



Chapter 0289

I have been emailing in most of my assignments and logging in when the teacher can set up a video so I can follow along with the classes. For the most part, Mina joins in on those classes otherwise her dad would hear about her slacking and would pull her from this assignment. That is something we both learned the hard way.

She missed a lesson once and I thought the phone was going to break when he called to yell at her. It's never happened again, that he is aware of. She has taken to hanging out with a few girls from around here that are high school seniors. She's hoping that it will get us more invites to parties and other social scenes when we come back in January. Many of the girls know people who are going to the University and have invited us a few times to parties. We declined them all for now, but Mina promises she will be all in when she gets settled at school. It will be easier for me to tag along then too. I have met them all and they seem alright, but I am playing at being newly social and trying to get over my shyness. It's not a total lie, so the story is easy to sell.

The boys have taken notice of Mina too, human and wolf. I mean, even I have to admit, she's gorgeous so I can't blame them. Her personality and general good nature draw people in. Her dark reddish brown hair flows down her back silkily,

even when she is fighting. I'm kind of jealous really. I just look like a sweaty hot mess. Her average height makes it easy to look straight in her eyes to talk, no matter your own height. She's in shape, obviously, and the boys around here really seem to appreciate her efforts.

"Sky!" Mina jumps off her bed. "Beth just messaged me and said that her brother told her that his best friend's cousin is on the football team and they are planning a party after we all get back. They have a bi-week and will be free the first weekend after classes start." 1

"Huh?! I understood 'bi-week' in all of that." Mina speaking 'girl' is like trying to understand German sometimes.

"Basically, in your language, there is a football party when they all get back from the winter break. And she told me so we can plan on being here in time to go. That's all that you need to know. Oh, and plan on wearing a skirt and doing your hair. I wish we could call Sierra in on this, she's so much better at getting you to do the girly stuff than I am." She throws out as an afterthought. Probably based on the look on my face.

I will wear anything Luna Anne asks me to, she's the queen and image matters with all of the things she does. Sierra has become an extension of Luna Anne's fashion arm and she has dressed me for the few meetings and tours in the pack that I have done with the Luna Queen. I have just learned not to fight against Sierra, she started recruiting

Xander and Oscar to literally hold me down while she dressed me like a child. No matter how much I flailed she still got it on me, I gave up that fight afterwards and just asked her to make sure I can wear some type of shorts under the dress and I can be comfortable in the shoes. 1

"When are we supposed to leave again?" I know Mina knows this, she's been asking everyday for a week. Something about going back to the compound has her antsy and itching to make the time go faster.

"The lease on our rental is up in two weeks. We really should start packing the non-essentials so we are ready when Nickolas is. The weather is starting to turn and I don't want to be stuck here. I want to get back so the Elders can do the branding ceremony the way they want to with all the pomp and circumstance. I swear they just like being the center of attention and all these stupid ceremonies give each and every one of them a job that puts them in the spotlight for their fifteen seconds."

She laughs at me as she settles back on her bed. "You're not wrong on all accounts. Do you think that we will get to spend some time with Xander and Oscar when we get back? I feel like it has been forever since we have all hung out." 1

"They probably don't trust the four of us together anymore after last time."

"That was all Oscar! He was the one who decided we



needed candles for movie night. The rest of us didn't set the movie theater on fire."

"It was sweet, he was trying to celebrate one of the anniversaries. I don't know why every week, month, place has to be celebrated as an anniversary though. It seems like a lot of headache and makes the long term ones less exciting when you do hit the big milestones."

"I have no idea what any of that is like. I never really dated anyone long enough to hit an anniversary worth celebrating." She shrugs.

"Really?! You strike me as the person who had guys following you around like little pups. You are gorgeous and look like a model. I'm sure plenty of guys tried to date you."


"It wasn't for a lack of trying. My dad is big on mates. And while he didn't stop me from dating, he also made it really clear that my mate is out there and it won't be fair to someone else if I am monopolizing a person who might not belong with me. So I kept it casual and I was honest with them all." She shrugs again, lost in thought. "I do think we probably have some kind of sixth sense about our mate though, because I was not interested in any guy for very long romantically. I did learn some fascinating things though." She waggles her eyebrows and I can only imagine what types of things she 'learned.'



"Oh yeah? Like what? You enjoy being on top?" I threw a pillow at her, completely joking.

“Absolutely! It is the best ride, and they don’t have to do a lot of work so it’s hard to screw it up!”
My jaw drops, she’s never been this candid before

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I just blush and look at her, I have no response to that at all. Just watching her interact with all of the people we have come into contact with has been educational, but there really isn't a way to tell people 'I've never even held a boy's hand before' that isn't embarrassing.

"Since we're on the subject, what is your favorite position?" She tilts her head and has this mischievous smile on her face like she was reading my mind and wants me to admit it out loud.

"Umm." I play with my fingers. I don't want to lie to her and end up in a position where I would have to prove anything, but I really don't want to tell her the truth either.

"Come on. You don't strike me as the sleep around type. It's okay if your experience is minimal, there's nothing wrong with slowly easing into the s*x stuff." She moves to sit by me on the bed.

"Umm...I don't have one." I look anywhere but at her and hope that she just reads between the lines and drops the topic. I can feel my face heating up. There isn't a lot that makes me blush, but this is one of those things that does I guess.

"So you're a virgin, that's fine. I was until last year, but I decided that I wanted to know a few things before I found

my mate. You know, just in case he's new at it too, then the s*x won't be boring." She shrugs it off and I guess that does make some sense.

Most guys don't see a problem with 'practicing.' My brother and his friends are well versed in entertaining in the bedroom, if the sounds coming from my brother's room and the rumors about the others are to be believed. My brother tried to explain it to me last year that their wolves, especially high ranking wolves, almost require the release and the need to procreate (his words not mine, cause it sounds like a s*x-ed lesson) gets more intense as they get closer to their 18th birthday. I got a full detailed overview of the fact that even though wolves can't get or spread STD's Alpha Lucas drilled into them to wrap it up every time because no one wants to be a parent that young and there are some girls who will try and trap a ranked wolf by getting pregnant. Especially an Alpha and Beta, but all the guys are at risk for gold diggers.

"I'm not just a virgin, I have no experience when it comes to that stuff, like at all. I told you the guys really didn't pay any attention to me until last year and before that, having even a female friend was not a thing."

"No way! I've seen Xander with you, he kisses you on the head all the time and holds your hand. I figured there was something there before he found Oscar and because you are such an understanding person, you let him be once he found his first mate and is on the lookout for their female." 2

“Uh, no. We are just friends and all of that is show for the stupid girls who can’t take a hint that he doesn’t want them throwing themselves at him.” I roll my eyes. “The twins have held my hands and they all kiss me on the head, but I’m like everyone’s little sister, nothing more.” I shrug.

Now that she’s talking about it, I feel like I should be practicing somehow so I’m not a disappointment to my mate when I find him. I don’t want to be rejected because I can’t please him. But I also don’t want to be rejected because I didn’t save myself for him. I drop my head into my hands.

“This is so confusing. What am I supposed to do? The thought of being with anyone that’s not my mate makes me sick to my stomach, but what if he doesn’t want me because I don’t have any idea what I’m doing?” I let out a little whiny noise. “Or what if he doesn’t want me because I have done anything that wasn’t with him? I don’t want to be rejected!” I can feel my panic start to rise, my chest is tightening and my breathing is getting quicker.

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"Sky! Relax. First I can guarantee that no guy in the history of guys has ever had any of those thoughts. They think with their d*ck first. Using being a male and needing to 'release' tension or energy or whatever it is as the excuse. If your mate didn't save himself for you then he can't say anything about you doing the exact same thing. Now breathe. If it feels wrong, then it's wrong. If it feels right, then go for it." She shrugs like it's that easy. "So this is what you are going to do. Keep being your own fabulous self and listen to your gut and your wolf. You have great instincts. Now, go finish our homework so we can get packing. I can't wait to get back to the compound and get our brands so we can do more on this mission. I get why Jorge and William are getting antsy, this part is taking forever and the only thing we know is that there is a large population of wolves here."

She hops off my bed and heads for the bathroom, coming out ten minutes later ready for bed, but typing furiously on her phone, lost in concentration.

"Who are you texting so aggressively with?" I laugh as she startles out of her thoughts.

"I'm trying to get the names of those two guys that came over to talk to us at dinner tonight. I don't remember since I was paying more attention to Beth's boyfriend talking about the campus. But Ellie said they are students too and one of

them was asking about us, like together." She grimaces then rolls her eyes. "Like, you are hot and I can appreciate all that you have going on, but I just don't swing like that." She giggles at me. "But, I was so focused on the conversation I was having, that I didn't catch what else was going on." She smacks herself in the forehead. "This is why we need more training, but I guess mistakes on the fly are what we are going to get."

"Max and Eli." I say not looking up from my computer.

"What?"

"Max and Eli, are the names you're looking for. Max is a sophomore and Eli is the same age but a freshman, technically speaking, he took a year off to travel before starting school. They both play basketball, but I couldn't figure out if they play for the school or if that was just a line. Max is majoring in business and Eli in sports medicine."

I look up when she doesn't respond to find her stopped in her tracks staring at me.

"What?!"

"You barely talk to anyone, how did you get all of that information?"

"Just because I don't initiate conversation doesn't mean I don't listen, idiot." I laugh at her. "Ellie was flirting hard and asking a ton of questions that seemed kind of invasive, and she really didn't listen to the answers either." I roll my eyes. "

She just wanted to keep their attention on herself. But it was helpful for us apparently. And what do you mean one of them is asking about us 'together'?" I finish up my last line of English homework, save my progress and close my laptop.

I look at her and hope I have been able to school my face into something curious and not disgusted. Because, like her, I can appreciate how beautiful she is, but that isn't what I'm interested in either.

"Yeah, it's exactly what you're thinking." She laughs, I need to work on my facial expressions, especially when I'm not happy about something. I don't tend to hide that very well. "They asked if we were open to a three or foursome." She rolls her eyes. "Ellie offered to be one of the three or four if one of us wasn't interested."

Now I am openly laughing, this is so stupid. What guy asks that the first time they meet a girl?

"That is all you. I'm not even ready to hold hands or kiss romantically let alone have s*x with additional people in the room."

"Nah, Ellie can have them, or, at least, break them in and see if it's even worth it." She laughs.

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