

Ascension of a Gamma

Chapter 32 Kitchen Introductions

– Anna

“What’s going on?” I asked Lexy when Liam shut the door. It was too early in the morning for either of them to be coming to my room. I’m not complaining, just that we were kind of having a moment...

Ah... that was embarrassing. They saw it, didn’t they?

I was worried over nothing. He really did see them then, but he didn’t mind them. I thought for sure he was going to flip when he saw those scars. If he ever saw the rest... could he handle them just as well?

“Someone’s in a good mood,” Lexy teased. She raised the cover and ta-da, an ice pack, and a bandage.

I pouted. “Thought you brought breakfast.”

“I’m not room service,” she said, chuckling. “We just had to get him out. It’s about time you meet Aunty J. She’s A. the Lead Chef.”

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“I’d love to!” I exclaimed. The food here was delicious – I’m sure I could learn a thing or two from Aunty J. 2)

“I know you would. How’s your ankle?”

“It still hurts to move,” I whined.

Lexy nodded and did the same things Rigel and Liam did yesterday. She helped me walk to the bathroom to wash up. I’m starting to think I might need crutches and lo and behold, I went out of the bathroom and Lexy already had one ready for me.

She let me get used to walking with it. It felt a bit weird to have something clipped under an armpit, but it was better than staying in bed all day. The stairs were the most difficult and scariest part – I was seriously thinking of having Liam carry me back later, but my pride wouldn’t allow it. I was no longer a kid. I could

take care of myself and these steps wouldn't stop me from going in and out of this castle of a house!

A group of men in suits passed us by on REDMI NOU: Way out. I hadn't seen anyone wear a AI QUAD Suit around here – they all wore casual,

JU ALUUTTU mere – uley all wore casual, except for one oddball. "Who are they?" I asked, noticing that Lexy didn't pay them any attention.

"Salina's father is here," she said. "They should be in a meeting with bro right now. Those are his 'bodyguards' if you could call them that." 23

"Oh," was all I said as we continued walking, out the gates, and into the little village that we passed by when I came here. If her father was here, it meant that Liam would have to prove that I'm his second mate. I'm not entirely sure that Alpha Myron would believe him, but I really hope he does.

"Don't worry about it," said Lexy. "Bro can handle them." 1

I nodded in agreement. I said I trusted him and trust him I will. So, I squashed the anxiety budding on my chest, something that kept me up late last night. If it wasn't for his warmth, convincing me that it'd be alright, I don't think I

would've slept. REDMI NOTE 9S ALOU AH. we slept together.

It really did happen. I slept with him... even used him as a pillow...

"You smell like Liam," Lexy said, interrupting my shameful reminiscing.

"N-No, I don't!" I replied, waving my hand.

She narrowed her eyes at me.

Is she being protective of him now? Does she have a brother complex or something?

"We didn't do anything, Lexy. I swear it."

She grinned. "I know. I love seeing you getting flustered is all."

Goddess, this little brat!

"You guys are mean," I said, pouting.

"I'm glad you two are getting along. I totally ship you and bro together!" she chirped. 4

I felt like all the energy in my body had been drained just by talking to her. She

could be so blatant at times, it was REDMI Ner:barrassing. I guess this sort of made m

e her older sister, but a little privacy

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er older sister, but a little privacy would be really appreciated.

On the bright side, at least I didn't have to gain their approval. They'd all been welcoming since day one, it made me more anxious questioning if the pack would welcome someone like me too. It was scary to think about. I'd have to prove myself to them, and it was a challenge I was willing to accept.

Down into the village, the pack members were busy going about their day. But the moment we showed up, it was like time stood still and all they could see... was me. Their attention was on me. They didn't stare, but I could feel numerous pairs of eyes on me.

I tried my best to smile and greet whoever we passed by. They responded with a smile and a simple "good morning". Two words, no more and no less.

As we neared a particular building that was set apart from the houses, Lexy

turned to me and smiled. She tightened REDMI her hand on my hand – she must be really

"excited. It was three floors high and the

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Cited. It was three floors high and the first floor had glass walls. As we got closer, the inside could be seen. It was empty.

Before we reached the doors, I stopped. Something didn't feel right. From the mansion until here, the feeling stuck. Someone was watching...

"What's wrong?" Lexy asked, narrowing her eyes at me

I looked behind me, then to our sides. There were only buildings, the woods, and pack members. And yet, it felt like there were more to it than what I was seeing.

Someone... was hiding... somewhere.

"Anna?"

"Shh... we're being watched," I whispered, pushing her gently towards the building. "How often do rogues get this deep into the territory?"

I doubted he or she or they, were rogues. The pack should've noticed their scent. If

not rogues, then... spies? AQUAD CAMERA

"How did you know?" shrieked Lexy. I

turned to shush her, but she was staring at me instead, wide-eyed and grinning.

My eyebrows furrowed.

"Can you guys show yourselves, please? She has you figured out!" she shouted at the woods.

From behind the trees, three people showed themselves.

A blue-eyed woman had her hair in a long Dutch braid, her body's voluptuousness showing despite the combat uniform. She lazily let a handgun swing on one hand, a finger on the trigger guard.

Beside her was another woman who had the handles of two swords peeking from her back, her black hair straight and short, the ends tickling the jawline of a diamond-shaped face.

A man stayed a distance behind them. While both women looked to be in their

early twenties, he looked to be in his

early thirties. A long scar curved just **RED** under his right eye, catching my **AL** Qattention. His narrowed gaze made his

burly figure more intimidating.

They all wore a hardened expression on their faces, almost scowling when Lexy laughed mockingly.

"She's wary," he said.

The women smiled brightly.

They stopped in front of me then got down on one knee.

"We fail you, Luna," he said. "If you can sense us so easily, then surely, the enemies can."

"Come on, Ty. Loosen up!" said Lexy, skipping over to him. She placed an elbow on top of his shoulder and leaned into it coolly.

Who are they?

As if sensing my confusion, Ty spoke. "Luna, we are members of the Delta Unit, a special unit under the leadership of Head Gamma Rigel. The Alpha has ordered us to keep you safe."

You mean babysit. REDMI NOTE 95

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Tsighed.

The attack must've gotten to him.

I had to talk to him about this. I couldn't go around wandering in the territory with warriors looking after me. I wasn't a kid who needed babysitting!

"Calm down, Anna," said Lexy, nudging my side. "Mr. Serious is Ty, the sexy lady is Nalia, and the other sexy lady is Sabri."

"It is an honor, Luna," said Nalia.

"We will conceal ourselves better from now on," added Sabri.

"Thank you... but... uhm... you can just call me 'Anna,'" I replied. "And... please stop with the kneeling thing."

Lexy chuckled as they all got to their feet.

"Would you like to join us for breakfast?" asked Lexy.

Sabri smiled softly. "Thanks, Lexy, but we're on duty."

"We're fine, Lexy," said Nalia.

Lexy crossed her arms but still smiled at them.

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Ty's gaze softened. His lips curled

slightly into a smirk.

"We'll see you around, Luna," he said coolly.

"Anna," I corrected, then I smiled at him. "Don't push yourself too hard, tough guy."

With a short chuckle, he turned and walked away. Nalia and Sabri returned my smile, slightly nodding before following him.

"He likes you," Lexy teased.

"What makes you think that?" I asked, amused.

Ty oozed testosterone with his burly built and full beard. While intimidating, it tugged on a woman's need to feel... protected

Liam crossed my mind, interrupting. That man had a way of sneaking into my thoughts.

This day just keeps getting better!

"Ty lives with the humans. He looks REDMI NScary but that softie adopted a human CO AI QUAD daughter," Lexy divulged.

Appearances can be deceiving.

"Breakfast is about to be served and we're the first ones here!" said Lexy.

She pushed open the door for me. "This is where the pack dines – breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks. It's open twenty four seven for everyone. It's usually self serve in the evenings though."

There were long tables with neat table settings and, on a countertop, jars of candies and chocolates. On a table were three microwaves, an electric kettle, a coffee maker, and a water dispenser. I haven't had coffee for a long, long time.

On the other side of the counter were covered cakes on cake stands and other baked goods like cupcakes on a three-tier glass server. A smaller table was in front of it and backed against the wall, a dish cabinet and beside it, a freezer.

"We eat a lot. So, the Omegas always make sure to stock up on food and drinks, from savory to sweet, you name it," she explained. I was in awe. My old pack

didn't have this. Someone always had to be CO A 6 in the kitchen to attend to anyone.

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Everything was well-provided for. No one had to wait for food to be served in between meals. And they were disciplined enough to serve themselves.

It was a lot of load off the Omegas' backs. Werewolves eat a ton. Working in the kitchens was a burdensome task.

I can't wait to meet Aunty J!

"See that?" she said, pointing to a door under the stairs that lead to the second floor. "It leads to the cellar. It's strictly for adults only, obviously. Anyone who takes out a bottle or barrel fills up a sheet. That way, the Omegas know if a certain inventory's running low."

"Barrel?"

"The Gammas drink often... for whatever reason. They'll take out a barrel of beer from time to time, sometimes two. We have other types of alcohol if you don't drink beer."

I don't really drink any type of alcohol.

O REDMAnd you're alright with it?" Back at my CO A Qud packs, drinking was... regulated.

"Anything here is for everyone. No restrictions except for the children – we obviously can't have them drinking alcohol," she said, laughing. "Those jars used to be empty before the day was over. Now, even the children have learned that they won't run out of treats and the Omegas only have to restock weekly."

"Lexy, this is all so amazing!" I exclaimed

"Come on. The kitchen's this way," she said, leading me behind the counter and past the double doors.

On the other side of those doors was another world. The Omegas glanced at us and nodded curtly. Everyone was busy with something, be it cooking, chopping up something, doing the dishes. And one voice cut through the noises – she wore a chef's uniform in the pack's motif colors. Her hair was neatly tied to a bun and covered with a hairnet, and she was pinning her hat as she walked over to us.

She had beautiful green eyes. They reminded me of Rigel's.

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\Wiping her hands on her apron, she

walked over to us with a look that wasn't in any way welcoming. "Lexy," she said dryly. "What can I do for you today?"

Her gaze was fixated on Lexy, uninterested in what either of us would say. Lexy didn't seem to mind. "Aunty J, this is Anna. She's bro's mate," she chirped.

She eyed me up and down, judging me accordingly. "I heard," she said, then dismissed me as she talked to Lexy." Sarina's replacement. The Alpha's tastes had gotten... less flavorful."

"Excuse me?"

"She's his mate, Aunty J," said Lexy. "Please don't be like this."

Aunty J scoffed at her. "Rigel told me what the Alpha plans to do. Aren't you supposed to be stopping him right now?" Her lips pulled to a knowing smirk seeing Lexy's brows furrow a little. "You don't know, do you?"

She frowned when Lexy shook her head. I didn't like this. Liam hadn't told Lexy

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CO Al Quâ anything?

"Breakfast should be ready in ten. But seeing as you're already here, feel free to serve yourselves. You know your way around." With that, she turned around and disappeared into the workstations.

I'd never seen her before my entire life, but my presence already offended her. I understand that I wasn't Sarina, but she didn't have to phrase it like that. Surely, I wasn't just a replacement, even if I was, in her words, less flavorful. I could accept that.

"Don't take it to heart," Lexy said, smiling. "She's strict on everyone, including Rigel."

Then it dawned on me. Her eyes – she was his Mom!

I simply nodded and followed her around. Everyone I met here knew more than me. I wish I knew at least half these things. Somehow, it had something to do with Sarina – she must've been a great Luna. Talk about setting the bars high.

I wasn't particularly good at anything. I

didn't even know what it takes to be a O REDMI

AI QUA Liina But I have no intention of

1. ha. But I have no intention of surpassing her – it was neither a contest nor a self-serving position. Hopefully, it'd suffice for my insufficiency.

I took the other tray from Lexy and we sat on one end of a long table. Thoughts clouded my mind, and with her silence, she was too. The food was really good, but the taste wasn't as enjoyable with the atmosphere.

When we were almost finished with dessert – strawberry Shortcake, I noticed her eyes glaze over as she talked to someone via a mind-link. I was still curious what that felt like – to hear the voice in my head and reply in the same manner. What was it like to hear different voices at once? That'd be pretty annoying and would immediately give me a headache, I was sure of it, but the more I see them use the link, its impression on me deepened. And I'm reminded time and time again that I was different from them.

I finished my slice and waited. Her eyes resumed to normal a few minutes later, and she looked at me worryingly."

What?" I asked. Something was wrong AI QUAD Les Her smile was gone as she narrowed

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what I asked. Something was wrong here. Her smile was gone as she narrowed her eyes at me.

"Bro called," she said quietly. "They want to see you."

I don't think I want to know who she

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Chapter 33

lank Goddess...

"She's a werewolf," Liam replied, beckoning for me to go

to him. I went to his side and he snaked a n arm around my waist, pulling me closer

to him. Salina scoffed and rolled her eyes.

For a second, I thought I misjudged her, o r maybe it was

because I was taking Liam from her. If the person I love was snatched away from

me, regardless of the reason, I'd be bitter too. So, I understand where she was coming from

Liam's hold tightened around me as if assuring me that everything was alright. I hoped it was or at least would. At this moment, I trusted him with everything – mine, and ours. He had the power to take what he wanted in any manner he wished, and I trusted that we were in the same boat.

"She doesn't smell like a werewolf," said Salina, her tone

Salina, her tone

dry. "She's human."

"She's a werewolf and she's my mate. I found her on the day of the mating ceremony which means the terms of the agreement must be complied with," Liam said, cutting me off.

I managed a small smile on my face. He just called me his mate. He called me his mate! And he saw me as a werewolf? Me, the wolf-less one, the oddity, the one in a billion rarity of the bad kind.

Pride swelled in my chest and my insecurities didn't matter anymore. Liam saw me as one of our kind and had fully accepted me as his mate. I didn't care that I wasn't as beautiful as Salina. I didn't care that Aunty I thought I was a replacement. I didn't care that Alpha Myron disapproved of care that Alpha Myron disapproved of

1. me. I didn't care that Salina judged me. I had once hoped for my mate to come to find me and take

me away from my old pack. I had once dreamed that my mate would look at me and

find me suitable for him – that he would accept me for who I am and not reject

1. me. I once prayed to the Goddess for a mate who'd treat me kindly. All these... because a small part of me wanted to use my mate if I ever had one. Use him to get out. It was a horrible motive, but I was imprisoned. Bound to a promise, held down by guilt.

Liam did all of it. He took me away from there, he accepted me, and he treated me like I was worth it when I couldn't even find it in myself. I was using him. When I started to feel this way towards him, I couldn't pinpoint the exact point in time. But I wanted this, now more than But I wanted this, now more than ever.

They were discussing, more like debating about the agreement. I couldn't hear them. My thoughts were on him, all I could see was him – his face placid, his hold on me tight

The world faded around me and he was the only clear picture. My mate, my Alpha. The one person in the world who could gather my broken pieces and put them back together. The man who brought out the best in me, the real me. It took me some time to realize that he meant what he said then.

You are my Luna...

It was so simple to him. I was his mate and so I was his Luna. My position, my condition, never mattered to him. The logic was simple. mattered to him. The logic was simple.

Did I overcomplicate things that didn't need much thinking?

He knew what he wanted and how he wanted it and he had the power to take it. I now know what I wanted, and I'd gamble my heart again to get it.

I couldn't hear him now. All I saw was my mate... and his soft, beautiful lips.

My hand reached out on its own and touched the side of his face. He stopped talking, startled and looked down at me. I pulled his face towards mine as I stood on my toes to kiss him. It felt right. This was right. His soft lips and the sparks that lit up within me were proof enough. The arm around me that pulled me closer to him was proof. He was mine, and I was his.

Alpha Myron and Salina and the rest of the world seemed so far away. It was now just Liam and me. My other hand went to the back of his head to deepen the kiss. He dominated my mouth, using his tongue to explore every deep crevice, seductively sliding with mine. I moaned into the kiss, letting go of the butterflies that were trapped in my stomach. They fluttered all over the confined space inside of me, their wings pleasantly tickling me all over.

Liam pulled away and I gasped for air. His eyes were soft.

They looked at me with a newfound twinkle and they darkened with desire. He desired me... the girl who got rejected, the girl who was disgraced. Heat crept up my cheeks. I didn't care.

Someone cleared his throat in the background.

Oh right, Alpha Myron is here.

Oh right, Alpha Myron is here.

"I can see you two have gotten... well acquainted," he said.

Salina was gone. The door was left open. I didn't notice when she had left.

"The condition has been fulfilled," said Liam. "I found my mate within the given time."

Alpha Myron smiled a calculated smile." Unfortunately, we have no way of proving that she really is your mate."

"I am his mate!" I exclaimed, a little louder than I intended.

"Can you prove it?" he asked. "We know little to nothing about... wolf-less werewolves. For all we know, this is a show, and Liam's using you to break off his engagement with my daughter."

Unbelievable. He just wanted a share of

believable. He just wanted a share of Liam's power! The

union of the Red Claw Pack and the Blue Moon Pack would make him almost invincible.

I might not know much about the politics among packs and their Alphas, but 1 anyone who heard him would conclude the same thing.

Arrogant, how his confidence was over the top that he could get his way.

I intertwined my fingers with Liam's, the tingles sending

waves of goosebumps on the surface of my skin. "Liam honored his word. I am his

mate, and he is mine. I have no wolf to confirm it, but I know what I feel when I'm around him," I said firmly.

"Why should I believe you?" he scoffed.

"I claim Anna Bella Fiora as my mate. If you don't honor your word, I hope you understand the circumstances," Liam said slowly.

"Do not claim to honor your word without proof, Liam,"

Alpha Myron replied. "You'd orchestrate this fake show just to push my daughter to the side? After taking her from me, you would dare go this far to reject Salina?" His fists were balled, and he was shaking in anger.

"Yes, I would," Liam said calmly. "I would go as far as to search for my mate." He looked down at me and tipped my chin. "The Goddess gave

her to me. The term of the agreement has been fulfilled. Leave, now."

"Not without a fight," Alpha Myron said. "There's only one way we can settle this."

Liam still had his eyes on me. "I won't go there I was you, Alpha. I won't hesitate. You may be

Alpha. I won't hesitate. You may be her father, but I am still the 1 Alpha of this pack."

He let go of my chin and turned to face Alpha Myron.

"You leave me no choice, boy. This is for my daughters. I will not allow them to be disgraced."

Leaving my side, Liam walked up to him. "Then say it," he challenged

"I, Alpha Myron Knox of the Blue Moon Pack, challenge

Alpha Liam Rose to an Alpha Duel, for the honor of my daughters."

My eyes widened.

An Alpha Duel...

"I, Alpha Liam Rose – "

"Don't!" I shouted. "Don't do this..."

He ignored me. "I, Alpha Liam Rose of *the Red Claw Pack,

accept Alpha Myron Knox of the Blue

cept Alpha Myron Knox of the Blue Moon pack's challenge."

Alpha Myron raised his arm and Liam clasped his hand.

Together, they said the words that would seal the challenge.

"Liam...." I whispered but he was pretended not to hear.

"Under the Goddess' light," they said together.

There was no going back now. He had wagered his wolf, his

life, his pack... and me.

Alpha Myron lowered his arm. "I'll see you tonight,

Alpha." He went straight out the door with a smirk on his face. Either he was

overconfident, or he could really take down Liam. Can he?

"I'm sorry," Liam said with his back to m

"Why..." I whispered.

There could have been another way to

ere could have been another way to make Alpha Myron

understand that I was his mate. He didn't have to take it this far – he had me

now. We could've at least talked about this.

A lovely, intricate pattern crawled up his arm. It looked like a tattoo in black ink, long lines intertwining and circling around each other like tendrils. I would've admired it if it wasn't a timer, of the time he had left to honor their duel, if it wasn't proof of his bet, if it wasn't death's mark on him.

Chapter 34 Getting Closer

– Liam

"How could you?" she whispered, teary eyed.

While I was glad that she cared for me this much, I was pissed at myself for making her cry the second time around. She had to understand – this was the only way to get the Blue Moon Pack off our backs.

I picked up the crutch that had fallen to the floor when she kissed me. Kissed me, on her own, from out of the blue. I didn't know what I did to deserve it. Her eyes were different that time too – soft, full of adoration and newfound love.

I let it lean onto the desk, then I pulled her close to me, stroking her hair and placing kisses on the top of her head.

"Why?" she asked.

"For all of us, Anna," I answered.

She wrapped her arms around my waist and buried her face on my chest.

"You're insane," she said, her voice

ou're insane," she said, her voice muffled

"I know."

"Selfish jerk."

"I know."

She sniffled. I kept quiet as she recovered her composure. An Alpha Duel might kill me, but not if I end him first. I had no intention of killing him, he's their father. But I had no intention of losing either. Not when everything I had was on the line.

There was so much she didn't know, and more that I wanted to tell her. I'd been keeping her in the dark, every one of us was, but sooner or later she'd start suspecting, she'd get curious, then she'd start asking questions. For the past days, Lexy had been feeding her information on the things she asked about, but the rule was that Anna should only know menial details for now. 1

It was my burden to tell her the truth, everything that she needed and wanted to know. After all, she was Luna. She deserved to know.

deserved to know

It was..different around her, and it wasn't simply the bond. When I first saw her, when I saw the cute childish drawings in her pink bedroom, when she smiled at me for the first time, when she manned up to me – I couldn't find when this started. Maybe it was when I first found her. When she had one foot out the door.

If I told her, she might leave. I didn't want her to go now. I had to find my second mate to keep myself from marrying Salina and merging the two packs. The sole purpose of my search was to use her. To save me and the pack, and to continue the bloodline.

My emotions weren't supposed to be involved. I steeled myself for when I met her and yet I yielded to the bond immediately. I was... falling for her, faster than I expected from myself and it was starting to scare me. I was getting dependent on her presence around me that her absence was unbearable.

I breathed in her scent, her ever-calming scent. I didn't deserve her. I wanted her. I'd been debating with Luca regarding

been debating with Luca regarding this matter for over a week now. When should I tell her – when would I be ready to reveal the Liam Rose who once was?

"What'll you do?" she asked, her voice steady now.

"What I should."

"He's thinking of doing the same," she said quietly

"I know."

"Then why would you accept his challenge?" she shouted, pushing me away.

She glared at me with those beautiful honey-brown eyes.

Adorable.

"You're going to get yourself killed!"

I smiled at her. "Do you trust me?"

She bit her lower lip. I was asking too much from her. I should feel bad, and I did, but I was really happy that I already had a place in her heart and head.

"I do," she said, sighing,

TU, she said, signing.

I held her hand, the electrifying sensations coursing through my skin.

She hugged me again, tighter this time." I trust you."

My heart must've stopped beating for a split second. The blood rush in my head and the loud thumping in my ears left me inhaling deeply for air. It worsened the situation – her scent filled my lungs.

Loosening her hold on me, I tipped her chin, so she'd look up at me. This beautiful creature did things to me at the speed of light I couldn't remember what I was like before I met her. I brought my face down to hers, and she closed her eyes, already welcoming my advance.

I pressed my lips down on hers, slowly, feeling the softness of them. Nibbling at her bottom lip, tracing the curvature with my tongue. She granted me entrance, and after putting up a fight, she let me dominate.

She tasted so sinfully sweet; I could kiss her forever. Her hands pushed at the back of my head as she moaned into the kiss. The loveliest sound ever made.

me lovenest sound ever made.

My hands traveled down to her waist, tracing her curves then settling on the sides of her hips. I didn't dare go lower; she wasn't ready... yet. I tugged on her bottom lip as I let her catch her breath, hungry for more of her.

I was in too deep now. She'd pulled me underwater, leaving me needing air, and I wanted the high it gave me – I hungered for the asphyxiation.

That was all I needed from her – the affirmation that she'd entrust to me, blindly, what lied ahead. They were all depending on me now. This was what it meant to be an Alpha – to carry everyone's future on the shoulders without so much as showing a hint of weariness, weakness. The weight just got heavier, not that I mind. Because this time and for years to come, I had my Luna. I wasn't alone anymore.

This would be the last selfish decision I make for the pack. After this, it'd be the two of us. That is, if she wouldn't push me away.

"I hope she doesn't

I hope she doesn't.

"Liam," she whispered, pulling me in for another thrilling kiss. Luca was howling in my mind, wagging his tail in excitement.

I was losing myself with each passing second. I wished I could manipulate magic and go back in time to relive this moment at my whim, if it was possible. Then again, there'd be more moments like this and better ones. We had all the time in the world.

She made a move to break the kiss, but I held her head, gathering her hair in my fist. A sweetness tickled my nose, and I mentally gave myself a high five. It wasn't the right time. She had to be ready.

I broke away so she could breathe. So, I could breathe. Then I met her forehead with mine, closing my eyes as I calmed Luca down.

"Liam – «

"Shh..." I said, interrupting her. This needed no words. Her actions, the emotions she poured into every twirl of her sinful tongue were more than enough to speak for what words couldn't possibly

convey.

It was perfect until someone cleared their throat. She immediately turned to face who it was – Gale. He had an apologetic look on his face, but it couldn't be helped.

Anna blushed, hid her face with her hands.

So adorable.

"Let's you back to your room, babe," I said, handing her the crutch. She stared a bit, then a corner of her lip pulled up. Without warning, she jumped on me. I held out my arms just in time to catch her, leaning back a little at her weight. 1

"Good boy," she said, tapping my chest. "Now, carry me to my room."

I let out a chuckle. I think I spoiled her. "That was dangerous, Anna."

She rolled her eyes at me. "Please, like you can't carry me with those arms."

"You could've just asked."

"If you can manhandle me whenever you want, I can do this anytime I want," she replied. "Let's go. Come on. What are you

waiting for?"

Gale moved to the side to let us pass.

"I'll see you at his place," I told him, and he nodded, smirking.

"See you later, Gale," said Anna as we headed back inside.

She was being cheerful and carefree for me, so I wouldn't worry about her. So, I could focus on the upcoming match. I raised her higher and kissed her forehead. My time was yet to come.

I lowered her down her bed. She wouldn't let go of me.

"Anna, I have to go."

She shook her head. Sighing, I sat on the bed and let her sit on my lap.

"I'm sorry, Liam," she said, her eyes downcast. "I should've realized you were my mate."

"I... am your mate. You know it now," I said, confused

"I'm sorry I did those things with Flynn."

My jaw clenched. "That was stupid."

jaw clenched. "That was stupid."

"I know."

"He almost killed you."

"I know."

"He could've killed you."

She bit her lip. "I'm sorry. I don't know what came over me. I just... I don't know. I'm sorry, Liam. I'm sorry."

I sighed. "Do you –"

"I don't want to see him," she said, interrupting. "I don't want to face him, or talk to him, or be anywhere near him. He humiliated me, and rejected me, and beat me... and I let him do those things to

me."

She hugged herself. "It was stupid. I was stupid. I'm sorry I let him touch me."

I kissed the top of her head. If she didn't want to be anywhere he was, she wouldn't go back to her pack.

"Apology not accepted."

She sniffled

"Maybe if you ki

Наурен уои и

Her lips crashed on mine immediately. Straddling my lap, she tugged on my hair as our tongues danced together.

Fuck!

My hands found their way on her waist, slowly going down to her thighs.

She moaned into the kiss when I gave them a light squeeze.

So, fucking responsive.

I pulled her closer to me, no space between us.

The sweet smell taunted my control. Luca was forcing his way out. I growled when she started moving her hips.

Fighting him back, I turned us around and slammed her on the bed, growling as I captured her lips. I broke the kiss and she panted for air.

"Liam..."

I sucked a deep breath, taking in her scent. I had to calm down.

"Anna... I have to go," I said, forcing myself off the bed.

myself off the bed.

"Uhm..."

"T'll see you tonight, babe."

"Uhm..."

She seemed to be in shock as to what just happened. I must've moved too fast.

I left the room with a smirk on my face, her flushed face brightening my mood.

