

## Chapter 24

The day was pretty uneventful.

Maxim, Lukas and Leonardo dove straight into work, and Fiona and I spent the day together. It was almost as if this morning didn't happen or that I didn't just wake up from a three-day hibernation.

However, Maxim still checked in every now and then, ensuring I was okay and still awake. He was becoming more like a mate than he had in days, and I couldn't hide the fact that we'd have to talk about other things soon- other things like marking and mating to complete the bond.

I was still working on letting go of the past, and he still had a lot to learn. But I think if we do it together, it will be okay. On the other hand, there's Lukas. I hated what I was doing to him, choosing one brother over the other. I didn't think things would've turned out this way. Then again, fate has its own plans.

We'll just all have to adapt and make the most of everything.

Fiona and I decided that we'd go baby shopping tomorrow since it was far too late to go now. I had fun with her today again, as usual. She showed me more things that I needed to know about the Alpha house and pack. I don't know what I'd do without her.

Four o'clock came closer as I anticipated each second. From the short time I've been here, I learnt that the men left their offices around four in the afternoon if they had finished their day's work.

I sat in the kitchen anxiously. I wanted to see Maxim, but I needed to talk to Lukas even more. I wanted to kill the elephant in the room and make it all go away. So, I sat with my hands folded on my lap as I stared at the fridge.

Fiona had already left to meet Leonardo in their room. These two were rarely apart.

Four fifteen rolled on by, and neither of the men appeared. The house was silent, and I had to concentrate really hard to convince myself that I wasn't sleeping and in another dream.

I poured myself some orange juice and grabbed a muffin before moving to the living room. I switched through the hundreds of channels before stopping on a home-renovation channel. I was always a sucker for these things.

I got invested for another hour and ate a second muffin before I finally heard footsteps coming downstairs. I tilted my head in the direction of the stairs, where I found Lukas talking on his phone.

I dusted my hands on my jeans as I circled the couch to meet him at the base of the stairs. I mouthed to him that I wanted to talk, and he held up a finger as he dismissed the conversation on his phone.

Unlike what I was used to, his gaze wasn't warm and welcoming. It was stoic, and I noticed that this was the Lukas that other people knew. I barely ever met this side of him, and I hated that I was on the receiving end of his cold shoulder. We didn't even have a fight. Things happened, and feelings got hurt. It was resolvable, right?

"What's up?" he asked as he stared at my forehead. He couldn't even meet my eyes.

Sighing, I held onto his hand and pulled him through the kitchen and onto the backyard porch.

"We should talk," I finally said, and he shrugged.

"Are you hurt?"

"No, but-"



"Did you fall asleep and have another dream?" he interjected.

I huffed. "No, but I—"

"So, what is it?" he asked again. I tried my best to be patient as I reminded myself repeatedly that he was just hurt.

"That's what I'm trying to tell you," I told him, much calmer than I anticipated. "At the barbecue, I don't know what exactly caused the change in how we usually are with each other. But I think it all started when I rode with Maxim instead of you."

He shrugged as if it didn't phase him. "He's my brother and second Alpha of this pack. He is also someone we all live with, so, no, it wasn't an issue."

"You mentioned everything except the fact that he's my mate."

"Right," he mumbled as his jaw ticked. "He didn't really reject you, huh?"

I nodded, feeling a bit guilty that I kept it from him. "No. I think I knew all along because I could still feel our bond, but I never knew for sure."

"So, what does this mean? You're choosing him?"

I winced at the way he said it. "Lukas, he's... he's my mate. I tried to reject him; trust me, I did. But I just couldn't."

"I get it," he said with a slow nod. "Actually, no, I don't. I understand the whole mate situation and all, but it's you that I can't understand, Melissa. And even now, looking at you, I can tell that you still aren't sure what you want a hundred per cent. You want him, and you probably won't be able to live without him if none of you rejects the other. But you still want things to remain the same between us, don't you?"

His voice grew huskier as he took slow, steady steps towards me. I drew in a sharp breath of air at the proximity of our bodies.

"Is-is it bad that I don't want things to change? I mean, apart from Fiona, you were my only friend, Lukas. I can't lose you."

"Look at me and tell me that you didn't feel anything for me within these past weeks, and I'll leave you alone," he demanded.

I wanted to cry. "Lukas, that's not fair. You know I can't tell you that."

"But it's the truth," he insisted. "You did, and you feel guilty that you did. Even though you two only just started getting along, you feel like you somehow betrayed the mate bond."

I remained quiet as my back hit against the wall. I didn't even notice we had been backing up until now. He rested his hands on either side of my head against the wall, caging me in.

"Nothing is wrong with that, Melissa. We are as much humans as we are wolves. Emotions from our human side get in the way too. It's up to you to determine which side wins."

"I want Maxim," I blurted out. I felt threatened, and my heart was racing. I wasn't afraid of Lukas. I was only afraid of what he'd do in such a compromising position and if I'd push him away or not.

"I know you do," he admitted. His lips pulled in a wicked smirk as he moved impossibly closer to me. My eyes darted towards the back door as I tried to keep my emotions at bay. The minute Maxim feels my anxiety, he will come looking for me, and this wasn't the best position for us to be found in. "But you're still enticed by me, and that makes it even more interesting," he added.



"Please, Lukas. I'm sorry. I really am. I'm a hypocrite too, but I didn't plan for things to be this way."

"You still haven't answered my question," he said, avoiding my statement. "Did you have any feelings for me?"

I gulped. I couldn't lie because I knew for sure he was listening to my heartbeat, and I wasn't a good liar. But I couldn't tell him the truth either. That would only cause him to prolong this-whatever 'this' is.

"I... I don't know," I finally said, dropping my gaze to our feet.

His chest rumbled with a chuckle as he lifted my head up, so I had no choice but to look at him.

"Then let me help you decide," he whispered, and before I could get a chance to register what he meant, I felt his warm, soft lips on mine.

My eyes widened, and my body stiffened, and I knew my heart rate went over the moon. I stood there frozen as his lips lingered on mine for about ten seconds, then, as if they weren't even there, he pulled away.

He had a sly look on his face as he finally put a few metres between us.

"I hope that helped," he said with a smirk before leaving me alone on the porch, shaking like a leaf as I reflected on what just happened.

Lukas kissed me. He freaking kissed me !

And the worst part was, I wasn't even sure if I liked it or not.

I could already tell that this would change everything. And I already dreaded it.



Send Gift



Comment