

## Chapter 12

MIA

\*\*TRIGGER WARNINGS\*\*

Mum sighed and continued.

“After her funeral, Alpha Robert kept to himself,” she said. “He didn’t want anyone around, not even your father. Even though we were all friends, both of our mates loved the other. It was weird as the moon goddess always makes our mates love us and be our true fated mates.”

Mum looked at Sasha, who gave her a knowing smile. “You were ve when all that happened, but it got worse for me after that day,” she said, looking back at me.

“Your father started drinking more. The more he drank, the worse he got,” she said, sending a shiver right through me. “He started to hurt me and would start using silver blades to cut me. He would place a hand over my mouth as he would do it as he didn’t want anyone to hear me while doing whatever he wanted to me.”

Mum looked away as a tear escaped. “The torture he put me through was shocking and painful every time,” she said. “After a few weeks, he decided to move us to the last cabin in the forest. He wanted to make sure no one could hear my screaming. He told me that this was our new home. Both me and you were to live here while he left to stay in the pack house.”

My mother paused, wiped the tears away with the back of her hand, and looked over at me. “Our mate bond was shattered due to the lack of trust and his jealousy,” she said. “It was the root of it all and his love for the Luna too, Mia.”

I watched as a small smile appeared on her lips. “Do you remember what we did with that cabin? We made that cabin our home, remember sweet girl,” she says with a small smile, but it disappears again. “He would make you go and play with Aidan all the time and your other friends. He made sure you never heard my cries or screams. He made sure no one did.” I could feel all her emotions. Something bad happened next. I could feel it.

Mum doesn’t look at either me or Sasha. She keeps her head low, looking at her hands. “The two nights before I left, you were staying in the pack house for the weekend. You were so excited,” she murmured, making my stomach drop. “But I was scared. Your father took you to the pack house. I knew I had to leave. He always acted happy when you were around. So, I packed a bag but hid it well so he never knew what I was planning. I was going to leave him, and I was going to take you away, too. But when he got back, he had other ideas. He was okay at rst, and then it was like a switch ipped in his head, and he started to torture me. That night, he smiled as he did it; he liked it so much,

especially making me scream.”

Mum’s tears owed freely now as my heart broke. “That one night, he..he...he r\*\*\*d me,” she whispered. I could feel tears lling up inside. My father tortured her like he did me, but he did the worst possible thing to a mate.

“After what he did, I I was numb. He wanted to take everything away from me, and he did. I was left on the oor of our bedroom when he was done. He left like he had done nothing wrong. I don’t know where he went. I waited for a while. My Wolf was howling in my head, begging for us to leave. I knew she was right. So, I got up from the oor and showered. It took a while as I washed my skiing raw, trying every trace of him off me.”

My mum sighed. “After a few hours, I came out of the bedroom and got dressed. I moved around the house in a daze until I found him passed out on the couch. He was black-out drunk, and all I could smell was whiskey. I didn’t know where he went, and I didn’t care. I remember looking at him, wondering where the hell we went wrong,” she said and looked at me. “I needed to get away. I went and grabbed my bag. I thought I would go and come back for you later. I made a run for it. I ran as fast as I could and was also halfway to the motel.”

I stared at her as she gave me a small smile. “The motel you were at earlier, where you met Toby, right?” she says, looking at me. Both Lyla and I nod, and she smiles. “I made it to the clearing of the motel, but somehow, your father caught up to me. He had a silver blade in his hand, and he dragged me back into the forest.”

She looked up at me, and then the pieces tted together. Lyla and I worked out what happened and stared at my mother. I wanted her to confrm it. “Your father and I fought for the blade, but he threw me to the ground and was too strong,” she said. “He climbed on top of me. He sliced the blade over my eye, and he repeated it at least three more times when Toby came and attacked him.”

“Toby saved me that night. He helped me back to the motel and got hold of my father,” she said. “Alpha Sam is my brother, your uncle. He came and collected me from the motel a few hours later.”

Lyla moved back, sensing I wanted to speak. I shifted back into human form.

I could feel Lyla whimper in my head, Lyla, as she took in everything my mother had said. I ran straight into my mother’s arms.

Mum sat rooted to the spot at rst at my movement but soon recovered as she stroked my hair. ‘I’m sorry that happened to you,’ I sob into her as she holds me. I could feel another hand reach and touch

me—Sasha.

After a few moments, I moved back and looked at my mother. I didn’t care that I was naked, but she needed to look at me. I leaned back and stood, taking a step back for her to take me in. My mum’s eyes look at me but graze over my body at the scars. I saw her face go from mixed emotions, such as hatred pity, but the guilt she had was too much. “My poor baby girl, he did all this to you,” she whispers as she stands up and takes my hands into hers.

Sasha looked at me with anger but also sadness in her eyes. “Mia told me what happened, but Mia, what you told me in the cafe, I let a few people listen in.”

Knowing that stunned me, but I had a sneaky suspicion. I gave her a weak smile and nodded, but I wanted to know who knew. “Who knows?” I ask.

Sasha looks at my mother, but my mother speaks instead. “My parents, me, Sasha’s aunt, who is currently not here, but she was on the phone, and my brother was on another phone with his mate,” she said. “Also, Sasha’s brother and his friend. Don’t worry, they are the only ones that know about it. They are the only ones that are important and need to know.”

I looked back at her and nodded.

Sasha moves away from my mum and gets up. I watch her every move as she walks over to where she placed the dress for me. She grabs it and heads back, holding it to me. I smile as I pull it over my head and move it into place.

We all sit back on the ground and look out towards the water.

My mind raced over the last few moments. I have my mother back. But I can sense something else is missing.

I am happy just to sit in silence for a while. Both of them make me feel safe and protected, which is what I wanted in the rst place.

Lyla has now settled back in my head and starts to purr, with a small yawn escaping. I knew she was tired as that was our rst-ever run since we shifted, and it felt amazing.