

## DENIED BY DESTINY: TRAPPED IN THE SHADOWS OF THE MATE BOND

### Chapter 6



0006

Hector POV

It seems things are developing faster than I planned.

I locate my beta. Ezra, standing watch outside the coffee shop, one of many establishments that I part

own.

Entering, the doorbell chimes, and the reported female is standing at the counter... this will be like taking candy from a baby.

She's not even on guard.

My men had reported Amber Desert warriors entering the nearby city, changing their coordinates throughout the night. Apparently chasing a female that managed to elude them in the darkness and continuing to do so during the early hours of the morning.

I expected someone a bit more... athletic to outrun warriors but then again the Amber Desert training isn't as superior as the Dark Phantom's extensive program.

When the news reached me, I couldn't resist finding some pleasure in the Amber Desert warrior's failure, demanding that my beta enter the city immediately to search out more information.

And here we are, as luck would have it, that not only would she choose to take a break in a coffee shop, but a coffee shop part owned by myself.

When my associate reported that she was asking questions about the Dark Phantom pack, I just knew I had to meet her. Who exactly was she and why has she left the Amber Desert pack? Or should I say run away...

I'm intentional in the way I walk up behind her, letting my tall figure engulf her smaller petite frame.

Even from behind she was extremely attractive, she had long flowing wavy dark brown hair...my wolf starts to act oddly almost arguing with himself in wanting her to turn around.

"I hear you've been asking after me?" I ask, purposefully trying to get her to turn around.

As she does, my heart stops beating...air catches in the back of my throat.

I can't believe it.

She's looks just like... 1

But this female has a spark in her eye, a level of determination that starts to confuse my wolf.

Her eyes were green yet the closer you look into them, they seem to fade slightly into blue. A blue rim. around her pupil.

I can't help but continue to stare into her eyes, they hold some kind of self-belief in them.

She was strong..whether she knows it or not I'll have to wait to

+ I'll have to wait to find out.

My wolf was stirring, something about her was continuing to puzzle him.

She was a cute little thing, her hands clenching into tiny fists as she seemed to be debating something

with her own wolf,

Did she honestly believe she could attack me?

She's been enquiring about my pack and I enjoy watching her try to answer my questions as she remains careful not to give too much away.

I'm mindful of not mentioning the Amber Desert pack being the one she has run away from...I'd much rather watch her squirm for some time, enjoy her trying to think she has the upper hand. "Perhaps I could join the Dark Phantom pack? I am looking for a new pack..."

So, she was now a rogue as I thought, I can't suppress my own chuckle at already being able to read her.

"Do you take in rogues?" a

"Becoming a Dark Phantom pack member requires...certain tests."

"What kind of tests?" She asks as her eyes glance to Ezra as he enters the coffee shop, having already heard her question.

I move away, walking to my business partner but keeping my eyes on her the entire time. I don't think she would run...but I'm prepared to chase, in case she does,

"What did you tell her?" I mind-link my man that is one of my eyes and ears in this city.

"Nothing Alpha, she said she was looking for someone who was last seen at the Dark Phantom pack grounds.\*

Looking for someone eh?

My attention returns back to Ezra, who is busy counting cruel tasks on his finger.

"Underwater breathing? Whatever for?" Her eyes finally leave mine, to now concentrate fully on Ezra with a tone of perplexity.

She wouldn't need to do any tests to join the pack, but not that I was willing to let her know that. She was coming with me, back to the pack main grounds, no matter what.

She can think that she has a choice but the truth is, she won't be allowed to leave...not the Dark Phantom Pack, not this coffee shop without me.

I continue to watch her, I can't help but watch her. She held herself with a level of authority that I can tell she was born with. Something like that you can't learn in life.

Oh yes, she knew she was strong.

My wolf starts to plot a plan in my mind, something that could finally bring me what I wanted after all these years, finally the answer to all my prayers. And she's landed almost in my lap, a gift from the Moon Goddess herself. "You really want to join my pack?" I cut Ezra off as I blow on my hot coffee.

She seems to take a moment to think, she's more intelligent than....

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"Yes." She replies and a small smile enters onto my face, until I remind myself, she was now part of a bigger picture.

She was trying to conceal her identity, that she wasn't from the Amber Desert pack. I was going to have some fun with her. Perhaps for now I'll make her squirm just a little.

I walk back towards her, my smile no more as I whisper into her ear...

"I know who you are."

## Chapter 7



0007

### Chapter Kaia POV

"I know who you are?" His words whisper into my ear, as he leans forward into my personal space. I turn to look at him, one corner of his mouth curling up slightly. How is it even possible for him to be this close to me, without him feeling the pull of the bond?

All I can feel is that same humming vibration, the unmistakable pull to another. The sensation I have grown to loathe with Than.

"Oh?" I respond trying to not give too much away, my shoulders pushing back automatically rises in a tensed motion.

A slight panicky feeling rises in my chest but I manage to suppress it just in time. I am preparing my body to deny my identity. To lie for my life. "You we're running from some warriors. Why?"

"I have my reasons..."

"I'm sure you do." His eyes narrow, his gaze piercing as his words leave his lips.

He was a guarded individual...almost sinister. His aura is strong, perhaps the strongest I have felt since being with my father.

Something was telling me not to trust him, perhaps it was the fact that he wasn't responding to the connection...I'm not sure, but I had no choice.

His pack served the only solution to my current rogue predicament and it may lead me to more information on Father's whereabouts.

He hasn't seemed to have figured out that I'm from the Amber Desert pack member, at least that was something. His lack of information may bide me the time I require...

A blacked out ear picked us up at the coffee shop and for the entire journey this alpha sat in the front, not making conversation once.

His beta on the other hand was exceedingly talkative in the back as a pack member drove the car.

It wasn't until we arrived at the Black Phantom gates that the alpha uttered a word. And judging by the untrusting stares of the guards in my direction, I was the root cause of their anxiety.

If they are this untrusting of outsiders, how the hell did Father manage to gain access?

The car continues, until we arrive at what must be the main hub of the pack. A large modern built house with large glass windows is surrounded by tall trees to offer shade, no doubt, from the days of the hot sun. If it wasn't on the ground, I would think it was a tree house... it was like something from the future.

It was....very open. It sat in the middle of two buildings not as exquisitely built but still not left wanting. "The pack house for unmated wolves that choose to move out of the family home and the pack hall, used for weekly meals, events and child care." The alpha speaks for the first time in an hour or two, pointing to each building as he explains their purpose.

"Here we support each other, no one is left alone." Alone?

His words seem to resonate within me.

As I continue to take in the inner pack buildings, a group exit the pack building laughing amongst themselves, stopping when they see their alpha before them. His presence seems to cut off their joy immediately, was he a strict alpha?

"Alpha..." They greet him, their eyes combing me with that some level of mistrust. With a simple nod from their alpha they clear off, continuing on their originally course. A few of the females glance back at me with a look I can't quite read. 1 "The pack house is also used to house most guests... Ezra clears his throat, regaining my attention on the pair of them.

I go to pick up my bag to head to the pack house, when the beta reaches down and picks up my bag for me.

"She shall be placed in the alpha house." The alpha orders at his beta, my eyes flickering between the pack house and the alpha house.

I'll have less privacy at the alpha house....

"But it may give us a better chance to find information on Father..." My wolf offers in my mind.

I'll have to be exceedingly careful, he knows which pack I have come from. He might be trying to get information out of me, just as much as I am his pack.

Walking towards the alpha house, I am just about to put my foot through the front door when the alpha stops and turns.

His aura flaring up before me.

"Ezra, we need to prepare for the test..." He abruptly demands from his beta, his eyes looking down at me, his expression unreadable.

"Test?" I gulp. I thought we had cleared this up, I couldn't jump off a roof top, not in my current state.

"Oh yes, the test to become a pack member..."

## Chapter 8



0008

Kaia POV

"Shall we?" The Alpha places his hand out, gesturing for me to enter his home.

A level of uncertainty washes over me but I ignore it, right now I have no other choice.

Why do I feel as if I am entering the wicked wolf's den?

The doorway is wide, yet I still find myself brushing past him... surely he must feel the mate bond? But nothing, not even a sharp intake of breath.

I pause at the bottom of the stairwell, the dark wooden stair case setting the tone for this house, I hope not for the pack also.

can't be in another pack like before, unable to trust a soul.

Unable to breathe.

But maybe that is my path now, mine and the baby's....just the two of us.

"My office is this way..." His voice echos as he now stands down a hallway, waiting for me to join him. It would seem he was impatient and didn't like to be kept waiting.



I glance behind, the further I walk into his den, the further I am away from a safe escape route.

I have

no choice, I will not go back, I remind myself as I follow him into his office.

"Alpha!" Beta Ezra enters the alpha's office just after we do. A black leather sofa aligns the back wall of the office, as his desk sits by a fire place. This place didn't ooze much warm.

It doesn't have a feminine touch, which tells me he lives alone. #

Ezra places an empty gold goblet on the desk with a silver dagger.

My heart quickens and I am unable to suppress the fear rising in my gut.

Did they plan to use that knife on me? Silver...silver will slice through me like butter.

"Calm yourself... The dagger is for me." The alpha reaches for the silver knife and, suddenly protective of the life growing inside of me, I take a step back. A flicker of his eyes to jet black inform me his wolf is aware of my backing away.

My heart is now straining in my chest as it continues to beat too fast which I know isn't missed by him. My heart feels as if it is too big for my chest, and not in a good way.

The alpha's eyes remain on me continuously, even the beta's. I feel trapped, my eyes flashing to the office door only for the sudden smell of blood to make them turn back on the alpha.

His hand is clenched around the silver dagger's sharp blade, not an ounce of pain registering to his face.

His eyes are locked on mine, even as his hand opens to show the blood gushing from his palm wound. I hold still, my wolf wanting to check the wound

of our supposed new mate, whereas I am not so keen to show him warmth...not when it won't be reciprocated. Chapter cons

His hand now hovers over the goblet as drop after drop of his blood fills the golden cup. The smell of his blood mixed with his burnt oranges and dark chocolate scent creates an intoxicating perfume that tries to pull on my resolve. "This is t

"I don't understand...I thought you wanted me to complete a test?"  
is the test...."

I

I look from the alpha to the beta, none the wiser.

"Very few outsiders remain here, if you are to stay, then you must drink my blood to join the pack."

His words confuse me, I thought I made it clear I was looking to join his pack. How was drinking his blood a test?

"By drinking my blood, I will become your alpha. You must abide my rule."

"Yes, that is usually what an alpha expects..."

He looks at me as if I was misunderstanding his words?

"You will no longer be a.....rogue..." He quirks an eyebrow at me, little does he know I've not even been a rogue for 24 hours.

My hand picks up the goblet, determination keeping my hand steady...I want this...I need this.

As I place my lips onto the rim of the goblet, his eyes search mine for a last minute hesitation.

Wait..

What?

My wolf screams in my head.

"Than is the baby's father, how do we know this alpha won't use that against us. Use us and the child as a ransom against the Amber Desert pack?" "We don't" I respond in my mind.

ives off that c

"Is there a problem?" He annoyance at being kept waiting.

"I can't back out now...We won't stay long, once we find out where Father is we can leave...."

I've come along too far now, I won't go back.

I refuse to.

I tilt the goblet up, his warm thick blood entering my mouth. I swallow it instantly.

"Repeat

t after me..." Ezra Immediately whispers into my ear.

"I offer my allegiance to the Black Phantom pack and its Alpha, Hector Varon."

I let the blood settle in my stomach, the lingering metallic taste sitting on my tongue.

"I offer my allegiance to the Black Phantom pack...."

I look up at the alpha before me, so his name was Hector.

..and its Alpha, Hector Varon."

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As soon as my lips utter his last name I feel the powerful break of the Amber Desert pack bond. A vacuum type suction trying to drag me back towards it. It's so intense, my legs start to give way.

He moves quick, catching me in his arms...my body fighting against the pack my unborn child is the heir of and the new pack that I have given my oath of loyalty to. Vomit starts to threaten to rise at the back of my throat from the pain of being stripped of the pack link I was never made Luna of.

I feel of the Dark Phantom pack bond now replace the cold pack link of the Amber Desert pack.

Once the pain and sickness reduces I am able to support my own legs more and Alpha Hector already seems keen to move away from me.

Tingles had been erupting on my arms the entire time he was holding me, and like before I could curse the moon goddess for making me feel them.

"Thank you." I mutter quietly as I straighten out my clothing, before looking back up at him to see if I had past his test.

A smile forms on his face as I feel the new possibilities of his pack bond running through my veins.

This was it, my new chance.

"Welcome Kaia."

Chapter 10



Kaia POV

"You are with child?" Alpha Hector's hand goes to his mouth, as he considers my newly shared information.

"I am. Will that be an issue?" I ensure my back is straight, I didn't plan to tell a soul so soon, but I can't shift and remaining here really was my only option for the time being. "Have you seen a doctor?"

"I...no." His words aren't what I was expecting, and they catch me off guard as I prepare to defend myself.

Why was this rumoured odious alpha suddenly asking if I have seen a doctor? Did he actually care for my pregnant state?

Surely once I am settled I'll be left alone like before... that's actually what I craved right now. Some alone time to think things through.

"I will show you to your room and will make sure my head doctor sees you first thing in the morning!"

"That's really not necessary."

"I insist!" He firmly states as he stands from his chair and moves away from his desk. He picks my rucksack up for me and leads the way.

I am shown to my room by Beta Ezra where he encourages me to rest and assures me that some clothes would be brought and left outside the bedroom door.

I struggle to rest, as I lay on the bed my mind starts to work at full speed, considering my next step. Where Father was and why I was identical to Alora? How can two people look so alike but never have met before.... I have to find Father...I have to find out if he knows about her.

My mind in overdrive; rest doesn't come naturally to me and I am conscious of not keeping the Alpha waiting for dinner. Therefore I head downstairs early, to locate the kitchen and make myself a drink.

With my mind's attention elsewhere I spill the juice, completely drenching the kitchen surface.

Grabbing a cloth I wipe the beige work top only to look up and find a female staring at me. And judging by her frown, she didn't appreciate me making a mess of her pristine workspace.

"Sorry, I'll get out of your way..." I move quickly to leave no traces of my presence and get out of the room as her eyes glaze over, no doubt checking on my identity."

"No need, can I help you miss?" She offers less frosty as her eyes return to normal.

"I just needed a drink, so I'm all good..." I smile preparing to walk away when she starts to converse with me about dinner.

"The Alpha usually picks the menu but if you have any preferences, as his guest...."

As his guest? That sounded very...formal.

"No, whatever you have planned would..."

Wait...

"Does he have many guests here at the alpha house?"

"Not for some time miss, why?"

"I'm trying to find someone that may have come here. An alpha?"

"An Alpha? Hhmm I'm not sure, you'd have to ask Alpha Hector."

Well that I wasn't going to do, I'm not sure yet how trustworthy he is.

I remain in the kitchen, even helping cook the dinner. I learn that the lady's name is Aubrey and she has a mate and two young teenage girls also at this pack.

By the time dinner is ready I find myself missing her friendly demeanour. I am now sat at the opposite end of a long dining table, the only light being provided is by dimly lit candles.

"Did you get much rest?" He finally speaks to me after reading his evening report and tossing it on the fine dining table.

"Not really."

"I've asked the head doctor to see you at 8.30am tomorrow, I can take you..."

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"That's okay, if you point me in the right direction I'm sure I can find my way." I was keen to walk around the pack alone tomorrow, to find out any information on Father. I didn't want to be escorted for that exact reason.

"I'm trying to understand how someone like yourself becomes a rogue. You're lucky you stumbled in my coffee shop, you weren't too far from another pack..." "Oh?"

"Yes, the Amber Desert pack in fact."

Shit! My heart quickens and I know for a fact he would have noticed. His mentioning of Than's pack has come out of nowhere.

He stands and walks towards me, like a man on a mission. I'm a pack member now, I can feel his command preparing itself on me, his aura building.

He stops before me, his tall muscular figure overshadowing me once again.

His eyes piercing into mine.

"Have you heard of their Alpha, Than Sable?"