

ELLORA'S CAVE PRESENTS

A man with long, straight blonde hair and a light beard is shown from the chest up. He is shirtless and looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He is holding a large, orange pumpkin with both hands in front of his chest. The background is dark and smoky, with a warm orange glow emanating from behind the pumpkin. The overall mood is mysterious and autumnal.

# Riding the Wolf

Tricks  
and  
Treats

CAROL LYNNE

An Ellora's Cave Romantica Publication



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Riding the Wolf

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# ***RIDING THE WOLF***

**Carol Lynne**

### *Dedication*

Dedicated to my sister Julie and cousin Ginger, who've been begging me to write a shapeshifter story forever.

### *Trademarks Acknowledgement*

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## **Chapter One**

Daylon Glover paced back and forth in front of the hardware store. He needed to get the initial shock of his unexpected return out of the way. After fifteen years, the bad boy had come home. Daylon's first order of business was to confront his ex-best friend and true mate, Eli Withers.

Hoping that coming home for the annual Halloween Howl wasn't the wrong decision, Daylon opened the door. He stepped into the familiar old brick hardware store and looked around. He spotted Eli helping a customer choose a brand of paint. Nothing had changed since he'd left. Well, almost nothing. Eli was even more gorgeous than he'd remembered. His hair was shorter than it had been the last time he'd seen him, held him. Eli's body, however, had undergone some major transformations. No longer a sinewy nineteen-year-old, Eli was male perfection. His shoulders and chest seemed almost twice as broad as they were fifteen years ago. Daylon wondered if Eli still had the carved six-pack that Daylon had always loved to trace with his tongue.

Daylon's erection was clearly on display when Eli turned and spotted him. Eli looked straight at Daylon's hard-on and then back up to his face. The smell of Eli's instant arousal almost brought Daylon to his knees. So he was right. Despite Eli's marriage fifteen years earlier, he still saw Daylon as his true mate. Standing his ground, Daylon waited for Eli to approach him.

Ringling up the sale for Mrs. Bass, Eli couldn't unclench his jaws. He thanked Mrs. Bass and handed her the gallon of paint. As his customer left the store, Eli looked Daylon up and down. *Damn*. Daylon was even better-looking now than when he'd run off. Eli wondered if he'd been home yet or if this was his first stop in town. He took in

Daylon's long blond hair and golden eyes. Eli's cock began to throb at the nearness of his mate. He decided to stop putting off the inevitable.

Walking across the scarred wooden floor, Eli held out his hand. "Good to see you, Day." When Daylon took Eli's hand and pulled him into his arms, Eli closed his eyes as the smells started to overwhelm his acute senses. He held on to Daylon. "It's been a long time, friend."

"Too long."

Eli realized they were standing in the middle of the store and released Daylon. "How've you been? I haven't heard a thing about you from your family in years." Eli motioned him over to the side of the store out of sight of the front windows.

"I've been all right. Traveling mostly. Picking up odd jobs here and there. I've seen a good portion of the United States." Daylon stuck his hands in his back pockets, bringing even more attention to his prominent arousal. "I haven't talked to the folks in a couple of years. The last time I called, they didn't seem too inclined to talk to me. I figured I'd come back for the Centennial Halloween Howl and maybe try to rebuild some bridges."

Daylon looked Eli up and down. "You look damn good, Eli. Married life must agree with you."

Eli saw the hurt on Daylon's face. "Trish left about six years ago. Said she couldn't live the lie anymore. It caused quite a ruckus around here. The next Alpha having his wife leave him seemed to undermine my integrity in most people's eyes." Eli looked into Daylon's golden eyes. "I've worked damn hard to get their trust back."

Taking a step backward, Daylon held up his hands. "I didn't come back here to cause you trouble. Hell. I've stayed away since the day you were married just so no one would suspect our feelings for each other."

Eli said nothing for several minutes. "I've missed you. God help me, but I've missed you." Eli rubbed his short, dark brown hair. When he was finished, it stood up in messy brown spikes. "Have dinner with me tonight."

Shaking his head, Daylon ran a finger down the side of Eli's chiseled cheek. "You know that's not a good idea. You're my mate, Eli. And if I'm alone with you, I'll have you for sure."

Biting his lip, Eli thought about all the years of loneliness. Year after year of doing what was expected. "Have dinner with me tonight. My place is outside town on the edge of the family land. Just off Route Nine. You can't see my house from the road, but my mailbox is clearly marked. Just follow it until you run out of road."

Daylon looked at him for several seconds. "I'll be there at seven-thirty, just after you close the shop."

"I'm looking forward to it." Eli then did the unthinkable. He leaned in and pressed his lips to Daylon's. The zing of electricity running through his system threatened to make him lose his head and pull Day into his arms for a deeper, more satisfying kiss. Eli pulled back and watched as Daylon licked his lips.

"Too long. It's been way too long." Daylon said nothing else as he turned and walked out of the store.

\* \* \* \* \*

Pulling up in front of his family home, Daylon blew out a breath. He didn't even know if he'd be welcomed here anymore. Although his parents had never told him they were disowning him, they'd told him not to call until he came to his senses and came home. Well, he was home now, and as he walked up the porch steps, Daylon hoped his parents meant what they'd said.

Knocking on the front door, Daylon looked around at the farmland in the distance. His dad and brothers had a good crop this year. The crops looked tall and healthy. Daylon was brought out of his musings when the front door opened to a petite woman with graying blonde hair. "Hi, Momma."

Without a word, his mom wrapped Daylon in her arms. "Oh, my baby's come home." She was strong for a woman of five foot two, but then again, she was also a

were like himself and most of the town. The town of Crunup, Wisconsin, had been founded by Eli's ancestors almost one hundred years ago as a haven for werewolves. Now it was odd to see a non-were move to town. The first full moon following their arrival to town happened to be Halloween. Since that night so long ago, the town of Crunup celebrated Halloween with the biggest howl of the year. It was a night to celebrate their independence from the narrow-minded human population that was still afraid of them. This year was even more special. It would mark the hundredth Halloween the weres had howled in Crunup.

Olivia Glover pulled her son into the house. "Come sit and talk to me while I finish up lunch for your dad and the boys."

Smiling at his whirlwind momma, Daylon sat at the large oak farm table. "How've you been, Momma?"

"I've been missing my baby. Why'd you stay away so long?" Olivia took the fried chicken out of the pan and prepared to make the good creamy milk gravy everyone in his family loved.

"I thought that's what you and Dad wanted. You made it pretty clear that I shouldn't call anymore." Daylon was confused by his momma's question. *Hadn't they wanted to be rid of him?* It had sure seemed like it to him at the time.

Olivia took the grease off the burner and came to sit by Daylon. She held his hand in hers and looked into eyes the same color as her own. "We didn't want you to stay away. We wanted you to come to your senses. Your dad and I knew why you left in the first place. We always knew that you and Eli weren't simply best friends. But you have to realize that Eli's in line to lead the pack. He couldn't do that unless he was married. And you taking off like you did just made things worse for him."

Feeling like he'd just been punched in the gut, Daylon stared at his mom. "You knew? Then you must also know that he's my mate. There will never be another for me."



"I think your dad and I figured that out right about the time Eli's wife ran off." His mom squeezed his hand. "But if he takes you for a mate, you must know he can never be Alpha. The pack won't stand for it."

"I hope you're wrong about that because I will try to make him mine. Maybe it's time this pack moved forward and started realizing that being gay doesn't necessarily mean you're weak." Daylon stood and kissed his momma on the cheek. "I'm going to take a quick shower, if that's okay."

Olivia went back to the stove and put the pan of chicken grease back on the fire. "You know it's okay. This is your home. Your room's just as you left it."

"Thank you, Momma."

\* \* \* \* \*

Although lunch had been a little strained at first, Daylon was happy to see his dad and three brothers. He was surprised to find that none of them was married, although his brother Brannon did seem to have a steady girlfriend.

After lunch, Daylon helped his dad work on the tractor for a while and then headed back inside for another quick shower. As Daylon dressed for his date, he realized he was going to have a hard time with his unruly cock. "Down, boy." He thumped his erection with the heel of his hand. "I guess I'll have to leave my shirt untucked until I leave the house," he chuckled as he zipped his jeans.

Brushing out his hair, he left it loose instead of putting it back in its normal leather thong, remembering how Eli loved to run his hands through it. After slipping into his black boots, he went outside and climbed onto his Harley.

The wolf inside was just below the surface, dying to have his mate once again. Although Daylon had by no means been celibate these past fifteen years, he'd yet to feel anything like what he'd felt with Eli. As Daylon roared down the country road toward Eli's place, he thought about what his momma had said. *Did he love Eli enough to let give him up?* Everyone in the pack knew Eli would make a good Alpha. The time was

drawing near for him to take the reins from his father. Jud Withers had made a damn fine Alpha for the past thirty-six years, but it was time he handed over the duties to his oldest and, by far, strongest son.

Eli had been groomed since birth to become Alpha. The unfortunate fact that he was gay didn't come into play. Eli had still been expected to marry and produce future Alphas.

Daylon spotted the mailbox and turned into Eli's drive. It wound around a series of trees until it eventually opened into a clearing. The small log and rock home looked perfect in this setting. Daylon parked his bike next to Eli's black pickup, and after tucking his snap-front chambray shirt in, walked up the porch steps. He was just about to knock when the door opened and his mate stood in front of him.

Eli smiled and stepped back. "Glad you came."

Daylon walked through the doorway and stood in front of Eli. Where he was light, Eli was all darkness, dark brown hair, bronzed skin and dark green eyes. Daylon leaned forward and sniffed Eli's neck, needing to scent his mate. He'd never grown tired of Eli's smell. At almost an even six-three, the two men looked eye to eye.

It was finally Eli who made the first move. Being bold as brass, he reached out and ran his hand over the obvious erection in Daylon's jeans. "Missed you."

The feel of his mate's hand on his cock broke any reserve Daylon had. He pulled Eli into his arms and licked up the side of his face, the raspy feel of Eli's heavy five o'clock shadow scraping against his tongue. "Just make sure you know what you're doing. Because the next time I ride the wolf, I'll bite you and you'll be mine forever." He sealed his lips over Eli's.

Opening for him, Eli pushed his tongue against Daylon's. Knowing it was important for Eli to prove his dominance even in a mere kiss, Daylon backed off and let Eli take the lead. Eli's tongue probed every inch of Daylon's mouth as he wedged his thigh between Daylon's legs. Daylon rode Eli's thigh as the kiss went even deeper. He could feel Eli's teeth lengthening as he pushed his leg against Daylon's aching cock.

Breaking the kiss, Eli looked into Daylon's golden eyes. "I've been lonely and miserable for fifteen years. How well do you think I could lead a pack like that? They'll either have to accept me for who I am or find another leader. My life's with you now." Eli gripped the front of Daylon's shirt and yanked it open. He bent his head and took the hard nub of Daylon's nipple into his mouth. Running his hands down Daylon's chest, he settled them on the hard ridge of his arousal.

Daylon put his hand over Eli's. "If this is going to work between us, you need to know I'm won't be just a bottom. I'll defer to you in almost everything else, but not in the bedroom. In there, we're equals."

Squeezing the hard thick cock under his hand, Eli licked his lips. "Good. Because it's been a long time since I've had you inside me." Moving his hand up, Eli began to unfasten Daylon's jeans. "You and these sexy-ass jeans have had me hard as a rock all afternoon." He bent to slide the jeans down Daylon's legs and seemed surprised when Daylon's cock sprang free and slapped him in the face. "Oh fuck, Day."

Running his hands up the thick length of Daylon's cock, Eli looked from it to Daylon's face. "You've grown. But you'll still be a perfect fit for me." Eli licked his way around the cockhead in front of his face and opened to take the length into his mouth. Moaning, Eli took Daylon as far back as he could. "Need you."

Daylon pulled him up. "Bedroom." Daylon pulled his jeans up enough to walk behind Eli down the hall and to the bedroom. He looked around the room, looking for any sign of Trish.

Eli read his mind and shook his head. "I didn't build this place until after Trish left. You're the first person to ever be in this bed with me." Eli finished the statement by pulling his t-shirt over his head.

Staring at the heavily muscled chest in front of him, Daylon chuckled. "I'm not the only one who's grown. Damn, Eli." Daylon stepped forward and ran his hands over Eli's chest. With just enough hair, Eli's chest was perfection personified. Daylon felt a bead of pre-cum slide over the crown of his cock as he circled Eli's dark brown nipples.

He had a lone wolf tattooed on his upper chest, baying at the moon. "When did you get this done?" Daylon outlined the tattoo with his finger.

"Right after you left. It was the beginning of the end of my marriage." Eli unzipped his jeans and pushed them down his legs. "Trish figured out after I got it that she'd never be able to compete with you."

Toeing off his boots, Eli stepped out of his jeans and walked naked to the bed. He pulled down the dark gray and blue comforter and held out his hand. "Come on. It's been too damn long since I've held you properly."

Sitting on the edge of the bed, Daylon pulled his boots off as Eli kissed his neck and back. Pushing his jeans down and off, Daylon turned and pushed Eli down on the bed. Daylon crawled over him and took his mouth in a fierce kiss. "Mine," Daylon growled.

"Mmm. Yours. I always have been." Eli arched his back as Daylon licked his way down his chest. He stopped to dip his tongue into his belly button and continued down. Swiping the head of Eli's cock with his tongue, Daylon growled again. Eli could tell Daylon's inner wolf was ready to mate. He could see the skin vibrating as Daylon tried to hold himself back.

Eli knew Day needed to be in charge at this moment. He needed to assure himself that Eli was finally ready to mate with him. He'd thought of nothing else for the past fifteen years. Eli knew he'd made a mistake as soon as he'd caved to his father's wishes and said "I do". Then Daylon had taken off and Eli tried his best to make the marriage work, despite the fact that not only didn't he love Trish, but he wasn't really interested in having sex with her either. He'd faked it enough to at least make the attempt to get her pregnant, but thankfully God had other plans for Eli. And thank the Lord he'd never made Trish his mate. The introduction of his saliva into her bloodstream would have connected them for life. He even knew on his wedding night that he didn't want that, so he'd kept the mating ritual out of their sex life.

Daylon nipped Eli's shoulder with his lengthened canines. "What are you thinking so hard about?" Soothing the small bite with his tongue, Daylon snuggled in against him. He insinuated himself between Eli's thighs and waited for him to answer.

Thrusting up, Eli shook his head. "Just thinking about how much time I've wasted, being afraid of what my pack would think of me if they knew the truth." He pulled Daylon's head back down for another toe-curling kiss. "I don't care what they think anymore. I love you. I've always loved you."

Moaning, Daylon rubbed his hardened cock against Eli's. "I love you. I traveled the country and never found another to replace you."

"Need you. In me." Eli reached over and opened the drawer of his bedside table. He tried to find the lube, but with his awkward position, he was fumbling.

Soon Daylon's hand joined his. "I got it." Eli lifted his hand out of the drawer and was embarrassed when Daylon pulled out his large butt plug. Daylon smiled and looked down at Eli. "Use this much?"

Blushing, Eli grabbed it out of his hand. "Just find the lube. We'll talk about my sex life when you're willing to talk about yours." He was relieved when Daylon didn't push the issue and reached back into the drawer for the large, well-used tube of lube. He gave Eli another knowing smile and kissed him.

Slicking his fingers, Daylon continued to kiss Eli as he slowly ran his finger around the rim of his tight pucker. Eli jerked a little when Daylon entered his body with the first finger. Daylon pulled out of the kiss. "Am I hurting you?"

"Hell, no. Give me more." Eli spread his legs wider and pushed into Daylon's hand as another finger entered him. Moving cautiously, Daylon stroked a finger over Eli's prostate gland. "Oh, fuck, yes. Need you in me now, Day."

"Shh. I've only got two fingers inside. Wait until I get you stretched."

"Believe me when I say I'm plenty stretched. I like a bite of pain mixed with my pleasure." Eli flipped over onto his stomach and presented himself so Daylon could ride the wolf. He felt Daylon kneel behind him. Eli turned his head when he heard the lube

lid snap open once more. Daylon was stroking his long, thick cock with his lubed hand and Eli knew for a fact he'd never seen anything more beautiful. "I love you," he whispered.

Daylon looked him in the eye and put the head of his cock to Eli's hole. "Good, because you're mine." With those words, he thrust deep inside. Giving Eli no time to acclimatize, Daylon began pumping in and out. He worried about hurting the man he loved, but Eli seemed to be eating it up. He pushed back into every thrust, moving Daylon's cock that much deeper. Reaching under him, Daylon wrapped his long fingers around Eli's heavy weeping cock. "Come with my cock buried inside you." He stroked Eli's cock faster as he sped up the pace in and out of his ass.

Grunting his climax, Eli's seed filled Daylon's hand. He leaned over Eli's back and just as he felt himself slipping over the edge, he buried his elongated canines into the area between Eli's neck and shoulder. As his cock swelled inside Eli, Daylon's shaft pumped burst after burst of his seed deep inside his mate. He released Eli's shoulder and howled to the ceiling.

Unable to unlock himself from his new mate, Daylon collapsed on top of Eli. "Love you. You're part of me now."

Eli reached back and ran his hand over Daylon's thigh. "My turn to mark you next. Make you mine."

"Always yours." Daylon kissed Eli's neck as he waited for his cock to finish the mating process. During the mating ritual, a male werewolf is so closely tied to his inner wolf that his cock swells and knots inside his chosen mate. It hadn't happened to Daylon before, but this was the first time he'd ever bitten Eli at the moment of climax.

Still buried inside Eli, he rolled them both to their sides. Daylon kissed and licked at the bite wound on Eli's shoulder. Each pass of his tongue made Eli quiver in his arms. "Do we need to talk about the future? About what happens if the pack doesn't accept us?" He smoothed his hands down Eli's heavily muscled chest.

Pushing back into Daylon even further, Eli sighed. "I'll have to talk to Dad in the morning. The Halloween Howl is tomorrow night and he needs to be prepared for the repercussions of me showing up with my new mate." Eli chuckled. "That is, if your cock cooperates and goes down so I can mate you."

"It would help if you'd stop rubbing that sexy ass against me." Daylon reached down and gave Eli's butt a playful slap. He was surprised when Eli gave a little moan. Daylon reached around Eli and wrapped his hand around his quickly filling cock. "You do like a little pain, don't you?" He slapped Eli's ass again, a little harder this time.

"Yes." Eli tried to move, but Daylon's cock still wasn't cooperating. "I don't think we'll ever be able to have a quickie." Eli yawned. "I guess we could just cuddle and take a little nap."

"Mmm-hmm. Sounds like a good plan to me." Daylon snuggled his face into Eli's neck and closed his eyes. Soon both men were snoring as loudly as two bears hibernating.

When Daylon woke several hours later, he was alone in bed. He climbed out of bed and headed to the attached bathroom. Finding a washcloth, he cleaned himself in the sink and went in search of his sexy mate.

He found Eli in the kitchen preparing dinner. He wore a comfortable-looking pair of white jersey pants that rode low on his hips. Daylon watched as Eli barely browned four extra-large t-bones. Licking his lips, Daylon walked up behind Eli and wrapped his arms around him. "Hey, sexy."

Leaning back, Eli turned his head enough to get a long, lazy kiss. "Thought you might be hungry when you woke up." Eli took the steaks off the indoor grill and set them on two plates. He handed the plates to Daylon. "Set these on the table and I'll get the potatoes out of the microwave."

They reminisced over their teen years as they ate, both avoiding the past fifteen years. Finally, when they were both finished, Eli stood and led Daylon by the hand to the living room sofa.

As they snuggled together on the wide dark brown leather couch, Eli covered them with the sofa blanket. Nice and warm, the two men fit together perfectly. "Were you lonely after you left?" Eli played with Daylon's long blond hair.

"You have no idea. At least here, you had your family. I suddenly had no one. I'll be honest and tell you I tried looking for someone to take your place. No one lasted more than a couple of weeks before I knew they'd never be able to fill your shoes. Besides, most people don't really believe we even exist. It's kind of hard to explain to someone why you feel the need to strip and run in the moonlight at certain times of the month."

Running his hand over Daylon's still-naked chest, Eli kissed him. "I'm sorry you were so lonely, but I'm not sorry that you didn't find a replacement for me." He looked into Daylon's eyes. "You're my one and only. Both in sex and love."

Seemingly surprised by Eli's statement, Daylon pulled back a little. "You mean you've never made love to anyone but me?"

Eli blushed, "Well, I had sex with Trish several times over the years, but I've had no other man. Ever. And I've never made love to anyone but you."

Daylon slipped his hands under the soft white jersey of Eli's pants. He circled his cock with his hand and licked the side of Eli's face. He reached Eli's mouth and pushed his tongue inside. As the kiss grew in intensity, so did the rhythm on Eli's cock, until Eli put a hand to Daylon's chest. "Don't make me come. I plan to be buried deep inside you when that happens."

Groaning, Daylon sat back up on the couch. "Then take me to bed."

Eli rose off the couch and once again led Daylon to the bedroom. He easily slid out of his pants and climbed in next to his wolf. He began by kissing and licking Day's face. It wasn't until every surface was kissed that he moved down to his chest. Only a light



covering of hair marred the otherwise perfect area. Eli licked and nipped at Daylon's nipples as he rubbed his face across the lightly tanned skin. He wanted to love every inch of him. His man. His mate.

Moving down to Daylon's erection, Eli teased him with licks and nibbles. Daylon thrust his cock toward Eli's face, but Eli chose to ignore it. He went from the large heavy cock to the furry sac. Running his tongue around the wrinkled skin, Eli took one ball at a time into his mouth and suckled. Releasing one, he moved to the other. He held his hand up toward Daylon's face and, without any other communication, Daylon licked his fingers.

Bringing the wet fingers down, Eli moved back so Daylon could flip over. With Day on his hands and knees, Eli licked his way around the tight pucker of his hole. He inserted one finger as he rubbed his face against the pale globe of Daylon's ass. Bowing his torso, Daylon threw his head back. "More."

"Pass me the lube." He held out his hand as Daylon reached for the tube and passed it back. Eli popped the top and drizzled some lube onto his fingers and thumbs. He closed the lid and set the tube beside his knee as he inserted first one thumb and then the other. Opening Daylon's hole, Eli leaned forward and stabbed the small opening with his tongue.

"Oh fuck, yes." Daylon pushed back against Eli's face. Eli growled as his skin began to quiver, his inner wolf tasting its mate. Eli's tongue elongated as his teeth began to lengthen. With the longer tongue, Eli continued to lick his lover's hole.

"Now." Daylon wrapped his own fingers around his cock. "Gonna come."

Pulling back, Eli reached for the tube. He lubed himself and Daylon once again before pushing the head of his cock through the well stretched opening. Once he was fully seated, Eli scraped his teeth lightly down Daylon's back and began to move. Daylon grunted as he slammed in and out of him, setting a quick, hard rhythm.

It had been too long since he'd been inside this man. He knew he wouldn't last much longer. From the grunts and moans it seemed Day wouldn't either. "Not going to

last," he gritted out around his changing mouth. He noticed his hands had started to shift and took a deep, calm breath. Only when they were back to normal did Eli resume. The wolf wanted this and Eli couldn't put him off any longer so he buried himself as deeply inside Day as he could. Daylon howled as his body clamped down on Eli's cock, signaling his release. Eli leaned over Day's back and bit into the soft, but firm, flesh between his shoulder and neck.

As he bit, Eli tasted his mate's blood. The taste drove the Alpha in him over the edge. His cock erupted with spurt after spurt of cum. After he was knotted inside, his cock continued to empty in slower bursts as Eli fell forward. He licked the wound and then kissed it. "Mine," he growled.

"Forever," Daylon said as he collapsed on the bed. Moving into the side position they'd been in earlier, Eli continued to lick and kiss at the bite mark. "Love you."

Eli stopped licking to whisper into Daylon's ear. "Love *you*." He wrapped both arms around his new mate. "I saw your bike when you rode up. Where's home for you?"

Daylon lifted one of Eli's hands and brought it to his mouth. He licked the palm and pressed it against his heart. "Now my home is right here. Before that I had an apartment in Detroit. Not much there, though."

Pressing his palm tighter against Daylon's heart, Eli kissed his neck. "We'll get it cleaned out next weekend. That is, unless the pack drives us out of town. Then we may just be living there."

"Doesn't matter where I live as long as you're with me, mate."

## **Chapter Two**

After a hot and loving shower, Daylon and Eli dressed for the day. They were both a little nervous about coming out to their Alpha. As Eli fixed scrambled eggs and bacon, Daylon sat at the kitchen table watching his new mate. "You really are beautiful. I don't think I've ever seen anyone as perfect as you are."

Snorting a laugh, Eli turned away from the stove. "Yeah. Evidently you've never looked in a mirror. Besides, I'm anything but perfect. I have a tendency to lose my temper and I can promise you now, I'll be an extremely jealous mate. I don't care who it is, I'd better not see anyone sniffing around you. Ever."

Daylon smiled and leaned back in his chair, crossing his arms. "Jealous, huh? Well good. Then I won't be the only one. Because just the thought of you looking at another, whether in wolf or human form, makes me see red."

Eli spooned the eggs and bacon onto two plates and carried them to the table. He set them down and crawled into Daylon's lap. "Not going to happen. Never wanted anyone but you." He leaned in and sealed his lips to Daylon's. Day opened for him and Eli pushed his tongue inside to taste Day's morning coffee.

"No one will ever separate us again, Day." He cupped Daylon's cheek. "Love you, yeah."

"Yeah." Daylon kissed him slow and sweet. He pulled back and smacked him on the ass. "Let's eat."

Pulling Daylon's plate closer, Eli gathered some of the eggs onto a fork and held it in front of Daylon's mouth. He couldn't believe how much that smack had turned him on. "I'll feed you this morning because I can't stand the thought of getting off your lap."

With a smile on his face, Daylon nodded and opened his mouth. "Maybe from now on we should only fix one plate and both eat off it, because you feel good right where you are." Daylon reached down and caressed Eli's arousal through his jeans.

Faltering on his way to Daylon's mouth with a piece of bacon, Eli moaned. "Yeah. I think I like this new arrangement." He fed Day the piece of meat. Daylon licked his fingers clean as he unzipped Eli's jeans.

Moaning, Eli leaned in for a bacon kiss. "If we keep this up, we'll never get to Dad's house."

Stroking Eli's length, Daylon stole another kiss. "With this in my hand, I don't really care about speaking to your dad."

"Mmm, me neither." Eli stood and shucked his jeans and boxer briefs. He went to work on Daylon's jeans and contemplated going into the bedroom for some lube. Instead he pulled off his mate's jeans and grabbed the butter. Handing the butter to Daylon, Eli repositioned himself so he was straddling Day's lap. "Slick me up."

Daylon lifted a brow as he stared at the butter in his hand. "With this?"

"Yes, with that. Just do it." Eli lifted enough for Daylon to reach his hole. The cold feel of the butter against his ass sent shivers up Eli's spine. As Daylon worked his hole, the butter began to melt and dripped slowly off his ass. Eli chuckled at the vision they must make. "Sorry about the mess. I'll have to wipe you down with a piece of bread when we're done."

Daylon removed his fingers and slapped his ass. Eli arched his back and moaned. Laughing, Daylon slicked his cock with butter and positioned himself at Eli's entrance. "Ready when you are."

Eli groaned as he impaled himself on the shaft. Daylon surprised him with another smack. This one harder, leaving a delicious sting. He began riding up and down on Daylon's cock as he continued to receive blows to his butt cheeks. "Yes. Harder."

"You like the pain, don't you, honey?" Daylon delivered another hard smack.

"Yeeesss." Eli ground his ass against Daylon's lap.

"I'll have to introduce you to some of my toys, then. Unless, of course, you have your own?" *Smack.*

Eli held Daylon's shoulder's and slammed down on his cock. "No toys like that. Never knew I liked it until now." *Smack.*

"Well, now that you know, I'll have to make sure you get what you need." Daylon reached between them and pinched Eli's nipple with one hand as he stroked Eli's cock with the other.

Howling, Eli shot his seed into Daylon's hand. Daylon thrust upward and maintained eye contact as he licked his hand clean. The tight clamping of Eli's body must have sent Daylon over the edge. He knotted and filled his Eli with his warmth. Pulling Eli against his chest, he delivered a deep erotic kiss. "So good." He rested his forehead against Eli's. "Love you."

Snuggling into Daylon's chest, Eli kissed his neck. "Love you." He continued to rain kisses along Daylon's face and neck. "We need to get going. Is this thing with our cocks going to happen every time?"

Shrugging his shoulders, Daylon tipped his head back, giving Eli more room to kiss. "I don't know, honey. It's kind of nice, though. At least I know you'll be snuggled up good and close for a while afterward."

"Would like that regardless. I don't want to be separated from you ever again. Make sure you stay by my side tonight at the howl. Could be some that don't like us being together. We'll have a better idea, though, after we talk to Dad." Daylon's cock went down enough that Eli slipped free. "Come on, love. Let's get another shower. It's bad enough we go see Dad already mated, but I don't think he needs to smell my body full of your cum too." Eli pulled Daylon up out of the chair.

Swatting his ass one more time on the way to the shower, Daylon smiled. "I think I shot you full of enough that even a shower won't erase my cum from your ass."

\* \* \* \* \*

They decided to take Daylon's Harley to meet with Eli's dad. Eli loved being pressed against Day's back. He had a few plans of his own for the ride home. For now, though, they needed to ask their Alpha to accept their mating and welcome them as a couple into the pack. It would have been a lot easier if he wasn't next in line to be Alpha of the pack. He knew Daylon worried that Jud would kick them both out, but as he'd said, if the pack kicked them out, they'd still have each other.

Daylon pulled the bike in front of the large ranch house. The Withers family owned close to a thousand acres, with Eli living on the very edge of that land. Eli's younger brothers, Zeke and Jed, helped their father on the ranch. Jud had owned and run the hardware store too, until he retired to the ranch ten years ago and Eli took it over.

Daylon smoothed his long hair back into a leather thong. "You sure you're ready for this?"

Eli took Daylon's hand and walked toward the house. "I can't say that I'm not nervous, but I'm ready to get out of the closet." They climbed the stairs and Eli opened the door. "Mom. Dad," Eli called.

"In here, son." Jud Withers' voice was strong and commanding as he called them into the kitchen.

Eli pulled Daylon close and gave him a quick kiss. "Here we go."

"Lead on, honey." Daylon followed Eli through the living room to the kitchen at the back of the house. Nancy and Jud were having a cup of coffee at the kitchen table.

As soon as Eli and Daylon stepped into the room, Nancy stood and rushed to her son. She threw her arms around him and kissed him on the cheek. "I'm so happy for you, Eli. I knew you had it in you."

Eli shook his head slightly and looked from his mother to his father and finally to Daylon. "What's going on?"

Nancy smacked Eli on the arm. "Don't play stupid. I can smell the change in you. You've finally admitted your feelings to Daylon, haven't you?"

Dumbstruck, Eli moved his jaw up and down, but the words wouldn't come out. Daylon stepped in to rescue him. "Yes, Mrs. Withers. We came here today to tell you and our Alpha that we're now mated." Daylon looked at Jud and lowered his head in respect.

Jud slid back his kitchen chair and walked over to stand in front of them. "This true, son?"

Eli took a deep breath and lifted his head. "Yes, sir. We love each. We always have. I just wasn't strong enough to defy you and the pack when I was nineteen. As you can tell, I was wrong in doing that. My heart has always belonged to Daylon."

Looking at his son's face through narrowed eyes, Jud finally smiled. "I don't know what this will mean to the pack, but as a father, I'm happy for you." He wrapped a stunned Eli in a warm embrace. Pulling away, he held his hand out to Daylon. "Welcome to the family."

"Thank you, sir." Daylon shook his hand. He wanted to ask about the pack, but it wasn't his place in pack society to discuss such things with the Alpha.

Jud motioned toward the table. "Sit down and have a cup of coffee. I believe we have a lot to discuss." The low timbre of Jud's voice rattled Daylon's chest.

In true pack fashion, Daylon deferred to Eli. Knowing how Daylon treated Eli in public would be a big determining factor on how the pack accepted their mating, he bowed his head. Eli chuckled and took Daylon's hand and led him to the table.

Jud smiled and grunted at Daylon, apparently approving of his submissive behavior. "You should do fine, Daylon. The rest of the pack should accept your joining, but I'm still not sure about Eli retaining the Second Alpha position. It's not so much his lack of leadership that will come in to question. It's the fact that the mate of the Alpha has always been in charge of the bitches of the pack. I'm not sure how that would work with a male." Jud rubbed his chin in thought.

Resting his forearms on the table, Eli looked his dad in the eye. "I'm not sure I want to be Alpha, Dad. I've lived my whole life for the pack and I've been nothing but miserable. I'm happy now. For really the first time in my life, all I want to do is to be with my mate."

Shaking his head, Jud stood and refilled his coffee cup. "No. You're by far the strongest male of the pack. You were groomed for this, Eli."

Now it was Eli's turn to shake his head. "Jed would make a better Alpha, and you know it. I'm a hothead. Jed's the one who reasons everything out."

Tapping his fingers on the table, Jud seemed to think about what Eli had said. He finally shook his head. "I know the pack won't accept Jed. He may reason things out, but that's because he's sensitive. An Alpha must be fair, but also strong and at times stubborn. You're all of those things. I'll speak to the pack at the howl tonight." Jud set his cup down and stood. "You can do this, son. You can have your mate and still be Alpha. Tonight will be the night you prove to the pack that you'll stand proud and not back down." He looked Eli in the eye. "Even if someone challenges you. Although it would be suicide, some lower wolves may see it as their way to climb to the top. Show mercy and you'll win the pack's trust."

Nodding, Eli and Daylon said their goodbyes and left the house.

Climbing on the back of Daylon's Harley, Eli's stomach growled. Daylon chuckled as he seated himself in front of Eli. "Hungry?"

Eli leaned forward and wrapped his arms around Daylon. "Yeah. For you. Take us home. Need to feel you in my arms."

Starting the powerful bike, Daylon pulled out of the drive and onto Route 9. As soon as they'd turned into Eli's private road, Eli's hands began to wander down Daylon's torso to unzip his jeans. He sucked in his breath so Eli had more room to play. Slipping the hard cock out of the tight confines of his jeans, Eli began to stroke.

Daylon slowed the bike down as much as he could and still maintain balance. Eli used one hand to pull the back of Daylon's t-shirt down so he could lick at the bite



mark. Afraid he'd wreck and hurt them both, Daylon stopped and turned off the bike. After he set the kickstand, he swung his leg over the seat and turned around to face Eli. "Someone's not letting me drive."

Picking up his earlier rhythm on Daylon's cock, Eli smiled. "You love it. You know you do."

"Yeah, you're right, but I don't have any lube on me and neither do you." Daylon thrust into Eli's hand. "Come on, honey. Give me two more minutes to get us home. And if you're real good, I'll give you a treat."

Eli must have guessed some of what Daylon had planned. "You can't mark me before the howl. Save the kink for later."

That stopped Daylon in his tracks. He pulled Eli's hand off his cock and pulled him into his lap. Feverishly kissing him, Daylon moaned. "I don't know that I can sit back and let someone challenge you."

Eli reached up and removed the thong from Daylon's hair. Fanning it around his shoulders, he kissed him again. "It's our way. You know that."

He shook his head. "Not if you don't want to be Alpha. Tell them that. Christ, I won't lose you." The tears that had threatened earlier began to fall. "I love you."

"I love you too. But this is our home. We both belong here. If fighting a couple of low-level weres keeps us here, then I'll do it. I'll do it for us and our future together." Eli swept his thumbs over Daylon's cheeks, erasing the tears. "Come on. Take us home."

\* \* \* \* \*

"You gonna sleep all day?" Daylon ran his finger over Eli's tattoo. "You know you're going to have to get this changed, right? I mean, you're no longer a lone wolf. I think a pair of wolves mating would be appropriate, don't you?" Daylon laughed at the small grin on Eli's face. Daylon knew he wasn't asleep, but Eli still had his eyes closed. Leaning down, Daylon bit Eli's nipple.

Eli yelped and covered both his nipples. "I'm not your late afternoon snack. You're going to have me worn out before the Howl." Eli's eyes went wide and he pulled Daylon back into his arms. He smoothed Daylon's hair behind his ears and kissed him. "I'll be fine. I've been challenged before. Several times as a matter of fact. Right after Trish left, the pack thought that if I wasn't strong enough to keep my own wife from running off with another wolf, I wasn't strong enough to be Alpha."

"It'll be worse for you this time and you know it. Most weres won't want to be governed by a queer." Daylon watched Eli's reaction through his long, dark brown lashes.

Smoothing his hand down Daylon's back, Eli kissed him. "They will if a queer Alpha is the best one for the job. And despite what I told Dad earlier, I know I'm the best were to lead this pack." Kissing him again, Eli thrust his tongue inside Daylon's mouth. Eli rubbed his hard cock against Daylon's. "We've still got over an hour before we have to leave."

"Mmm." He ran his hand down to Eli's cock. Stroking its length, Daylon turned to his back. "Plenty of time for you to go all Alpha on me." Daylon reached for the lube on the table as Eli took his shaft into his mouth. "Oh fuck, yeah." The lube forgotten, Daylon thrust up into Eli's mouth. "Suck me, honey."

Eli took Daylon's length down as far as he could. He took a deep breath and relaxed his throat, swallowing Daylon's cock to the root.

"Oh fuck. Oh Christ." Daylon grabbed a handful of Eli's hair and tugged. Eli moaned around his cock as he came back up for air. Daylon knew the bite of pain was getting Eli even more excited. His baby sure did like that particular kink.

Pulling off, Eli held his hand out for the lube as he licked his way around Day's balls. Lube in hand, Eli spread Daylon's legs farther apart and held them up out of the way. He was presented with Daylon's still-stretched rosette. He'd made love to Daylon hard not more than an hour and a half ago and, by the looks of it, Daylon's body still

remembered. He lubed his cock and quickly put some around the stretched hole. "You're already ready for me. Gonna fuck you so deep." Eli thrust all the way in with one stroke.

Slipping his legs over Eli's shoulders, Daylon writhed in ecstasy. "Do it. Fuck that ass." Eli began thrusting in and out of Daylon's body as he continued to yell obscene commands.

Eli couldn't help but to smile. His Daylon liked to talk dirty as much as he, Eli, enjoyed getting his ass whacked. He changed the angle of his penetration to peg Daylon's gland on every thrust.

"Oh, fuck me. You big-cocked mother fucker." Daylon was out of his head in ecstasy and Eli couldn't help but chuckle. He wondered how much further he could drive Daylon out of his mind. He reached down and began stroking Daylon's cock as he continued to rub against his prostate.

"That's it. Grab that cock. Fucking my ass so good. Harder." Daylon's body tensed around Eli's cock as he started to shoot his seed. Eli aimed Daylon's cock toward him so his chest and neck came away spattered with cum.

The intense smell of Day's seed sent Eli over the edge. This time he was surprised when his cock didn't swell. He collapsed on top of his mate. "Hey, Day? Why didn't I knot this time?" He nuzzled his face into Daylon's neck.

"I don't know. Maybe because the position was more human than wolf. Why don't you ask your dad?" Daylon chuckled as Eli punched him softly in the ribs. "What? You don't want to ask Jud?"

"Smartass. I bet you're right, though. I bet the position does have something to do with it. This close to the full moon and I didn't feel myself losing control once." Eli licked at Daylon's lips until he opened for him. Teasing Day's tongue with his own, Eli nibbled the soft inner rim of Day's lips. "Love you."

"Love you, honey." Daylon ran his hands up and down Eli's back. "We should probably get a shower. Do they still have the big potluck before the Howl?" Daylon's question was punctuated by the growl of his stomach.

Eli rubbed Daylon's belly. "Easy, boy. We'll get some food in you before we go. And the answer to your question is yes. I've got about fifteen t-bones in the fridge. But I'm sure no one would miss a couple of them if we were to have a little pre-Howl snack." Eli started to sit up and laughed. "Yeah. A shower is definitely in order. I think we're pretty much stuck together."

"I can't help it if you make me need you so much. I'll never get enough of you." Daylon pulled Eli back down into his arms. "Give me five more minutes. I enjoy the smell of my cum on you."

## **Chapter Three**

Sitting next to Eli in his truck, Daylon drew circles on his leg as they drove. "I'm nervous."

Eli covered Daylon's hand and lifted it to his mouth. Kissing each finger, he tried to think of a way to soothe his wolf. "Just make sure you stick close to me tonight. Every howl gets a little wild, but the Halloween Howl is the biggest, wildest party of the year." He put Daylon's hand back down on his thigh. Putting his arm around Daylon, Eli brought him closer. "No matter what, you're mine."

Daylon nodded his head and rubbed his face against Eli's neck. "Together always, yeah?"

"Yeah." He slowed the truck and turned his head to give Daylon a quick kiss. They broke apart when he pulled the pickup into the large meadow on the opposite side of his father's land. "You get the lawn chairs and beer cooler and I'll get the steaks." Eli squeezed Daylon's hand one more time before exiting the truck. He wouldn't let on to Daylon, but he was getting nervous.

As soon as Eli lifted the cooler out of the back of the truck and started for the barbecue area, he was aware of eyes following his progress. He slyly looked around and spotted an entire group of younger wolves leering at him and Daylon. He could tell by the clenched muscles in Day's jaw that he was also aware of the looks. Eli walked a little closer to Daylon. "Keep your cool."

"I hear you," Daylon growled out between clenched teeth.

He was thankful when he spotted his two brothers over by the barbecue grill. "Come on. There's Zeke and Jed." Eli and Daylon bypassed the group of staring wolves. They set their coolers down next to his brothers' and immediately bent and

retrieved two cold bottles of beer from one of the coolers. He handed one to Daylon and winked. "Maybe this will cool you down."

Daylon took the bottle of beer. "Thanks." He gestured with his bottle to the group of wolves. "Troublemakers?" He looked from Eli to Zeke and Jed.

Zeke nodded his head and took a drink of his own beer. He, of course, deferred to Eli to explain. "Nothing but. We've had trouble from them for quite a while. They're young and low on the food chain. Trying to move their way up in ranks by challenging. We had two challenges in the last three months and both of them were from that group right there."

"What's Jud say about it?" Daylon continued to cast glances their way.

"They haven't technically done anything wrong, so his hands are tied. He keeps a close watch on them, though." Eli could smell the anger rolling off Daylon. He knew he needed to defuse the situation and get Daylon's mind on something else. He looked over at his brothers. Zeke was the smaller of the two, but his sinewy muscles were evident under the tight white t-shirt. His hair was black and his eyes the same dark green as all the men in the family. "Hey, Zeke, isn't it about time you started that charcoal?"

Zeke looked from the group of weres before turning to face Eli. Eli lifted his brow. "Yeah. Hey, Jed, go ask Hank if I can borrow his lighter." Zeke poured the large bag of charcoal into the split-barrel grill.

Finishing his beer, Eli walked the few steps and tossed it into the trash can. He bent over to get another one. "You about ready for another?"

Daylon finished off his and threw it from where he stood into the trash. "Yeah."

Jed came back with the lighter and the two brothers began bickering about the proper way to stack the briquettes. Eli rolled his eyes and looked at Daylon. "Come on, let's go find your family while these two knuckleheads fight over the proper way to light a grill." He surprised Daylon by taking his hand and leading him toward the Glover family.

They spotted one of his brothers. "Hey, bro. Where are Mom and Dad?" He looked over Brannon's shoulder. He saw his other brothers, Marlon and Bo, but not his parents.

"They stopped by to talk to Jud and Nancy. Seems they're worried about the two of you and how the pack is going to react. And from the looks you're both getting, I'd say they're right to worry." Brannon narrowed his eyes at the group of seven weres. "Best you two stick close to the rest of us."

Eli shook his head. "If they're going to challenge, they'll do it whether I'm alone or in a crowd." Eli reached out and took Daylon's hand again.

Brannon looked at the two men for a few minutes. He looked over at Daylon and nodded. "I'm happy for you, brother. It's good to have you home."

"Thanks, Bran." Daylon looked at Eli. "I'm going to get the lawn chairs out of the back of the truck." Daylon squeezed Eli's hand and let it go as he started to walk off.

"Wait," Eli said, catching up to him. "I'll help."

Daylon didn't look at Eli, but he felt his jaws clench again. "I'm not a baby who needs looking after. I'm as strong as any wolf here except for you. I can hold my own and you can't be with me every second." Daylon continued on to the truck. When he started to lift the lawn chairs out of the back, Eli's hands landed on his hips as he stepped up behind him. They were shielded from the rest of the crowd from the chest down by the bed of the truck.

Eli ran his hand over Daylon's zipper. "Love you. Just worry that something will take you away from me." He squeezed the growing bulge in Daylon's jeans.

Daylon moaned softly and thrust into Eli's hand. "Gonna make you fly tonight, honey. After the howl, I'm gonna get you home and redden that pretty ass of yours until you come all over me."

Now it was Eli's turn to moan. He slid his hand down the inside of Daylon's jeans and brushed his fingers over his erection. Pulling them back out again, Eli made a show

of licking them clean. "As much as I want to take you in the woods and fuck you, we'd better calm down or we'll really put on a show for those weres."

Nodding his agreement, Daylon lifted the chairs up and over the bed of the truck. "So where do you want me to put these?"

They walked over toward the group of chairs already set up. "I'd say we could set them up over by your brothers. I assume your folks will be sitting there too, when they get here."

When both sets of parents drove up together, Daylon and Eli looked at each other. "Well, if they came together, evidently they're not fighting," Eli said as he watched his dad get out of the SUV.

Daylon's hands began to sweat and he wiped them on his jeans. Eli put a hand on his thigh. "Relax. Don't broadcast your nerves to the rest of the pack. We made the right decision for us. The rest of them will have to accept it. If they choose not to accept me as their future Alpha, then that's an entirely different issue. Because whether I'm Alpha or not, you'll still be my mate."

Swallowing, Daylon tried to calm his nerves. He took slow steady breaths as their parents converged upon them. Jud stepped up and was the first to offer both men a handshake. It was a huge gesture within the pack. Jud Withers was letting the rest of the pack know he approved and accepted their mating. Daylon took Jud's hand and shook it. "Thank you, Alpha."

Jud leaned in and whispered in his ear. "Calm down, son. Everything will turn out for the best." He straightened and shook Eli's hand, using it to pull him into a fatherly embrace.

When Jud stepped back, Joshua Withers stepped forward and shook both their hands. Daylon looked into the golden eyes of his father. "Thank you, sir."

Joshua Withers grinned, "You're still my son, Daylon, and you always will be."

Both mothers kissed and hugged them next. They decided to set up their chairs around Eli and Daylon. Daylon didn't say anything, but he knew they were circling



their young, sending a clear message to others that they would not sit by and let anyone hurt their cubs.

\* \* \* \* \*

After a filling dinner, everyone started putting up their picnic baskets and lawn chairs. The Halloween Howl was the event of the year and Daylon guessed there were at least three hundred weres present tonight. He'd made a point of talking to some old friends away from Eli. Daylon didn't want to seem like he was afraid to be by himself.

As the area was cleaned, Jud stepped up to make his announcements. He discussed general pack business and welcomed everyone to the Centennial Halloween Howl. He once again told the story of their ancestors' flight to find a safe haven where they could live and raise their families in peace. Finally, he turned toward Eli and Daylon. "As you know, my son Eli is next in line to take my place when I step down next year. He'll make a damn fine Alpha for this pack and everyone knows it. He's worked and trained hard his entire life and I hope that you all will open your minds and accept his mating to Daylon Withers. We can't help who we love and these two fine men have loved each other for years. It's far better to have a happy Alpha to lead you than one mired in secrets. As for most of your concerns about the line of succession, given the fact that the mating of Eli and Daylon will, of course, not lead to cubs, I propose that after Eli's term as Alpha has been fulfilled, the oldest Withers male at the time will succeed him, providing, of course, that he's physically able to lead as Alpha."

There seemed to be some nods mixed with grumbles and shaking heads. Jud growled at his pack. "I love this pack and you all know I would never do anything to put us in danger. Trust my decision and the pack will unite. Reject it and the pack will splinter. Now I say it's time for a run unless anyone would care to address the group."

One of the twenty-something weres stepped forward. "I would like to challenge Eli as the first in line to the Alpha. I don't think anyone here relishes the thought of being led by a homo. Better to take care of it now under the quickly rising moon."

Jud's hands fisted at his side as he growled deep in his chest. His position as Alpha rarely conflicted with his position as a father, but this was definitely one of those times. "Tonight is for celebrating, not for challenging. We're here on Halloween to share a run and some good food with our fellow pack members. I will not allow a challenge tonight. If you'd like to take this up with me tomorrow, then call first and come by the house." Jud turned his back on the challenging were, thus dismissing him and his challenge.

Daylon reached out and squeezed Eli's hand. Eli squeezed back as Jud asked for everyone to get ready for the run. He stopped by and leaned in close. "Be careful out there, son. I don't trust those weres at all."

Eli nodded and led Daylon by the hand to the edge of the clearing. They disrobed and stacked their clothes in a neat pile. Eli brushed his hand down Daylon's chest. "You ready to run with me? It's been so long."

Eli's cock started to go hard just before the change occurred. His bones popped and his muscles realigned as he dropped to all fours. The change was quick and he'd gotten used to the pain over the years. Now in his wolf form, Eli felt free. He turned his head and watched as his mate finished his transformation. Even in wolf form, Day was a sight to behold, his light-colored fur seemed to glow in the moonlight. His own thick dark brown fur was a sharp contrast to his mate.

Nuzzling his mate's neck and head, Eli was happier than he'd ever been. He playfully nipped Daylon's neck as he took off into the woods. Daylon bounded after him and the two ran side by side through the trees, stopping only occasionally to nuzzle and lick each other.

Daylon tackled Eli with a pounce to his back and the two wolves rolled in the dry autumn leaves. Daylon was so busy playing, he seemed surprised when Eli stiffened and rolled out from under him.

Within minutes, they were surrounded by a group of other wolves. Eli recognized most of them as the group of troublemakers from earlier, led, of course, by his

challenger, Tommy Duncan. Eli crouched low and growled at the wolves. Within a split second, seven wolves leapt from the spots and attacked Eli and Daylon.

Although Eli was by far the strongest wolf among them, the odds were not in his favor at four to one. He chanced a glance at Daylon, who was getting pounced on by the other three. He knew his mate was strong, but if he had any hope of walking out of this alive, Eli would have to take care of these four and help him. The fear for his mate caused a surge of adrenaline and Eli began snapping. He heard the unmistakable sound of bone splintering as he clamped his jaw around the first wolf's hind leg. The wolf yelped and dragged himself away from the fight.

Eli became a biting, clawing beast as he took out his attackers one by one. With the last wolf limping off in pain, Eli spun around to help Daylon, who'd managed to take two of the wolves out of the fight, but by the look of his bloody fur, it had cost him. Tommy was standing on top of Daylon's bloody side with his jaws wrapped around his neck when Eli bounded over and knocked him off.

All Eli could think about was killing the wolf that dared to try to kill his mate. The blood in his head roared as the wolf took over one hundred percent. There was no longer any sign of Eli Withers, his wolf was now in full command and his wolf wanted the blood of his enemy. The wolf clamped his strong jaw around Tommy's neck and shook as he bit down. The resulting sound of bones breaking left a limp Tommy Duncan in the wolf's mouth. The wolf tossed the limp body aside and crawled toward his mate.

He howled and whimpered intermittently as he licked the blood from Daylon's thick fur coat. The wolf was still firmly in charge and when another group of wolves came running, reacting to his howl, the wolf would not let them near. He growled and barked at the wolves, threatening to kill any of them that came close to his mate. Daylon's wolf made a small sound. Eli's wolf whimpered as he continued to lick the blood off the bite wounds that covered Daylon's body.

A large black wolf stepped closer and Eli snarled and growled a warning. He snapped the air and was just about to lunge toward the large Alpha when a whimper from Daylon caught his attention. He backed up, never taking his eyes off the Alpha, and nuzzled his face against Daylon's wolf.

Daylon opened his eyes and licked Eli's wolf. It wasn't much, but it was enough for Eli's wolf to retreat enough that Eli had partial control. He looked back up to the large Alpha and recognized him as his father. Eli lowered his head in a sign of respect and went back to licking his mate.

As Eli curled up next to the now-healing wolf beside him, he whimpered his sorrow and howled to the moon. Eli wasn't even aware of the other wolves dragging off the carcass of Tommy and the other injured wolves. All Eli cared about was his mate.

As the sun started to rise in the east, Daylon's wounds were healed enough for him to change back into his human form. The first thing he noticed was Eli's wolf form curled around him, protecting him from the cold October night. Daylon reached his hand out to stroke through Eli's thick fur. "Hey, honey."

Eli's head popped up and he licked Daylon's face excitedly. He rose and stepped back as he began to change. When he was in his human form, Eli began kissing Daylon and checking his wounds. He still had a pretty good gash down his right side, but it was healing quickly. Eli picked Daylon up and started carrying him out of the woods. "I love you. I was so afraid I was going to lose you that I think I killed Tommy last night. We need to stop by and see Dad on the way home."

## **Chapter Four**

Handing another bowl of beef stew to Daylon, Eli undressed and crawled into bed beside him. "How are you feeling?"

"Sore as hell." He winked at Eli. "But better than dead."

Rubbing his hand in circles across Daylon's back, Eli leaned in and kissed his neck. "At least we won't have to worry about Tommy or his little gang anymore."

Daylon set his bowl on the side table and turned to snuggle against Eli's chest. "I'm glad Tommy wasn't dead. I don't know if you'd have been able to live with yourself if you'd actually taken his life." Daylon licked Eli's nipple. His tight brown nub grew even tighter as Daylon latched on.

"I'll kill him for sure if he ever comes near you again. It's a damn good thing Dad banished the whole bunch of them. It probably saved their lives." Eli squirmed a little under Daylon's mouth. He pulled his chest away and scooted down in bed until he was eye level with his mate. "I love you." Eli felt tears threatening, but this time he didn't care. "I think I would have killed my own father last night had he tried to get any closer to you."

Drying the tears escaping his eyes, Daylon kissed him. His tongue eased into Eli's mouth like a hot knife through butter. The kiss was lazy and slow and full of love. Eli pulled Daylon closer as the kiss began to heat up.

When Daylon began rubbing his hardened shaft against Eli's, he pulled out of the kiss and looked at him. "You sure you're up to this? Your side still looks pretty red and sore. I'm fine to just hold you all afternoon. You don't need to push your body into something it's not ready for."

Daylon smiled and moved Eli's hand to his aching cock. "Does this feel like I'm too sore to make love to my mate? As I recall, we had some big plans for last night that

never had a chance to happen.” He slapped Eli’s ass with the palm of his hand and Eli moaned.

“Mmm, that feels too good to pass up. How do you want me?” Eli said stroking his cock.

“All fours, honey. I’m gonna get that pretty ass all nice and red and then I’m going to spend the rest of the afternoon riding my wolf.” Daylon reached over and retrieved the tube of lube. “First, get your plug out so I can fill this ass. I want you to be nice and ready for me.”

Moaning, he retrieved his well-used plug from the bedside drawer and handed it to Daylon. Flipping to his stomach, Eli got on all fours and presented himself to his mate.

Before he began stretching Eli, Daylon licked the tightly puckered hole. “Love you.”

Arching his back even more, Eli looked over his shoulder. “Love *you*.” He watched as Daylon lubed his fingers and the plug. When the first finger pushed into his hole, Eli howled at the ceiling. “Fuck, yeah.” He could tell Daylon was trying to go easy on him, but that was the last thing Eli wanted right now. He wanted to feel, to erase the nightmare of the night before. The horror of almost losing his mate was too much for Eli to think about, he *needed* to feel. “Put it in, Day.”

Daylon slicked the plug once more and inserted it into Eli’s barely stretched hole. He could tell Daylon was trying to take his time, but he couldn’t wait anymore and lunged back, impaling himself. “Oh fuck.” Eli’s whole body flushed with his need. Daylon smacked Eli on the ass with enough force to leave a handprint. Eli moaned and Daylon did it again, a little harder this time.

“More,” he grunted, rocking back toward Daylon. Delivering three more hard whacks, Daylon removed the plug. At Eli’s groan, Daylon quickly replaced the plug with his cock. As he slammed in and out of Eli, Daylon continued to slap his now-red ass. “Had enough, honey?”

Eli was so out of his head with pleasure he couldn’t even speak in complete sentences. “Fuck. Going to...” *Moan*. “Come.”

Reaching under Eli, Daylon grabbed his cock in a tight fist and began stroking. He leaned over and whispered in Eli's ear as he continued to pound into him. "Do it, honey. Come on my cock."

He filled Daylon's hand with his seed as his entire body began to shake. His howl of release, he was sure, could be heard for miles. Daylon slammed in one more time, burying himself to the hilt as he filled Eli with his seed. The knotting of Day's cock once again ensured that the two would be connected for at least another half-hour. Daylon brought Eli down with him to rest on their sides. Nuzzling Eli's neck with his face, Daylon licked the bite mark. "Mine. My Alpha."

Eli shook his head. "No. Your forever mate."

## **About the Author**

I've been a reading fanatic for years and finally at the age of 40 decided to try my hand at writing. I've always loved romance novels that are just a little bit naughty so naturally my books tend to go just a little further. It's my fantasy world after all.

When I'm not being a mother to a five-year-old and a six-year-old, you can usually find me in my deep leather chair with either a book in my hand or my laptop.

Carol welcomes comments from readers. You can find her website and email address on her author bio page at [www.ellorascave.com](http://www.ellorascave.com).

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