

Chapter 13

MIA

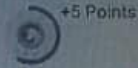
We have been by the water's edge for over an hour or closer to two hours. It was nice to spend time with my mum and Sasha. We paddled in the water, and my mother asked me questions about what I liked and didn't like. She wanted to get to know me all over again. She avoided the talk about my scars, which I was more than willing to talk about later, but I knew they wanted to know everything.

Part of me found it difficult to tell her things about me as, over the last several years, I lost myself due to the bullying and my father's beatings. How could I tell her who I was when I didn't know myself? I became a different person since she left, someone I didn't recognize.

"How was your first shift?" Sasha blurts. I was dreading this question more, too.

"I shifted when I was 13 years old after a beating brought it on," I say as I look out at the water. I could feel my mother tense, but I looked back at her, knowing I had to tell her the truth about it all. "Dad punched me for the tenth time, but it wasn't him that caused it," I said, making my mum look at me, confused.

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I walk over to the log that rests near the water's edge. While Mum and I were getting to know each other again, Lyla was asleep until the question came. I felt her move closer, but she said nothing.

I sit and stare out towards the water as my mother and Sasha sit near me. My mother was by my side on the log, but Sasha was on the ground on the other side of my mother.

"Dad did hit me, but he was so drunk he had passed out. It happened the night before, so he never woke up when I left to go to school the next morning. Chole, a new girl, started and had started causing issues for me with other people, including my friends." I said as I felt my mother tense up, but I continued. "She told everyone that I was the main cause of you leaving as I was human and not a wolf. I was late shifting because of all the beatings and also the not eating many parts, too."

A low growl escaped from Sasha, but I ignored her. "Anyway, she told everyone that you were ashamed of me being a human, and that's why you left," I said. "After that rumor surfaced, everyone started to taunt me throughout the day. Aidan didn't say or do anything. He believed her. He followed her around like a lost puppy. He wanted her."

"I thought he was—" My mum starts to say, but I turn to look at her and shake my head.

"I was on my own and had no one to turn to. All day, the taunting started, and snide remarks happened. But Chole didn't stop there when I was on my own. She decided to take out her anger or

whatever she was feeling at the time, which, at the time, she had a fight with Aidan as most people in the school could hear them down the hall.

Apparently, he didn't like the way she was acting towards me, but she made it clear that day, that she was his girlfriend and he should have nothing to do with me."

"When the argument was done, and Aidan left her, she was alone. I don't know what happened, but she was bleeding and blaming me for attacking her," I said, remembering that day all too well. A shiver rippled through me, but I continued. "I arrived to get my books from my locker at the time. I watched Chole go to the floor and pretend to cry when Aidan came back. All he could see was Chole lying on the floor, covered in her own blood. She had wiped her blood all over me before she laid down on the floor."

Mum and Sasha look on, confused as I try to tell them everything. "I was too shocked to do anything. But Aidan was furious at me and pushed me into a locker, squeezed my throat hard, and nearly blacked out. Chole made him stop, and he let me go. I went to the floor. Chloe smiled as he pulled her to him and smiled. She had won him

over and even kissed him in front of me."

A lone tear escaped as I carried on. "It hurt a lot, and after that, Aidan made Darren and Lee bring me outside. He had told them what I was supposed to have done. Chole watched on as all three boys beat me so badly that I couldn't move. Chole smiled from beginning to end. She left with Darren and Lee. While Aidan bent down and told me, I was a pathetic, useless human who needed to be taught a lesson for hurting a pack member."

Both of them looked at me, shocked. "Why would someone be so mean?" my mother asked. "Why would she be like that towards you?"

I shrugged. "She had it in for me ever since she came to the pack," I said. "She arrived about a few months after you left. Her mother and sister, too, but her sister found her mate and left with him. Chole was mean then but was never this cruel. Her sister was nice to me, but when she left, Chloe was worse," I say, looking toward the water. "I don't know what I did to her or whatever, but she had it out for me every day since she found out that I was with Adian."

Clearing my throat, I continued to explain the rest of the story. "After that vicious attack, Dad was back at the pack house as he didn't know where I was. He never left anything for me to eat," I said. "Sometimes food was left outside the front door by

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someone who left it on the porch. I never knew who it was. It happened at least once a week. But stopped suddenly."

"When I came too from the beating, I limped all the way home until I got back to the cabin, but by then, I was beginning to feel hot, and my body was

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on fire. All the pain I was in was hard, but I shifted on my own," I say.

"You shouldn't have been on your own, sweet girl," Mum whispers as she places her thumb and finger on my chin, moving me to look at her.

I close my eyes and sigh. "I had no option on that

one," I say, opening my eyes and staring back at her. "I realized I was a white wolf, and Lyla explained to me that we were special. We figured out that we could mask our scent, which we used."

Sasha looks at me. "So, that's why everyone thought you were a human," she asked, making me nod. Sasha looked at me for a moment as something clicked. "How did you run around in wolf form?" She asks suddenly, and I look down. "I didn't not until today. I found it hard to shift due to the lack of food."

Sasha growls, but I continue. "But there was something else that I found out later on, about two weeks after I shifted," I said. "Two weeks after shifting, I overheard Dad mention white wolves to Aidan. He told him that they are powerful, and if you ever see one, you must have it for your own, or they will destroy you."

Mum's face hardened, but she didn't say anything, so I continued. "I kept Lyla safe, but it was a few days later that Alpha Robert made everyone in history class learn about the white wolf. Many of the boys just wanted the wolf for her power, nothing else, and the girls were afraid to mention anything, hoping they didn't know anyone who was one. Chole was a whole different thing; she laughed and said there has never been a white wolf around here in years; the last one lost her way and killed herself."

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I look at my mother, who stares ahead. "You were the last white wolf before me, weren't you?" I ask her, making her look at me and nod.

"I never shifted in front of the pack or your father. Your grandfather told me never to shift until I knew I could trust my mate, but I couldn't shift for a while. After mating with your father, I fell pregnant with you straight away, and I couldn't shift due to pregnancy. Then, once you were born, he began his torture on me," she said and sighed. "My wolf went quiet for a while due to all the abuse that he put us through. When I came here, it took me months to gain her back. She finally surfaced, but thinking about it, it was when you turned 13. She must have sensed your wolf coming forward," she says to me, placing her arms around my shoulders.

Placing my head on her shoulder, I let it all go until she spoke again. "What happened with Aidan after? Did he apologize to you after what he did to you?" she asks, but I move and look at her blankly as I shake my head. "No, he never did. He never looked at me again. His main focus was on Chole. He would sit in on the beatings that she gave me and just stare at me like I never existed."

Mum gave me a sad look, but it was Sasha who spoke next. "What a jackass. You both had been friends for years. He wanted to throw everything away for some b***h," she says with a growl.

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I said nothing for a second as I gathered my thoughts. I would never go back to the pack. I hated everyone there.

Clearing my throat, I place a small smile on my lips. "It's okay, Sasha. I will never see them again," I said, looking at her. "I don't want anything to do with anyone from there. All I want to do now is get better and also heal myself," I say as I am about to continue, but my stomach has a different idea as it growls loudly, letting me know that I need to eat something.

My cheeks go hot as my mother and Sasha laugh loudly.

My mother looks at me and smiles. "Let's go back," she said. "We can get some food, and there is also someone I want you to meet, Mia."

I smile but look at Sasha, who looks on blankly for a moment but comes back to us and grins. "Alpha Sam has been mind-linking me every five minutes to make sure you are still on the land. You must meet your uncle," she says with a smile.

I nod but feel slightly nervous about meeting the rest of my family.

