

22-Parental Consent

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Ari's POV

"I apologize Mother," I tell her, looking at my niece. "She is beautiful."

Mom is shaken.

"I guess you should hold her," Mom's chin trembles as she hands the baby over to Caroline.

Caroline's face lights up. "She is beautiful. I will be a wonderful stepmother."

"We should find somewhere to talk," Tristan says, taking the diaper bag.

"My house is just over there," Caroline points down the road.

"Is there somewhere we can meet and discuss things?" Dad asks Finch.

"Our apartment, Turk and Romana will join us," Finch offers and leads the way. "Do you want to be shown your rooms to freshen up?"

"I don't want to leave Ariella until I know she is okay," Mom answers, latching onto me.

Juliet- Sure, she is worried about us. She is up to something.

"I'm really okay, Mom. Finch is a widower and has been helping me. Also, our bond is growing by the minute, it's helping. I will always miss Kale, but I can't stop living. Kale would hate that," I tell her.

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Mom hugs me.

"I want to discuss Alicia," Dad says as we get in the elevator. "She has problems."

"I know Ari couldn't talk, but I could, and I tried to tell you two about her. You two never listened," Caleb pipes up. "Even Tristian tried to tell you, but you two wouldn't listen."

Juliet- Tell them Caleb! Great Big Bro!

Me- Both of you need to lighten up on them.

Juliet- Go soft, you will regret it.

"Caleb," I touch his arm. "They are sorry."

"Do you think she would have hurt her baby?" Finch asks, pulling me to him.

Juliet- I hate that just this makes me feel better. But I'll take it.

I see the shame in my parents' face.

"Hey, everything okay?" Anderson asks, turning off the TV in the den.

"Anderson, these are my parents and older brother," I introduce them. "Mother, Father, Caleb, this is Finch's eldest son, Anderson. Finch has triplet sons, Anderson, Carter, and Finley."

Anderson bows to my family.

"Anderson, we need to talk about things can you and brothers leave us, please?" Finch asks.

"You okay?" Anderson asks, ignoring Finch.

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I raise my eyebrows at him and nod. He keeps his eyes on me and leaves.

"Tell your brothers to give us space for a few," I say as Anderson walks away.

Juliet- Danger, Father picked up on the tension.

"I want some answers," Dad starts. "Young Lady, you are not a first chance for this man. The way that boy just looked at you. Your involvement with Kale. You were rejected, weren't you?"

"Yes, I was, Finch is as much my second chance as he is mine," I confess.

"Who?" Mom asks, the anger dripping off her like rain from the roof.

"I dealt with it," I answer.

"As your father, I think I have right to know. As the King, I demand it," Dad orders me.

"No," I answer with defiance. "I have hurt them enough."

"Them?" Caleb picks up on it. I stare, begging him to not say it. "His sons rejected you. Are you two actually fated?"

Juliet- Great, from best big bro to worst.

"Yes, we are fated. I got that storybook haze. We made out for almost an hour. I feel the tingles and sparks with every touch. He is my fated mate." I declare and lean more into Finch.

"Then, why haven't you marked each other?" Dad asks.

"She has been through so much," Finch defends us. "We

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don't see a reason to rush the process."

Dad and Mom are both glaring at us. Caleb has fur to the surface he is so angry.

"I want the three of them in here," Dad snarls through gritted teeth.

"Absolutely Not," I answer and step in front of him. "They are my stepsons, and I will not let you or anyone else hurt them."

"Except you," Caleb growls.

"I wasn't mated to their father then. I admit, I have tortured them. Believe me all three have felt the pain of their choices. But I will not allow you to hurt them. None of you," I snap.

"Marking will be very painful for them," Mom seems to soften. "The goddess will punish them." 1

I had forgotten Turk and Romana were here, but both have moved to block the door.

"Trust me, we have some family issues to work out and we will work them out. I require nothing from you," I tell them. "I am your forgotten child. If you continue in this, I will ask you to forget me again."

Both my parents look down at the ground.

"That was a bit harsh," Caleb remarks, his fur going down. "You were not forgotten." 1

"I have walked these streets for months. I have been to clubs, malls, and school. Never once was I called Princess, bowed to, or asked for a picture. How was your walk from the plane to the car Caleb?" I ask.

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Caleb looks down too.

"Sweetheart," Finch whispers in my ear. "Calm down."

"I promise to forgive you and to never mention it again, but you must do the same for Anderson, Carter and Finley," I demand. "No one finds out what neglectful hateful parents you were to me, no one outside of this room finds out I was rejected by the triplets."

Mom quietly sobs. "Why are both my daughters so hateful?"

Juliet- You are a terrible mother, who is more worried about what the public thinks than doing what is best.

"My condition is: he mark you before we leave so I can see that you are fated," Dad raises his head to meet my eyes.

"Fine, go to your rooms and we will see you at dinner," I challenge.

Dad calls my bluff. "I'm sure your Betas can show us to our rooms."

I see Finch mindlink and hear three doors open. The boys are headed to the hospital.

Turk and Romana take the bags and lead my family away.

I look at Finch.

"You sure about this?" He asks me.

Juliet- Yes!

I smile a little. "I have been wanting you inside of me since I met you. It's what I dream about. You have been

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respectful and kind. But, I don't want that side of you anymore. If you want me, you should take me."

I see Finch's wolf come out as he leans in to kiss me. I have missed this kiss.

The next chapter contains Graphic Sexual Content



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