

FaerlyFurry

A Club Soulfinder Episode

Amber Kell

Literary Road Press

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1333 W. Campbell Rd. #195

Richardson , TX 75080

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Cover design by RDF

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ISBN:978-1-934037-74-4

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Chapter One

Gage approached the door and just stared. It looked like every other door in the halls of Club Soulfinder, but this one felt different. Using his cat senses, Gage sniffed at the ruby red door. A faint smell of cleaning supplies and paint tickled his nose, but he couldn't smell anything beyond the door.

Odd.

Gage had the best nose in his family. Unfortunately, it was a family he'd never see again. He couldn't go back there.

Ever.

Ruthlessly, Gage shoved back his despair. Now wasn't the time to become melancholy because his family couldn't accept his sexual orientation. It's not like he chose who he found attractive, and he was betting if he hadn't turned down the leader's daughter, no one would've given a crap.

Still, some mistakes couldn't be taken back, and he'd rip out his claws before he accepted a female as his mate when he knew a male one was waiting out there in the world, somewhere. The fates might mock him with his circumstances, but he wasn't going to let it ruin his life.

Swallowing the mountain-sized knot in his throat, Gage slid his key in the lock and opened the door.

Ellig watched the door with baited breath. He didn't want to be here, but after Brin told him this was where he met the love of his life, what choice did he have? He'd never seen the captain of the guard so happy. Darwin might not be to Ellig's taste, but there was no denying the two of them were blissfully happy. Ellig wanted that happiness for himself. If Brin could find a dark elf for a partner, surely Ellig could find someone who met his special needs because despite all of the romance stories, it wasn't so easy to find a strong man who liked to be tied down and overpowered.

The men Ellig kept running into were either assholes or in denial about their needs. He wanted neither. Was it too much to ask to have a big muscular man who liked the occasional spanking?

A noise at the door sped up Ellig's heart.

This was it!

The man who walked through the door was like a walking itemized list of Ellig's most desired qualities in a man. Easily six foot four, with bulging muscles and a strong, manly face, Ellig's potential mate filled the doorway where he paused to look uncertainly around the darkened room. Ellig realized after a moment that his visitor didn't know he was there. His dream man hadn't looked towards the corner Ellig stood in.

"Come inside and join me." Ellig said, after clearing his throat. He caught a flash of gold in the other man's eyes as they glowed faintly in the dim lighting.

Shapeshifter. The gold always gave them away. No other species had truly gold eyes.

In that moment, Ellig felt like prey for the first time, certain that the man coming inside could see him better than he could see the stranger.

Ellig enjoyed the man's smooth movements, another part of being a shifter. They were all sexily graceful, too bad they were mostly alphas. From the size of the man before him, Ellig's dream of an alluring

submissive for a partner was going to remain a dream.

Stepping forward, Ellig held out his hand. "I'm Ellig."

His hand was taken in the firm but careful grip of a man who knew his own strength but didn't feel the need to prove it to everyone else. "I'm Gage."

Gage's voice was deep and strong and just the sound of it send shivers up and down Ellig's spine, even as his hopes of finding a mate were sinking.

Shit.

There was no way this man was going to let him top. He oozed alpha from his fingertips. Even as his heart sank, Ellig's cock hardened as the man came closer.

Still holding Ellig's hand, Gage stepped forward. Leaning down he sniffed his way up Ellig's neck, pleased when the other man was unable to prevent a shiver. Despite his disappointment, Gage thought Ellig was possibly the most beautiful man he'd ever seen.

Well Fae. There was no mistaking that divine scent of flowers and musk coming off the other man's skin. Ellig had the pale elegant beauty of his race and smelled amazing, even for a Fae.

Unfortunately, there was no way this beautiful sleek man who was at least a foot shorter than Gage would be the dominant Gage sought.

"Pleasure to meet you." Gage said. He was ready to get this over with. At a club, this man would've been the type Gage admired while he was waiting for a stronger man to take him home.

"What kind of shifter are you?" Ellig asked.

"Cat." Gage responded. It was habit more than deception that prevented him from telling the Fae what kind of cat he was. It didn't matter since they weren't exactly going to be planning a future together.

"Nice." Ellig ran a finger down Gage's arm. "I'm partial to kitties."

"Good. As long as you're not partial to pussies we won't have any problems."

Ellig's laugh was bright and beautiful like the man himself.

Gage was taken aback when the smaller man went onto his tiptoes and placed a kiss on his mouth.

Damn, Ellig tasted good.

The contrast of honey and heat slid across Gage's tongue as they leaned into the kiss. Just as it was getting good, Ellig broke away.

"Are you purring?" He asked with a smile.

Gage could feel his cheeks redden. "Um, sorry about that." What could he say? Cats purred when

something felt good.

“Don’t be sorry, that’s very hot. I’ve never made another man purr.”

Gage could hear the satisfaction in Ellig’s voice.

“Maybe you’ve been dating the wrong men?” Gage couldn’t resist sliding his fingers beneath Ellig’s shirt and stroking the smooth skin underneath. His cat DNA knew the pleasure of being petted. A craving for physical contact was riding Gage hard. It had been too long since his last skin-to-skin connection. Ellig’s eyes fluttered shut and Gage felt a flash of pride from pleasing the other man.

Whoa, why was he flirting? Gage knew this wasn’t going anywhere but he couldn’t regret his actions when Ellig gave him a brilliant smile. “Maybe I have.” He agreed.

Gage didn’t know how it happened. One moment he was getting sweet kisses, the next his shirt was whipped over his head.

Ellig wondered at what point he lost control. Still, the impulse to rip off Gage’s shirt couldn’t be ignored. He had to get his hands on that gorgeous body, and he needed to do it now, even though Ellig was certain that at any minute he was going to get his ass kicked. So far the handsome cat had been extremely patient with Ellig’s behavior. Maybe he was one of the more laid-back kitty types.

He let out a sigh when Gage’s chest was bared. Deep muscles embedded in a smooth chest pushed all of his attraction buttons. If anyone ever asked him again to describe what would turn him on, he could just put Gage’s picture beneath the description and be thoroughly happy.

It was a shame that the man was a cat shifter. Cats were notoriously dominant. As he stroked Gage’s luscious skin, he tried to remind himself why this was a bad idea. Then Gage kissed him and every thought vanished out of his head as heat and need fried his synapses.

Fuck that felt good.

Ellig gripped Gage’s hands and brought them behind the gorgeous man’s back, locking his wrists together. He might not be as big as Gage but the Fae were stronger than they looked. Gage let out a soft noise of protest and gave a brief struggle but Ellig wasn’t having any of it. Hell if he had his way, he’d tie up the other man and fuck him within an inch of his life.

He was glorifying in his power over the other man when Gage did a curling thing with his tongue that almost had Ellig coming.

“Let me touch you.” Gage whispered against his lips. “I want to lick you all over.”

Ellig’s cock pulsed at the suggestion.

Oh yeah.

He released Gage’s hands and the sneaky cat pounced. Ellig was slammed against the mattress and

stripped naked in a matter of seconds. The dominant part of him rose up to protest, but Gage sucked him into that glorious mouth and Ellig forgot what he was going to complain about. Then the cat shifter slid his raspy tongue against Ellig's cock and let out a long purr.

With a cry, Ellig came down Gage's throat.

Fuck. He'd wanted that to last longer. Before he could comment he was flipped over, and that amazing tongue was sliding up and down his crack. It had been ages since he'd last bottomed, and normally he'd protest, but this was a cat shifter with the world's best mouth and he couldn't find the words.

Hell he couldn't even form words.

The snick of a lube cap opening and the feel of fingers sliding inside awakened his previous discomfort. Gage must've sensed something was wrong because the damn cat started making soothing noises and sliding his roughened hands all over Ellig's body, both arousing and calming him at the same time.

If he could've, Ellig would've purred then too.

"You are so fucking hot." Gage's voice came through the darkness, wrapping around him like a warm blanket. "I can't wait to get into this ass."

Despite the hunger in his words, Gage's actions were slow and careful. The man eased into Ellig with so much gentleness and care that the Fae felt the affection shining through. Blinking back tears, Ellig relaxed his body to enjoy the experience. The first, and most likely, the last time he was intimate with the shifter. He let out a groan as Gage hit that magical spot inside him.

"That's it honey, pound me like you mean it." He said in a lust-roughened voice.

He couldn't help it if he topped from the bottom. He was a sexual dominant no matter what position he was in. Gage must've heard him because he began slamming into Ellig like his life depended on getting as deep inside his partner as possible.

To his surprise, Ellig got hard again. Gage wrapped one of his enormous hands around Ellig's erection and started pumping him in unison to snapping his hips. Ellig gave himself up to the sensation of being overwhelmed.

"Come on baby, give it up for me." Gage's honey-soaked voice yanked Ellig through his second orgasm.

He felt Gage shudder behind him, and his rough tongue lap at Ellig's shoulder.

Ellig's body was sated, too bad his heart was breaking.

Sorrow swamped Gage as he pulled out of the beautiful man beneath him. Despite the club's claim that he would find his mate, Gage knew that he couldn't keep Ellig. He needed a lover who could take control, and there was little hope that the slender Fae would be the one to keep Gage in line.

Despite being a shifter, Gage was a throwback. When his parents mated, two recessive genes combined and instead of getting a lion for the pride they got a smaller cat instead. A wild cat that wanted a strong man to be able to control his human side as a lover, and embrace a shifter that wasn't much of a shifter at all.

A freak among his kind, Gage was one of the few shifters whose human half was stronger than his shifter half. Most shifters gained mass and power when they shifted, Gage just wanted a warm lap and a snuggle. The only benefit to Gage's form was that he was one of the few cats who could bring out his claws while human. That had settled more than one fight in his younger years before the others became wise to his skills and never challenged him as a human.

Gage slid his cheek against Ellig's shoulder, both to feel the contact of skin against skin, and to hide his tears. It would hurt to give up the sweet Fae that smelled so fucking good. Gage sniffed at Ellig's neck, lapping at the salt created by their lovemaking. No one had ever tasted as good as Ellig, but it would be more painful to try to have a relationship he knew was doomed from the start than to break away now, no matter how much he felt like his heart was shattering.

Unable to resist one last embrace, he wrapped his arms around the Fae and held him tight until Ellig wiggled to get free.

"Sorry," Gage said, as he loosened his grip.

"That's all right." Ellig said.

There was a moment of silence between them as if neither of them wanted to be breaking away first.

"I booked the room for the night." Ellig said in a calm voice.

Gage knew it was a bad idea. They weren't going to be compatible long term, but the thought of leaving Ellig ripped big holes in his heart. Besides, if he stayed here he'd have memories to look back on while he was alone in his small apartment.

"Okay." Gage couldn't push any more words through his tear-choked throat.

Ellig turned in Gage's arms. The Fae's eyes glowed a faint green in the dimly lit room. "That was the best sex I've ever had in my life." Ellig's slow smile warmed Gage's heart. The heart many in the past had tried to break. First his parents with their rejection of his animal form, and then his larger shifter family when he wouldn't conform to their ideas. Adrift in the world, it had taken Gage three years to find a location that didn't have an aggressive shifter population. When he overheard some men talking at a bar about this place, he'd thought he'd found the solution to his dreams.

Luckily, Club Soulfinder offered a guarantee.

Gage would be able to get another try if his first one didn't work out. Blinking back tears, he pulled Ellig close to his chest so the other man wouldn't know something was wrong.

He'd wait until his beautiful Fae fell asleep before he left him forever.

Ellig could feel Gage's heart pounding in his chest. He knew his own heart was beating just as frantically.

He clung more than he usually would because it felt like his world was slipping away. Ellig desperately wanted to keep this cat shifter, but he knew long term he'd resent being dominated. It was better to break off now than to set himself up for a bad relationship and a broken heart down the road. They both deserved better than that.

Even though bottoming wasn't his thing, Ellig knew he'd rethink his stance if Gage wanted another chance at his ass. The big cat knew what he was doing, and his care and sensuality made the entire experience one that Ellig would be reliving in his dreams for many years to come.

Many lonely years.

If he went to the club's owner, Madame Darla, she would set him up with another match, but the thought of doing this all over with another man sent a shaft of guilt through him. Strangely he'd feel disloyal to Gage, a man he'd never see again, if he came here to meet another possible mate. Despite their guarantee, Ellig knew he'd never come to this club again. The memories of loss would be too painful.

Unable to meet the sweet shifter's eyes, Ellig kissed a path across Gage's muscular chest.

"You are the sexiest man I've ever seen." He declared, as he licked at one pointed nipple.

It was true too. Gage's chest was perfect. Lightly haired with six-pack abs and thick meaty nipples that Ellig would love to put piercings through. Just the thought of a chain swinging between Gage's nipples while Ellig fucked him through the mattress made him hard all over.

"Are shifters really allergic to silver?"

"Some. Mostly dog breeds. I'm not."

Ellig couldn't stop the shiver going through his body. The image of a silver chain solidified in his mind. Moisture pooled on his tongue as he thought about tugging on the chain with his teeth and driving his lover insane.

His cock hardened, and his balls grew heavy as he imagined all the lovely ways he could get his powerful lover hard and squirming.

And keep him that way.

Moaning he rubbed against Gage.

One of the shifter's large hands came down to wrap around Ellig's cock. Ellig couldn't stop the sigh of relief. It quickly turned to a whimper as Gage slid down Ellig's body. That amazing tongue lapped at Ellig like he was Gage's favorite flavor of lollipop. When Gage's long, rough tongue wrapped around him, Ellig closed his eyes to savor every touch from the shifter. Images of Gage kneeling at his feet in nothing but a pair of leather cuffs restraining Gage's wrists behind his back, pushed Ellig over the edge.

Gage lapped him up like the cat shifter he was. A low purring vibrated against his skin as Gage worked his way up Ellig's body with long raspy licks.

"Fuck."

He'd sell his soul to keep that tongue on him at all times. Blinking back the moisture building in his eyes, Ellig wrapped himself around Gage when the man finally slid back against him.

Gage's continued purring made Ellig ask, "What kind of cat are you?"

A lot of the bigger cats didn't purr.

Gage's body, sprawling and boneless seconds before, went rigid.

"Why does it matter?" The shifter's voice was harder than Ellig had heard from him before.

Ellig sat up to look into Gage's beautiful shimmery eyes. "It doesn't. I just wondered. You don't have to tell me if you don't want to." Ellig wondered if he'd trespassed on some sort of shifter taboo. Was it rude to ask a shifter what type of creature he was?

Gage rolled away and scooted to lean against the headboard. His long fingers fiddled with the covers as he avoided Ellig's eyes.

"Hey," Ellig stroked Gage's cheek. "Look at me."

Gage reluctantly lifted his gaze, but kept his head down.

"I don't care, you know. I didn't mean to upset you." Ellig had a terrible feeling in his stomach that he'd ruined the one chance he had with the handsome shifter. It didn't matter that he wasn't going to see the man after tonight. The thought of Gage leaving because Ellig had hurt his feelings ate away at him.

"It's stupid." Gage said looking back down at his fingers. "It doesn't matter if you know or not. You're not a shifter so you won't care."

Ellig placed his hand over Gage's. "You don't have to tell me." He insisted. He regretted bringing up the subject. He wanted Gage back where he was happy and purring beside him. The small distance between them felt wrong.

"Come here." Ellig pulled at the larger man. It was only Gage's cooperation that allowed him to bring the shifter back to Ellig's side where he belonged. Ellig hoped the emptiness that filled him when they weren't touching wasn't a sign of his future. A lifetime of aching for the one that was wrong for him wasn't what he'd hoped to get out of this encounter when he'd signed up with the club.

Maybe tomorrow he could try and get another person to hook up with. Ellig ignored the ache in his heart that told him he'd never settle for anyone who wasn't his handsome shifter.

"I'm a small cat." Gage said in a hushed whisper, like he was confessing a deep crime.

"What?" Ellig kept Gage in his arms, but leaned back to get a look at the shifter's face. "Seriously?"

Gage shoved him away and got off the bed. "Yes, seriously. You think I wouldn't rather be a lion like the rest of my clan?" Anger made the shifter shake. "You don't know what its like to grow up a smaller animal in a family of predators. If I wanted to defend myself I had to be in human form. I'm one of those rare shifters who's actually weaker as my other self." Gage turned his head, but not before Ellig saw a tear track down the other man's cheek.

“Hey.” Ellig slid out of bed, stumbling when the blankets tangled around his feet.

Gage was right there to catch him so he didn’t hit the floor. Strong, quiet, beautiful Gage who didn’t understand how very special he was.

“Thanks.” Ellig said.

Gage gave him a weak smile. “I might only be a cat but I’ve still got enhanced reflexes.”

“That’s not the only thing you have enhanced.” Ellig said with a smirk. He was relieved when Gage laughed with him. He much preferred a laughing shifter than a melancholy man. “Did your family reject you because you weren’t a large cat?”

Gage shrugged his shoulders. “They weren’t thrilled, but they didn’t banish me. It was the being gay part that ended our relationship. When I refused to mate with the alpha’s daughter I was exiled from the pack.”

“Oh baby.” Ellig wrapped his arms around Gage. If he could protect this beautiful man from the world he would. “They were idiots to not understand how special you are.”

Gage rubbed his cheek against Ellig’s, a habit the Fae was learning soothed the larger man. The shifter had to lean down to meet Ellig’s cheek, but he didn’t seem to mind the height difference. In strength they were more evenly matched. Ellig was muscular from years of battles, but Gage had naturally broad shoulders and thick arms, probably from running as a shifter.

Ellig stepped back. “I want to see you in your shifted form.”

Gage frowned. “Why?”

“Because if we are going to be mates I want to see all of you.”

The shifter looked away, and Ellig wondered if the other man had the same doubts about their viability as mates.

“Please.” Ellig desperately wanted to see Gage in his second form. He couldn’t have explained why it felt so important, but he knew there was no chance for them if he didn’t get the opportunity to see his lover in his shifted state.

Gage finally nodded, but Ellig could see it took a lot of effort for the other man.

Standing in the middle of the room, Gage closed his eyes and took a deep breath. Ellig took one breath with him and by the time he let it out there was already a cat standing in the room.

Cat indeed! Ellig had thought he’d be looking at a housecat not a wildcat.

His sweet shifter was an ocelot.

Gage was beautiful. A three-foot long ocelot stood in the middle of the room swishing its tail anxiously. Maybe to a group of lions Gage was a housecat, but Ellig thought he was the most incredibly gorgeous creature he’d ever seen in his life.

Not sure how much Gage understood in his shifted form, Ellig kneeled down so he didn't appear threatening to the smaller creature.

"I see I'm going to have to get a book about cats," Ellig said. "Come here pretty kitty."

The animal looked at Ellig with suspicious gold eyes. "Remember me? We're friends." He held out his hand to be sniffed, hoping the creature didn't swipe its claws across more sensitive exposed parts.

Like most cats, the ocelot couldn't resist its curiosity. A cautious step then another brought the animal close enough to sniff. Ellig must've smelled good because the animal came closer and licked his fingers.

"Ouch." The tongue that felt good while in human form was much rougher in his cat form.

The cat purred and butted Ellig with its head. Obediently, Ellig scratched the creature behind its ears like he would with a regular cat, except Gage's fur was incredibly soft. "Oh. You are so beautiful in this form."

How could anyone be ashamed of being something this stunning? The appealing man was appealing in a completely different way as a cat. "I always wanted a mate and a pet," Ellig said with a chuckle. "You could be both."

As he was stroking the shifted man he wondered if there might be hope for them after all.

Gage let another purr roll from his throat. In his cat form he still perfectly understood the Fae stroking him. Ellig's hands were incredibly sensual as they pet and scratched him behind the ear. He would willingly give up anything to stay curled up beside Ellig forever. Unfortunately, his human half wasn't as convinced.

The ocelot twitched his tail in annoyance. The human part of him was being an idiot. Ellig smelled good and knew just where to scratch. What else did you need in a mate?

If only there was a sign that the Fae had dominant tendencies. Gage was old enough to know that suppressing an important part of his sexuality would doom their relationship. There were a few times where it felt like Ellig wanted to take control, but when he didn't, Gage lost hope.

After swishing his tail a few more times, just because he could, Gage shifted back into a human.

Ellig stood there staring at him with wide eyes.

"You do that so quick and flawlessly."

"I've had a lot of practice," Gage replied. He didn't tell his lover that his ability to initiate a quick shift saved him on more than one occasion.

"I thought you were beautiful as a cat. I can't imagine anyone not being proud of the creature you become."

Gage shrugged. "It's all a matter of perspective."

“Come back to bed. Like I told you, we have the rest of the night.”

Gage noticed that Ellig didn't say they had the rest of their lives. Deep down they both knew this wasn't going to work but neither wanted to be the one who said it. It would be wiser to leave now and cut his losses, but Gage longed for the feel of Ellig beside him, so he meekly followed the Fae back to the bed and crawled beneath the covers, wrapping himself around Ellig. It was the standard position that mates used to protect the smaller of the pair from predators. Gage had never slept like this with another man in his life. He didn't want to read anything into it, but he'd never felt so comfortable.

“Good night, honey.” He said, kissing Ellig on the back of his neck.

“Good night.” Ellig responded, snuggling into his embrace.

Gage went to sleep wishing he could keep the smaller man in his arms forever.

Chapter Two

Ellig woke in slow increments, gradually remembering his surroundings.

The club.

The cat.

It took him a minute to realize that the heat wasn't surrounding him, that the bed was cold and empty behind him.

Fear shot through Ellig. Rolling over he saw no cat man. There was only a piece of paper on the pillow on a sheet of club stationary.

Ellig had to blink back the wetness from his eyes before he could focus on the words.

Dear Ellig,

I really enjoyed our time together, but a relationship between us wouldn't work. I need someone who can dominate me and help keep my wild nature under control. As much as I wanted to have you as my own, I know in the end we would start to resent each other. I left early because it would be too difficult for me to say goodbye after sleeping all night with you in my arms. Goodbye and good luck finding your mate. I wish it could've been me.

Gage

Ellig read the note twice before it sank in that the man of his dreams had left him. His cat wanted someone who could dominate him.

He had to find him.

Find him before Gage found someone else.

It took Ellig three weeks to hunt down the tricky cat. It didn't help that the matchmaking club wouldn't give him Gage's address. He did get the young clerk to take pity on him and at least give him Gage's full name. Enlisting the help of a court spy got him Gage's location.

"He doesn't appear to be there very often." Lybin, the spy Gage had hired, said. Lybin's hair was blue today and his diamond nose piercing flashed in the light.

"How do you stay hidden when you're so...you." Gage said, pointing at Lybin's goth clothing and blue nail polish.

A surprisingly beautiful smile crossed the spy's face. "People see what they want to. No one is going to look at me and decide I'm a spy for the Fae king."

"True." Ellig hired him and he still didn't believe it, but Lybin had come through. The piece of paper in his hand listed Gage's location.

"Where does he spend most of his time?"

Lybin shrugged. "He works for the shipyards and goes to a local gay bar two or three times a week."

A stabbing pain went through Ellig's heart. "Does he pick up anyone?"

Lybin shook his head. "That's the strange thing. He'll flirt, dance with them, but at the end of the night he leaves alone. Sometimes it looks like he's waiting for someone."

The pressure on Ellig's chest let up a little. "He's waiting for me, he just doesn't know it yet."

Lybin shrugged. "Maybe." The spy paused a moment before adding. "I don't know what your deal is Ellig but be nice to the guy. Every time I see him he looks like he's hurting."

Ellig laughed. "He's not the only one. He's my mate."

"Really? Then why is he alone?"

"We had a misunderstanding." Ellig said, even as he felt the blush stain his cheeks. "Now that I've found him I'll bring him home where he belongs."

Lybin frowned. "The king's not keen on shifters."

"He'll be keen on this one or he'll be short one of his soldiers."

Laughing, the spy took the money Ellig handed over. "Good luck Ellig, I mean that. It's hard to find the perfect mate."

The sad look in the spy's eyes made Ellig say, "Why don't you try Club Soulfinder? Brin and I both had good luck."

Lybin shook his head. "There's something wrong with a stranger finding my other half. I want to find him or her on my own. Besides, my life is too dangerous to add another person right now."

"Lybin your life has been too dangerous for four hundred years." Ellig protested.

"Yeah," the spy laughed, "maybe I'll retire in another hundred and take you up on your club idea."

Shaking his head, Ellig bid the spy goodbye.

He had a mate to catch.

Chapter Three

Gage watched the door to the dance club. He didn't know what he was waiting for. It wasn't like his perfect man was going to walk through the gaudy silver entrance. His cat kept reminding him that he'd left his mate back at Club Soulfinder, and that it was only his stubbornness that prevented him from going back and getting him.

It had broken something deep inside him when he'd left Ellig lying alone in the bed they'd shared.

His cat was still sulking.

At least five times a day he thought about calling Club Soulfinder and seeing if they would give him Ellig's address.

Each time he wimped out.

There was still the issue of needing a dominant lover.

Sighing, Gage stirred his scotch watching the ice cubes dance around his glass.

"Looking for companionship?" A smooth voice asked from behind. Even though he didn't want anyone but Ellig, something in the other man's voice made Gage's body take notice.

Swallowing a mouthful of scotch for courage, Gage turned to look into the face of the man who haunted his waking and sleeping hours.

"Ellig." He whispered. Unable to believe his Fae was there, Gage reached out a hand and stroked one sculpted cheek. "You're really here."

"Of course I'm here. Where else would I be but hunting your ass down so you could come home with me?"

Gage laughed, it sounded sad even to his own ears.

“I can’t go home with you. If we start something serious I’ll want to stay with you and we aren’t compatible.”

Ellig gripped Gage’s arms and pulled him off the stool surprising him with the other man’s strength.

“We had a communication meltdown, baby.” Ellig said. One of his strong hands gripped Gage’s neck so he couldn’t turn away. “You want a dominant.” He leaned forward to speak against Gage’s lips. “I am a dominant. I can give you exactly what you need.”

Gage’s cock hardened in his pants as the scent of the Fae drifted to his nose. Leaning in, he inhaled the other man’s scent. “You smell divine.”

“No, I smell like yours. If you weren’t so fixated on our positions as dominant and submissive you never would’ve missed the most important thing here.”

“And that is?” Gage challenged.

“That I smell like your mate.” Ellig said. His eyes dared Gage to deny it.

The cat inside Gage meowed its agreement. Gage leaned down and sniffed Ellig again, letting his tongue lick up the other man’s neck.

He jerked his head back in surprise. “You are mine.” And then he muttered to himself. “How did I miss that?”

Ellig gripped Gage’s face between his hands. “Sometimes we miss what is right in front of us. I made the mistake of letting you get away. I will never do that again. Are you willing to try again? Trust me to be your master?”

Gage let out a snort of laughter. “I don’t need a master. I just need a partner who knows how to dominate me in the bedroom. The rest of the time I want a partner in life.”

“Do you have a job you love?” Ellig asked.

“Not really.” Gage said. “Since I left my pack I pick up the odd gig here and there. Day labor, bartending, whatever people need.”

“Good. I can’t leave the kingdom so I will have to bring you with me.”

Gage let out a laugh. “I’m going to go live with the Fae, and do what?”

Ellig shrugged. “I’m a soldier. I think you would make an excellent one too.”

“Who are you a soldier for?” Gage didn’t know much about Fae politics and didn’t want to get into the crosshairs of a war.

“I am a soldier for the king but I’m high ranking, and if I left it would be a blow to the troops. With your size and power you could probably get a job as a soldier also.”

“Do you think the king will have me?” Gage asked in surprise. It never occurred to him that in gaining a mate he would be given a job.

Ellig laughed. “I think the king would give his left nut to get you in the guard. A soldier who can grow claws is not one to take lightly.”

Gage felt a blush cover his cheeks. “He’ll have to do without my nuts, those belong to you.”

“That’s right honey.” Ellig wrapped an arm around Gage as he led him towards the door. “Know any good piercers?”

“Umm. No.” Gage said nervously.

“Don’t worry we’ll find one.” Ellig said, placing a kiss on Gage’s cheek. “Since I had to hunt down your ass, I have an idea of how you can make it all up to me.”

The End

Amber Kell lives in Texas with her husband and two boys, one who is known by her fans as The Little Viking. To learn more about Amber or her books check out her blog at <http://amberkell.wordpress.com/>

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