

This chapter contains s.exual content, which will be signalled between asterisks

Henry

I swallowed hard and let my tears fall as never before, rubbing my hand in the air. My eyes opened wide in surprise as I suddenly heard a deep whine and a rumble.

"Ember! I can hear you! I can hear her, Kemy!" I looked between the air I was rubbing and my Kemy.

Kemy's gloomy expression was replaced by a beautiful smile, "You see girl, he can hear you," she beamed, looking at her Ember.

I heard another sweet whine and Kemy looked at me, "She said that you weren't very communicative but she loves you and Knight anyway."

"Can you understand what she means that well?" I asked, astonished.

"Yes. It has been just the both of us here for so long. Ember and I developed a very special bond and I can understand her pretty well, almost as if she was using words."

I inhaled deeply in frustration realizing they really had a special link and I failed to see that. I couldn't even begin to imagine what I would do without the annoying wolf in my mind and it seemed like Ember and Kemy were even closer than my Knight and me.

"*Without me, you would be so boring, Henry!*" Knight barked in. So now he decided to play funny again after all the whining.

"*I am only stating facts!*" Knight replied to my thoughts in his nosy way. Having him meant having no privacy, but I was fine with that. I loved the white dork.

Growing up in a pack like mine, and having a father like mine, for whom only being strong and ruthless mattered, I could hardly play with the other pups or make friends without being punished for it. So, Knight became my best friend once I shifted for the first time when I was ten; without him, I could have easily turned out just like my father.

Kemy sat on my lap as she kept patting Ember and we stayed that way for a while. I, too, tried to do the same. Even though I couldn't feel her, I hoped Ember could feel me and I could bring her some comfort.

She whimpered softly. Was she replying to my thoughts? A smile of astonishment crossed my face. She was really something else.

"*Ember is my mate, so she has to be incredible!*" Knight barked smugly in my head.

I shook my head at him, "*It's more like the other way around and you have to step up your game to be a good match for them, there is nothing better than Kemy and Ember is part of her, so she is the same.*" I laughed at him.

Kemy pressed her head on my chest and I ran my fingers through her hair, without stopping caressing the air. Suddenly, I felt something under my hand. It wasn't scaly, but rather thick as I imagine a crocodile skin is; not that we have any in Alaska.

Ember brushed her head against my hand, rumbling again.

"You feel differently than I thought, Ember," I told her and she rumbled again, causing my Kemy to laugh.

"She is really enjoying the patting." Kemy's eyes had their sweet light once again and she was smiling.

Even though I knew it wouldn't last long, I basked in it. She had the most beautiful smile and her happiness was all I wanted to see. Her happiness and her pleasure under me.

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with the two of you.

"I think we all needed that." I pressed a kiss on her head.

She asked me about the dragons and I told her about Alma and the babies. There was also another thing I urged to tell about: my mother. I could never talk about this topic before. Hell, I wasn't even used to talking about myself and feelings-stuff. But something in me urged me to share those with her.

"I heard about my mother. It was the first time someone told me something about her. The Gamma of my pack, Cooper, said he used to be her friend and that she was kind, selfless and sweet, different from most of the people in the pack." A smile formed on my lips as I imagined her, a beam of sun in the cold and dark lands of our pack, among the cold and somber people. But soon a wave of dread wiped my smile away, "He doesn't know what happened to her, Kemy. If she is alive or if he killed her," I inhaled deeply, looking intently at my mate's eyes and she hugged me tightly. I felt something brushing against my shoulder and heard a rumble. Ember comforted me as well.

"If she is alive we... you will find her, Henry. You will become the new Alpha and make things right for the wolves of your pack, I know you will," she smiled at me. And I kissed her lips softly, her faith in me was so strong and firm, that it made me have more faith in myself.

Even in her dreams, she could be an amazing Luna for me.

Kemy turned to face me completely, wrapping her legs around me, our breaths were fanning over each other and our lips were almost touching. I cupped the nape of her neck and closed the distance between us, kissing those delicious rosy lips. She nibbled at my bottom lip, and I licked her tongue, exploring and possessing every corner of her mouth. She pressed her chest against mine, rubbing herself against my member. Sweet teaser! I was already hard and throbbing for her, even though I was a bit surprised that she wanted to mate now.

"Henry, I want you now. I need you, I need to feel more complete now that I am afraid to be empty, to have a part of me cut away, to be without Ember. I need to feel you, to have our souls touching within our bodies." Her eyes were teary, as she bit at her bottom lip.

I cupped her face and looked intently at her beautiful eyes. Now they changed to a soft shade of blue, as it normally happens when she gets emotional, "Whatever you need, my Beauty!"

It made sense, mating wasn't only about uniting our bodies, but our souls as well. It was about being one, being whole. F*ck, love made me understand things that I thought I never would.

After I pulled my t-shirt up, Kemy ran her hands across my chest and my abs, our lips were locked together, in electric and heated kisses.

*** We got rid of her dress as fast as possible, leaving her only in her 'knickers'. I was naked under her, crazy to feel her warm p.ussy against my throbbing erection.

"Kemy, I want to get into your knickers," I whispered in her ear, biting her earlobe as my hands cupped her butt.

She giggled in response, standing up for an instant to take her panties off. A hungry smile formed on my face. This way I could see every inch of her milky skin. Nak.ed, perfect, mine.

She gave me a mischievous smile and threw her 'knickers' on me, chuckling at my half-surprised reaction.

"You sweet spitfire, bring your naughty as.s here now," I furrowed my brows at her, amused.

She shook her head, "You will have to catch me first, Mr. Big-Hot-Horny-Wolf!" She ran away, giggling. I was glad I could distract her from her sadness and make her smile like that.

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She ran around the meadow faster than I expected, her light-brown hair almost floating behind her.

Luckily, it only took a couple of minutes to catch my prey in my arms, "You were an easy catch!" I chuckled.

"Hey, I was going easy on you. I wanted to be caught!" she smiled and my lips crushed against her smiling ones as I sat on the grass and placed her on my lap, lacing her legs around my hips.

My lips trailed from her mouth to her neck and I sucked and licked the mate mark I left there last time we met. That made my mate throw her head back and moan out loud, the sweet smell of her arousal lingering in the air.

My hands caressed her breasts slowly, teasing her n****s, pulling and twisting them, which made Kemy grind herself against my di.ck, her hands on my hair.

She was already so wet and warm, feeling so f*cking good. I wanted to make her c*m at least once before entering her, but having her dancing on my di.ck and pressing her s*x against it made my self-control slip away. It was too much for me, even Knight was howling inside my mind, horny as a dog.

"Baby, slow down, else I will have to f*ck you now." My voice sounded deeper and huskier than it normally did. My little teaser giggled in response, moving her hips in circles and increasing the friction between us.

That was too much! I lifted her by her waist and slapped her butt twice, making her giggle. She was such a teaser! Such a bad girl!

"What are you waiting for? I promise, I am wet enough," she arched a brow at me and smiled.

I shook my head, I knew she was ready to take my co.ck, but I wanted her completely sated and I wouldn't have her coming only once.

I laid her down fast and dived my head between her legs before she could oppose it or tease me any further. My firm hands held her legs spread open for my ravenous mouth, I pressed a kiss on her folds and licked her completely in a straight line, from her c.lit hood to her entrance, thrusting my tongue in as I flickered her clit with two of my fingers.

My Kemy moaned and wriggled a bit. I only pulled her body close to me and increased my speed in response. Soon she was melting in pleasure as her walls clenched around my tongue.

"Henry... I... " she mumbled incoherently, her voice breathy and alluring.

"I know, Sweetness. I know what you need," I cooed her, as I sat her up and kissed her panting lips.

She placed her hands on my shoulders for support, lifting her body up, and I filled her with my co.ck as she sat down completely and whimpered, full to the brim.

I grunted aloud, she felt so good. I kissed her lips once again before wrapping my arms around her and started pumping upwards, angling into my woman so that I could caress all the sweet spots inside her with my shaft.

"I love you, little spitfire," I murmured, looking intently at her eyes before my lips were once again glued onto hers, and I sucked and licked her tongue in a passionate kiss.

She broke the kiss, panting, "I love you too."

I caressed her face gently as I thrust into her fiercely, deep and fast, making my Kemy throw her head back and grab onto my shoulders firmly. She tried to buck her hips towards me, but I was pumping into her so fast and powerfully that she couldn't steady her movements, she was at my complete mercy as she climaxed for me once again.

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I felt the knot on the lower part of my stomach tighten, and I held onto his shoulder firmly as a strong orgasm washed over me. My mate could always make me happier and get me there, even when everything was gloomy and sad. He kept thrusting into me, and as soon as I could open my hazy eyes, my gaze was fixed on his. I wrapped my arms around his shoulders and kissed his lips gently. As his pumps grew slower but deeper, we stopped f*cking and started making love.

Our gazes were lost in each other, breaths in sync and lips almost touching. I bounced up and down, meeting his thrusts halfway, his member brushing against my inner sensitive spots made a delicious jolt of pleasure expand through my whole body. He nuzzled my cheek and kissed it before his lips met mine once again in a warm, and tender kiss.

His lips roamed to my neck and his tongue circled his mate mark, making my skin burn in pleasure. It was almost too much for me, my body was overwhelmed with every caress, deep gazes, and sensations. But I still wanted more! I caressed my aching nipples against his strong chest, and my man tightened his hold on me, nibbling at his mate mark and almost making me jump up.

He pushed me down, and I sat on his shaft completely, the feeling of it touching my womb, sent tingles all over my soul. I loved having him this deep inside me.

I started trembling as my pleasure built up fast, with every teasingly suck on my neck and deep and smooth thrust.

Henry took my hand in his, and I squeezed it with the desperation of my desire before a new urge emerged in my body and soul. I lowered my mouth and kissed the mate mark I left between his neck and shoulders. My instincts kicked in and my teeth elongated. I marked him again and felt him doing the same.

Our bodies moved frantically, chasing completion and unity, intertwining our souls together and as soon as my teeth withdrew from his skin, we both exploded in each other's arms and I felt my mate empty himself inside me, as my inner walls spasmed around him, wanting to drink and absorb all of his pleasure in.

He cupped the nape of my neck, and kissed my lips softly, his tongue invading my mouth was gentle and warm.

Over

When the effect of my climax died down, all that remained was this feeling of love and connection. Our souls were one, our bond was consolidated once again in our love. We looked at each other, without saying anything or even moving for a few minutes, only feeling it, only losing ourselves in each other.

After the sweet spell of our gazes was broken, he laid down and cradled me in his arms. I snuggled my face into his chest, relaxed in peace for a few minutes. The last minutes in which I would remain complete, with my Ember.

I could feel that her end was soon; the sun that had never set in my dreams, not even once in all these years, was lowering itself to meet the flat line of the horizon.

I breathed deeply as my heart clenched painfully. Many unsettling thoughts swirled into my mind.

"Henry, what if I can't wake up because I am not good at being awake? What if I don't know how to do awake-things?" I thought out loud. Maybe my doubts about it were what was keeping me asleep and preventing Ember from healing. Maybe I was afraid? In the middle of this whirlwind of emotions, I didn't know anything anymore.

In fact, I didn't even remember how being alive felt anymore.

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I swallowed hard, and cast my eyes down, “Good at being awake and doing awake things.” Henry chuckled at my words and I slapped his chest lightly. I was very serious.

“Kemy, you are surely good at it. I don’t think this is the problem, and it’s not your fault. If I had been a better mate to Ember, maybe she would have healed. Now I realized that,” he exhaled sharply, his blue eyes clouded with deep sadness and guilt.

Ember whined in protest and placed her head over his shoulder, making him turn his neck and plant a kiss on her cheek. She whimpered happily, almost rumbling at him. Even though she was tired, and in pain, I could feel her happiness flowing, glowing inside my soul.

Henry blinked twice and looked back at me, a smile on his lips and his eyes opened wide in shock, “Kemy, I can see her outline, I can see her!” he exclaimed.

I smiled at him, at them. At least Ember could get that, the last wish before going, before fading away in smoke.

I wrapped an arm around Henry’s neck and caressed Ember’s head with my free hand, leaning up to nuzzle her muzzle.

“I will miss you so much, Ember. I love you and I always will,” I told her, my eyes dropping my endless tears. Henry kissed my forehead and I glanced at him before my gaze returned to Ember’s outline. He was crying as well, his handsome face was contorted with pain.

The sun was moving down even faster, and my heart was falling, shattered. I was about to lose my best friend and part of my soul.

Henry pressed a kiss on my cheek and another one on Ember’s. Her rumble was so weak, barely audible. She was now even less than an outline, only a trace of glow, about to become nothing, about to fade away forever.

I felt a piercing pain in my heart and soul, shadows surrounding me as the sun was only a few inches from meeting the horizon and leaving only darkness behind.

Henry looked between Ember’s vanishing glow and my blurry eyes, and said: “I love you, you both!”

Henry disappeared from my dreams. He woke up right before the sunset was complete, Ember’s glow became ashes and all that remained was darkness.

Henry

I woke up with a jolt, sat up and placed my face into my hands, “F*ck! This can’t be happening!” I cursed under my breath as tears flooded my eyes.

I couldn’t have left Kemy alone now, not when Ember was dying and she was left in darkness. My gaze moved to my mate laying beside me, she looked atypically pale, so I took her in my arms in an attempt to comfort her as much as I could. My normally warm spitfire was now cold and I was starting to panic.

“*Her breathing and heartbeat are normal, Henry, but we should call a healer now* !” Knight barked out, he was howling and growling restlessly in my mind, every sound that left his mouth was deep with pain.

We were no better than my father, we failed our mate. We should have found a way to save her, but we didn’t and on top of that, we’ve just left her alone and in the darkness of her dream-limbo. I was indeed a cursed wolf, just like everyone in my family and there was nothing I could do. I pressed my mate against my body, trying to wake her up, crying as never before.

“*You are getting her damp with your tears, Henry* !” Knight released a protective growl. He was right, I laid her on the pillow and hugged her side, my attentive eyes fixed on her chest rising and falling ever so slowly. I was afraid, I was terrified of losing her completely.

To my utter surprise, Kemy opened her eyes and gasped deeply for air, like someone who was drowning. My shocked gaze was fixed on her as she tried to sit up but fell back on the bed, her strength failing her.

“Kemy?” I called her, not believing my eyes. My heart was jumping out of my chest in the same rhythm the crazy wolf was jumping in my mind.

Happiness, surprise, shock made me half-paralyzed for a moment.

She turned to look into my eyes, moving with difficulty, her muscles weren’t used to moving anymore.

“Henry,” she muttered, her voice weak, broken and quite croaky. I gave her the bottle of water I kept on the bedside table and helped her to drink it slowly. She emptied it, she must have been parched.

I scooped her up in my arms and brushed a lock of hair behind her ear, taking a good look at her pretty face and her open eyes to convince myself that she was indeed awake. She had a heavenly smile on her face, and I kept looking at it and at her eyes, hypnotized by them, by her. I couldn’t hold back any longer and covered her chin, cheeks, forehead and nose with soft kisses. Soon she was starting to feel warmer under my touch and her face recovered its normal color.

“Sweetness, are you really...” I asked, afraid I was only dreaming.

“Awake... I think so,” she murmured, looking intently at my eyes and smiling. I caressed her lips with mine in a soft kiss, and cradled her in my arms before pressing my forehead against hers, my fingers tangled in her light-brown waves.

I wasn’t cursed, I was blessed, my dream had just come true. She was my dream and now my reality.

“How is Ember? Did she...” I asked, dread threatening to engulf my mind at the thought of her being gone.

“She is fine, alive, but very tired.” Kemy’s words made me smile in utter relief.

“My sweet love, I feared that I wouldn’t ever have you awake in my arms,” I blinked a few tears away and enveloped her in my arms once again. “Kemy, I will give you the life you deserve. I will love you, take care of you, make you my Luna,” I whispered, cupping her delicate face between my hands.

“Yes, we will! We will have that and more, Henry. A life full of possibilities together,” her voice was still

sleeping ever again, even though I knew it wouldn't be possible and I would have to get used to it.

Knight let out a deafening celebratory howl in my mind as he jumped like a pup. His rumble was vibrating so strong in my chest that I couldn't hold back; it left my throat, making Kemy giggle softly.

"Kemy! Kemy!" I heard Mallory's startled voice as she jumped off the accent chair, running towards us and sitting on the bed. Only now I noticed that she was still in the room. Had she been sleeping there?

"Mal," Kemy moved her arms towards her sister in slow motion and held her hand. Mallory kissed her hand and stroked her face gently.

"Kemy, I... we were so afraid! We thought Ember was almost gone and you wouldn't ever wake up again! I was so afraid that I wouldn't ever talk to you, really be with you again..." Mallory mumbled between thick tears, squeezing my mate's hand.

"I am awake now, and we will make up for all the lost time, Mal," Kemy gave her a tired smile, as she wrapped her other arm around my neck and tried to lift her body up a little. I helped my mate to steady herself, my arms firmly wrapped around her. I was still afraid that she would suddenly fade away or go back to sleep, I didn't want to let her go. Ever.

But I had to give them some space. I exhaled deeply and placed my Kemy seated on the bed, and sat next to her, she intertwined her fingers with mine, giving me a loving gaze before she turned to look at her sister.

"I missed you so much, little sister," Mallory hugged her tightly and Kemy wrapped her arm around her slowly, "I was so afraid to lose you! But now you are here for real!" she cupped Kemy's teary face.

"I was afraid too... I thought that those Red Monsters had hurt or killed you," Kemy cried in Mallory's arms, but a few minutes later they were giggling together, my mate's hand never leaving mine.

"Now we are safe and we have a clan, a family again. It was hard for me to understand it, even to realise it was true after everything. But they are here and we will be fine," Mallory reassured Kemy, even though she didn't seem so sure of the last part herself, her voice carried doubt and deep pain. But she was trying to make Kemy feel safe, it seemed to be what mattered most for her. My mate was right, Mallory was a great big sister.

Daniel ran into the room, probably feeling Mallory's intense emotions through the bond. Mallory turned to look at him, and he smiled.

"Daniel, Kemy is awake. We have to call Doctor Emily, Anita and the healer to take a look at her," Mallory's voice carried a note of fear and anxiety, feelings that I shared. He nodded and left the room immediately, coming back with the healer, Marion and a few potions in a matter of minutes.

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Kemy

I couldn't stop crying as I hugged my sister, all my fear and sadness dissolved in happiness and a tiny bit of shock. Once the sun set and everything went dark, I thought I was alone forever in my mind. That was when I heard Ember's deep roar as she flew in my direction, not only an outline of her body, but her full and normal figure. Her soul was healed.

We were complete, one with our mate thus her soul wasn't lacking a part anymore, we had Henry's soul deeply within ours.

Mallory cupped my cheeks and looked intently at me, her face covered with tears mirrored mine. We smiled and cried together, looking at each other and saying many things about pain, longing and love without the need of words. I sank into her arms once again and we cried some more.

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looked to the other side, motioning for me to follow his gaze. The man Mal called Daniel, another dragon lady and someone who I thought was a witch entered the room.

"I am Marion. Welcome back, Kemy. We are all so happy to see you awake." She had a beautiful smile on her face and exuded grace and elegance.

"Hello dear! I am so happy to see you awake. Call me Jen, I am a healer and I will take a look at you." The brunette witch smiled warmly and I nodded.

"Thank you so much!"

Henry gave her some space and she leaned on my bed beside me, touching the top of my head and chanting something in an unknown language under her breath. In a twinkling, I could feel the warmth of her healing energy entering my body, making me feel stronger and more alive, more awake than I could remember.

She moved her hand away and stood up, her smile unfazed, "You are healthy and fine, my dear. I can feel that your Dragon is fine too, but she is sleeping in the corner of your mind, she is really tired. You shouldn't feel any pain or discomfort, but your muscles will need some time to recover all their movement and normal strength; you should take it easy in the next few days, baby steps."

"Isn't there a potion you can give her to help speed up her recovery?" Daniel asked, his brows slightly furrowed and his forehead creased with worry.

They seemed to really care about me. The way they set this beautiful, ample and comfortable room for me coupled with the worry and relief in their faces were proof of it. I knew that I could feel at home here with Mal, my clan and my new family very soon,

"No, I can give her the potions to make her feel a bit better. But I can't heal something that isn't an illness or injury. All she needs is time and rest. I see you have a very fine mate, my dear," she said, ogling Henry a bit and making me giggle as Henry let out a little growl, "But you shouldn't mate in the next week or so, no matter how hard it might be. You need to rest and recover," she added and my smile faded. Bummer!

"Resting is the last thing I want to do," I sighed, looking between my mate and my sister. I want to be with them and do awake things, go to places, see people, walk around and maybe even swim.

"I can't even begin to imagine how you are feeling, but you were asleep for so long, it will be hard for your body to get back to normal," Mallory reasoned.

I nodded, she was right. Henry took me in his arms, reassuring me with his embrace. Speaking of his embrace, it felt even better than in my dreams, his smell of rain and fresh-cut grass, the way his strong muscles felt against my body. Jen was right, it was going to be hard to not jump him.

"What else do you want to do now that you are awake?" Mallory asked sweetly.

"First of all, I want to shower. I seriously missed the feeling of water against my skin so much. Then, maybe eat lasagna."

"Your favourite! Maybe I can try to make it just like Mamma used to do it," Mal smiled. I was already excited to eat it again, my mouth was watering.

"But now, shower... Henry, care to join me?" I asked my mate bluntly, even though I could feel my cheeks heat up a little with a tiny bit of embarrassment. Jen chuckled and winked at me and Mallory opened her eyes widely. I think I will always be her baby sister even though she isn't even three years older than me.

My mate chuckled, scooping me up in his arms, "Sure, Sweetness. But I think you shouldn't try to

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"Fine," I agreed and he carried me to the en-suite bathroom, leaving everyone behind. After filling the bathtub my mate sat there and placed me on his lap. Washing my body slowly and carefully with a flannel.

I let out something between a moan and a sigh, it felt so good to be in his arms. He cupped my breasts gently, brushing the washcloth around my nipples teasingly.

"Henry, don't be mean! You know we can't mate!" I complained, turning around at the speed of a lazy snail to bite his bottom lip in retaliation. After a full minute, I succeeded in my mission and my mate laughed.

"We can't mate but I can still pleasure you, my Beauty, if you aren't too tired." His smile was pure mischief and I threw my head back, laying on his shoulder, "Do whatever you want to me, Mr. Hot Alpha," I sighed dramatically, making him chuckle.

In no time, his hands were all over my body, including where I needed them. He flicked the sensitive spot within my folds slowly and skillfully, entered me with a finger, and caressed my insides with each fast thrust, but when he added a second finger I whimpered. He withdrew his second finger immediately and kissed my shoulders many times to soothe me. I guess we couldn't go as fast and intense as we wanted to, not even when it was only about fingers. I was like a virgin once again.

"Sorry, Beauty. I see I'll have to break through it again to thrust deep into you. It will be my pleasure to make you mine once again, Kemy. Claim your body and your soul, with my dick and my mark," his words made me tremble in desire, my breath was already worked up.

I wanted him within me so badly, I needed to be one with my mate; my body, my heart, my soul and Ember longed urgently for this union, for the kind of love that makes two become one.

After a few minutes of his delicious caresses, I was already melting in pleasure. My body didn't seem too tired for that. I stayed there, happy and sated in his arms as he finished washing me. He took me out of the bath and dried me carefully, wrapping me in a fluffy white bathrobe before taking me to the bed and sitting me down there. My lasagna was already waiting for me and Mal had a huge smile on her face.

Daniel was by her side, making me wonder if he was her mate. Maybe Henry mentioned her mate's name, but my mind was still a bit hazy. He placed a quick kiss on the top of her head and left the room.

I couldn't stop smiling, to the point that the poor dormant muscles of my face were hurting a bit. But there was nothing I could do about that, I was surrounded by life and love, with my mate and Mal by my side.

Little did I know that this moment of peace would be very brief.

Mallory

After eating, Kemy and I talked for hours, but I didn't mention what happened to me in the Red Devils lab. She didn't need to hear that, especially not now. She had to relax and focus on recovering her strengths and adjusting to being awake and having a normal life once again.

Things were feeling more normal for me as well, now that I had my sister back. I looked at her and smiled, my heart full and warm.

"Is Daniel your mate, Mal? You haven't told me much about him?" Kemy's words and curious gaze made me snap back from my thoughts.

"He is, but we haven't mated...yet," I muttered and Kemy gave me a confused questioning look.

"I am taking things slowly, but he is a wonderful man, patient, sensitive, dedicated and so handsome," I let out a dreamy sigh, making my sister giggle.

"Now you have nothing to worry about anymore, I am awake and fine and I think you should start thinking about yourself some more. You were way too good for me, but you ended up forgetting yourself, Mal. Come on, stop waiting and start being happy," she added, hugging me, her green eyes full of tenderness.

"I will... try, I promise," I smiled.

It was a relief to know that I wasn't the only one looking after her, she now had Henry and our clan as well, and I knew she was happy and fine, yet I would always worry about my baby sister. I sighed quietly, thinking about myself had only meant thinking about pain for so long. But now, with Daniel in my life, things were starting to change, and my painful memories weren't my only companion anymore.

Kemy started yawning and even though I knew she wanted to fight her own tiredness and enjoy being awake, she should rest, her body needed it to recover.

"Good night, Kemy. I am going to sleep and I think you should do the same. We can talk more and maybe even go to the beach tomorrow. Marbella is a beautiful city, I haven't seen much besides the beach in front of the house, we could go sightseeing once you are feeling better."

"I have to sleep to recover from sleeping, this is so ironic," Kemy huffed and shook her head, making Henry chuckle.

He was on a chair on the other side of the room, guarding her but giving us some space at the same time. As soon as I motioned to leave, he returned to Kemy's bed and enveloped her in his arms. We bid goodnight and I walked out of Kemy's room and left her with her mate. It was crystal clear how in love they were and how comfortable they felt around each other.

Would I have something like that one day? I sighed, walking down the hall. I was so distracted with my thoughts that I passed straight by my door and found myself almost by Daniel's room.

Alessia hummed in my mind, it was her way of telling me that, if I wanted to have something like Kemy and Henry did, I would have to be brave and take a chance, take one step further.

But my legs hesitated, and I was about to turn around and head to my room, when Daniel opened his door alluring me with his perfectly sculpted naked chest before my gaze met his.

"How are you?" he asked softly.

"I think I've never felt so relieved in my entire life. I can't even start to process it, she's well, Daniel! She is really alive," I breathed deeply, letting my emotions and a couple of tears flow.

He took me in his arms, slowly, waiting for my reaction but as soon as I relaxed into his embrace he pressed me against his muscular chest, and it felt so good.

naze or warmth and comfort to be able to say anything coherent.

“I don’t want to let you out of my arms tonight. Sleep in my bed with me, only sleep, nothing else...” he murmured and I only took a deep breath in response, making his face contorted with anxiety, “I shouldn’t have asked for that. I am sorry, I don’t want you to think I am pressuring you into anything, take your time,” he added, relaxing his hold on me and taking a few steps back.

I breathed deeply again and chewed my bottom lip nervously, “I want that, to only sleep in your bed with you.”

That’s just great! I sounded like an i***t, but before I could feel embarrassed by my behaviour, his tense expression was replaced by a beautiful smile and he wrapped me in his arms once again, running his fingers through my hair and planting a kiss on the top of my head.

I also didn’t want to leave his arms. Ever.

Alessia whimpered in contentment in my mind, she was so happy to be close to him. He opened the door to his perfectly neat room. The bed was perfectly tidy, and everything seemed completely organised and clean. Everything was in place to such an extent that it didn’t even seem anyone even lived here. I swallowed hard—how could a man like this want a mess like me?

“Do you need anything? Are you... thirsty?” he asked, combing a strand of hair behind my ear.

“No, I am fine.” That was my answer while all I wanted to say was, ‘I only need you,’ but I bit my tongue before these words escaped my lips.

He went to his wardrobe, took a large blue t-shirt and offered it to me, “I imagine you want to sleep in something more comfortable,” he said, causing me to lower my gaze to my tight jeans and my tank top.

Without hesitating, I took his t-shirt from his hands and went to the bathroom to put it on; it smelled like him and I really wanted his smell all over my skin. The shirt reached into my thighs, which made me a little self-conscious, but before I could take it off and put my clothes on again, Alessa sent me the mental image of me naked in his arms this morning.

I could do it! I looked at myself in the mirror of his perfectly neat bathroom and gave myself an encouraging smile.

After I left the bathroom, he led me to his bed and I lay by his side. He should be tired, it was already past two a.m., from shifting for the first time in years to Alma giving birth to her babies and Kemy waking up, we all had a long day— an absolutely happy, but also exhausting day.

Daniel took my hand in his, just like he did last night and while it made a surge of warmth dance down my spine, I needed more.

I rolled to my side and wrapped a hesitant arm around him, which encouraged him to wrap me in with his arms and kiss my forehead a couple of times. His soft kisses and touches were enough to ignite fire through my bloodstream, I was burning for him. The juncture between my legs was all warm and moistened again. What was wrong with me? I’d never been this way before, only with him and for him.

My teeth grazed at my bottom lip as embarrassment made me not know what to do. He looked intently at my tense face and kissed my lips gently.

“You have nothing to feel shy about, Mallory. You are beautiful and you smell so good,” he whispered, caressing my hair.

He could read me so well, yet he knew nothing about me, about what was made of me. Would he still want me if he knew it all? I sighed deeply and Daniel turned to his side and tightened his hold on me.

“How was it with Kemy? Could you talk?”

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talking to her. It almost felt like when we were young and used to go swimming in the river near our house with our parents. We used to swim together, and when the sun was about to set, we had a picnic and talked for hours. I mean, I mainly talked to Kemy and mum was with dad," I smiled remembering my family and the way my parents love each other, the way dad used to hug mum and wrap Kemy and me in huge blankets when the chilly wind of the night started to blow. Not that we would feel cold, we were dragons, but he wanted to make sure nevertheless.

"I had brothers as well, two brothers, actually. They died in the war," Daniel sounded gloomy and his eyes were laced with sadness.

My lips brushed against his cheek in a gentle kiss, and I ran my fingers through his short dark brown hair, trying to comfort him. I felt a rumble form within his chest, it seemed to have worked and he was visibly more relaxed now, and a soft smile formed on my lips. Although it pained me to see him hurting, I was so happy to have this effect on him, to make him feel good and give him a little peace of mind.

"I am sorry, Daniel," I murmured.

"It's fine, Baby. We all lost so much in the war," he exhaled heavily, looking away.

I bit my lips at his words; he called me *Baby* and I was swooning like a teenage girl and surely I had a silly smile on my face.

I kissed his cheek once again, my lips roaming down to his prickly stubble when he moved and pressed his lips against mine, licking my lips gently before swirling his tongue into my mouth. His kiss was gentle and urgent, and I responded to it, pouring my own need into our kiss, moulding my lips against his and running my fingers across his strong chest.

He was so handsome!

His lips roamed down to my neck and he sucked my skin, licking it to soften the slight sting of his grazing teeth. He stopped, and looked at my eyes, his jaw was locked and he looked very tense. Was he angry or irritated? He kissed my lips once more, dissolving my doubts in the warmth of his lips, but the kiss didn't linger and he turned to lay on his back once again.

He rubbed his face in aggravation and I brushed my lips on his chest, trying to make him feel better, but he cupped my face, gently stopping me and making me look at him. Didn't he like my kisses? I haven't kissed many guys before, I haven't really dated much, I had so much to do when my parents died and my priorities were getting to the Warrior Academy and looking after Kemy and then... my life became a nightmare. I pushed the dreadful thought away and tried to focus on the matter at hand: my lack of kissing skills.

"Tell me more about Kemy?" he asked, caressing my hair. My poor Daniel still looked very tense and uncomfortable.

"She is very happy with Henry, and I am so glad for her. I never imagined that he would turn out to be such a good mate for my sister. But he is, somehow their connection was what brought her back," I couldn't stop smiling thinking about my sister and how happy she was.

"Henry surprised me too. At first, I didn't trust him at all, but now he is starting to gain my trust. I can see how he truly cares about your sister."

"He does and she is so in love as well," I smiled.

Daniel exhaled sharply and looked away for a moment before his eyes met mine once again.

"It's hard to resist, you have such a beautiful smile, Mallory. And the way you smell, it's just the best thing I've ever scented," he murmured, looking intently at me, his grey eyes were a shade darker. He traced

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That was when realisation hit me; he wasn't angry or frustrated about my lack of kissing skills, he was trying to control himself, his desire. I looked at the tent in his pants, to confirm my theory.

"I don't want to pressure you or go too fast, Mallory." He clenched his lips in a thin line and sank his head further into the pillow. I sat up and leaned down a little, looking at him and cupping his face, his sexy stubble ticked my hands a little.

"You aren't doing any of those things, you are being great, much better than I could ever wish for," I murmured, kissing him. It didn't matter if I was bad at it, I wanted to—no, I needed to—kiss him anyway, and the more I practiced the better I would become.

He placed his hand on the nape of my neck and pulled me towards his warm chest, our bodies were pressed against each other and the heat in my core radiated through my whole body as he caressed my thighs.

I wanted him, and I wanted to be brave. I pulled the shirt up and took it off, making Daniel gape at me, his jaw dropped open.

"I can't do it... and I can't be touched down there, but anything else... I want— you can, anything else," I mumbled, half confused and half nervous.

"Fine, Baby." His voice sounded huskier, throaty and it was doing things to me and making me even more liquid and warm.

He caressed me from the small of my back until my shoulder blades, leaving behind a trail of electric tingles and insane desire. My lips were moulding against his as we seemed to drink and eat each other, in our immense desire.

Alessia sent me the image of me naked in Daniel's arms in the cave once again, and I knew well what my naughty dragon wanted. I breathed deeply and unclasped my bra, pressing my breasts against Daniel's chest and making him groan.

He licked a straight line down my neck and pressed a kiss on my marking spot before his lips were on my collarbone.

"Can I kiss them, Mallory?" he asked, looking at my perked rosy nipples.

"Yes, but no bites," I told him and he nodded, cupping a boob in his hand as he peppered kisses on my other breast.

Soon, he was licking my nipple and making me whimper in pleasure, my panties were ruined now. I was so overwhelmed that I started trembling, but it felt so good.

He held my waist and this time it didn't bother me at all, only fed my desire. I ran my hands from his chest to his rippled abdomen, feeling their sculpted perfection against my fingers. Daniel moved to my other n****e, kissing and licking it gently.

"Daniel," I moaned, pressing my body against his almost desperately. He palmed my butt hesitantly and took it away, looking up and asking for permission.

I placed his hand there once again and gave him a small smile, "gently," I said and he nodded.

Having his hand there, was making me throb, burn for more, but I knew my limits and I was aware that not taking them into consideration would only hurt myself and frustrate my mate.

He showed me how good I could feel in my skin, in myself and it made me want more, made me want to feel good only and to not shackle myself with pain. His caresses, his kisses and the way he looked at me, as if I, my words, and what I wanted matter so much, made me think about myself; dared me to think about myself first without feeling either guilty or filthy.

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He ran his hand from the back of my thigh to my neck sending a delicious shiver of pleasure down my spine, as goosebumps erupted all over my skin. After turning us to the side, his lips trailed up my neck and met mine, in a warm, soft and delicious kiss.

“Don’t ever doubt I want you, Mallory. *You* are all I want, to kiss you, caress you, and even hold your hand and look into your eyes. I will be the mate you deserve, Baby. I will protect you and make you happy, always. And I would rather die than fail you,” his words were full of conviction and they made my heart swell.

“Daniel, you won’t fail me, you are so good, too good to be true,” I muttered, looking down.

My mate chuckled, “I might not be good, but I am surely very lucky,” he pronounced every word looking intently at me, and making my heart beat faster than dragon wings, I was the lucky one.

We kissed each other for a few more minutes. My hands wandered around his muscular perfection and his soft, warm, passionate and even hungry kisses covered my lips, my neck, my shoulders and my breasts.

Daniel planted a last feather-light kiss on my forehead, and I snuggled into his chest, falling asleep in his arms, feeling safer and happier than I could remember, probably than ever.

Alma

Egan had his arms wrapped around me, as I nursed our baby girl. Our boy was sleeping in his crib by our bed. My gaze travelled across the three of them, my family. I never knew that my heart could be filled with so much love; it was so much that it was leaking through my eyes in tears and my lips in heavenly smiles.

I pressed a kiss on my daughter's bald head and snuggled her further into my chest, "They are so cute, beautiful. Perfect. I am already looking forward to giving them another sibling," I couldn't stop smiling, completely in love and almost high on tenderness.

Egan chuckled, "Little Ruby, maybe we should wait and talk about it."

Turning to look over my shoulder, my eyes found his blue and hazel one, "I thought we had a breed to save and I do want a big family of little dragons looking like you!"

I did, now that my parents were gone, they—the clan and Niki—were my entire family and I wanted to see my family grow.

"It was a very complicated labour, I thought I lost you," he looked away for a moment and I took his hand in mine to reassure him.

I didn't want to push too much, I knew that with time I would probably convince him. Egan peppered my head and shoulder with many soft kisses as he rubbed our little Amaris's back.

"I just feel like staying with them, with the three of you for days and forget the whole world." A sweet sigh left my lips before I turned around and brushed them on Egan's in a soft kiss.

"I think you are nesting as dragons do. We, most of the time the mums, stay with their babies in their nest for the first days after they are born," he explained.

"Only the mums. How about you?" I asked, frowning slightly.

"Ruby, nothing in the world would make me leave this nest of love."

I nuzzled my face against his, he was the best dad and nest-mate I could ever wish for.

The noise of the door opening entered my ears and soon I saw my cat, Burbus, coming in, his tail up and his eyes bright with curiosity. He jumped on the bedside table and looked between us and the babies, before settling down there and sitting on his paws, becoming a huge and chubby ball of orange fur.

"You finally came to see your new baby sister and baby brother," I beamed, and Burbus mewed at me. I knew that because of his connection with the Great Golden Fire he would be able to feel when the babies came.

Even though Burbus was the laziest cat I've met, he stayed there with his eyes open, as if he was guarding the babies, watching over them.

Egan took our sated baby girl in his arms and she opened her little blue eyes slowly, yawning. His smile was so big that it almost filled his whole face, we couldn't be happier, if it weren't for Kemy and Henry.

As if on cue, we heard a soft knock on the door, which was open ajar, and Marion spoke without entering the room, "Kemy woke up and Jen has already taken a look at her. She is fine, spending some time with her mate and Mal as we speak."

"Thank you for coming here and giving the great news!" Egan told her and she left. I could imagine how she wanted to see the babies, but she was always so considerate and empathetic that she knew we needed some nesting time now.

A sigh of great relief left my lungs, and the somewhat stiff muscles of my shoulders relaxed a bit. I

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"Now our happiness is complete," I beamed, looking at Egan.

He kissed my lips gently, "Yes, it is and all because of you, my miracle!"

~ * ~

Kemy

"I didn't know we were in Spain. I am excited about the beach and sun, but I really miss home, the cloudy skies, the green fields, and the little cabin in the woods," I sighed nostalgically, looking out of the window of my room. I loved the way I spent the last few afternoons listening to the sound of the waves crashing on the sand and smelling the sea.

I woke up five days ago and I still haven't left the house. I still had trouble walking, meaning that I was slow like a lazy turtle and got tired very fast. Besides that, just the thought of going outside made my heart clench a little; everything seemed so big and new.

I told Henry, I didn't know what to do and how to be awake anymore.

But my biggest fear of all was to fall asleep. That was why I was roaming around the mansion like a half-dizzy zombie. I tried everything to stay awake, books, movies, cold showers, which didn't work that much... Once I ended up falling asleep in the cold shower and Henry found me there shivering in my sleep.

Unfortunately, Henry and I couldn't mate now, that would really work and keep me awake for hours. I couldn't get enough of him and I knew the feeling was mutual. Actually, my Big Hot Wolf was much hornier than me. His thing was always up and ready.

"We can go there, Sweetness. Visit your home before we go to our pack. As soon as you are completely fine and your muscles are working properly again, we can go," Henry said, caressing my hair and kissing my cheek.

My gaze met Mal's sad one, but her look soon moved away. She didn't say anything, but it was clear that she didn't want me to leave. I also wasn't ready to part from her, not at all. A sigh left my lips. I knew that I promised to go to Henry's pack with him and we had to do it sooner or later, but now that I was back to reality, the thought of it alone seemed very overwhelming.

Even here in this house, among dragons only, it felt like a crowd. It had been just Ember and me for so long, and then Henry and us, that I didn't know if I could do it again.

"Kemy, are you okay?" Henry tightened his hold around me and gently tilted my head to face him. My eyes met his for a moment before I looked down. I didn't know if I was okay, but I would do everything to get over my anxiety and be there for him, for our pack.

"I am fine," I shook my head.

"Let's go to the beach, relax a bit there, sit on the sand," Henry suggested, he surely knew I wasn't okay, and that I wasn't *that* good at hiding my feelings and thoughts.

"But I can hardly walk," I signed, looking at him.

"I can take you there in my arms," he brushed a lock of hair behind my ear and kissed my temple softly.

"Yes, Kemy, it's a good idea," Mallory added, "I will ask Daniel to join us," she beamed, excitedly.

I agreed with them, even though I preferred to only look at the sea from afar. I could see how worried they were about me, my lack of sleep and my inability to adapt to life. So, I gave in to them, it was good for them to *relax* a bit. Without waiting any further, Henry scooped me up in his strong arms and we headed downstairs, swiftly leaving the house. Mallory and Daniel were right behind us and a smile formed on my

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looked nappy and relaxed.

I cringed a bit as we walked through the main door, my heart clenching in my chest and pounding like a jackhammer at the same time. But I tried to brush the feeling off and hide my stress as much as I could.

Mallory placed a thick towel on the white sand and Henry placed me there, in front of the sea and only a few steps away from home, wrapped in the warmth of my mate's arms. It was supposed to make me safe enough, but it didn't. My eyes roamed around, there were maybe a dozen people on the beach, but it still felt like a suffocating crowd.

Ember whined in my mind, she felt the same as me. Which was stupid as I used to like people and I wasn't ever the shy kind, but now everything felt different. I hardly felt like myself.

A deep sigh escaped my lips and Henry caressed my sides, "Everything alright, Sweetness?"

I only nodded, snuggling into his chest and trying to pretend we were the only ones there, "We can go back, do you want to?" he asked, his voice laced with worry.

I shook my head, "No."

Now that the rainbow of excitement for being awake started growing dim and I started to see things in their true colours, I couldn't avoid being overwhelmed. Even when Daniel, Marion, Niki, Alev, Anitta and Adrian were around I felt like it was way too many people.

Forcing myself to calm down and take a deep breath, I looked at the sea. Maybe they were right and it could work, help me to relax.

It was okay, I would be okay and feel like myself again. Turning to look at Mal, I saw her placing her head on Daniel's shoulder and smiling, relaxed, adapted, doing what a normal person was supposed to do, but I couldn't do it.

My eyes drifted to the horizon once again, to where the sea seemed to end and the sky started, but my body jerked in startlement as I saw something, someone. No, that couldn't be!

My breath hitched in my throat and the words left my mouth inadvertently, in some kind of bizarre flashback, "don't sleep darling, I will get you out of here soon."

"Kemy?" Henry shook my shoulders slightly, helping me to snap out from my haze. His blue eyes were fixed on mine, examining my face.

"The Doctor! He is here, I saw him! I saw him!" I yelled in panic.

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