

Chapter 0327

Thank the Goddess no one is here yet, it's still too early on a Friday morning. I don't know if I could fake my way through polite conversation right now. I just need to beat on some stuff and get my head back on straight. Which is exactly what we did. Mina spotted me and laughed every time I added weights to the bars, but she didn't object or try and tell me to take it easy.

We were on our last set when a voice pulled me out of my train of focus.

"You should have called us, we would have joined you."

I turned around and my sweat soaked ponytail whipped around my neck.

He stops in his tracks. "On second thought, it looks like you are out for blood, maybe missing out on this workout was okay." Tyler laughs at us. Mina gives a chuckle and I manage a smile and an eye roll. I'm not done being mad, but at least I can understand that Mina and Tyler aren't my problem.

"You might not have survived." I look at him in the mirror as I set up to finish my squats. "I mean your stamina was a little lacking yesterday during the run, I can't imagine your strength is much better." I cock an eyebrow at him.

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What are you doing? We have to leave to get ready for classes? Mina mindlinks me.

We need answers, and he's here. You said so yourself. Maybe if I can get him moving with me I'll get some." I respond and then open the link to her, Osiston and Nickolas. "Tyler is at the gym with me, I'm going to see if I can get information out of him. Mina has to leave for this to happen, I assume at least one of you is nearby. Can one of you follow her home to get ready for class and one stay with me as backup?" I look at her daring her to contradict me.

"At least you asked for back-up, jackass." She rolls her eyes and I smile at her.

"I'll see you later, I just need some more time." I say out loud to her. She nods, gives me a hug and walks by Tyler.

"Mina, I'm outside in the truck. Osiston has Sky." Nickolas comes through like this is the most natural response to my request.

"Make sure she doesn't do anything stupid, she's having a moment. And make sure that she eats...soon. We didn't get a ton of sleep last night and have been here for over an hour with no food. She will train herself into a coma." She pats him on the shoulder and walks away.

Tyler just looks at me for a second. "Wanna talk about it?"

"Not really, I'm still irritated and if I start talking the irritation

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will just get bigger. I just need to work out the aggression a little longer, can you spot me on the bench press? Wait, I don't want to interrupt your workout. You did not come here to be my trainer, I'm sorry." I rub my face, hoping I'm getting the emotion right so he will want to stay and talk to me.

"Hey, hey, come here." He pulls me into a hug and I reluctantly put my arms around him. "What's up? Talk to me." I let him hold me for a minute.

"I'm so gross, I'm sorry." I say as I pull away, actually kind of feeling bad, but he doesn't let me get more than a step away.

"You're fine, I kind of prefer this look on you. It seems right somehow. Is that weird?"

"I have no idea." I cringe. "This kind of thing is new for me." I point between the two of us. "And I really am disgusting and I smell, I should probably go and shower."

"Like I said, I prefer this look on you and you actually don't smell bad." He smiles at me. "Do you have stuff to shower and change here, or do you need to go home?"

"I didn't bring anything with me, we came in kind of a rush, but I don't want to go home yet. Ugh." So far I haven't had to lie, which is working for me. Tyler seems sweet even if he is a part of the rogue group, he doesn't seem like a bad guy.

"How about this? I haven't worked out, so I don't need to change and I was smart enough to bring extra stuff with

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me. Do you want to take my bag and go clean up then I can make sure you eat like Mina asked, cause I'm sure she can kick my ass too."

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Commented [Ma1]:

Chapter 0328

"Really? You would give up your workout time and your stuff for me?" I know my guys would do that for me, but Tyler barely knows me outside of class.

"You really are new at this aren't you?" He laughs, taking a cautious step towards me and placing a hand on my hip. The sound is a deep grumble in his chest and is comforting somehow.

"Let's put it this way, " I sigh, "The age gap might be a problem when you find out how big it is. It may also explain a few things." I look away from him, but I don't step out of his grip no matter how much every fiber of my being wants me to.

"Skylar, don't you dare tell him your real age!" Osiston growls

"I'm going to have to give him something that explains my reluctance to do things like hug and kiss him, when he keeps trying. Relax, we need his information and I'm going to have to be vulnerable for him to share it."

"Fine. Be careful and keep your mindlink open now so you can just talk and don't have to relay anything."

"Got it."

"If you really don't mind, I will be quick I promise." I look

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back at him and he has a small smile playing on his lips.

"Skylar, I don't mind. Come on." He walks us over to where he dropped his stuff. He just hands me the whole bag, like he could care less if I went through his stuff. Then he walks me to the locker room, hand on the small of my back the whole time.

"I swear, ten minutes tops. Thank you Tyler." I give him a small smile as I walk through the locker room door.

I hurry through the shower, using his body wash and 2-in-1 shampoo and conditioner. My sweats are fine since I took those off the minute we walked in the door, but my underwear and bra are soaked so I decide to go without. He thankfully has a brush so I can attempt to make myself presentable. ①

I walk out in less than ten minutes and Tyler is just leaning against the wall looking at his phone.

"Hey. Thanks for waiting."

He looks up at me, looks down at his phone and then back up at me again, a weird look on his face. "You're done already?!"

"Umm, yeah. I said ten minutes tops."

"But that usually means an hour." He laughs.

"Not for me. I don't do a lot to get ready. If I am ever dressed up or look like effort was put in, that means I was

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tied to a chair and my best friends had their way with me." I laugh.

"That oddly sounds like something I might like to witness." He smiles at me and reaches for his bag, gently taking it out of my hands. "Now, can I hold your hand or is that too much?"

"I'm not sure actually." I just stand there looking at him.


"Let's find out then." He grabs my hand and gently leads me out of the gym and down the sidewalk to a little diner a few blocks away.

We walk in a comfortable silence. I don't feel weird holding his hand, but it isn't the same as the twins or Oliver or even Sam. There is no emotion attached to it. This brand is crazy. I don't feel awkward or butterflies or tingles or any sensation that could be attached to a boy holding my hand for the first time. It's just numb.

"So you have been thinking awfully hard while we are walking. Are you getting anywhere inside that pretty head of yours or can I help?" He asks as he holds the door open for me to walk into the diner that has a small crowd doing a late breakfast.

I'm sure a lot of kids either try not to have classes on Fridays or at the very least start late if they can help it.

"Not really, just boys being frustrating boys. Well one boy anyway." He lets go of my hand immediately and I look at

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him confused.

 Comments

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Chapter 0329

"Are you with someone else? Or does someone have a claim on you?" Is he angry? Why does he sound angry?

"Excuse you?!" I step back as my temper flares for a second, but I close my eyes and take a breath in and reign it in. I need to talk to him, we need answers. "No, nothing like... just... let's just sit down and I can explain."

We grab a booth in the back and he sits across from me looking skeptical. The waitress is quick to get to us and we both order the same thing. Tyler never takes his eyes off of me.

"You have someone, is that why you are reluctant with me?" He does not even mince words.

"No, I don't, but it's complicated. I'm complicated."

"How so?" Still irritated. I am doing everything to not return the sentiment in my tone.

"How old are you Tyler?"

"Twenty two, why? How is this relevant to you having a boyfriend?" I ignore him.

"Any siblings? A little sister maybe?"

"I had a sister, yes. Where are you going with this?"

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"Just follow along for a second. I promise I'm not really as strange as I sound. Well, maybe I am. Who knows." I fidget with my ponytail which is still wet and take a deep breath in. This is my way to get him to open up to me. I have to word this right. "Anyway, How would you feel if your fifteen year old sister went off to college, because she was smart enough to accomplish that, but you found out she started talking to a twenty two year old college guy just weeks into being in school?"

"I would probably rip his balls off and shove them down his throat." He didn't even hesitate with his answer and I just sat there looking at him, waiting for him to catch on. It took a couple minutes. He blinks at me, then his eyes go wide and his face pales. "Oh f*ck! Are you serious?! If you are serious I am a dead man." He rubs his hand over his mouth, his breathing more shallow. "Yep, I am a dead man. No one has a sister as hot as you and doesn't have a protection detail on her at all times. You don't have a big ass bodyguard hiding somewhere do you?" He starts looking around nervously like someone is going to jump out saying 'you caught me.'

"Of course she does, jackass, the point of hiding is to not be seen. But he's not as dumb as we thought, is he?" Osiston decides to chime in. I ignore it.

This time I have to lie. "Of course not, but I told you I'm new at all of this and I just came here to go to class, high school

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was boring and I was done with all the requirements I had there. Mina was already attending so I asked if I could come along. Nickolas said 'why not' since we were all moving anyway."

"And your brother? What about him? I thought it was just you and Mina."

"It is actually my best friends' boyfriend, who is like my older brother. I knew him first, I've known him since birth actually. But it's her birthday today so we were on the phone talking this morning and I didn't know he was in earshot of the conversation, but I was telling her about the run last night and he got mad at me for being out with college guys without anyone to protect me, basically. Overprotective doesn't even begin to describe him. He told me I needed to come home, which pissed me off, and I have a bit of a temper when it comes to people telling me what to do so I usually go to the gym where it is harder to break stuff. So here we are." I take a deep breath after all of that word vomit.

"So you are telling me that you are seven years younger than me, but taking the same college level courses that I am and worried that I might have a problem with the age difference. Is that right? This other guy definitely has a problem with the age difference, and you are certain it's an older brother thing and nothing more?"

"Well, basically yeah. The classes aren't really the problem.

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Let's be honest. It's the life experience that I think you might have an issue with. You've seen more than I have and been through more than I have. With all my intelligence I am still only fifteen. And I'm not going to lie, the whole relationship thing is only a concept to me. I have never had one and it makes me really nervous. And yes, my massive, overprotective, flirt of a friend is like my big brother, there are no other feelings there. The way he is with my best friend, I kind of hope they are mates. It's a goals type of relationship."

 Comments

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Chapter 0330

He takes a deep breath and blows it out slowly. "Well I can see why you are different from the rest of the girls I know now. I'm not going to lie. I like you a lot, but I get where you're coming from, especially if this is all new for you." He grabs my hand and slowly interlocks our fingers. I'm sure some girl somewhere would be fighting to keep her heart rate in check because the gesture is super sweet, but it's nothing for me.

I know the brand is doing its job and I don't know if I would be interested in him as more than a friend even if it wasn't, but I also feel bad for this boy who is showing me patience and kindness and affection and there is no way for me to truly reciprocate.

"I just know that mates are really important and I'm afraid of what might happen if I get attached to anyone and they don't turn out to be my mate. How devastating would that be? For either person. It's just really confusing. I'm sorry, I don't mean to be all hot and cold with you, I really just don't know what to do."

Our food arrives at that point and he is saved from having to answer me. The homestyle meal is amazing. Pancakes, bacon, biscuits with sausage gravy, a side of fruit and coffee and juice. It makes me think of home and Gretchen cooking for me when I was by myself all the time. I would just sit at

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the island eating and watching her bustle around the kitchen. It was always a quiet peace, lonely, but peaceful.

I close my eyes and savor every bite, lost in the memory for a second.

"Why is that so hot? You really enjoy your food don't you?" I actually forgot I was alone. My eyes snap open to see Tyler watching me.

I swallow slowly making sure I don't choke while he just stares. "What person doesn't enjoy food after basically torturing themselves in the gym?"


"I know a lot of girls who don't eat much, period." He lowers his voice so only I can hear him. "Human girls are the worst about it, but she-wolves aren't much better. Most think it will mess up their figure, but if they actually worked out their wolf the way you're supposed to be, burning calories shouldn't be a problem."

"I just eat what I want and when I'm hungry, it's really not that big of a deal." I try to shrug it off.

"Well, the sounds you make when you enjoy your food are making it a very big deal." He shifts slightly in his seat.

Did he just...? Oh man. I need to change the topic, we keep venturing towards s*x and I need information, not for him to want to jump me.

I set my fork down because apparently eating turns him on. "

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"You said you 'had' a sister. Past tense. What happened to her?"

His face goes dark and I feel bad for prying, but we need to know if it was the Rogue King who attacked his pack and if Tyler and his friends joined up. I have to keep reminding myself I am on a mission.

"When my pack was attacked, it was chaos. We had no idea it was coming, we weren't at war or even in a disagreement with any other pack that I'm aware of. My dad and mom worked in the packhouse so we usually knew what was going on just from them being around the leaders. The wolves were organized and had a clear plan of attack, it was not random. They knew where to go and who to go after first. I don't know when it happened, but I found my sister later on our front lawn."

He stopped to take a breath and I let him have the moment. Reliving that kind of trauma in your head sucks, I know. I reach out and touch his hand lightly, not sure if that's what he needs right now or not. He gives me a small smile and squeezes my hand back.

"You said you were stuck. Why didn't you just leave or choose another Alpha and rebuild? I'm sorry, I don't mean to be nosey, I just don't understand."

"We weren't allowed to leave. Their Alpha took over. Said it was by order of the Alpha King, so no one was coming for us, our pack was found lacking and needed a change." He

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still has this dark haunted look in his eyes, but something else is there and I can't describe it but, I am genuinely scared of this look.

 Comments

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