

The Alpha's Slave Mate Chapter 31

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Daphne's Point of View

It has been a couple of weeks since I moved in with Caleb. I am still getting used to my new life, and I am learning new things quickly. My first few days here were a blur of action. Caleb insisted on buying me a whole new wardrobe. For the first time in my life I own jeans. I was astounded at the money Caleb was throwing around, but he insisted that it was for a good cause, because I can not run around naked.

Caleb was a great shopping partner until it came time for undergarments. At that point he called in Hannah as a reinforcement. ‘

Hannah was a ton of fun shopping with. She filled the cart with all kinds of lacy panties, with bras to match. We giggled as we held them up to each other in front of the dressing room mirror. Hannah insisted I get a few thongs, I thought that they would be uncomfortable, but surprisingly they are not. She eventually talked me into buying a few lingerie things as well. I was blushing when I told her that I would not even know when to use them, but she told me that I would know when the time was right.

Everyone knew that Caleb and I had marked each other, but I have been stalling him on when we will have a commitment ceremony. I accept the fact that Caleb is my mate.

Even though I am still learning things about the mating process, I am not ready to stand in front of everyone and make our vows. I just need some time to adjust. As soon as I think I have one thing down, something else pops up that I must get used to. I am also scared about becoming Luna of the pack. I did not think about that when I marked Caleb. Well to be honest I was only thinking about one thing when I marked Caleb. I really do not believe that I will make a good Luna, and I feel like I will eventually let Caleb down.

Caleb swears that I am doing great and learning at a fast pace. One of the things that I had to learn is that Caleb believes in both men and women warriors. He asked me to start training with the younger wolves, since I have never trained before. He said that I should at least know how to defend myself in case of a surprise attack.

I was embarrassed that I had to train with the younger pups at first, even more embarrassed that they could beat me in sparring. The first couple days of training whooped my butt. My thighs, calves, and arms felt like they weighed a million pounds. I am learning quickly though, and now I have started training with the teenage wolves. It may not seem like much to some people, but I am proud of my progress. ‘

Theo has taken to teaching me about the politics that Caleb is involved in. I have learned about the packs that are closest to ours, the ones that have issues with out pack, and how Caleb deals with rogues. In my old pack I was taught that rogues were dangerous creatures, not to be trusted. People told tales of rogues attacking just for sport.

Although Theo confirmed that it does happen sometimes, he explained that not all rogues are bad. He used Hannah as an example. If Hannah's parents had not been killed, then she would have been raised a rogue. She never had the choice as to whether she wanted to belong to a pack. Theo went on to explain that some of their best warriors were in fact at one time considered rogues. +

The most amazing thing that I had learned so far though is how Omega wolves are treated here. Caleb does not mistreat his Omega wolves at all, in fact he tries to find what they are passionate about and helps hone their skills so that they are useful to the pack. The Chief doctor here is an Omega but he is treated as if he were equal to Theo. Learning this made me feel completely comfortable with Caleb, and his pack. Caleb has built a small empire not on fear but with respect.

Everyone has a job that benefits the pack in some way, and they are made to feel important. ”

Caleb works a lot, which I should have expected since he is the Alpha. He trains in the mornings with his elite soldiers. Then he is constantly in business meetings, trade negotiations, or handling pack business. Caleb also makes it a mission to meet any newborn pups in the pack. I love how close he is with his pack members, but between his work schedule and my training and schooling we have not had a lot of time to spend together.

I find that I miss Caleb when he gets very busy. I do not know if it is because we marked each other, or because I am developing feelings for him. Either way I decided that tonight I want to make him some dinner, and perhaps try out one of those lingerie pieces that Hannah talked me into buying. So, after Theo's lessons I ran down to the little store here in town and picked up some fresh fish, salad greens, potatoes, and a few other items.

I know that Caleb likes fish, and so I'll figure a nice seared salmon with lemon garlic butter, and scalloped potatoes would make for a filling entrée. I grab the salad greens to prepare a nice side salad as an appetizer. I know that Theo is taking Hannah to a neighboring town this evening so we should have the house to ourselves.

As dusk approaches! set to cooking in the kitchen. I hum a little as I am preparing our food, looking forward to surprising Caleb. He has done so much for me, that I like that I am able to do this for him. Plus, it makes me think of happy housewives and I play around with that thought for a moment. Once the food is done, I turn it on the warmer,

waiting for Caleb to get home. I think he was handling some trade negotiations today, so I expected him home before now.

I push away my disappointment and instead go upstairs to change into the lingerie that Hannah and I bought. I pull out the black lace teddy. Of the ones I bought this one covers the most, but it feels amazing against my skin. The lace is very soft, it has a sweetheart bustline that enhances the curves of my breasts. The spaghetti straps crisscross in the back before meeting again with the barely there lace that covers my ass. I let my hair down and brush it out good. For a moment I wish I would have asked Hannah to do my makeup, but I will have to go without tonight. Finally, I feel like I am presentable, and even turn to look myself over in the mirror.

I head back downstairs to see if Caleb has made it home yet. It is getting late and I have still not heard from him. If the fish stays in the warmer much longer it will turn rubbery. Time ticks on and I have still not heard anything from Caleb. I finally shut the oven off and throw out the fish. I hate to admit it but I am crushed that the night I planned out has been ruined. The thought is enough that I just head upstairs and lay down.

As I lay in our bed, I find tears pricking the back of my eyes. My anxiety and fears have finally caught up with me. Laying here I wonder if he has already grown tired of me. Perhaps he is in the arms of someone else tonight. Has he decided that he does not want a slave as his mate after all? I know that my mind is running wild, but after spending so little time together lately I can not stop the destructive thoughts. I curl into a ball and allow my fears to consume me as I cry my frustrations out in my pillow. Finally, the sweet call of sleep rocks my exhausted body, and as I drift off I am crushed that he is still not beside me.

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Caleb's Point of View

Work has consumed me lately. We are expecting a harsh winter, so I have been in trade negotiations with neighboring packs, trying to ensure that everyone is supplied. I have also been fielding a lot of questions about my mate. Although Daphne and I have marked each other, we have not set a date for the ceremony. This is making people question whether we are true mates. Daphne should have stepped up as my Luna, but she is still learning about herself and our pack. I know that she is not ready. I am hoping to shield her from the extra attention for a little while longer. Hopefully with time she will become more comfortable with her new position in life.

This waiting game has taken its toll on me though. I hear the rumors that we have trouble in paradise, that she is not my real mate, that a spell was cast over me to make me believe that she is my mate. They are a bunch of crap, but rumors spread quickly. Even Marcus has called me to chat this week about them. I have Theo teaching Daphne as fast as he can about the politics that govern us, and about the pack and its history. She is a quick learner, but because she was so sheltered and abused it is like trying to cram fifteen years of knowledge into a few short weeks. I know that we will have to do the ceremony soon in order to put these rumors to rest. I can not have the entire werewolf community doubting my mate before she even has a chance to prove herself as a Luna. I also have a sneaking suspicion that some of these rumors were started by members of the Silver Moon pack.

Although I was fair in the deal I made with Alpha Jason for Daphne, I know that he is not happy with the fact that I will not open trade negotiations with him and his pack. It did not help that I basically threatened to destroy his pack. What did he expect though, he mistreated my mate? Any male but especially an Alpha male would be outraged about the mistreatment of his mate. Either way the rumors are getting out of hand, and I fear that it could bring trouble to my pack. If these rumors continue it will make my pack look weak, and that could bring us under attack. ~

Many people have coveted what I have built here, but few are willing or able to do the work that it takes to get here. More than once we have been attacked by someone stupid enough to think that they can step into my shoes. Not to toot my own horn but my people follow my lead out of respect and love, not fear. I doubt that they would work as well under a tyrant. Luckily, most of my neighboring packs have Alphas that work very similarly to me, and we generally get along. °

I know that I must talk to Daphne soon about the mating ceremony, but I have been putting it off. I do not want to stress her out. I am scared that if I do it will hinder the progress she has already made. I can see how far she has come in such a short time. She is doing well in training. As an Alpha sometimes I have to travel, and I want to make sure that she can defend herself

in my absence. She has made great progress in learning defense techniques in both her human and wolf form. She is also doing well with Theo, and I know he is teaching her some etiquette as well because as my Luna she will be expected to attend social events with me. ‘

Sighing I close my logs for the evening. Glancing at the clock I can see that it is later than I thought. I hope Daphne is not too upset with me for working so late. I had been in conference calls all day negotiating the movement of winter supplies. Then I reviewed the supply ledgers to ensure that our pack would have enough to get us through. ° I hurry back to the house, anxious to see my mate. Walking in I smell the faint odor of fish and assumed that Daphne was in the kitchen. Surprisingly when I get to the kitchen she is no where to be seen, but the odor of fish is coming from the waste basket and I can see fish and potatoes in there. Was she sick, the food does not look touched?

I hurry up the stairs to our room, concerned that Daphne is sick. Opening the door, I can see that she is already in bed. As I get closer to her, I can see that there are dried tears on her cheeks. Still worried that she is ill, I press my lips to forehead, but she does not seem warm. I straighten up confused as to what caused her to cry. Finally, I notice that she is in a black lace lingerie dress. ° Boom, like a lightening flash erupting in my brain the pieces come together. My mate had been crying because of me.

The realization floors me, and IJ have to take a step back. Settling myself on the couch that faces the bed, I start to piece together tonight the best I can from my mate's point of view. I assume that the food I found in the waste basket she had prepared for us. The new black lingerie she had lovingly put on for a night of romance. Only I left her wanting, I did not show up. I ruined her night and caused her pain.

Looking at her in the dark I start to review the last couple of weeks. I realize that I have had almost tunnel vision when it comes to Daphne. I have been so focused on making sure that she was training and learning our ways that I have neglected her feelings. As an Alpha I am busy, the workload is tremendous. Before Daphne I never had to consider how late I work, or if my actions would personally affect another person. I need to do better; I need to be a better mate. She deserves at least that much from me.

I watch her sleeping for a while longer before stripping off my clothes and climbing into bed. I pull Daphne close to me cradling her in my arms. I whisper in her ear how sorry I am and make promises to do better. I am already formulating a plan in my head that will hopefully show my mate how dedicated I am to her.