

desk. Stencils were ready and I had 15 minutes to spare so I pulled out my sketch book.

Alec walked over and looked at my phoenix.

"That looks amazing."

"Thanks." He took the book and fl*pped through it.

While he looked, I remembered I needed to send spelling bee words. Sending the link to

the words I had picked out was easy enough.

The evening pasted slow with Alec looking over me and the guys I was tattooing not

having a pain tolerance. I just needed one more hour to finish and he had to schedule for

another day. I swear, guys are huge babies when it comes to pain. 5

Alec looked bored in the corner of the room. He watched me work for the most part or

texted on his phone. Part of me wanted to know who he was texting but it was also none

of my business.

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After the last guy left, it was nice to lock the door and take a deep breath. Finally, all day

and I was ready for bed.

"Done?" Alec asked as he watched me put gloves on and start to clean up.

"Yeah, just need to clean up and balance my books." Throwing away the sharps in an

approve container, everything else went in the trash. The reusable items went into the

sterilizer. Then just had to disinfect it

all.

Alec just watched me work. Occasionally I flinched but it wasn't anything I needed help on.

"Does Luna A nn hit you?" Alec asked me randomly.

My whole b*dy froze. S hit. He probably already knew the answer but wanted to hear me

say it. "Doesn't

matter. I won't be around much longer."

"What do you mean?"

"Once I'm 18, I'm leaving and traveling until Colt takes over. Then I'll come back."

"Why doesn't Colt stop her or your dad?"

"Colt has done more for me than anyone else. He has been there and does what he can.

It's not like he

can be around me 24/7 plus it's not like I can't handle a bruise or a split l*p." I sighed as I

sat in my chair

to finish my book work.

Alec came over and stood at my desk. "Where do you want to go?"

Glancing at him, I was taken aback. "Anywhere, everywhere. Anywhere that isn't here."

"How will you keep tattooing?"

"Suppose I'll have to put that on hold."

"What about a mate?"

"You sure have a lot of questions." I muttered, tired of the third degree.

"Just curious"

"Well, when I find him, I'll ask him."

Knock! Knock! Looking over, Colt was standing at the door. Alec went over and opening it.

"Alec." Colt said as he walked in.

"Colt." They didn't measure each others di cks but they were close.

"What's up bro?"

"Just checking in on you." He came over and looked at what I was working on.

Doing good. Its going to be a good month."

"Good, that will make it easier for you."

"Easier for her?" Alec asked confused.

"For when I start traveling. If I am cut off, I have my own money to live off of." I answered

not really

carrying if he knew.

You're okay with her leaving?" Alec asked Colt.

"F uck no but I rather her not get abused anymore either."

Chapter 0012

"Not sure why I have to wait till I'm 18. I'm smarter than everyone." I said stubbornly.

Colt smiled at me. "Although I agree with you, we made a deal."

"Whatever."

"Besides, dad asked what we wanted to do for our 18th birthday. I think he wants to have

a massive party." Colt folded his arms.

"Do I have to go to it?" It sounded like a terrible idea.

"You do and you have to wear a dress."

"Not much of a birthday party for me, then."

"What do you want to do for your birthday?" Alec asked.

"Hmm." I had to think about it. "Maybe go on a hike up a mountain or lay on the beach or

even a pool. Something small and intimate."

"Why not tell your dad that is what you want?" Alec asked.

"It is expected we find our mate as soon as we turn 18. To start a full training on whatever

job we are doing. In Colts case, they need to train a Luna." I frowned.

"I think dad expects you to be mated to Ace so your are a beta female." Colt frowned.

"Which is a step down plus I already do more work the An n does in a year."

"A big party increases our chances of finding a mate." Colt continued.

"What will a mate do for me? Even if it was Ace, that just means I am stuck here for the

rest of my life."

"But once I take over, no one will ever lay a hand on you again." Colt promised.

"Sorry, I guess this is family drama you don't care about. Poor alpha female whining about

being disciplined."

"Every pack has family drama. I'm not going to tell anyone yours." Alec promised.

"Have you found your mate?" Colt asked Alec.

"Nope. Not in a hurry." Alec shrugged.

"That's right. The chick that attacked Kris is your girl." Colt got annoyed,

"Was, after the disrespect she showed in the pizza parlor, I dumped her." He acted like it

was no big deal.

"I'm hungry and tired. You boys can stay here and talk but I want food."

"! promised Kara I would take her out. I just wanted to come here and check on you." Colt

frowned.

"Enjoy your date. I'll grab my car and get something."

Colt looked at his watch. "I have time to run you home..."

"I got it dude. I had already planned on it." Alec spoke up.

"Alright." Colt looked at me. "Text me when you get home."

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"Yes, sir." Rolling my eyes, I said it extremely sarcastic. Colt smiled, k*ssed my forehead

and walked out.

"When you are ready, we can go." Alec looked at his watch too.

"If I'm keeping you, I can walk."

"Nope, I'm good."

After finishing a few entries, I was ready to go. "Ready."

"Good, let's go." Alec all but pushed me out the door. I guess he was in a hurry too.

"What's the rush? I thought you didn't have plans?"

"I just made some." Alec smiled as he started the engine.

Rolling the window down, I let the wind flow in my face as he raced down the road. It

wasn't until he

missed the turn that I looked at him. "Um, you missed the turn!"

"No I didn't."

"Yes.. You did. You can't go to my pack house this way."

"We aren't going to your pack house."

"But your plans...?" I was so confused.

"My plans are with you."

"With me? Why?"

"Do you have a curfew?" Alec smirked at me.

"Well, no."

"What's wrong? Do I make you nervous?"

"S hit, no you don't." Deciding I wasn't going to get answers, I turned my attention back to

the window. The wind was warm as it hit my face. The starts were shinning brightly,

illuminating the world around me. It really was a perfect night. 2

When Alex turned, I realized his plans. "Really?" I sounded way too excited for this.

"Never come here?"

Chapter 0013

"Nope." It was a drive in movie. You could order food and watch a movie. Tonight, Twister

was playing.

"I hope you like cheeseburgers." Alec smiled at my reaction.

"I do." Alec found a parking space towards the back of the lot. We got out and climbed on

the hood of his car. Alec pulled out a blanket so we didn't scratch the paint. "I assume you

come here often with girls."

"You would be the first. This is usually something I do by myself."

"Then why did you bring me?" I was surprised by his response.

"I wanted to watch a movie." Alec shrugged.

Our food came and the movie started. I loved this moving.

My cheeseburger was perfect and juicy. Alex had to give me a napkin as the juice ran

down my chin.

"Attractive." He teased.

"I try." Laughing so I cleaned it off.

"Can I ask you a question?"

"Sure." I was only half listening to him as I was watching the movie.

"What did you mean when you said you were smarter than everyone?"

"Just that. I am."

"What's your IQ?"

"That is reserved for my mate to know." I laughed. "I mean, it's not a secret but it is."

"Hmm."

"Just put it this way, I could have s kipped high school all together and went to college." I

already said too much. "Why are you so interested in me for?"

"I'm not really, just making conversation.."

"My life isn't as interesting as you think. This is what you get." I shrugged. Maybe

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someone will care enough to dig deep and force me to answer questions.

"Looks like it." Alec gave me a sad smile.

+15 BONUS

"Besides, if Angela was your type, I am the exact opposite so we can we fiends but I don't

think I'm girly

enough for you."

"I never said I was interested in you that way."

"No, you never did, did you." Fine, want to play it that way... "I guess the k*ss at the club

was in the heat of

the moment."

"Something like that." Alec kept his eyes on the movie. I didn't feel like pushing so we

watched the movie

in silence.

There was this weird chemistry between us. You could call it S**ual or maybe it was

because I didn't

grow up with him. Alec had that silent guy aura and was se xy as hell. That k*ss we shared

was intense. It was all I could do to focus on the movie and not get aroused.

"I love that movie." Alec said sliding off the hood. He held out his hands to help me down.

I appreciate it

as my rips were still hurting. 3

"I do too. Its a classic." Getting into the car, Alec put the blanket away. His phone buzzed,

making him check it before he got in.

"Everything okay?" I asked as he sl*pped in. His mood had changed.

"Yes" He said almost short. Flooring it, he peeled out of the parking lot.

My mouth opened and closed a few times before I just sat back and didn't speak. We got

to my packhouse in record time.

Alec leaned across me and opened the door but he didn't get out. "Oh, um...
Thanks for

supper and the movie." I said to him before I got out.

"Welcome." He was mad at something. Confused, I got out and before my door was shut,

he got on the gas and left quickly. That was weird.

It wasn't really late but no one was up, making it easy for me to get to bed.

"Ice?"

My b*dy started shaking. "The f u ck?" Peaking out from one eye lid, I saw Emmy sitting

on my bed.

"I came to spend the day with you."

"What about your mate?"

"I'll meet up with him tonight. Alec was in a pi ssy mood when he got home last night and

that carried over

"When did he get home?" I asked.

Chapter 0014

"Oh, I don't know. Around 11:30ish?" Emmy tried to remember, that wasn't far off from

when he dropped

me off. "Why?"

"No reason, just curious why he was so pis s y."

"Who knows."

"What do you want to do today?" I asked as I yawned and sat up.

"Any tattoos today?" Emmy asked.

"This afternoon I do. Nothing this morning."

"Good, lets go shopping for a dress tonight and a dress for your birthday party!" Emmy

looked way too

excited. 1

"Oh joy. Can't wait!" I said sarcastically. Getting out of bed, I tested my range of motion. It

was better but

still tender. My phone dinged so I grabbed it as I made my way to the bathroom. Looking

at it, I had two

messages.

Ace: hey, how are you feeling today?

Alec: sorry about last night.

Hmm, not ready to dive into that. Instead, my hair needed attention. My energy level was

low so putting it

in a messy bun and grabbed joggers and a crop top, I was ready to go.

"Very attractive." Emmy said as she looked me up and down.

"I tired" grabbing my purse, we headed out. 1

"I'm so excited!" Emmy squealed.

As we got to the lobby, Colt, the gang and dad were there. I was excited to see then but

then An n stepped

out from the kitchen. (1

"Where do you think you are going?" An n spit out.

"Shopping for a birthday dress." I answered honestly.

"There has been an increase of rogue attacks. Maybe a guy should go with you girls." Dad

said looking concerned.

"They will be fine. She needs something nice to wear." A nn gave me a look as she assessed my outfit.

"Maybe I can go for a bit?" Colt suggested.

"We don't need protection." I said annoyed. "I have the same training as them." "Emily..." An n said her name in a disgusted tone, "might. Her now pack will be upset if

she gets hurt under

our watch."

I really hated her. "She's not wrong. Alpha Marc did the right thing about Angela." Colt

agreed to my

dismay.

"Ace will go with them." Dad said finally

My heart sank. I was wanting some space. "Sure." Ace was leaning against the door

frame. His eyes

instantly went to mine as he spoke.

"Let's go." Emmy said as she grabbed my arm and pulled me out the door.

"I'm driving." Ace said as he got into his own sports car. Emmy automatically got in the

back, leaving me

the front seat. Awesome...

"To the mall!" Ace nodded as he stepped on the peddle. Emmy's phone rang. As she

talked on the phone,

it left us alone.

"You didn't answer my text." Ace said in the mind-link.

"Sorry, Emmy was forcing me to get out of bed. I'm feeling okay. Still sore but not bad."

"You been avoiding me." It was a statement, not a question.

"You're putting too much thought into it." I had to resist the urge to bit my fingernails 1

"Stop lying. You only started acting this way after Alec showed up. Is there something

going on there?" He sounded annoyed.

"No! Yes, no. Its not Alec it's the fact I will be 18 soon and the reality is just sinking it. We

may not be mates and if we aren't, what happens if he thinks there is anything romantic

between us."

"How do you feel about me?" Ace asked in a tone I couldn't read.

"I mean... Your a great friend. We had an agreement, it was only make out sessions and

that's it. No feelings and if one of us caught feelings, we were suppose to end it. Do you

have feelings?" I'm not sure I wanted to hear what I already knew.

"You dam n well know I do." He is full on anger now.

Thankfully Emmy got off the phone and started asking me questions. "What kind of dress

do you want?"

"This is a black tie event. Well, that is until 11 when the party starts!" I looked back and

smiled at her.

"Exactly. I want an all black number with sparkle." Emmy showed a sweetheart or just

strapless dress

with her fingers.

"I'm not sure I have a preference. Just something I can dance in."

"Well, it better now be too trashy or Luna An n will have a fit." Emmy rolled her eyes. "So

do it!"

"Ha! I was actually thinking of showing up in a scarlet red dress. Just to stand out and

make a statement."

Emmys eyes got wide. "That would make a statement."

We had just pulled into the parking lot. "Or maybe a white dress?"

"No, save that for your Luna Ceremony."

"Luna ceremony? Did you forget Colt is older and taking the spot?"

We got out of the car and started walking in. Ace stayed behind us. "I still think you will be

mated to an

alpha. Preferably Alec so we can still live in the same pack!",

"I highly doubt I am mated to him. No, my luck I will be stuck in this pack for the rest of

my life."

Ace held the door open for us as we walked in. "I'm sure your mate will want to travel!"

Emmy tried to

back peddle. My eyes glanced over at Ace who had a frown on. If I was mated to him, he

couldn't travel

with me but he also told me he wouldn't keep me here if I was. Though, he wouldn't let An

n hit me

anymore.

Chapter 0015

"Let's go in there!" Emmy squealed as she dragged me into the first store. It was Varanasi.

We had each picked out three dresses. All of Emmys were exactly like she talked about.

Mine were all very different

styles.

The first one was a dark green thin strapped dress with a deep V. It was tight around my

waist and then

went straight down. The slit came up to my mid-thigh. Walking out of the dressing room, I

got up and

stood in front of the mirrors.

"That looks good." Ace said out loud.

"It doesn't do much for my figure but I can dance in it"

"I don't like that for you." Emmy scrunched up her nose.

"Oh good. I wasnt feeling it." Now, Emmy was rocking a sweetheart strapless dress. It was

a mermaid

style but she didnt have the hips to fill it appropriately. "Not feeling that one either."

"Yeah, doesn't do much for me." Emmy agreed.

We went back into the dressing rooms. My next one was all black with random cut outs. It

had thicker straps that crossed under my boobs. This caused them to really lift and rise.

The does he game was strong. The cross went around to the back, crossed and came back

to the front. The cut outs were under my chest, my sides, and most of my back. The skirt

and more formed, showing off my curves perfectly. The cross in the back was mid back so

the part of the skirt that was crunched together sat right about my as s crac k. There was

a slit that came up to my upper thigh. Enough that I wouldn't be able to wear panties. I

felt beautiful and s exy. Defiantly not a dress An n would approve of.

Emmy walked out the same time. Her dress was a swoop neck but two very pointed edges

above each breast. It was a corset style black dress. The skirt had the front lifted up and

scrunched so it looked more like a party dress for salsa dancing.

"Holy fuck. Even if you don't wear that to your party, you are buying that dress." Emmy

stopped in her tracks.

"Da mn." Ace muttered before he started fidgeting in his seat.

"I really like that dress on you!" I told Emmy.

"Me too. It's flattering and I can dance."

Looking at myself in the mirror, I tried to picture myself all dolled up. Curly hair that was in

a low bun with

a few lose ends. Maybe even red l*ps and shoes

"Okay, we got one more." Emmy said excitedly.

Walking back to the fitting room, I had one more I was anxious to try on. I'll admit I loved

this black one more than I thought I would. Emmy was right. I'm buying it regardless. This

next one was Scarlett red. Just like I wanted. It was a corset style that really pushed the

girls up and sucked in my waist. However, it was lace and all see through. The breast were

lined black but you could see my stomach until the skirt

started. The slit was wide as the lace lined the silk shirt.

Walking out, Emmy had beat me. She looked stunning in a silk dress. It wasn't fully firm

fitted and

reminded me of more like a lingerie dress. With the tiniest straps, she looked perfect. "Get

some boob

tape and that's your dress."

"I know! I didn't think I wanted straps and honestly, I didn't realize they even had them."

Walking up next

to her, she finally realized what I was wearing. "Hot dam n!"

"I know! It's se xy in its own way."

"They are both S** y. Just a different kind of se xy!

I knew what she meant but I wasn't sure which kind I wanted. "Screw it. I'll get both and

decide that day."

Emmy jumped up and down with excitement. "Can we leave now?" Ace grumbled.

"Why are you so moody?" Emmy asked him as she partially ignored him.

"Nothing." My heart ached as I knew why he was grumpy.

"Hangry?" She joked.

"I actually am. Let's grab a bite and head out. I got work to do."

"We need to head home. We can grab something and take it with us."

"It's fine, I need to get to the salon anyway." Maybe the sooner we are apart the lessgrumpy he will be.

"Fine." Emmy sigh. "A salad sounds good."

"That it does. Call in an order at Pattys and I'll run in and get it "looking back at Emmy,

her eyes got wide. and nodded in approval.

I tuned her out as she ordered. "Is this seriously going to be your mood?"

"What did you expect?"

"We should have never even started. I'm sorry." My heart sank thinking about the pain I

caused him. I didn't want to admit that I hoped he wasn't my mate so I wouldn't be stuck

here. However, I had a feeling

The car pulled into Pattys. Jumping out before Ace could stop me, I was able to rush inside.

The hot

humid air assaulted me, making my skin sweat.

"Table for one?" The hostess asked

"I actually have a order to go"

"Perfect, the name?"

"Oh, um probably under Emmy"

"Two salads?"

"That would be it!" I sighed in relief.

Chapter 0016

As soon as I sl*pped back in the car, I could tell Ace was even more pi ssed off. "What's

wrong?"

"It's Saturday! Club day! That is, if you feel up to it. "Emmy looked at me uncertainty. 1

"Let's see how the evening goes."

"You can't possibly be thinking about going tonight?" Ace was starting to get on my

nerves.

"I've gone dancing with a broken foot. How is a few ribs worse than that?"

He didn't respond but sped the whole way home. Emmy looked back and forth between us

but kept her

mouth shut.

As soon as we pulled into the packhouse, Ace jumped out and took off. Thankfully, Emmy

grabbed my dresses and we went up to my room. "What is with Ace?"

"Apparently he caught feelings for me and is struggling with the idea we may not be

mates. He wants me to be hanging off him and to chose him regardless."

"He said that?" Emmys mouth dropped.

"Not in so many words but yeah. He told me he has feelings. We agreed we would stop if

someone had feelings but he never told me." Opening my salad, I dug in.

"We all see it. How did you not?"

"Maybe I turned a blind eye. It was something I looked forward to in order to get over An

n. Honestly, I used him for a distraction and that's f ucked up. My only defense is he knew

that going into it. It was only

make out sessions. Nothing more." Guilt flooded me.

"What's with Alec?" Emmy asked rising her eye brows up at me.

"Nothing. He's a play boy and only has training for alpha on the brain." I didn't feel like

telling her about the

https://pubfuture.com/k*ss.

"Alec or Ace?" She held up both hands like I 1 was suppose to pick one.

"Six more days and the Moon Goddess will pick for me."

"Girl, Friday is your big birthday bash. Saturday is your fight. Then the following Saturday

is prom."

"Whichever dress I don't wear to my birthday, I'll wear to prom."

"I think you should wear the red. Make a f u cking statement."

"An n will love that..." I said as I rolled my eyes. I had finished eating my salad and waited

for Emmy to be

done.

"I'm done. We need to head out?"

"That we do. I want to ride." I needed the wind in my hair.

"Can you ride?"

"We will find out." Emmy jumped up, I took my time.

My mood was lightening up... That was until we entered the foyer. An n was yelling at

some poor maid.

From what I gathered, she missed the vacuuming.

SLAP! A nn smacked the girl, causing her to fall to the ground.

"An n!" I couldn't help myself. "Colt, get to the foyer. An n struck the maid." I mind-linked

him.

"Coming" he replied

"Oh look, it's the pathetic daughter. Have you done your chores yet?" A nn rounded in me.

"Leave her alone, An n." Colt, Jacob and Jasper busted in the front doors. His voice was

dangerous as he walked up and stood in front if me. Jasper grabbed Emmy and pulled her

away as Jacob grabbed me.

"This doesn't concern you. This brat needs to be taught to not interrupt what doesn't

concern her." An n looked at me as spit flew out of her mouth.

"You know you are not allowed to hit the staff." Colt stated in a dangerously calm voice.

"Just wait, he won't be around forever." An n muttered as she walked off.

"Is she always this way?" Jasper didnt let up on his grip he had in Emmy.

"Only towards me. I look too much like our mother." Jacob let me go and took a few steps

back.

"Where are you ladies going?" Jacob asked.

"I got a few tattoos booked. Emmy was going to help me since reaching above my head is

still sore." I said looking at Jasper.

He nodded. "That's okay. We are finishing up a few things here."

"I want to go to the club tonight." Emmy looked up at Jasper and batted her eyes.

Chapter 0017

Jasper looked at Colt. "I'll talk to Alec and let you know. Rogues are getting restless and

after last night..."

"We dont have to dance... Just sit and have a few drinks. Relax and get away from here..."

Emmy motioned towards the door An n walked out of. She made it sound like I needed to

get away. What she didn't know, was I was going to be sneaking out regardless. Even if we

didn't go, I was going to go for a

midnight run. It really didn't matter to me one way or another.

"I'll talk to Alec." Jasper repeated.

"You girls need a ride?" Colt asked.

"I want to ride." I told him. Colt frowned but didnt say anything. "Thank you." Going up to

him, I gave him

a hug.

"Any and every time." He muttered.

"Wear a helmet. I'll be by to visit." Jasper said to Emmy before k*ssing her goodbye.

"I will! Thanks for the concern!" I yelled a Jasper before laughing. I walked out without

even looking at his

reaction. Emmy came running after me.

"You know I love you!" Emmy wrapped her arm through mine as we made our way to the

garage.

"I'm a very lovable person." Some may not agree but I thought so.

"Here." Emmy put my helmet on me before I got on my bike. After she did the same, we

started our

engines and took off. At first, my ribs protested but at this point, I welcomed the pain. It

felt so nice to have the wind in my hair that I almost missed my turn.

"You feeling okay?" Emmy asked as we pulled in our parking spots.

"I could use a five hour ride." There was sarcasm in my voice but I wasn't joking.

"That would be fun!"

Unlocking the door, we walked in. I loved this smell. It was the smell of freedom,

independence and happiness.

"I'll get the ink for you." Emmy called out.

"Thanks!" Grabbing the rest of the stuff, I was ready to go with thirty minutes to spare.

"Why can't anyone show up early?"

"It's okay. I have a few things to do. Actually, I have a list of things I am going to have you

do while I work."

"Oh?" Emmy wasn't my assistant but occasionally I forced her to be.

"Yup. Easy stuff. Just call these people and verify everything is going according to

schedule. Email these people with the correct information and balance the checkbook for

prom. Here are the last of the receipts."

"Girl..."

"Please?" I fluttered my eyes at her. "I will allow you to...."

"Oooh, just give me an IOU. I want to hold out and cash it in when I need to."

S hit. "Fine. I'm going to regret this." My first client came in so I got to work on him as

Emmy got to work on the emails.

My first client had a low pain tolerance so its taken multiple small sessions to finish this.

Today was the last one and I was so excited to finish this one. He wanted one of my

drawings. It was of a sword with a pair of eyes from a wolf reflecting with blood dripping

off it. The shading was very delicate work but it was looking amazing.

"Let me clean it and then you can look at it." Smiling, I was really happy with the results.

Spraying it, I was able to gentle wipe it clean. "Alright. I'm going to grab my camera. You

can go look." 1

Alec and Jasper walked in. "What's up, beautiful?" Jasper leaned on the counter at Emmy.

She immediately blushed which made me roll my eyes. Grabbing my camera, I went to

take the picture.

"That looks good." Alec came over and looked at my tattoo.

"Thanks. Kris is a great artist."

"Thanks, Matt. You know what to do. We are all finished." Looking at my picture, I was

satisfied.

"Bye!" Matt walked out of my store.

"What do I owe this pleasure?" I sighed and looked at Alec.

Chapter 0018

"You never responded to my text."

"Nope, I sure didn't." Walking around him, I started cleaning up my station.

"How are you feeling?" Alec pressed.

"Like a million bucks."

"Dam mit Kristen. Can you just answer me?" His voice raised enough that Jasper and

Emmy stopped

flirting and looked over at us.

"What do you want, Alec? I'm fine. Broken ribs aren't new to me. I usually have them

every other week. I

do train as a warrior. I'm not a fragile girl that is going to fall apart and need a man to wait

on them hand

and foot. You dropped me off and left all . Maybe it's you that needs to explain

themselves." My

anger was rising. No one said a word as I cleaned my station a little too aggressively. Since

I was mad, I

twisted a little too fast and a shooting pain ran down my side. I had to hold on to the wall

and take a deep

breath till it went away.

"Ice?" Emmys voice was quiet and unsure.

"I'm okay." Not wanting them to see water in my eyes, I went to the bathroom. It was a

mixture if pain and

anger. I was so stressed about my birthday and finding a mate that my temper was short.

Pulling out a drawer, the Tylenol was there. Taking two 500mg pills should help. Finally, the

water dried

and I showed my face. A part of me hoped they would be gone but they weren't.

"Maybe instead of the club, we can have a picnic in the woods?" Emmy offered.

"With all the rogue attacks?" I doubted the guys would be up for it.

"I know a safe spot that I want to take you girls." Jasper smirked. "Why don't you guys have some alone time? That sounds like a couple thing." "I don't want to ditch you." Emmy frowned. "You're not, I'm kicking you out." I smiled at her. "Kris..." "Seriously, go. Enjoy each other. I'll finish this work." "I didn't get much done." Emmy frowned. "More than what I had done. Seriously, go. It's really okay." "Take the car." Alec muttered and handed him the keys. Jasper grabbed Emmy's hand and they took off laughing like kids in the candy store. "What work do you have?" Alec asked as I sat down in my office chair. "Just checking on the school stuff. Making sure things are in order. Balance the checkbook. Stuff like that."

"How much do you have left?"

"Since Emmy types three words per minute, most of it. However, I just need a good hour

and I'll be done."

"What tattoos do you have left?" Alec looked at his watch.

"Two more small ones. Just finishing up them really. Shouldn't take long. You don't have to

hang around."

"I told Colt I would stay with you since the rogues have got too close to town. I guess Ace

was

unavailable for the job."

My hand froze over the keyboard for a second, which didn't go unnoticed by Alec. "I see."

"You wouldn't know why he is unavailable... do you?"

Sighing, I looked up at him. "Just ask what you want to really ask." I was getting tired of

his fishing.

"Are you guys involved?"

"Why do you care?"

"Answer my question first."

"We aren't involved. We had an agreement. No strings attached, drunk make outs only.

Nothing more than

that. Mainly because I'm saving that for my mate but I wouldn't be able to keep my

emotions out if it.

Plus, getting emotionally involved with Ace would be bad if we weren't mates."

"Plus the fact you want out." Aleć filled in.

"Yup." I really popped the P as I started working again. "He apparently caught feelings and

is upset I don't feel the same."

"I see."

"Are you satisfied now? Did I fill your curiosity over something that has nothing to do with

you?"

Chapter 0019

He was saved from asking as the door opened and my next client walked in. "Hey!" a

"Hey, Polly! This is Future Alpha Alec. This is Polly, a pack member." Polly looked nervously

at Alec but showed him respect. "Get comfortable and use the bathroom if you need to.

Let me finish this email and I'll be right there."

"Perfect." Polly was a looker. With long skinny legs, blonde hair and daggers for

fingernails. She had the model b*dy but she was a sweetheart and one of my assistants.

"Did you need help with any of that? I have the evening free?"

"Actually, that would be great. I'll balance the checkbook if you can do this?" I handed her

the list of emails and phone calls.

"I can do this while you work." Since this was a thigh tattoo, her hands would be free.

"Thanks, girl. You are amazing." Alec took a seat in my office chair as Polly grabbed the

phone and sat in the chair. It was an outer thigh so she was on her side. Her angle allowed

Alec a clear view of her tit s that popped out as her as s was pointed at me. To his credit,

he turned his back and avoided eye contact. After a minute, his phone rang and he went

outside.

He stayed on the phone for the whole hour it took me to finish the massive flower

arrangement Polly had picked put. Lots of vibrant colors really made her caramel skin look

amazing.

We both finished at the same time. By the time Alec walked back in, I was sitting on the

floor, taking a

picture of the tattoo and Polly was giving me a rundown.

"... The flowers and decoration will arrive on time. They didn't have the shade of blue you

picked so I changed it to a dark green. It will look good against the black still and go with

the theme. Might need some adjustments. So I changed the accents to gold. As far as the

carnival, everything is running on time. All vendors are accounted for and their deposits

have gone through."

"You are amazing." I tried to stand but fell back down. Sharp pains shot through me.

"Kris!"

"I'm okay." I held up a hand for her to wait. My eyes were closed but I could hear Alecs

foot steps. When they got to me, he sl*pped his arms around me, gently lifting me up.

After making sure I was steady, he let go and walked away.

"Broken ribs." I said to a nervous looking Polly.

"Oh shoot! I could have rescheduled!"

"No, only when I twist does it hurt. Besides, you have been a big help!"

"Okay, well, I don't have to write it down."

"No, you write it down." I said as I went to sit down for a second.

"Okay. I'm headed out unless you need anything else?" Penny said after a few minutes.

"No, ma'am. Thank you for your help. It seriously was really helpful."

"Anytime! Bye!" She glanced at Alec before leaving.

"You trusted her to get that work done?" Alec asked as he studied me.

"She is one of my assistants. Has been for a year. Polly is amazing help." 2

"How many do you have?"

"Oh, three. They are more like employees for the different events I organize. I pay them a

small wage but

it looks amazing on college scholarships. They are all scholars that will be getting into Ivy League schools." "How much pull do you have? This is way more than just an alphas daughter." "I'll make a deal with you. If we are mates, I'll tell you everything. Until then, just think of me as a mysterious woman." "Pain in the as s is more like it." Alec snorted. "One of my many talents." Standing up, I started cleaning up my mess and setting up for my last tattoo. 1 "see." "So, I answered your question. Are you going to answer mine?" I pushed. "You can add pushy to your description." Alec sighed "Just tell me why you would care." Chapter 0020 "To keep the peace between Colt and the packs. We have to get along and your

protection

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is part of that."
That struck a nerve. "Protection?"
"Yes."
"From what exactly?"
"All the above."
"Like getting jumped in the girls bathroom?" It was a low blow but he pis sed me
off first.
His eyes narrowed. "Yeah."
He was saved as my last tattoo walked in. He was a human kid so no more pack
talking.
Instead, a
grumpy Alec left the store and stood outside.
My last client was named Trent. He was barely 18 and wanted a cross with a sunset
background for his sister who died from a car crash. I had it all done but the color. I
swear,
men's tolerance is much shorter
than a female.
"This should be our last session." I smiled at him.
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"Good." It was on his chest so I had the displeasure of being close and personal with a

human joc k that

https://pubfuture.com/

thought he was Go d's gift to women. "Are you going to take my date offer?"

"No. I'm not." Sighing, this will be a long hour. Thankfully, Alec walked back in. Something

was wrong by

his stance. We couldn't mind-link so I couldn't ask.

"Come on. It's only dinner!"

"Trent, I said no." Pushing a little harder than needed, Trent flinched.

"Ow!"

"Sorry..." Alec glanced at me and I swear his l*p twitched.

"Be careful woman!"

"I suggest you sit there and shut your mouth so I can finish or you will leave here with an

unfinished

tattoo."

He was grumbling under his breath but I just ignored him. Working quickly, I got him done.

"I'll take a

picture and you are good to go."

"That looks good." Trent was flexing his muscles in the mirror.

"Thanks." Clicking the picture, I turned to leave but Trent reached out and grabbed my

hand.

"I'm taking you out, let's go."

"I believe I said no. Now leave." Ripping my hang out, I started to walk away. Trent wasn't

taking no for an

answer.

"I didn't give you an option." Trent again grabbed my arm, a little too hard.

Without thinking, I turned and punched him in the face right as Alec came over. Shooting

pains made my vision go black as I heard Alec toss Trent out and lock the door. Trent

pounded on the glass a few times

but eventually walked away. I was holding into the wall for support.

By the time I opened my eyes, Alec had shut the blinds and turned my neon open sign off.

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"You okay?"
The gentleness of his touched surprised me as he took my hand in his.
"Been better." Taking my hand back, I walked to my chair and sat down.
"You get guys like him often?"
"Not too much. My reputation generally makes guys avoid me."
"I see."
Standing up, I made my way to my station to clean it. Alec just stood at the door,
watching
me. "I'm about
done and I'll give you a ride home."
"I'm in no rush."
"Not ready to be done working?"
"Working?"
"Did you not just tell me I was only a job to you?"
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Alex frowned. "Do you want to be more? Maybe have an arrangement with me?".

"How many guys have you had this arrangement with?"

I saw red. "F uck you."

"F ucking jealous are you? Don't act like you give a s hit about me." I was mostly done.

Grabbing my stuff, I

walked out the store, not carting if Alec followed or not. Unfortunately, he was quick and

got into my car

before I could lock the doors on him. Neither one of us spoke as I rushed home. Most of

the guys were

"What's wrong, Ice?" Colt walked up to me and glancing at Alec.

"Nothing." Stomping away from them all, I went right up to my bedroom. Slamming the

door shut, I

managed to make it to my bed before laying down.