

Chapter 6: Majestic Scent

The ride was unsettlingly quiet.

We had been driving for the past hour, and neither of us had said anything. I, for one, was going out of my mind. I could tell we were heading for the airport, but every second farther away from home never yielded me any comfort either. I could barely call that place home, but it was the only place I've known growing up.

Now, I was with Alpha Lukas. He signed some papers with my uncle before we left, officially naming me as his. I escaped from one prison to another, and there was nothing I could do about it. At least not yet.

I had been thinking about what the Primal Pack would be like. I knew they didn't have a Gamma wolf, but I wondered what their Beta was like, and most importantly, what Lukas's brother was like. From stories Joshua had told me last night when I called him, he told me that Lukas was the more likeable brother.

Meeting Lukas now and being met with nothing but coldness, I didn't want to imagine what the other one was like.

Nonetheless, I tried to occupy my mind with other things like my own brother and the fragment of a decent moment we shared before Lukas pulled me

away. Would he miss me someday? And if he did, would he even let me know?

Surely, he must believe that there was a little doubt that I had anything to do with what happened to our parents.

I'm all he has left. Why can't he see that?

I decided to let time do its own thing. I'd be foolish to force anything on him now only because of something as simple as a hug that he didn't resist. For all I know, he could be annoyed out of his mind, and I misread the entire situation.

I leaned my head against the window as I watched the trees rush past. For the most part, we were out of the forest and onto a lonely, narrow road that led to the human city. I've never been on a plane, and I had thought that the only time I'd be going on a plane was when or if I'd have the chance to live my dream. But life had other plans.

"Are you nervous?"

I was snapped out of my thoughts by Lukas's voice, and I was shocked to see that he was actually talking to me. His eyes were still on the road, but his focus was shifted to me.

I could barely find my voice. "Um... Yes. I would imagine anyone would," I said, and he surprised me by

actually laughing.

"Don't worry. I wasn't lying when I said I'd take care of you. You're mine now. Melissa, right?"

"Yes," I nodded. "Thank you. But, with all due respect, I'm not anybody's."

Instead of being angry as I suspected, Lukas only laughed harder. "I didn't expect this to be easy. I'm not your mate, and you don't know me. Anyway, my only intention with you is to make you my Luna. You don't have to love me."

"That's a miserable life," I mumbled.

"There's no guaranteed happiness when you're an Alpha. The pack comes first." Even though his voice was light with humour, his face was void of all happiness. I understood what he meant completely. Being an Alpha meant your own needs come after the pack. I could only imagine what it was like for him, especially since he ran the largest and strongest pack in the country.

"I don't know the first thing about being a Luna," I admitted. Unless being pushed around my whole life counted as experience. I shadowed Toya now and then, but I couldn't do what she does.

"You're Alpha blood. No?"

"Yes." I waited for the answer of what that had to do

with anything. Again, he only chuckled.

“You were born to be a leader wolf, my little muse. You have nothing to worry about.”

“You don’t strike me as the type that will force me to marry and mate with you,” I blurted out. But the budding question had been in my mind from the second I learned about this news. So, since the opportunity presented itself, I didn’t want to hesitate to ask.

Luckily, Lukas didn’t seem bothered by my blunt question. “Not right away, no. I don’t expect you to be okay with everything and do what I say. I will give you time to get accustomed to the pack, our alpha house and living in a new place as a whole. My Beta, Leonardo, has a mate a few years older than you, if I’m guessing correctly. Her name is Fiona. You two will get along quite fine.”

I was sort of relieved and a bit excited that I would have a female to lean on. Hopefully, this Fiona she-wolf will help me get accustomed to things, as Lukas suggested.

“But after a month or two, I will introduce my pack to you, and I will expect us to take things to another level.”

I gulped as he said this. I knew what he meant, but I knew there was no use protesting. At least he gave

me a heads up. I had to be grateful for that much. By then, perhaps I will have my runaway plan, or if I don't, I'd have to accept my new life as it is.

"Don't you have a mate?" I asked in confusion. He mentioned that his Beta had a mate, so my prior belief that he didn't believe in mates became void.

He shrugged. "I think she's dead." He said it plain and simple, as if it didn't phase him.

"Oh my gosh, I'm so sorry."

"It's okay," he said with a quick smile. "I'm sorry too for robbing you of your opportunity to find your mate. But as a man, I had to do what I had to do. Finding a high-ranking she-wolf with no mate isn't the easiest, so I simply couldn't let this opportunity pass."

I nodded. "I understand." I was lying. I couldn't understand why he'd want to steal me away from my real mate.

What if he finds me one day? Would Lukas kill my mate just because?

Silence fell between us for the rest of the ride to the airport. Unlike I expected, we didn't go through the regular terminals for a plane, but I noticed that we were led to a private jet waiting on the runway.

I should've known. A powerful Alpha like this wouldn't settle for commercial flights. My luggage was

boarded on the plane as Lukas led me up the steps, keeping his hand on the small of my back.

I saw curious human eyes watching through the airport windows. Some were admiring, some were jealous. I could guess why. Lukas himself was a chiselled being of beauty himself, and any woman would wish they were the ones being led up in a private jet by a man so perfect.

The inside reeked of wolves, but not in a bad way. I still wasn't used to their pack scent, so it was a bit unusual for me.

A female who looked like the flight attendant watched us in scrutiny as a man dressed in uniform whispered in her ear. I heightened my hearing to listen to what they were saying.

"Is she his mate?" the pilot asked, and the woman shook her head.

"No. I've heard that she is the Alpha-blood she-wolf of Armor Pack. Could he stoop any lower?"

"Oh hush," the elderly wolf said as he fanned her off.

"What did you think? That he'd choose you?"

I snickered at this and refocused my gaze to where Lukas was leading me. I usually allowed my hearing to stay at a human level because I could hear anything within a mile if I really concentrated. It gave me

headaches at times, so I learned to control it. But moments like these were when I loved it the most.

I took the chance to analyse Lukas's jet.

Everything was white leather, and it was beautiful. Each table had a lamp hanging over it with golden rims around its edges. The seats had a single cushion on them, all spotless and bright. Behind all that sat a curtain that I noticed held a small room with a bed, and the very sight of it made me realise just how tired I was. I yawned.

"Want to sleep?" Lukas asked, speaking to me for the first time since our last conversation.

Despite my fatigue, I shook my head. I had never been on a plane, and I wanted the full experience. He probably sniffed out my lie but let it go as he sat across from me.

After a few minutes, we were getting ready for taking off, and the excitement in me rose as the plane slid along the runway. My breath hitched when I felt it leaving the ground. Lukas's amused eyes never fell from my face as he watched my excitement.

"First time?" he asked, and I nodded.

"I haven't gotten out much."

"I can tell," he mumbled.

His face fell into a serious expression as if he was

trying to understand me. I didn't know how much my uncle told him, but there was far too much he needed to learn about me, and it was actually a relief when I noticed that he seemed...interested.

His stare was growing uncomfortable, so I redirected my gaze out the window. Tiny humans were scattered around the land, along with cars and buildings. It didn't feel like we were moving fast, but the way things passed beneath us showed the actual speed.

For the first time since I left home, I felt peace. Just flying in the air for the first time in an evidently rich jet with a handsome man in front of me calmed not only me but also my wolf. She had been oddly quiet for the past twenty-four hours. I couldn't blame her. She, more than me, was hurting for being robbed of the opportunity of finding our mate.

"Did you have an experiment with your hair?" Lukas asked, breaking me from my thoughts.

It took a while for me to catch on. "Um, no. I was born with this blue streak. I've recently learned that I probably emit blue light that makes people disappear too, so be careful." Despite my serious state, Lukas flung back his head and filled the room with his laughter.

"Well, it suits you," he said after his laughter died down. "Quite unique."

"Thank you." I chewed on my lips nervously as I refocused on the view below. I could see the sea coming into view, but my mind was with Lukas. He was the first person apart from Joshua who complimented me on my strange hair.

I thought it suited me. But it was nice to know someone else did too.

Soon, my eyes started drooping, and my head became heavy. I knew sleep was coming, and there was nothing I could do to stop it. Instead of fighting it, I simply embraced it as I felt strong arms carrying me forward before he laid me on a soft, comfy bed.

I groaned awake as mumbles and the thud of feet moving around pulled me from unconsciousness.

I could feel that we were no longer flying. Oddly, I felt more rested than I had in years.

I stretched my limbs free as I let my eyes flutter open, and indeed, we were on the ground. Instead of an airport, we were surrounded by trees, and my wolf instincts told me that we were close to a pack. No doubt they had their own runway closer to their pack, but I wasn't even surprised.

Rubbing my eyes, I shuffled from the white sheets and towards the main cabin where Lukas was speaking to

a wolf. I noticed that he wasn't on the plane earlier.

Their eyes snapped to me in the middle of their conversation, and I watched as the new wolf eyed me up and down. He radiated power, and my wolf felt it too. At first, I thought he was the second Dalton brother until he smiled at me.

"Well, well, well," he said as he moved closer to me. Lukas growled in annoyance. "Oh, relax, Luke. I'm only introducing myself."

"I didn't know you were going to be awake," Lukas said, avoiding his friend as he moved in front to hold onto me. "You were out like a lamp."

"I'm fine." I forced a smile as he wrapped his arms around me. I could tell he was showing possessiveness to his friend.

"Really, Luke? Come on, I have my mate!" the man said with a laugh.

"Your reputation precedes you," Lukas mumbled.

"Anyways, Melissa, this is my Beta, Leonardo. Leonardo, this is Melissa."

"Call me Leo," the Beta said as he winked at me. "It's a pleasure."

Lukas growled again, and I almost chuckled. I wasn't at the Alpha house yet, but I already felt comfortable with the Beta. This was a relief considering I was hella

nervous.

Lukas led me to a car where my luggage was already packed in. He buckled me in and moved to the driver's side. Leonardo followed behind our car along with some other wolves. I felt like I was being escorted with the president, but Lukas was probably the werewolf equivalent.

He contained small talk throughout the journey, asking me simple questions about myself that he'd want to know. But I noticed that the closer I got to the pack border, the more uneasy I got. This was natural. I wasn't a Primal Pack wolf, so I was bound to feel weird for a while. But something about this was different.

Lukas saw my uneasiness and grew concerned. But the minute I saw the line for the pack border, and we passed the border patrol, it got worse.

I grew sweaty, and my wolf was going crazy in my mind. My breathing increased, and my legs were shaking like a Chihuahua.

"Are you okay?" Lukas asked as he shifted his gaze between me and the road.

I shook my head as I grew scared. "I don't know. My wolf is a bit uneasy."

As I said this, he seemed to relax. "Oh, that is normal

for a wolf crossing a new territory, especially an Alpha blood.”

“I know, but this is different,” I told him. “I can’t explain what my wolf is feeling, but she feels something other than being threatened.”

I was growing more and more scared, and the look on my face only seemed to worry Lukas even more.

“Okay, we are about fifteen minutes away from the Alpha house. I’ll take you to bed so you can rest. Maybe you’re just a bit tired and restless.”

I nodded and remained quiet. I had no other explanation, so I decided to go with what he said. I closed my eyes the rest of the journey as I tried to control my breathing, but the closer we got, the worse it became.

At last, we pulled up to a large, white house that almost looked like a castle. It was evidently ancient but modified. There was a fountain in the centre of the yard, where it met the base of large, grey steps that led to the doubled doors.

Lukas parked in front of the steps and rounded the car to help me out. My feet were weak, and I could feel my wolf taking control. I had no idea why. She had never fought me this much to be in control before. I tried to let her understand that we couldn’t go for a run right now. We didn’t know the territory, and most

importantly, no one knew us.

Still, it took a lot for me to stay in control, that I didn't even notice that we were at the front door. Lukas pushed the door open, and suddenly, my wolf stopped fighting, and I instantly knew why.

The minute we were inside, my entire stomach plummeted with a zillion butterflies as the most exquisite and intoxicating scent filled my nostrils. It brought me to a certain euphoria as it filled my veins, and my heart slammed against my chest eagerly as my eyes darted around the beautiful foyer.

I knew why my wolf had been fighting me now. It was only a wolf's instinct to shift and find a loved one when they sensed that they were near. But all I had to do was step inside, and I knew I'd already found him.

Lukas seemed confused at my now calmed state. I could imagine what my face looked like, and I could feel that my eyes were shifted to my wolf's amber colour as they continued to search the foyer.

My breathing picked up again, and I didn't know how, but I knew why I loved the scent so much. I knew why it was like a drug to me. I couldn't control it anymore. My gums ached as my canines emerged, and my claws dug into my palm as Lukas held onto my forearm.

"What's wrong, Melissa?" he asked, concern dripping

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from his voice.

I didn't meet his eyes. I didn't know how to tell him, but I knew I had to.

"My mate," I said. "He lives here. He's in this house."