

Chapter 31

~Alexia~

Turning to the other side of the bed, Alexia felt a man's solid chest. Not only that, he was half naked. She smiled, immediately recognizing who it was.

Kieran Stone. Her husband.

Alexia had the best sleep in her life. Sure, she had slept next to Kieran back at the Cross River Pack, but this time, it was different. Emotions came into play, and she was finally confident of one thing; Kieran wanted her.

"Good morning." In his bedroom voice, Kieran greeted her.

She felt Kieran kiss her forehead. She fluttered her eyes open and stared into his intense dark brown eyes. Barely a whisper, Alexia greeted back, "Good morning."

"So what will it be, my little wife? You have two options." He said.

Alexia immediately frowned, not understanding what he meant. Eventually, he resumed speaking, "It's either I move into your room, or you move into mine. Personally, I prefer the first option. My room is bigger. My bed is bigger and -"

His eyes narrowed as he resumed, "It's soundproof. I could do anything with you in my room." He hissed and added, "You could scream my name all night long, and no one would hear it."

Alexia flushed at his suggestion. Last night, after he claimed he would fight against fate should they not be true mates, they resumed making out. They both agreed they would do the same; fight for their marriage.

After the heated kiss, however, Kieran wound up taking a cold shower in his room. That was how he ended up in her bed, half-naked, with only his pajamas.

"Then, your room it is," she replied with a smile.

"Hmmm." He answered. "I'll tell the maids to move your things before I leave."

"Kieran?" She asked as he sat up on the bed. "Does Hmmm mean approval or yes?"

"Hmmm." He did not answer. Instead, he moved closer to her and kissed her lips. He said, "Take a shower. Let's have breakfast together. I have a very long day ahead of me."

Holding his risk, she boldly suggested, "No more avoiding." Her face turned a shade darker as she

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said, "Just let me know how I can help."

"Hmmm," he said before finally getting off the bed and entering his room.

After breakfast, the maids moved all of Alexia's things into Kieran's room. It was huge, perhaps three times the size of her room.

It had a walk-in closet, a mini living area, and a stunning bathroom. Not only was the restroom big, but it also had a jacuzzi tub. Kieran also had an enormous balcony that could allow them to have a decent coffee or breakfast, with a view of the front lawn and the rows of pines.

Kieran lingered for a few minutes to direct the maids to

where Alexia's belongings could be placed. After that, he left to visit another pack, which required help.

For the rest of Alexia's morning, she visited her friends, Melissa and Dean. Jaxon had already helped them get work within the pack, so their lives were back to being productive.

Melissa and Dean served in a newly opened coffee shop. Their parents had different jobs altogether, but at least no one was left jobless.

Alexia had pastries in the same coffee shop. At the same time, she discussed the upcoming initiation ceremony.

"All of you will have your initiation at the same time this weekend. There will be a small party after that, so you get to meet some of the pack members who are free for the gathering," Alexia revealed.

"Wow, that's too much," Dean declared. "I guess all those stories about Alpha Kieran being ruthless aren't true. He never smiles, though."

"I've seen him smile," Alexia assured his friend. "And yes, he is a good alpha, unlike my father."

"Don't get the wrong idea, though," Alexia said. "He is ruthless against his enemies."

"I'm sure he is," Melissa said. She sneered and recalled, "I heard he killed Beta Edward all over again."

As a customer came in, and Melissa attended, Dean then glanced at Alexia, asking, "Are you happy, Alexia? We were worried about your state after you left, but you seem to be doing well here."

"I am, Dean." She shrugged and revealed, "Well, it wasn't always like this. At first, Kieran doubted my intentions. He thought I had asked for the marriage, or my family did, but thankfully, he learned

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the truth, so we are here now. He accepted me, and I am happy with him."

"So, you are going to stay in your marriage?" Dean asked with a frown.

"Yes, Dean. That's what marriage is supposed to be. I admit that initially, I wanted my freedom. However, the more I got to know Kieran, the safer I felt around him," Alexia revealed.

"But what if you are not true mates?" Dean asked. "Don't you want to give yourself to your fated mate?"

"We already agreed that we will stay in the marriage, regardless if we are true mates or not." Alexia looked down and revealed, "We will reject our true mates if it does come to that -"

"But you can't, Alexia. You can't. It's like you are questioning the Moon Goddess," Dean said. "I am thankful for Alpha Kieran for all his help, but as your friend, I think you should consider not investing too much in your marriage-emotionally. You will only hurt yourself, Alexia."

Dean reached for Alexia's hand. He held it tight and said, "There is a possibility that someone else is waiting for you-your true mate -"

"Dean? Aren't you my friend? Didn't I say that I am happy?" Alexia cut him off. She pulled her hand away with a frown on her face. "I've been miserable since my mother left. Why can't I be happy?"

"Kieran is already my husband, and I thank the Goddess for bringing me to him." Returning her regard to Dean, she asked, "Can you just... be happy for me?"

Dean nodded, but Alexia could tell that it was an obligatory nod. She could not help but feel there was something more that Dean wanted to say, but he held back.

The time came and went.

After a formal initiation, Alexia's friends and their families have slowly adjusted to life within the main territory of Kieran's pack. Alexia saw them often, especially Dean. He always visited the packhouse after work, bringing treats from the coffee shop.

She had told him many times it was unnecessary, but he insisted it was his way of thanking Kieran and me for giving them a new life within the Stone Blood Pack.

Whenever he visited, Alexia would have come from her training. She would typically still be in her training attire and invite Dean for coffee and snacks by the garden. Usually, Rae would join them, but most of the time, she had work to do.

One afternoon, Alexia and Dean were chatting like old times. They were laughing while they ate

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the same pastries he had brought from the coffee shop. Out of nowhere, Dean's hand stretched out to her. He said, "There is something on your face -"

A loud growl suddenly interrupted them. Dean and Alexia jumped in their seats. They found Kieran glaring at them from behind, his body expanding. His eyes were rounding as he marched towards

Dean..

"Kieran. Kieran, please," Alexia understood what her husband was thinking. Thus, she tried to calm him down.

Unfortunately, though, Kieran could not be reasoned with.

Alexia watched in horror as he grabbed Dean by the collar of his shirt. He lifted him in the air and snarled, "I accepted you into my pack - gave you and your family a job, yet you disrespect me by trying to pursue my wife!"

He threw Dean to the ground and warned, "I was patient with you, Dean. You are coming here to maintain that closeness with my wife, but that will have to change! Alexia is married to me! It is improper to keep this kind of closeness that you once had! Find another woman to woo!"

Hearing Kieran, Alexia's eyes widened. She looked at Dean and saw how guilt washed over him. "Wait, Dean liked me?!"

Kieran walked back and forth inside their room, huffing and puffing loudly. He was letting off some steam while walking past Alexia many times.

"Kieran? I don't think Dean meant to harm. He was always like that - sweet and caring -"

"Because he fucking likes you, Alexia!" Kieran shot back. "I am proud to have a kind and beautiful wife like you, but you also need to be sensitive to the surrounding men because I - I am a jealous man!"

"I cannot stand and watch while someone tries to charm my wife!" Kieran stood in front of Alexia and held her chin. He asked, "Tell me you are mine. Mine and mine alone!"

Alexia's heart raced. Her ears burned as she replied, "I'm yours -"

Without warning, Kieran's lips crashed into hers. He carelessly kissed her, and when he pulled away, he pleaded,

"Please, let me have you - I want all of you."