

THROUGH THE EYES OF MY ALPHA by Cassandra M Chapter 23

Chapter 23

NADIA

I didn't know how long I stayed wrapped up in Riley's arms as we hugged each other under the tree. I couldn't stop sobbing. My heart was so full of love for him, and I wanted to tell him that, but I didn't have the courage. Not yet.

But one day, I will. One step at a time.

For now, it was enough that he said he wanted me here with him.

Because there's nothing in the world I want more right now than to be with him.

I felt his hand brush against my hair as he pressed our bodies closer, his warmth mixing with mine and his musky scent swirling around me. I could get used to this.

"Hey, stop crying... I hate it when I make you cry." His voice was so soothing and calming. Too far from the Riley I was talking to in the car earlier.

"It's not a bad cry. I'm just happy."

"Yeah?" He asked as he let go of his arms around me.

I slowly pulled away from him, wiping my tears with the back of my hand as I nodded my head.

"Am I making you happy? I'm only good at giving shit to people..." He smiled sheepishly like he wanted to hide his face, and it didn't slip my eyes the way his cheeks started to be tinted with red. 1

Was my Alpha blushing?

I giggled as I moved my hands to his cheeks, pressing my fingers together against his skin to pinch him. "I didn't know a moody Alpha like you knew how to blush."

"Blush?" He asked, his forehead creased.

"Yes, it makes your cheeks turn red"

"I know what blush is, but I definitely don't blush."

“You just did.”

“Something is wrong with your eyes. Let me check.” He chuckled as he put his hand on my chin and began raising my eyelids with his finger as if he was checking something.

I laughed heartily as I swatted his hand away. “What are you doing?”

“Just making sure you don’t have an eye problem or something.”

“I don’t have a problem. Maybe you have...”

“I do. Look here.” He pointed at his bottom lip. “I think it needs some kisses or something... It’s fucking painful.” I

I rolled my eyes at him, crossing my arms against my chest while faking a scoff. “Smooth move, Alpha.”

His lips tugged in a wide grin, but before he could utter a word, I slammed my lips against him and kissed him again.

His hand immediately cupped the back of my head as he kissed me back, bruisingly hard before he pulled away in a sudden movement.

“We need to get back to the pack house or I will end up fucking you here. And this place is a route for patrollers and those who just want to let their wolves out.”

My eyes widened at his words as I scrambled on my feet to get off of him, embarrassed at my action, only to be more embarrassed when I saw his dick. He was having a hard-on, and it was pointing up in my direction.

“How are we going back to the pack house? Are we too far from the car?” I asked him, my eyes diverting elsewhere, avoiding his manhood

“I think the car was already picked up by someone, if not Dominic. So we need to run on our wolves back to the house. It’s probably thirty to forty minutes of running. If Arrow gets too tired, you can hop on Hunter’s back.” He said it too fast like he was giving instructions to his warriors.

“Okay, that sounds good.”

“Shift now.”

“What? So bossy! And you?”

“I’ll shift later. It’s my time with Arrow. And tell her to behave, I’m the Alpha here.”

I rolled my eyes at him playfully before standing on tiptoe, tilting my head up to meet his eyes. “An Alpha bows down to her Luna, don’t forget that.”

A smug grin tugged at his mouth before he offered me a salute. “Yes, my Luna. Not just bow down, I will only go down on you too!” And then he winked at me, a teasing grin playing on his lips as he licked them. I had to clamp my legs together to stop my core from throbbing and getting wet.

Goddess, this man knew how to drive me wild.

He crouched down, one knee touching the ground as he looked at me.

“Take off your shirt before you shift.”

I nodded my head as I walked around the tree.

I heard Riley calling after me and telling me not to hide from him, but I was ignoring him. He looked too perfect naked and I didn’t think I could match up to that, so here I was hiding behind the big tree before getting naked and shifting into my wolf.

In seconds, Arrow came out, carrying the folded shirt in her mouth, and was greeted by a smiling Riley.

“Fuck that! Just wow!” he motioned with his hand, urging Arrow to approach him. “Come here!”

My wolf whimpered as she walked towards our mate, swaying her tail, too eager to get his attention.

“Just too fucking beautiful!” Riley cupped her neck and started rubbing it gently while Arrow started licking his face.

And I was enjoying what I was seeing.

Riley looked so carefree as he laughed and pampered my wolf with rubs and kisses. I wished he would laugh more often instead of the scowl on his face.

After a while of them playing and flirting with each other, Riley connected with my mind. ‘Are you ready to run home?’

Home?

I’m already home. I couldn’t help but smile internally at my own thoughts. I have never felt more at home than I did at this moment.

Riley felt like home.

‘Yes.’ I answered him, and he gave Arrow a nod before he shifted.

Hunter then reached for the folded shirt on the ground, trapping it in between his fangs before nudging his snout into Arrow’s ass, earning a snarl from my wolf.

‘Run, little mate. Don’t let me catch you.’ Riley teased, and Arrow didn’t need more heeding as she immediately sprung forward and in the direction Hunter pointed with his snout.

Not long after we were already treading the forest line, Hunter was leading the way, but he was running beside me, not letting me out of his sight and proximity.

The forest was beautiful. The smell of fresh air and the rustling of leaves as our paws thudded the earth gave me a peaceful heart. Although the run was making me and my wolf breathless, it was my mate who was taking my breath away.

He was wonderful, and he overwhelmed me with his kindness.

This run was connecting our wolves together, but his constant checking to see if I was still okay was making me feel special.

For the first time, someone cared enough to ask me if I was tired and I needed to be carried. He might be just asking about today, but it held a new meaning for me.

All my life, I carried myself alone. I learned to stand on my own and not be dependent on anyone. And Riley was making me feel like he was ready to carry and take care of me, all I needed to do was to ask.

And I hoped my intuition was right.

ooooo

RILEY

We were about to exit the forest line just behind the pack house, and Nadia was clinging to my wolf’s back.

Arrow gave up and didn’t want to run any further, so I let Nadia hop on Hunter, and my wolf couldn’t be more excited.

I had to keep reminding him to behave, but my wolf has his own fucking mind and started licking Nadia’s thigh and higher the

moment she shifted back to her human form. I had to beg Nadia to stop my wolf because the fucker wouldn't listen to me
And Nadia needed to tell him just once.

I didn't know why I was given a hard-headed wolf. He was a fucking pain in the ass.

But let's face it: I needed Hunter the same way he needed me. So I didn't really have a choice.

'Are you at the pack house? I need shorts and a blanket. Meet me at the back entrance.' I sent my Beta a mindlink before we crossed the line separating the forest line and the packhouse ground.

Baby, we're here. Can you sit up straight so if there's anyone around, nobody can see your ass.' I sent the message to Nadia as I slowed down so she could move freely behind me. She had my shirt on, but it wasn't enough to cover her bottom.

She didn't answer, but I felt her move her chest away from my back to sit nicely, at that exact moment the door to the backside opened, revealing my beta with shorts and a blanket in his hands.

He approached us, a smug grin playing on his lips as he wrapped the blanket around Nadia before my mate hopped off of my back. I shifted at once and grabbed the shorts in his hand and put them on.

"So... the Alpha was really marked this morning?"

I chuckled as I wrapped an arm around Nadia, pulling her to my side. She scooted her body closer with her hands clutching the sheets covering her.

Dominic was not around this morning when Nadia decided she wanted to mark me while joining my pack, and only Sebastian and Jenny were here and were able to see the mark after we went out of the office.

"Some little bird told you?" I asked him as we walked all together inside the pack house.

"Yep, a little bird named Sebastian. Plus, an open pack line for a split second let me hear my Alpha grunt and groan in pleasure."

"What?" Nadia asked, confusion written on his face as I glared at my Beta. We both ignored Nadia's question. I would tell her about it later.

I!

Beta Dominic then stopped on his track, and placed a hand on my shoulder, making me halt in my steps. “Show me?”

“What do you want to see?”

“Your mark.”

I chuckled as I tilted my neck while pulling Nadia into my chest. She looked tired, and I should put her in bed.

*Atta boy! Finally, huh?” He teased as he patted my shoulder again.

“Congratulations, man.”

He was smiling, but I saw the pain crossing his eyes. I almost forgot that he was the only one now without a mate. And the female he desired lived thirteen hours away from here.

Maybe I needed to let him visit Jacob’s sister.

He was hoping she would turn out to be his mate. But I wasn’t sure if she had turned eighteen already or not, because the last time Dominic visited her, she was still seventeen. And, based on what he told me, she didn’t seem interested in him.

I hoped the wind had changed, and my Beta could find his mate too, either his fated or chosen.

“So, should we plan a Luna Ceremony soon?” My Beta snapped me from my own thoughts as we continued walking.

I chuckled, remembering that months ago, he and Gamma Sebastian were doing their best to delay the Luna ceremony I planned for Andrea as much as they could. And now, he was too excited to have one.

I was about to answer him and tell him that Nadia and I needed to talk about the date first when my mate beat me from talking.

“No! No Luna Ceremony, please.” She said in a firm voice, her forehead creasing.

I couldn’t stop the pain that hit my chest as a low rumbling growl vibrated in my chest. I tilted my head down to look at the female in my arms.

A scowl formed on my face as her rejection sunk in. “Why?”

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Chapter 24

NADIA

“So, should we plan a Luna Ceremony soon?” Beta Dominic asked, and my heart hammered in my chest.

I was so cozy wrapped up in Riley’s arm but the moment he asked it, I felt cold water being poured over me.

“No! No Luna Ceremony, please.” I blurted out, my brows furrowing. Not that I didn’t want to. There was nothing in the world I would rather be than claimed and owned by my Alpha, but I wanted to do it the right way

Although Riley told me he wanted me here, I wasn’t sure for how long. I wasn’t even sure if what he wanted right now was enough to make him fall in love with me. I

I didn’t want the Luna title if it meant giving it up someday for someone else. I didn’t think I had the heart for it.

And there’s also Andrea looting in the air.

His people knew Andrea was supposed to be his Luna. I didn’t want to just come and be given the title without knowing who I was. I have to let his people know that I existed in his life before claiming the title. And if the ceremony ever happened, I wanted them to know that it would be Nadia who would be named Luna and not Andrea.

It might come off as petty, but I didn’t want any memories of Andrea clouding my existence in this pack.

“Why?” Riley’s growl made me jerk away from his body.

I tilted my head up to see his scowling face. His eyes were dilating, but instead of being afraid, it just made my blood boil.

This man didn’t know how to ask nicely.

I inched away from him, clutching the blanket over my body tightly as I glared at him. “Why are you growling?”

“Why the fuck are you deciding things without consulting me?” He snapped back.

I saw the Beta raise his hands in the air and move back before murmuring, “I’m out of here unless you both want me to stay.”

“Fuck off!”

“Stay!”

We blurted it out at the same time, and the Beta froze in his spot.

I dropped my shoulders in desperation but did not take my gaze off my mate, who was still glaring at me.

‘Go. I’m sorry. I’ll take care of this.’ I mind linked Beta Dominic and he immediately turned around, leaving us alone.

‘No harm done. Actually, I’m happy to see that my Luna can stand up to the Alpha. Just message me if you need help to tie up the Alpha.’

I restrained myself from smiling at his words, so instead, I turned around and stepped on the first step of the staircase, so my height would be slightly higher and I didn’t need to tilt my head up to look at Riley.

“I didn’t make any decisions. I just thought my voice needed to be heard.

I don’t want a Luna Ceremony. Not yet.”

Riley let out a sigh of desperation before he brushed his hands over his face and his features softened. “I thought you wanted to be my Luna. Did you change your mind? What did I do wrong this time?”

I smiled as a red tint crept up my cheeks. “You didn’t do anything wrong.

Just that... Can we talk about it privately? Not here.”

“Are you changing your mind?” And his expression changed again.

Gone was the moody and brave Alpha. His eyes were full of uncertainty, and if I was not mistaken, I could see fear in them. Was he scared of something?

I shook my head as I clutched the sheets with one hand and raised my free hand to his cheek, caressing it gently against his skin.

“I’m not changing my mind, Riley. But we need to talk about it.”

He clasped a hand over mine on his cheek before he took it to his mouth, kissing every part of my hand. “Okay. Can it wait a little while? Go rest first, and I will just talk to my Beta. I’ll follow you upstairs.’

“Okay... But are you not going to put some clothes on?”

“I have shorts. It’s enough. I feel comfortable without a shirt.” He

chuckled and started flexing the muscles in his chest.

Despite my heart doing a somersault and my panties dropping, oops I forgot I didn't have one, I rolled my eyes at him and faked a scoff.

"It doesn't look good. Put a shirt on."

He laughed and wrapped his arms around me before lifting me off the ground, my body hanging on his hold "There are no other females here unless my Beta is gay, but I don't think he is. Jenny is mated. She will never swoon on me. So you are safe."

"Who said I'm bothered when females see you naked?" I asked him, my voice muffled by the way my face slammed against his hard torso. "You look ugly without a shirt on. Trust me."

He let go of me, a teasing grin etched on his lips. "Seriously? I had no idea. I better ask that unmated female who helps in the kitchen if she doesn't find my body attractive."

I smiled sarcastically at him before turning my back on him and walking in a calm manner up the stairs, even if what he said was annoying me.

"Yeah, right. Go ask her, and maybe ask her too if she wants to be your Luna."

I heard him laughing, but I didn't turn around because he might see the annoyance in my eyes.

"I have clothes in my office. I'll put one in. And I swear, I'm not going to ask anyone about my body, just you!"

My eyes widened at the way he said those words. He was almost shouting, and his voice was booming around the house.

I wondered how many were inside the pack house and heard that.

This man doesn't have a single bone of shame on his body.

Qogao

RILEY.

Although my heart warmed at the jealousy I saw flaring in Nadia's eyes when I told her I would ask another female's opinion about my body, I was still not at ease.

Why didn't she want to have a Luna Ceremony? Was she having cold feet?

Or didn't she want to be tied up with me, knowing that the Luna Ceremony would also hold a union between us?

I watched her form disappear from the stairs before I headed to my office. My Beta was already sitting on the chair in front of my desk, waiting for me.

I closed the door and went directly to the small closet in the corner and grabbed a shirt, pulling it over my head before sitting in my chair.

"Anything new for today?"

"Nope. But these are the proposals I received a few weeks back about a renewed alliance from all these packs. Despite what you did, they still want to be with us, which I think is fantastic. What do you think? Should we go over it and decide which one we will renew alliances with?"

"Leave it for now. Give me a day or two, or a week. I don't want to hole up here in the office reading all those shitty things they wanted. We have things to do."

"Such as?"

"I want to be visible around the territory. Make my people see me again."

"About fucking time!"

"And I want people to know Nadia. We were at the center today and someone called her Andrea."

"Holy shit!" He hissed. "Did she get pissed off?"

"No. She actually handled it really well, better than me."

"Looks like you got lucky with this one, don't you dare let this female go."

"Who said I would? Can't you see I'm trying?"

"Trying? Man, you growled at your mate just because she said no. Can you act like a human when you're around people? Let out your animal side when it's just the two of you in bed."

"Fuck you!"

"Fuck her, not me! But you need to watch your temper. I won't be surprised if you don't get laid because of your temper." 2

"Yeah, nice advice from someone who hasn't gotten laid in a long time."

"Fuck you!"

“Find someone to fuck! And stop minding my business.” 1

“You’re my business. I was born and raised to serve you. And knock some sense on you.”

“Just do what I want you to do. Make sure people know Nadia is my fated mate and my Luna, and not Andrea.”

“What do you want me to do, sing in the middle of the crowd to get their attention and tell them Nadia is their Luna? You need to do that yourself. If you want to be visible in the pack, take her with you. You did that with Andrea, that’s why everybody found out about her.”

I leaned my back against my chair, placing my hands at the nape of my neck as I stared at the ceiling above my head. “I want that, but I need to ask Nadia. I don’t want to force her if she doesn’t want to go around with me. So we need to have another option in case she didn’t want to.”

“Can you see the difference between how you’re treating Nadia and Andrea? You’re fucking scared of losing Nadia, am I right? It seems like if she asks you to cut your throat, you’ll do it.”

“In the blink of an eye.”

“Do you love her?”

“I think I do.”

“More than Andrea?”

I let out a deep sigh and closed my eyes before answering. “I am actually doubting now if I really did love Andrea or just the idea of having her. I forced her into everything I wanted, but I don’t have the heart to do it to Nadia. And I’m fucking scared that with just one wrong move, she’s going to run away.”

“Calm down, it’s only the second day today. And I don’t think she’s running away. That female needs shelter and protection. Give her that.”

“What about if she found out about Andrea, and what I did to her?”

And my Beta couldn’t answer. I really fucked up.-.

I told him what I knew about Nadia this morning and how her and Andrea’s fates were similar, being pushed into marriage with someone they didn’t even like at all.

“I don’t know. I’m talking here as a friend, but what happened with

Andrea, confining her here and emotionally torturing her with all those Luna ceremony preparations and the marking, was an evil move.”

“Why didn’t you fucking help me that time?” I snarled at him.

“Fuck you, man! How many times did you threaten to fire me and Sebastian every time we try to reason out and go against you? If we weren’t thinking about Andrea being left alone here with you, we’d have fucked off already!”

“Shit! Shit!” I punched the side of my desk in front of me in anger, denting it in the process. I was so fucking pissed off with myself and all the shit I’ve done. “I really fucked up this time!”

I saw blood trickling down from my knuckles, but I didn’t care. I rested my elbows on my desk and covered my face with my hands. “How the fuck could I come out clean from this?”

“You need to tell her everything.”

“No! And you too, not a word about Andrea. Whenever she asked, direct her to me.” I told him, and I knew he would try to defy that, so I rolled off an Alpha command, and I saw my Beta gritting his teeth.

He never liked it when I rolled an Alpha command off of him.

“You could have just asked me. You know, I will never betray you as an Alpha, even if I want to smack your head as a friend.”

“I’m not taking a risk here. If there’s anyone who needs to explain this to her, that would be me. I just need time.”

“Hopefully, you won’t make her wait forever. Sooner or later, she’s bound to find out.”

“If nobody talks about it, then it won’t. It’s enough that she knows Andrea is an ex-girlfriend and she chose another Alpha and not me. No need to tell her the in-between.”

My Beta just shook his head, but I ignored the look of dissatisfaction he was giving me.

I knew my mate. I knew what she went through and what she was running away from. She would leave if she found out that the same male

who she thought could protect her turned out to be the same monster she was running from.

THROUGH THE EYES OF MY ALPHA by Cassandra M Chapter 25

Chapter 25

NADIA

My eyes fluttered open, and darkness overwhelmed me. My breathing hitched while my heart was thudding loudly, and it took a while before I was able to calm my senses.

I was at the Silver Moon pack and not in the basement of my uncle's house. Calm down.

I closed my eyes and let Riley's scent envelope my senses.

I had his shirt on, so it was no wonder I was smelling him.

After we came home, I decided to go to his room so I could rest before dinner, but I didn't find the clothes we bought there. Maybe it was placed in my bedroom. My heart dropped because I thought we would be sharing a room now, but it looked like I was the only one who wanted that.

After grabbing a shirt from his closet, I walked out of his room with a heavy heart back to my bedroom and found all the paper bags of clothes we bought.

I tried to shrug off the disappointment, but I couldn't.

In the end, I let it overtake me. Instead of waiting for Riley after I showered I succumbed to my loneliness and laid down until I drifted off to sleep.

I wondered what time it was now.

I tried to get up from laying down, only to be held back by something in my stomach. My eyes squinted before they widened when I saw a big figure beside me, his arm laying on top of my body while his one leg was in between my thighs.

No wonder I felt numb when I woke up. There was like a big log on top of me. 1

But despite his heaviness, I couldn't keep my lips from curling into a smile. Not just a smile, but a really wide, happy smile that may have reached up to the heavens.

Maybe he missed me. It didn't matter the reason he came here, I was happy he was here.

I lifted his arm before turning my body around to face him, scooting my face into his naked chest.

Oh, Goddess! This male smelled heavenly. I wondered if I licked his chest if he would feel it and wake up?

I bit my lower lip to suppress a giggle before I stuck my tongue out, and slowly, began running it against the middle of his chest.

Hmmm. Sparks traveled from my tongue down to my core and the excitement of being caught and the way his skin felt against my tongue were making my pussy clench.

I wouldn't be surprised if I smelled my own arousal soon.

"What are you doing?" His deep baritone voice echoed around the bedroom, and my body froze. My tongue was still stuck out as I tilted my head up slowly and found my mate staring at me. 1

Was he angry?

I couldn't read the emotion on his face. But before I could decide what to do next, his hand reached for my cheek and his finger brushed against the corner of my lips.

"You're drooling." He chuckled as I placed my tongue back in my mouth and licked my lips.

"How does it taste?" He asked as if it wasn't enough embarrassment already that he caught me. He needed to say it out loud.

I swallowed hard before I slammed my face into his chest, and his laughter boomed around the bedroom as his arms slipped under my body and hugged me tightly.

I couldn't help but get infected with his laughter, so we ended up laughing together.

I was still trying to catch my breath when he hoisted my body higher so that my face would be parallel with his

“Are you hungry and dreaming I’m something delectable?” His eyes were twinkling, and I wanted to smack his head. He wasn’t letting this question go. What did he want me to say?

“Nadia.. Tongue-tied?” He was still enjoying this. “Show me your tongue.”

“What?” I asked him, confusion written on my face as I looked at him. “Tongue out, sweetheart.”

I wanted not to obey him, but I just found myself doing what he wanted, sticking my tongue out for him to see.

But my mate has another plan. He leaned his face so close that I ended up closing my eyes before I felt a warm mouth cage around my tongue and started suckling it. I whimpered as my core weakened while I let him suck everything from me.

When I couldn’t take it anymore, I wrapped my arms around him and kissed him, feverishly hard, our lips and tongues fighting for dominance. My arousal was swirling in the air, and no matter how hard I tried to clamp my thighs together, it didn’t stop my scent from coming out.

Goddess, was it too much to ask if I wanted to have sex with him?

But then, like before, he pulled away from our kiss, making me really annoyed now. He would always pull away and nothing would happen again

What’s wrong with this man? Weren’t males supposed to be the aggressive ones? Because it looked like between the two of us, it was me who wanted more all the time.

“Riley, do you like me or do you just want me here? You just need someone to be with?” I asked him, my tone laced with annoyance.

I pulled away from him and sat up from laying down.

“What are you talking about? I thought I was clear enough when I told you I liked you and I wanted you here?” He was now sitting beside me.

“But why do you keep stopping us from going further? Am I not attractive enough for you?”

“Not attractive? Do you know how many times my dick went hard just

by looking at you?”

I felt my cheeks burning with his words.

Nadia, you started this. You need to keep going.

“But what’s stopping you?”

“I never had sex with anyone, Nadia.”

“You had sex with me, you fool!”

“But we were both in heat then. This is fucking embarrassing. But I don’t know how to... what the fuck was that word? How to start it I mean, how to start sex.”

“Foreplay?”

“Yes. I still have to learn how to do that.”

I giggled and leaned my back against the headboard. All the annoyance I felt was wiped away and replaced by amusement.

“So how are you going to do that? How will you teach yourself?”

“I don’t know. I’ll probably watch porn. I can’t go around and ask my men, right?” 4

I was about to giggle when I saw his expression. He was serious. His eyes were boring deep into mine as if he wanted to read my soul.

“Hey, I don’t have any experience either. So it won’t be bad if we experiment together. No one will say if it’s wrong or not.” I bit my lower lip. Suddenly, I felt nervous.

“I just want to be good enough for you. So you’ll stay.” His voice came out hoarse and I felt goosebumps rising from my skin.

Good enough? Was he blind? Couldn’t he see how perfect he was, except for his temper? 1

“How long do you want me to stay?”

“Do I have a say in this? I’m not going to force...”

I cut him off before he could finish his statement. “I’m not asking about me. I’m asking you. How long do you want me to stay?”

“Forever If it’s not too much to ask ” He swallowed hard. His eyes were looking deep into my soul right now, and my own eyes started to water, Words got caught in my throat. This was what I wanted to hear, and now

that he had said it, I didn't know what to say anymore.

"Nadia..." He cupped my hands in his. "I asked you for a chance, to take a risk on me, and I mean that. I want you to be my Luna, this pack's Luna."

"But the two months? Is it voided? I don't need to go after two months?"

He tugged at my hands, and my body came along with them before he let them go and wrapped his arms around me, hugging me tightly, "No. Don't ask me to let you go after two months. If you want the money and the car, I can give you those. But I want a lifetime contract, Nadia,"

I closed my eyes and rested my palms against his chest, a smile curving on my lips as I nodded my head. Damn the car and the money. "A lifetime contract, I want that."

"The Luna ceremony is not just a luna ceremony. It is a union between us, a marriage. We don't need to have it now. I can wait until you're ready. I just need to understand why you didn't want to have one."

I closed my eyes and stopped myself from answering. I would tell him tomorrow, not now. I didn't want to open up about Andrea and my insecurities about her.

He pecked the crown of my head. "You had no idea how much I wanted to fuck the hell out of you, but I didn't want to disappoint you. I don't know if I can top what I did the first time we did it."

"I can pretend I don't remember anything, so we can start from scratch.."

"You're fucking amazing. Did you know that?"

Oh, Goddess, he knew how to make me melt. How could I top that?

"I thought I was nothing special until I found out I was mated to an Alpha. So maybe I'm amazing..." I sat up straight so I could see his face again.

"You are. And I know you're extra special because you're mated to me. I'm a hard case."

"Hard case? No. You aren't. I think you're almost perfect, if not perfect." I smiled at him, but I saw sadness cross his eyes, but it was gone in seconds. Or I might just have imagined it.

“Can I ask you something?” This is now or never.

“Ask away...” He said in a low voice, his hand brushing the loose strands of hair away from my forehead before his eyes fixed on mine.

“Do you think it’s possible for you to fall in love with me?” I wanted to ask him if he loved me, but I didn’t have the courage to ask him directly. So I have to go this way.

My heart was thudding loudly as I waited for his response. He wasn’t saying anything, and I felt the invisible lump in my throat getting bigger as if it would choke me soon.

And then, I saw it. A smile slowly crept across his face as his eyes beamed. “Do you love me, Nadia?”