

THROUGH THE EYES OF MY ALPHA by Cassandra M Chapter 31

Chapter 31 BETA DOMINIC.

I was driving on the free highway at three o'clock in the morning as I made my way back to the territory. I followed the Alpha's advice and went out, trying to ease the annoyance of being the only one left unmated residing at the pack house. I didn't have any plans to go out tonight. I was serious when I told Alpha Riley that I would spend the night looking up at the moon, but then the Alpha and his Gamma decided that tonight was the best time to leave their windows open so the whole pack house ground could hear their females while they satiate their heat.

It was torturous. Not that I got aroused, but it left me with a pang of pity for myself. I'm 23, the same age as the Alpha, who hasn't found his mate yet. I wondered if I would meet her one day or if I just had to content myself with a chosen one. A chosen one isn't bad. In fact, I already know who I want.

Janna. Alpha Jacob's half-sister. But the problem was, I felt she didn't feel anything for me. I knew who she wanted. I saw it in her eyes, but I was just trying to shrug it off. There was no way Gamma Aaron, Alpha Jacob's Gamma, would be able to claim her.

But I saw it, the way her eyes narrowed while watching the waitress at the restaurant flirt with Aaron the last time we went together. And how her eyes lit up when she was talking to him. She wanted him. I was just not sure about the Gamma. He was a fucking flirt, the real definition of a fuckboy. Janna was better off with someone else. Me? Of course, I was hoping for that. I let out a deep sigh as I slipped my hand off the window, holding the roof of my car as I drove faster down the highway. Sleep with be terrible tonight. Alcohol wasn't helping at all. I tried to clear my mind of any thoughts and just focus on driving when a figure began to take shape ahead of me on the side of the highway. Was that a female? What on fucking earth was a female doing in the middle of a freeway at three o'clock in the morning alone? I hit my brake hard, the tire

screaming loudly into the thin air, making the female jerk back from her position as the car came to a full halt in front of her. My eyes squinted as recognition flashed in my head. She looked familiar, but I wasn't sure. This one looked too young to be the female I thought she was.

"Lady Katarina?" I asked, my brows furrowing as I raked her body up and down. She was wearing tight black jeans and a hoodie of the same color that hugged her body perfectly.

She swallowed before she shook her head, pulling the hood off her head. "I'm not Katarina."

"You looked like her."

"Yes, she is my sister. What were you doing here?" The nerve of her to ask me when I should be the one asking her. "The question is, what the fuck are you doing here? How old are you? I thought Darwin and Katarina's sister was still a kid." "Well, apparently kids grow up too." She snapped at me, rolling her eyes as she crossed her arms against her chest. I shook my head, leaning my elbow on the window before pointing at the bags sitting on the ground.

"You didn't answer my question. What are you doing here? Running away?"

"None of your business. Who are you anyway?" "Alpha Jacob." This is going to be fun. I would have said Alpha Riley if I was sure she hadn't met him, but with my Alpha's constant visit to Alpha Darwin, they might have crossed paths. "Oh, Goddess!" She clamped her hand over her mouth as the color started to drain from her face. "I'm sorry, Alpha." Nice. Now I know what it feels like to be an Alpha.

"No harm done. Now talk, are you running away? Spill everything or I will roll off command to let you speak the whole truth." My mouth twitched, but I suppressed the smile from tugging at my lips. "I'm waiting for my boyfriend. He should have picked me up two hours ago, but maybe he got sidetracked."

Or maybe fucking someone else already. "Hop in. I'll drive you home."

"No. I need to wait for him, and besides, Darwin will..." "Darvin will

raise hell to find you. How old are you anyway?"

"Seventeen."

"Get the fuck inside my car now!" I growled at her. She was only fucking seventeen, and yet she thought she could run away and live with a man who made her wait in the middle of the highway at the full moon where sex-hungry unmated males might be roaming around.

Her body jolted from my growl as her eyes widened when I opened the car door. She immediately ran to the other side of the car, opening the passenger seat and sliding in, leaving her bags behind.

I didn't know why I reacted that way. I was probably just upset that she was only seventeen and was about to make a big mistake and throw her life away with someone who was probably not her fated mate. 1

I bent down to pick up her bags, throwing them all in the back seat of my car before sitting back inside.

I revved up the engine without saying anything. I was still fucking furious. I didn't think there was anything wrong with females having relationships when they were under the age of eighteen, but running away to live with an obviously irresponsible man irritated me.

VUO

"My siblings didn't know I wasn't home." I snickered, shaking my head.

"I'm not stupid. If they know your plan, then I guess I won't be seeing you here." "Don't tell them I was planning to run away." "What do you want me to tell them? I snatched you in the middle of the night so we could hang out and now I'm returning you home?" "I don't know."

"You're acting out of stupidity." I felt anger arising from her, and I was guessing the only reason she was holding herself from snapping at me was that she thought I was Alpha Jacob. She was probably aware that Alpha Jacob was not going to take any bullshits. "That boyfriend of yours, leave him. If he cared for you, he would have been there at your meeting place even before you came there. Unless, of course, he's dead."

"You're cruel."

OC

"I am. But at least I'm not stupid." I glanced at her. She was refusing to

look at me, but her hands were coiling into fists.

We sat in silence as we drove to her territory. I wanted to ask for her name, but I guess it wasn't that important. I could find out later.

She insisted I drop her off just at their border, but I didn't. I wanted her inside their pack house, and I wanted to talk to Alpha Darwin or Lady Katarina. They needed to watch her before she pulled another stunt like this. Lady Katarina was already at the front of their pack house when we arrived. It was almost four in the morning, but the whole house was lit up. It looked like they had found out that their princess was missing. The moment we stepped out of the car, Lady Katarina rushed in and pulled her sister into a tight hug.

"Where did you go? Darwin was already outside the territory doing a manhunt for you!" Her eyes then darted to mine, but she was still speaking with her sister. "Why didn't you say you would be hanging out with him."

"Alpha Jacob and I just decided to hang out..." She said it in almost a whisper, and I couldn't stop myself from laughing at this point. Lady Katarina pulled away from hugging her sister as she held her shoulders, her eyes squinting. "Alpha Jacob? He's mated. Why would he hang out with you?"

Her mouth opened as her eyes shifted in my direction. "He's not marked." I raised my hands in the air, my mouth twitching into a grin. "Can I explain?" The sisters were just looking at me. Their foreheads were creased, and they looked so much alike, except that the youngest one had fuller lips and seductive eyes. Fuck! What was I supposed to do now?

"My name is Dominic. And I found her in the middle of the highway."

"You found her where?" "You're not Alpha Jacob?"

They both snarled at the same time, and I couldn't help but be amazed by these Alpha Females.

I pointed a finger at her sister, while my eyes were focused on Lady Katarina. "She needs to explain why she was there. It's none of my

business, but if I were you, I would keep an eye on her.” The female swatted my hand, her eyes blazing in anger as she snapped at me. “How could you lie to me?”

I curled a finger under her chin, tilting her head up so I could look her straight in the eyes. ” You should be thankful I found you and not those perverts looking for someone to fuck on a full moon. So instead of snarling at me, kid, a simple thank you will do.”

“In your dreams!” She pushed my hand off her chin and stepped back from me. “Sofia, that’s enough!” Lady Katarina grabbed her wrist and pulled her away before whispering something to her. Sofia

I shrugged my shoulders before turning around.

“My bags!” Sofia called after me.

I didn’t say anything, but I was already on my way to the back seat of the car. I took her bags and threw them on the ground in front of her, shifting my eyes to look at Katarina instead.” She wanted to run off with a man who made her wait for more than two hours in the middle of a dark highway, If I were you, tell Darwin to chain her until she learns her lessons.” “Asshole!”

“You’re welcome.” I slid my hands into my pockets as I turned around. I will just let my Alpha have a word with her brother because I have a wild guess that they would keep this just to themselves. “Apologize, Sofia, or I will tell Darwin about this!” I could hear anger rising from Katarina’s tone.

“No need to. I would rather you tell Darwin this. Besides, I’m sure I won’t be seeing this kid anymore. Have a good day, ladies. I’m out of here.” I didn’t wait for any response as I slipped inside my car and brought the engine back to life. I glanced back at the females and waved back at Katarina before I drove off. On the other hand, the little spitfire was still glaring at me, her eyes following my car as it drove past her.

Chapter 32

NADIA.

I woke up with a warm sensation spreading in between my legs and traveling throughout my whole body. My mate. His wet and warm mouth was busy lapping and sucking my core hard as if he had hungered for years. I moaned as I arched my hips higher, wanting my mate's face on my mound.

Riley was eating me so well that I wanted to doubt now if he really hadn't had any experience with giving oral sex before. He was devouring me like a god, and I couldn't get enough of what he was doing to my body. My hands flew to his hair, coiling my fingers around them before tugging them as his tongue started to do its wonders inside my throbbing, wet pussy. "Ahhh... Did you even sleep?" I whimpered, not complaining at all. "Goddess, Riley!" My voice croaked as my core weakened with every stroke of his hard tongue. Instead of answering, he grunted, letting a low growl vibrate from his chest as he picked up his pace, thrusting his tongue in and out of me harder and deeper, making the knots in my stomach explode into a thousand tingles, signaling another orgasm coming my way. I clamped my legs around his head as his hands gripping my ass tightened. His nose was rubbing my swollen nub as his mouth continued to devour every inch of me. It wasn't long before my body shuddered at the intensity of my release, to the point of near brain death.

This man, my mate, knew exactly where to touch and pleasure me. And I lost count of the times I had an orgasm. All I knew was that I had more orgasms tonight than I had on the previous three full moons where I had pleased myself during my heat.

I was still panting, high from my orgasm, when I felt his hand cup my pussy and massage it before his body slid up, dropping to my side as he drew my body along with him, so we ended up facing each other. His hand was still holding my core, massaging my tender spot. "Did I satisfy you and leave you wanting more?" "Yes... More." I could feel my heart fluttering as I saw his face closing in. He was leaving me breathless.

I parted my lips, anticipating his kiss, and time just stopped the moment his lips met mine. Even after the heat had subsided, his smell was still hypnotic, and the smell of sex around us just made me want more. But I knew my swollen pussy couldn't handle more pounding. I had too much for one night.

He pulled away from assaulting my swollen lips, a smug grin plastered on his face as he stared at me. "I want to fuck you again, but your pussy is too sore already." He said in a husky voice, his lips biting and sucking mine while his hand on my core was still massaging it softly.

"Hmmm... but... But are we doing this often now or do we need to wait for another full moon?"

"I asked. My cheeks felt like they were burning from embarrassment, but I wanted to know the answer. Sometimes, I had no idea what was on his mind and if he was okay with having sex with me or not. He chuckled, while he continued to suck my swollen lips. "Every day, we can do this every hour too if you want."

I giggled and raised my arms, snaking them around his neck as I parted my lips, taking the lead in sucking and biting his lips this time. He groaned and closed his eyes, letting me feast on his plump lips. "Then... Let me rest... for now, we can... have another., round tonight," I told him, giggling in between kissing and biting him. "Or later, after lunch. The night is too far from now." "Oh, Goddess! How would I heal?" "Your pussy is made for me, baby. It can take me even if I don't stop." He kissed my nose before sitting up in bed, "I will run a bath for us. The warm water will soothe the soreness."

"But I want to sleep more.." I pouted and rolled on my stomach.

I felt his hand brush against my ass cheeks, and tingles and sparks started to spread between my legs again. "You can sleep after the bath. I have things to do too, so I won't be able to stay in bed, but I want to stay in the bathtub with you for a while..."

I bit my bottom lip and rolled to my back, my naked flesh was flashing before him, and it didn't take long before his eyes dilated to black, but he

was able to control and set them back to his normal blue-colored eyes. He stood up from the bed with fully erect manhood and strode to the bathroom with big steps, and I couldn't help but giggle.

I heard him open the tap water in the tub before he came back to tell me our bath was ready. I sat up in bed, but I could feel my knees wobbling, and I knew if I stood up, I might just fall on my ass. But I was too shy to ask for help. But my wonderful mate was already in front of me, I didn't need to say anything more. He just bent down and coiled his arms around my knees and on my back before lifting me up in his arms and taking me to the bathroom, where a warm bath was awaiting us.

When I awoke from my sleep, my entire body was aching. I looked at the clock on the bookshelves and saw that the day was almost gone. My eyes also caught a food trolley just beside the couch. Someone must have brought me something to eat, but even now, I don't feel any cravings for food. My tummy would probably growl in hunger when Riley was around like it usually did to embarrass me in front of my mate.

But I wondered what my mate was up to right now. I tried to mindlink him, but it seemed like his link was shut off.

My legs were still weak, but I managed to walk normally. And as soon as I was able to fix 'myself, I made my way down the stairs to his office, but I didn't find him there.

He might be out on the training ground.

I was about to head there when I bumped into Jenny, who was about to leave the kitchen.

"Hi!" I greeted her. "You're awake! Would you like to eat?"

I shook my head, smiling at her before I asked about my mate. "Have you seen the Alpha?"

She bit her bottom lip before nodding her head. "They are in the cell in the next building." "What are they doing there?"

"Giving punishment to one male who assaulted his wife last night while he was too drunk." "Oh, Goddess! Do you know what punishment he will give him?" "It depends on the severity of the offense." "Can we go there?" "I'm not sure if the Alpha wants you there." "Please...I won't

disturb him.” “Let me just ask Sebastian.” She said calmly as her eyes started to fleck with white. After a few seconds, she smiled at me, her hand holding my back. “We can go, but Sebastian said to make sure the Alpha doesn’t see you in his peripherals so he won’t get distracted.” I nodded my head. “But he would still smell me.” “The area has different kinds of smells, silvers, blood, and antiseptics, so maybe he won’t, but either way, we have to stay quiet.” I nodded my head again as we walked out of the pack house and headed for the old building just beside it.

My heart was thudding loudly, I wasn’t sure I wanted to see someone being punished, but a part of me wanted to see Riley as an Alpha. Was he reasonable or just plain ruthless like the other Alphas I’ve heard of?

“Jenny, do you know why this man hurt his mate?”

“No idea. I would have to ask Sebastian later, but regardless of the reason, Alpha Riley does not allow manhandling of females in his pack.”

“I see...”

“And Luna, whatever you see in there, don’t scream.”

“Is it that scary?”

“I was a warrior before I moved here, so nothing scares me or makes my stomach churn, but I’m not sure about you. I just want to remind you that you need to be tougher.” “I’ll try my best,” I told her, biting my bottom lip.

“I’m sure you can. You can hold my hand if it’s too much or just tell me if you want to leave.” “Now you’re scaring me.” Jenny giggled before shaking her head. “I just don’t want the Alpha’s wrath if you pass out there. I’m the one that brought you here.” I nodded and smiled warmly at her. “I won’t disappoint you, I will behave and won’t pass out.”

We stayed silent the moment we reached the stairs going to the basement. I was expecting it to be dark like the dungeons I would see in films, but this place was far from it.

Everything was well lit, the floors were tiled, and the walls were clean. It didn’t take long before my eyes caught sight of Riley in one of the cells.

His upper body was naked. He just had his pants on, and I could see the sweat on his torso. He looked so ravishingly handsome that I couldn't stop my lips from curling into a smile. Until I see the expression on his face.

He was crouched on the floor, one knee on the ground, and slumped down before him was a man whose face was covered with tears as he mumbled his words.

Riley's face was showing such deadly expressions that my heart dropped in an instant. Gone was the soft expression he had whenever he looked at me. He looked more animalistic than human right now, and a part of me was a bit scared to witness this side of him. "I won't do this again, Alpha! I swear, I just snapped!"

"You're not allowed to snap, Manuel! You're a fucking warrior! You're supposed to be the one protecting our females, especially your mate!"

Riley stood up from crouching on the ground and grabbed the whip that Beta Dominic handed him. I stopped the gasp from escaping my lips as I held my breath. "Ten lashes! Take off his shirt!" He instructed the men behind him, and they sprung into action,

"Alpha, please! I'm not mad at him. I know he won't do it again." A female came forward, wrapping her arms around her male, and my heart broke for her. "Why are you saving him? He hurt you. Look at you. What will you tell your pups when they ask why you have a broken face?"

"Please Alpha, let me and him handle this." She was begging. Her tear-stricken face was tilted up, looking at my mate. "You want to save him? I can lessen the lashes he will receive." "Yes, Alpha. Please..."

"Manuel, look at me. I will give you five lashes, as your mate requested." "Thank you, Alpha." "But I will let her bear the rest of the lashes."

"One lash for the female, without silver. Help her take off her shirt."

The female face paled as my hands flew to my mouth to stop myself from screaming at Riley. What was he doing? If he whipped the female, then

he was also guilty of manhandling her. 1 My eyes watered as I tilted my head to look at Jenny, but she just shook her head, reminding me not to say anything. “No! No! No! Alpha! I’ll take the ten lashes! Don’t touch my female, Alpha!” The man begged. His eyes were trying to catch Riley’s eyes, but my mate was busy coiling the whip in his hand. “She wanted this. After what you did to her, she still wanted to save you.” Riley was now explaining in a calm but too cold manner. “No, Alpha, please! I beg you, make it twenty lashes! I can take it! I deserve it, not her.” He then turned around to his female, who was now hugging her body, scared of her clothes being taken off, but none of Riley’s men were approaching her yet. The man, whom Riley called Manuel, on the other hand, was already bare-chested. “Leave now, Ebba! I’m sorry, I will take the lashes. I deserve this. Just go!” Tears kept streaming down the face of the man as he kept pushing his female away from him. The female began wailing as Riley’s men helped her to her feet and took her to the side, where another female, who was probably her sister, wrapped her arms around her. My eyes shifted to my mate, watching his actions. I still didn’t know if he would give the female a whip, but I was praying he wouldn’t. He coiled the whip in his hand one more time before his head turned in my direction.

Our eyes locked, but I couldn’t recognize the fire radiating from them. His eyes were not of Riley that I knew. I swallowed hard as I returned his stare. None of us smiled or said anything, but he was the first one to drop his gaze away from me. 1

THROUGH THE EYES OF MY ALPHA by Cassandra M Chapter 33

Chapter 33

RILEY.

I smelt her the moment she entered the basement. Lately, I’ve been able to scent her even from a distance, and now, despite the smell of antiseptic all around us, her scent was the most evident one that I could identify

clearly.

And I didn't know how I should feel that she would see this part of me. I have nothing to hide. I'm an Alpha. 1.

I functioned as one. I might have my own faults and weaknesses, but I never condoned beating and assaulting my pack's females. And regardless of who committed the crime, the punishment remained the same,

Manuel was one of our warriors. A trusted one. For some unknown reason, he consumed too much alcohol last night and went into a rage. And the victim was his mate. She was found unconscious this morning by Manuel's sister, and words spread out immediately.

My Gamma found Manuel in the basement of their house, repentant for what he had done to his mate. But it wasn't enough. He needed to learn his lesson not to touch her or any other female in this manner

TO
again.

And this was something my mate needed to understand.

There were still many things I didn't know about Nadia, but I was sure she had a soft heart and I needed to toughen her up, but not to the extent of losing her humanity, as I did for a period of time.

I coiled my fingers on the rod that holds the single tail whip. Its end was dipped in a small amount of silver, just enough to burn the skin on the first whip.

I was getting ready to strike the first lash, but I couldn't ignore her anymore. I wanted to see her, to understand the emotions she was sharing with me.

My head tilted in her direction, and our eyes met.

Her face was showing no emotions at all, but her eyes were telling me a lot of things – but it all boiled down to one thing: she didn't like what she was seeing. She hated this part of me.

I dropped my gaze down and took in a deep breath, moving into position as my men turned Manuel's body around. I tried to block off the sound of a wailing female, pained by her mate's punishment.

'Leave.' I sent Nadia a mindlink, my eyes still locked on the grounds.

'No, I want to see you.' Her voice was cold.

'There will be blood. And you might not be able to take that.'

'I can.'

'You might not like this part of me.'

I want to stay

'You can't stop what I am about to do. I won't let you. You have to trust me.'

She didn't answer, and I took it that she didn't want to discuss it anymore.

I opened another mindlink, this time to Manuel,

'Block off your emotions. Own up to the pain and don't let your female feel it.'

'Yes, Alpha.'

'No matter what happens, don't turn around. I want the lashes on your back, not anywhere else.'

'Yes, Alpha.'

I hoped he would keep his word. A blow to his head or chest would be fatal, and it was not part of my plan. I needed him alive to learn his lesson, not dead.

My hand tightened its hold on the whip as I raised my head high, my eyes focused on the back of the warrior I was about to punish.

'Riley...' Nadia's voice came soft, and I knew she was holding herself so it wouldn't break. 'Don't punish the female. I don't think I can take it.'

I shut off my mindlink as my hand raised and the whip flung into the air, hitting Manuel's back in a second. I heard the tearing of his skin, but he didn't utter a single curse or scream at the impact.

Instead, it was his female who fell to her knees and begged me to stop.

The smell of blood was swirling in the air.

I let go of the single tail whip in my hand and reached for the clean whip from my Beta. This one would not tear his skin, but it would still give him a big blow.

I avoided looking at my female, but I could see through my side peripherals how her body stiffened and how she was holding her hands in

coiled fists.

I took a deep breath before the whip swung in my hand and landed on Manuel's back. And then another and another one. And another.

Five. That was enough.

I dropped the whip in my hand as Manuel's body slumped to the ground. My gaze darted to his female and she cowered under her sister's arm, her lips quivering as tears were pouring from her eyes.

Fear. Did she ever think I would whip her?

I moved forward and the female inched away, her back hitting the wall behind her, but I ignored her and went to crouch in front of Manuel.

"Look at me. If you think I enjoyed whipping you, I didn't. But I was disappointed in you. You made my heart ache because I had too much faith in you. Do not touch your female in this manner, ever again. The next time you do that, I will give you the twenty lashes you were asking for. And I will make sure you will never see your female again."

I didn't wait for him to respond before I got up on my feet and gave an order to my men to take Manuel to the infirmary and make sure he would be checked, to make sure his wounds were not infected. And to let i heal naturally,

The silver was not enough to cause extreme damage, but it was enough for him to feel the burn. I was hoping he would learn his lesson. He was also back on probation as a warrior, but he would still be attending training, but his responsibilities would be reduced for a month.

If he were able to get back on his feet after a month, I would allow him back into the troop. But I'd keep an eye on him and make sure he never raised his hand to his female again,

I stopped in front of my mate. Her face was pale as she stared into my eyes, but before I could guide hert o leave, she turned around and ran out of the cell towards the nearby toilet.

I rushed after her, making Jenny stop in her tracks as she was about to go after her as well.

I saw Nadia vomiting on the large sink, but it seemed like almost nothing was coming out except her own saliva. She probably hadn't eaten

anything, but her stomach couldn't handle the sight of skin tearing and the blood oozing out of it.

I reached out and rubbed her back, grabbing a clean towel from the closet, and cleaning the outside of her mouth.

She took the towel from my hand and cleaned her face before throwing it in the hamper by the sink.

She stood straight in front of me. She was just staring as if she wanted to say something, but there was just silence.

"Talk to me." My voice almost broke.

"You scared me."

I let out a deep breath before my hand cupped her face. "You have to understand, Nadia, that some females would do nothing to stop their mates from beating them. They're just accepting it, and I don't want that."

She took a deep breath. Her eyes were fixed on mine, but she kept her mouth shut.

"Manuel is a good warrior. I would like to believe he is a good man. But he has his own demon, and he needs to fight that, otherwise, he would lose her." I was explaining Manuel to her, but it felt like I was talking about myself.

It was only a matter of time before my own demon would come out and make himself known to Nadia. And I feared that day..

She nodded her head. Her hand clasped mine over her cheek as she closed her eyes. "Tell me, did you not inflict harm to the female because of me?"

"I had no plan to hurt her. I would never do that. "I let go of her face and grabbed another towel, wiping away the sweat and the drops of blood that were splattered on my torso. "If Manuel allowed me to hurt his female, I would have given him the whole ten lashes."

She smiled, and my heart calmed down. She took the towel from my hand and started wiping off my sweat and the remainder of the blood.

"I'm glad you told me that. For a moment, I thought I was looking at a monster ready to beat up a female just to prove his point."

“Nadia, I have my own demons too. One day, when I tell you about it, I hope you won’t run away and leave.

Her eyes squinted before she smiled at me. She threw the towel in the hamper and coiled an arm around my neck while her free hand was wiping something on my cheek.

“I should be scared, but I’m not. I can’t wait to meet your demons, Riley. Maybe it will end up liking me too, and we can turn him around to be an angel...” She said playfully, but it warmed my heart that she was willing to open her mind for me,

*I think he likes you already,”

“I know. I’m not that hard to like.” She giggled as she leaned her cheek into my naked torso.

Tagree with that. But first, let’s get you something to eat. I’m sure your stomach will start making sounds soon.”

“No. I don’t think so. After what I witnessed, I don’t think I would be able to eat.”

“Okay, then we can just go back..”

“Wait, Riley.” She cut me off and placed a palm in my heart and tilted her head to look at me. “I want to have a word with Manuel’s female, if that’s okay with you? I just want to make sure she’s okay. And I want to see her bruises too.”

“Of course. I’m guessing she went with Manuel to the infirmary. I would want to come with you, but I don’t think she would want to see me. Take Jenny, perhaps?”

“I’ll take, Jenny then.” She got up on her toes and pecked my lips before walking out of the toilet, ready to find Jenny.

“Nadia...” I called after her.

She turned her head back, her brow hiking up, waiting for me to say something.

“Thank you, for not judging me today.”

She smiled warmly before she turned her whole body to face me, slowly walked back, and stopped in front of me. Her small hands cupped my

cheeks, pulling them lower so they wouldn't be too high for her as she stared into my eyes.

"I'm your mate, Riley. I would always hear you out first before laying out my judgment. You and me, against everyone else. We're a team, remember that." 1

Yes, she was right. My eyes watered at the sincerity of her words. It made me want to tell her about Andrea, but up until now, I still couldn't find the courage to do it.

"Yes, you and me, against everyone else." I smiled and kissed her lips softly before letting her go.

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She leaned closer and kissed my naked chest before turning around and walking away. My eyes followed her, taking in the way her hips swayed seductively as she walked and how she brightened up the dark alley with her presence alone. My Nadia. I hoped the Goddess would let me keep her.

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Chapter 34

NADIA

It has been two weeks since I arrived at the Silver Moon Pack and everything has been going so smoothly that a part of me feared that something was bound to disrupt the peace I feel inside.

Every day I woke up enveloped in the warmth of my mate. He would never leave my side unless I had awoken or he would wake me up to let me know where he would be for the whole day. And it made me happy every Goddess-given day. I never even dreamt of this because I knew my life was never bound to find this kind of happiness. But the Goddess surprised me when She gave me Riley. I got more than I bargained for. But I should have learned from my experience. Good days would not last long, and the past would always return to remind you that life was never meant to be fair, that it would mock you every now and then.

So even if my heart was soaring with happiness, a part of me was waiting for that moment when life would crush me again

I still had an hour to go for my afternoon training session with Jenny, but I was already sweating profusely and my body was tired already. I ended my training earlier so I could shower and visit my mate at his office, and I could spend a little more time with him before my next training, which would be with him as well.

Later today, Riley would be taking me to his outdoor archery range just around the corner from the training ground. He set up an area just for me so I could learn at my own pace and he did not need to touch his own target range.

I was still far from good. My arms couldn't hold the bow still, and I could only count on one hand the number of times I hit the target face, and it was not even inside the goal.

Riley wanted me to work on strengthening my arms and my grip, so I had afternoon sessions with Jenny. He said it would help in keeping my arms still while I aimed for a shot.

For almost two weeks now, I've been trying my hardest, but I just couldn't seem to hit a goal.

But Riley has been patient with me. He had never snapped at me for being lousy. In fact, it seemed to me that he didn't care at all that I wasn't hitting anything at all. He was more focused on getting his hands all over my body while he was training me than fussing around about my missed goals.

He never pushed me hard enough to hit the target. It was probably the reason I couldn't hit anything at all because his touch and his smell were distracting me.

I smiled despite myself at the thought of him as I turned the corner and approached the pack house grounds, only to be left stunned at the sight of a car parked in front of the house. This was it.

Reality was here to remind me that I could never run away from my past. My heart thumped loudly in my chest as I sprang inside the pack house, my feet rushing in towards Riley's office. In front of me as my body

stood frozen by the door.

Elliot.

What was he doing here?

All eyes in the room flew in my direction, but my gaze was stuck on the man I loathed the most. I felt my eyes water as his mouth slowly tugged into that evil grin he would always flash at me before he turned his whole body around to face me.

Ooooo

RILEY

“Alpha, a man named Elliot Castello is asking permission to meet with you. He said he’s from the Moon Stone Pack and he knew Nadia.”

I was just listening to my Beta as my eyes continued to scan the documents in my hand, but my ears perked up the moment he mentioned Nadia’s name.

“How did he know Nadia?”

“Tristan said he claimed he was Nadia’s fiancé.”

The monster

For the past week, I’ve been discretely looking for this man, but I couldn’t even get his name. And the only person who could provide me was being held in one of Darwin’s cells, and I didn’t have the audacity to ask for Darwin’s help after he had already laid out the punishment I wanted for him. And I didn’t want Nadia’s uncle to know that I was looking for this man.

But now he’s here. It only meant one thing – he still wanted Nadia.

And as much as I hated this man, I wanted to meet him. I wanted to see if he was anything like me. Maybe I was a better man than he was. Then maybe I could forgive myself for everything I did to Andrea.

“Alpha?” Beta Dominic snapped me out of my thoughts and my gaze turned to him. His brows furrowed as he looked at me. “Should I decline the request or do you want to meet him there?”

I let out a deep sigh before my eyes darted to the clock overhead. Nadia still has one hour and twenty minutes before her training with Jenny ends. I needed to make this quick.

“Take him here. If he has a vehicle, make sure it is thoroughly searched before allowing entrance and let someone escort him here.”

“Noted, Alpha.” He bowed his head before his eyes flecked white, a signal that he was reaching someone through his mind.

I had no idea what to expect. All I knew was that he must be in his late forties. Nadia didn’t say anything about his physical appearance except that she didn’t like the way he smelled of tobacco and alcohol.

The fifteen-minute wait felt like an eternity. But eventually, he arrived. I was expecting an old-looking man clothed in baggy clothes who looked homeless, but instead, I was facing a man who looked younger than 40, clean-shaven with his hair neatly combed.

He looked nothing like the way I envisioned him from Nadia’s story. If I was being honest, he was fair-looking, and it made me cringe more internally.

I saw myself in him.

My Beta let him inside my office and pointed him to a seat on the couch, but he refused.

‘Alpha Riley, thank you for taking your time.’ He then turned his head around and scanned my whole office. “I was expecting to see Nadia. Is she not aware that I was coming?”

My hand under my desk coiled into a fist as I stared at him with a stoic expression. I was trying not to show him how I felt about him.

“I am under the impression this meeting is between you and me, so no, my Luna is not aware you’re here. Let’s get to business. Why are you here?”

“I came here to collect what I was owed.”

“And by that, what do you mean? I don’t fucking owe you anything.”

We were staring at each other, but the fucker wasn’t backing down. I had no fucking idea who he was and what connection he had, but it looked like he didn’t fear that I was an Alpha.

“No, you don’t. But your Luna does.” He blurted it out arrogantly.

“Go straight to the point. I don’t want to waste my time on you.”

“I’m not sure how much you knew about your Luna, but I owned her.”

My claws were threatening to come out. My nails were already digging deep into my skin as I kept my hand in a coiled fist.

“Relax. I can feel your aura here. Hear him out. If you attack him, you will never get to the bottom of this.” My Beta’s words dug into my head, and I shoved my wolf off to the back of my mind.

“Explain.”

“Nadia was sold to me. I paid his uncle for her, but she came home marked. Our deal was for her to find the wolf who marked her and get her rejection. I paid the full amount. How was I to know she was marked by an Alpha? And from the looks of it, you fancy my sweet Nadia. Now, I don’t have my money and I don’t have a mate.”

My forehead creased, but I kept my mouth shut.

“I tried to get my money back, but I couldn’t find her uncle and her aunt. So I guess my money just disappeared with them. That’s why I’m here. I want her back.”

“No fucking way. You’re not taking her away from here.”

I wanted to kill him, but a part of me kept reminding me that I was once him. And I could understand Caspian’s ordeal at this point.

“Then pay me back.” His mouth twitched into a smug grin.

“How much?” And he was taking too long to answer. “Answer me before I rip your throat!”

The fucker just laughed, sliding his hands into his pockets. “Fifty thousand, but I wanted more, for the hassle, for the time wasted. In addition to keeping my dick inside my pants. If I knew that...”

He was not able to finish his words. But before I could even get up from my seat, my Beta was already holding his neck, choking him.

And I was glad he did because Hunter was out to kill him.

“You will get your money and more. Now fuck off! Take him away here!” I was done with this conversation.

Beta Dominic let him go, but before they could move, the door swung open and revealed Nadia, panting from all the running she might have done.

My heart dropped at the expression on her face as her eyes fixated on Elliot. The color was drained off her face as she stood frozen by the door. “Well, just the person I wanted to see.” The fucker chuckled as he turned around to face my mate.

“What are you doing here?” Nadia’s voice came out broken, but she was trying to hold her ground, but her emotions came surging in through our bond.

Fear.

Did she ever think I would not be able to protect her?

“Come here, Nadia...” Elliot extended his hand, and my ears heat up.

“Stop right there, fucker!” I growled at him, pushing my chair back with so much force that it almost fell backward as I stood up.

But he simply ignored me. “I came for you, sweetheart. Didn’t I tell...”

This was fucking it!

In a swift motion, I was already in front of the motherfucker, my hand gripping his collar tightly as I slammed his back twice against the nearest wall without letting him go.

“If you address my Luna without any respect again, I will fucking kill you!” I growled at him, my eyes dilating into full black.

I slammed his back once more against the wall before letting him go.

I moved beside Nadia, snaking an arm around her waist before pulling her into my chest.

Nadia was shaking, and the fear radiating from her body was making me feel fucking guilty.

The fucker snickered and straightened up his shirt before looking at us.

“It looks like you were smitten with her as well. Little temptress, isn’t she?”

“Take him out of here before I end up murdering that fucker!” My words were directed at my Beta, and he immediately went beside Elliot, gripping his arm.

I was still growling in anger while clutching Nadia in my chest. The only thing that was holding my sanity together was my mate, who was clinging to me for strength.

“I want my money.”

“Give him the fucking money and throw him out!” I told my Beta before snapping my head back to Elliot. “And I never want to see your face again! I swear to the Goddess, if you come near my mate again, I will fucking rip you apart!”

“Riley, what money? Why are you paying him?” Nadia asked in a whisper, but it was enough for me to hear.

‘We’ll talk about this later.’ I answered her through our mindlink as Beta Dominic dragged Elliot away from the office.

Nadia pressed her body closer to mine as Elliot passed us. His eyes were still looking at Nadia, and I saw desire swirling in them, and it was taking all my effort not to react violently.

I didn’t want to prolong his presence in my house and in front of Nadia. I rolled off my Alpha aura and I saw his body flinch as he hurried out of the office.

The moment the door closed, I sent a mindlink to Jenny, my Gamma Female, to take Nadia to our room. I wanted Nadia away from me for a while while I was still trying to control my anger and my guilt.

“Riley, I’m sorry. I didn’t know he would come here.”

I shook my head and cupped her face before I opened my mouth to speak,

“Not your fault, it’s okay. Go to our room and rest. I will see you later.”

“What do you mean? Are you going somewhere?”

I didn’t know what to answer her, and I was thankful that the door opened and Jenny came in.

Nadia’s eyes darted to the door, and I took it as an opportunity to get away from her hold.

“Jenny will take care of you.” I moved back and just as she was shifting her gaze back at me, I turned around and went for the window, flinging it open before jumping out of it and running towards the forest line.

I heard Nadia calling after me before I leaped into the air and shifted into my wolf form and let Hunter take over.

I knew a good mate would have stayed behind and held onto their mate, assuring her that the monster wouldn’t come back for her anymore. But I

couldn't do it.

The moment I saw Nadia with her body shaking and the color draining from her face out of fear, it sent me flashes of Andrea shaking and begging in my arms while I threatened to mark her in front of Caspian.

I was fucking worse than Elliot.

He only asked for fifty thousand compared to the fifty million I was asking for from Caspian. And now I fully understand why Caspian was willing to sell his soul to the devil just to get Andrea away from me.

I was a fucking monster.

And Nadia didn't deserve this – to be mated to a monster after running away from one.

Hunter just kept running while I blocked off my emotions, so Nadia wouldn't feel anything. I blocked off my mind too. I didn't want anyone in my head while I sorted out my next step.

I was expecting my wolf to berate me for everything I did in the past, but he kept quiet. Hunter did like Andrea, but he was not always in agreement with my ways, and it was often the reason we didn't get along.

1 But he wasn't blaming me today. He was sharing my grief, and I was thankful for that.

THROUGH THE EYES OF MY ALPHA by Cassandra M Chapter 35

Chapter 35

NADIA,

I was still confused about why Riley left after Elliot went away. I thought he would at least talk to me about what happened, but he just asked Jenny to take me without saying where he was going or what he was thinking.

Was he mad at me about Elliot?

I didn't know that Elliot was still looking for me. I thought my uncle must have told him about Riley.

And it wasn't my fault, or was it?,

And why did he pay Elliot money ?

All I could think was that he paid him to stop bothering us and that might be the reason he was upset. I had no idea how much it was, but it must be a lot for him to act this way.

I waited for him for almost an hour in our room, but he didn't show up, so I decided to put on new training clothes and head for the archery range where he was supposed to meet me so we could practice together.

But I've been sitting here for more than thirty minutes and he hasn't shown up. His mind was also shut off and none of his Beta and Gamma knew where he was, so I was already starting to get worried.

I was lost in my thoughts when I heard footsteps approaching, bringing me back to the present. I snapped my head in the direction of the sound only to be disappointed to see Beta Dominic approaching and not my mate.

My shoulders sagged as I turned my head back and looked at the target board ahead. I felt Beta Dominic sitting beside me, but with enough distance before he turned to look at me.

"We found the Alpha"

I didn't look at him as I let out a deep sigh. My eyes were still fixated on the view in front of me. "Where is he? Is he back?"

"He's on the terrain at the western border. He mind linked with Justin, one of the warriors, to bring him a guitar." He chuckled, but it sounded sad.

*A guitar? And why Justin? Why not you or Gamma Sebastian?" I tilted my head to look at him this time.

He shrugged his shoulders before he leaned his palms on his backside, stretching his body as he lifted his head to look at the sky." I don't know. But if my guess was right, he didn't want us to let you know where he is."

"Maybe. But what is he going to do with the guitar?"

"When we were younger, he would go away and find a place to play his guitar. It was his only escape when the world was too much for him."

"Does Riley have a bad childhood? He told me his mother left him when he was a baby, but I don't know anything aside from that."

“Ask him. I’m sure he will tell you.”

I sighed in desperation. Like always, no one tells me anything here.

“Do you know how much money he paid Elliot?”

“Hundred thousand.”

“What?” My eyes widened before I let out a sigh of desperation, “Why? Maybe that’s why he was mad and left me! Why did he pay him?”

“Are you seriously thinking he was angry at you because of the money? I guess two weeks is not enough for you to get to know him. Come, let’s go see him so he can answer your questions.”

“What? What questions?” Now I was rattled at the thought of coming to Riley.

What if he didn’t want to see me and pushed me away? I don’t think my heart could take it.

“Ask him why he left and if he was mad at you about the money.”

“But what if he gets more angry?”

“You’re the Luna of this pack. If there’s anyone who can match the Alpha, that would be you. If he yells at you, yell back. You’ve been good at taming the Alpha, so just continue doing it.”

“I don’t know. The last two weeks were almost perfect, and now seeing him like this, I don’t know how to handle it.”

“Alpha Riley is an insecure man, Luna. You just...”

“Wait! Where did that come from? How can you say that about him? Insecure? He’s too perfect to be insecure!”

“There are clearly many things you don’t know about him. But he is. He’s just too good at hiding it. That’s why he excelled in everything he did. Being an Alpha, combat fighting, archery, basketball, guitar, too many things to mention. He put his whole heart into anything he did, to prove he was good enough.”

“You’re talking in puzzles. Aren’t we all like that, giving our best shots in everything?”

“Yes, maybe, but he clearly has his own reason. You just need to be patient with him. Two weeks, months, or years is not enough time to

know him, but he's not a bad man."

I shook my head. "Never. I never even thought of him as a bad man, Beta. But I still don't get what you were trying to tell me. And why am I getting this lecture when it should be the Alpha you're talking with and saying that stuff so he won't get mad at me?"

He stood up and shook his head, chuckling as he walked towards his car. "Come, Luna, I'll drive you to where he is. And you don't need to worry. I don't think he's mad at you."

I followed after him, still thinking of what I should tell Riley if I saw him. "Are you sure we're not invading his privacy if we go there?"

"You will go there, not me. I'll just drive you there. And no. He's your mate. I don't think it's an invasion of privacy."

I wanted to ask Beta Dominic more about Riley, about his mother, about his insecurities, but I knew he would just direct me again to my mate, so I just kept my mouth shut and let my eyes feast on the scenery we were passing through as we drove to the western border.

I had never been to this part of the territory before, and it was beyond amazing.

We had entered the forest line and trod the forest road before we exited, and were now driving through a terrain road. It felt like I was in another part of the world. I didn't know their territory was so huge and hidden within it was this majestic place.

After some time, Beta Dominic stopped the car, and my eyes scanned the area. I didn't see Riley anywhere.

He must have guessed my confusion, so he started explaining.

"Justin said he's up there."

His finger pointed at the pathway going up to the higher ground.

"The view is majestic over there, so it's no wonder he chose this place. You need to hike a little to get to him because if I drive the car around, he would see me and I don't think he would like that."

"Are you sure he won't get mad that I came here?"

"Trust me, he won't. But just to pacify you, I will stay here for a while. Send me a mindlink if you think you can handle him, then I'll drive

away.”

“Wait, you’re going to leave us here? How are we coming home?”

“Did you forget you have a wolf and your mate is an Alpha? He can carry you home. But in case you’re both too lazy to run, just send for me. I’ll pick you up.”

I smiled at him and nodded my head. “Thank you, Beta Dominic.”

“It’s a pleasure, Luna. Anything to make you both happy.” He smiled as he watched me get off the car.

“Just promise me you won’t give up on him.”

“I won’t. I promise.” I answered him.

But he didn’t need to tell me that. Riley is mine, and I won’t be giving him up. Ever.

“Thank you, Luna. And I promise you, I will be here every step of the way to help you as much as I can.” 1

I smiled at him warmly before I turned around,

I didn’t waste any more time and followed the path he pointed out earlier. Good thing I was wearing a training suit and it wasn’t hard to move in this clothing,

After a few minutes and a few sweats later, I finally reached the top of this terrain.

I saw him sitting on a big boulder with his back to me. He already has clothes on. Justin must have brought something for him.

He was holding a guitar in his hands, and he was playing a soothing melody, and the rhythm alone was calming my heart.

I leaned my back on the first tree I saw, just wanting a moment to look at him and how he was on his solace.

The way he strummed his guitar sent shivers down my spine. It was calming, like a lullaby wooing my heart.

I knew this song
And he started singing.

And I lost it
He was singing it so perfectly that I could feel every emotion he was putting into it.

“DJ You’re the words when I have nothing to say... You’re the fire, that warms me when I’m cold...)” 3

My feet moved forward and I just found myself sitting next to him, my gaze falling on him until his head tilted to my side to look at me, and our eyes locked.

Qoooo

RILEY,

How could I loathe someone who was the exact replica of who I was? I wanted to kill Elliot, but I couldn’t. And I couldn’t accept the fact that I was just like him. 1

Or maybe worse than him.

I wanted to face him for a long time, but I didn’t know I wasn’t prepared for him.

The last two weeks were so perfect that I knew something like this would happen.

Nadia and I were living in a bubble we created just for the two of us, and I couldn’t complain about it.

Andrea’s name would surface once in a while, but she wasn’t throwing tantrums or getting pissed off anymore. She would even sometimes joke about it, how Andrea broke my heart and how hard it was to sew it back. She seemed to have accepted that Andrea was a part of me, but no longer is.

And I thought I could just bury that part of my life. I thought there was no need to let her know since only a few knew about it. Maybe my secret would remain hidden and my mate would never see me as the monster that I was.

But everything came crashing down when Elliot came.

I thought meeting him would make me feel better. I would see that he was the greater evil, and thus I could forgive myself. But it was the exact opposite.

I was the greater evil.

I was the villain in this story.

And I didn’t know how to rise from that. 1

Hunter led me to the terrain overlooking the territory on the western border. This was already too far from the pack house, but it was better here. They would not be able to reach me. I just needed some time alone to clear my mind and to clear my conscience if I could. I was moping on my own, thinking of ways I would tell Nadia about Andrea without her fearing me or loathing that side of me when I smelled her.

My mate, she always looked out for me. I knew that if I contacted my Beta or my Gamma, they would tell her, but I guess I underestimated my warriors and my people in how much they adore their future Luna.

Justin must have told her or my Beta where they could find me.

Even if it wasn't official, Nadia was doing so well as a Luna. I couldn't help but feel proud of the way my people, especially the females in my pack, adored and looked up to her.

Females would often show up in the pack house with fruits and vegetables or hand-made things that they would give her. Something that I didn't get to see growing up.

Before she came, the pack house was always swarmed with males, but females were scarce unless they were working in the pack house or visiting with their mates.

But it was the exact opposite now, especially when they already knew her training schedules and everyone would try to see and talk with her on days that she wasn't in training,

It shortened my time with her, but I was content. I had her every night and early morning, and seeing her thriving in my pack was something I always wanted for her.

She was known as Luna Nadia. Not as Andrea. Not as a replacement for a Luna. And she was respected as one.

I continued to strum my guitar and started singing, knowing this song would hold more meaning now that she could hear it.

"AJ. You're the words when I have nothing to say... You're the fire, that warms me when I'm cold... AN" I sang from the heart. It was exactly how I felt about her.

I heard soft footsteps padding across the ground and knew she was

approaching me.

And then she sat next to me, and the moment I tilted my head to look at her, our eyes locked. She smiled at me and the lyrics of the song got caught in my throat.

She was so beautiful and her eyes were flitting with so many emotions, all positive and warm, that I wanted to choke up and just hug her, but I didn't stop strumming my guitar.

And then she started singing the song for me.

"Os.. You're the hand I have to hold as I grow old... You're the shore when I am lost at sea...." She was singing it so beautifully, but I just had to cut her because the next line meant so much more to me.

"As... You're the only thing that I like about me..." I opened the wall of my emotions and shared them with her. I wanted her to feel that it was the exact thing I felt in my life when she came.

I had always strived hard to be the best, but I still didn't like me. Like I was not good enough. Even with all the achievements and the glory I brought to my pack, I still felt incomplete.

And then she came like a whirlwind, taking me with her, and for the first time, I was happy to be me, because I was the one fated to be with her. I rested my forehead on hers. She was smiling and tears were streaming down her cheeks while I kept my own at bay.

"And...And in this world where nothing else is true. Here I am still tangled up in you...AJ" I sang in a whisper, my eyes closed, and I felt her arms coil around my neck, pressing our faces closer.

I placed the guitar beside me and held her waist with my hands before hoisting her up and placing her in my lap.

She rested her head on the nook of her neck and started sobbing. "I'm sorry if I disappointed you today. I didn't know he would show up..."

My forehead creased as I brushed her long hair. "What are you talking about? I'm not disappointed with you."

aoooooooo

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Dear lovelies,

I'm leaving the note here because I realize some of you were not able to see the small author's note at the end of the chapters.

Thank you for waiting! I wanted to advise you that I uploaded late today because I had a hard time adjusting to my Alpha's (hubby) new work schedule. I ended up sleeping the whole night without editing my chapters. I'm hoping to get back into a routine, but for now, my update schedule might vary (early morning or late at night), but I will update daily. V 1

I'm excited about these chapters because of the song. I first heard this while I was doing Caspian's book, and I just knew it fit perfectly for Riley and his story. And now I'm excited to share it with you. The song is by St*ind – Tinged Up In You. Just in case you'd want to hear it. Thank you for all the reviews, comments, &GEMS! Please keep them coming. Also your gems will expire at the end of the month and there's no better way to use them than to give them to your favorite books/authors – and hopefully you can spare some for Riley &Nadia as well.