened as he shot his hot load inside her.

Kai was still thrusting inside Meg in jerky movements when she plopped on top of him.

Eventually, his movements were reduced to the tips of his fingers following the groove of her spine.

Meg laughed weakly. "This must be some record for the fastest orgasm."

"It was not that fast.", Kai said in his defense.

Meg giggled. "That's not a bad thing..." As long as both of them came, it didn't matter how long it lasted.

She lifted her head to look at Kai and blinked when she met his gaze. "Your eyes."

"What about them?", Kai asked.

Meg shook her head. "Nothing." Did she imagine his eyes shimmering in silver color? Now that she looked at him again, his eyes were definitely dark brown, nearly black.

It took Kai a moment to realize that Meg's expression was not good. What was wrong with his eyes? Ah! It must be his abilities awakening! He was excited about it, but he couldn't let Meg see it... not before he explains that members of the Midnight Guardians pack are special, and they can't have that

conversation before she becomes a member and... he didn't want to think about any of it because he just had sex! And it was amazing!

"Ah!", Meg screamed when Kai flipped them over, ending on top of her.

Meg stared into Kai's handsome face that brimmed with joy that can't be put into words and she knew that her mate wanted more of her. Now that he tasted meat, her mate was not shy anymore.

And there it was... a sloppy kiss that nearly missed her lips and his hips started moving as he was grinding at the cradle of her thighs.

"Meg...", Kai murmured into her lips. "I really want to do it again. Can I?"

Meg was touched that he asked. "We are mates, Kai. There is no need to ask. I want you just as much as you want me. Can't you feel my arousal?"

Without stopping the flurry of kisses, Kai's hand slipped between them, and he used it to position his erection at her entrance. This time his cock didn't slip on the side as it went where it was supposed to go... into Meg's tender flesh that welcomed him.

Meg gripped Kai's back as the pressure turned into a stretch and then into otherworldly friction that caused sparks of their bond to shake her insides as he rocked them toward another rapture.

"Meg... Meg... Meg...", Kai chanted breathlessly close to her ear, matching the rhythm of his hips. It felt so good that he was close to losing his mind.

"You are mine... say that you are mine..."

"I am yours, Kai.", Meg responded between moans.

Kai smiled and picked up the pace.

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Two orgasms later...

The guest bedroom in the packhouse of the Dark Howlers pack was filled with scents of honey and peach, and there was also a wanton atmosphere lingering in the air as two naked intermingled bodies glowed in the aftermath of their lovemaking.

Kai was lying on his back with Meg next to him. She was on her side, with her head on his shoulder, and she drew invisible patterns over his abdomen with tips of her fingers.

She enjoyed the way his hand ran through her hair, and she smiled whenever he would 'accidentally' touch her butt. Kai was getting cheekier and bolder by the minute as he was getting comfortable with the idea that pleasures of flesh are not forbidden anymore.

Both of them were sweaty and Meg suggested a shower, but Kai wanted to relax like that for a bit. He enjoyed this newly found intimacy and he wanted to savor every moment of it.

Kai and Meg relished this strange sense of belonging. It was unusual because they met today, and technically they didn't know anything about each other, but their meeting felt more like a long-awaited reunion of lovers who were together from the beginning of time.

Kai had so many things to tell her, but at the same time, he didn't want to disturb this peace that descended on them. It was surreal.

Sex is amazing! And every next time it was longer, and it was definitely getting better with practice. Kai was determined to practice often.

If Kai knew that his mate was in the Lightclaw pack, he would go there as soon as he turned eighteen years old, and probably earlier, because no amount of time with Meg was enough.

Meg enjoyed the way Kai's presence enveloped her. It came with a sense of security, and she was trying to imagine how her life will change in the not-so-distant future.

No one knew about the Midnight Guardians pack, yet Meg will become a member of that pack. That will be a step into the unknown, but she knew that as long as she is with Kai, things will be alright because she belongs there, by his side. And Kai told her that they don't separate mates, so when he travels somewhere, Meg will join him.

Meg regretted not going to the training that morning because then she would meet Kai a few hours earlier. Every moment with him was precious.