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CHAPTER 10

It can't be..can it? I stare in disbelief at the male standing in the doorway. He's a bit scruffy but I would know those grey eyes anywhere. Pair it with the dirty blonde hair and that sharp jawline, he hasn't changed much since I had last seen him three years ago.

"Spencer?" I ask very softly

"Quinn- you're alive?" He asks incredulously.

I nod, and then run to him, slamming into his open arms just before he wraps them around me. I can't believe there is another survivor to my pack. I thought I was the only one left, but now I'm ecstatic seeing Spencer alive and well.

"I thought you all were dead!" He holds me close.

"I thought the whole pack was massacred!" I reply back.

A throat clears, and I turn, forgetting all about Cici still being in the room, "Mind telling me who this cutie is?

I laugh at the slight pinkish tint that Cici's words put on Spencer's face, "Stop it Cici! This is Spencer Neely, he was my brother's best friend and future Beta," i turn back to Spence, "This is Cici Stone, Beta Carter of the Storm River pack's sister, and my best friend."

Spence nods, "Nice to meet you, Cici."

"Same here!" She winks at him.

I roll my eyes, "Don't mind her forwardness, it's just how she is," I say to Spencer before turning back to Cici, "Apparently, Spencer is the only other living pack member from Dark Moon..."

"Uh, actually, there are about twenty-five of us." He corrects me, causing me to whip my head back around to him.

"What?! There are twenty-five of you? Where have you been for the last three years, and why didn't you come to the Storm River pack?" | can't believe there are so many survivors from my pack.

"None of us were here when the attack happened. If you remember, I was away at Beta camp that month. You were so mad when you found out that I was going to miss your birthday" He smirks.

"Oh my, I had forgotten about that... and that I had a major crush on you back then!" 1 chuckle.

"Yeah, you did! I couldn't go anywhere without you tagging along." His grin drops a little bit, "We weren't sure who to trust. I didn't know about the attack until I got back a week later. I had seen Alpha Declan and his pack warriors walking around, cleaning up, and I didn't dare show myself, not knowing what happened for sure. All of us survivors stayed hidden until about a year ago. Once the town was done being rebuilt and we realized that it had been abandoned, we have been squatting here, watching for them to come back, but nobody ever showed up until today."

I take hold of his hand, "I'm sorry for your loss, Spence. Your family were good people." I smile softly.

He squeezes my hand, "As were yours, Quinn."

We stand here in silence for a moment before I speak up. "Well Spence, are you ready to start your Beta duties?" I ask cheerfully.

"Huh? What are you saying?"

"Well, as the Alpha heir to Dark Moon, I'm ready to take over and I'm going to need my Beta to help get things put back together." I punch him playfully.

"You mean, there is still a pack?"

"Of course, there is. As long as there is an Alpha, Beta, and pack members, the Dark Moon pack lives on!"

He scratches his head in confusion, "And I'm still the Beta?" He points to himself.

"Well, since you're the only one that went to Beta training and were the future Beta, it only makes sense," i rub his *hair, "Oh, Spence, it sure is a good thing that you're purty!" I laugh.

I spend the next two hours talking pack stuff over with Spencer, while having Cici be my secretary and write everything down for me. I thought she would throw a fit, but she takes her job seriously and takes great notes. Before we head back to Storm River, I tell Spencer to have all the other pack members choose their own housing to make up for what they had lost. He informed me that nine out of the other twenty-four members were warriors for my father, which helps us out a bunch.

All-in-all, I think we are doing fairly good. We may be small, but we will be mighty where it counts. Now will be the hard part; telling Alpha Declan that I will be moving back home. I think it would be for the best anyway, with everything that is going on, and has happened. He needs to concentrate on figuring his own * out, and he doesn't need me distracting him. I don't want to think of myself as a distraction, but I am.

Cici and I say goodbyes, and I promise to be back in a few days' time. Since he has no cellphone, I leave him mine, letting him know that I will get a new one when I get back and contact him. I want to be moved back in within a week and so I will need him to get the packhouse ready. I hand him the credit card that I had gotten from Declan, making sure to tell him to keep the receipts, because I plan on paying Declan back some day.

"So, what do you think Alpha is going to say when you tell him that you're moving back?" Cici asks a bit sad.

There's not much he can say. I'm eighteen, old enough to take over the pack," I study her a moment, "Cici, what's are you thinking about?"

"Nothing much, just how I'm going to miss my bestie when she leaves." Her voice *at the end.

"What happened to moving here together?" I arch a brow at her.

'i thought we were just messing around," she says sitting a little bit straighter in the passenger seat, "Were we not joking?"

I shake my head. "I wasn't joking, Cici; I want my best friend by my side. The question is, are you going to be able to give up your pack for a new one?

It's a good thing that I'm not driving yet because she throws herself over the center and wraps me in a hug, "I will do what I need to do, Quinn. You are like a sister to me!"

"What about your real family, though? Your mom and dad, Carter? You will be leaving them behind."

"What are you going to keep me from visiting them if I join your pack?"

I laugh. "Of course.not dork!"

"Well then, I don't see a problem, do you?" She asks.

I grin. "No problem at all! i'd give you the *title, but that is reserved for the top warrior, someone who can train the others. You my dear, have never had a day's training in your life!" i laugh, "No worries though, I'll give you the title of the Alpha's Counsel." I wink.

She shrugs, "Nah, I don't want any kind of title because that would mean that I would have to do some sort of work, and I really don't want that obligation, to tell you the truth."

I chuckle, put my sunglasses on my face, and head back towards the Storm River pack to face the Alpha. I sure do hope that he's in a good mood, because if not, this may not go over so well.

There is a huge commotion as I walk into the packhouse when we get back. It's a good thing that I dropped Cici off at home before coming back, because *is hitting the fan! I've just stepped through the front door when Beta Carter grabs my hand and pulls me back outside. He doesn't say anything until we are on the side of the building.

"Sorry. Quinn, but you do not want to be in there right now?" Cater looks like he's about to *his pants.

"What is going on, and is that Amelia yelling at the top of her lungs in there?"

He nods. "Yeah, the she-*stopped over, demanding entrance, and when Amelia denied her, the *came right out and told the Luna about the pup."

I swear, I think my eyes are going to pop out of their socket at this news, "So, it's Lila that Amelia is yelling at?"

"Oh, no, she's laying into Declan for being so *." He scrubs his face with his hand, "Lila got away before the *hit the fan, she wasn't *."

I can feel Tala wanting out, she's still wanting a piece of that she-wolf, but I know Declan wouldn't be happy if we went after her and something ended up happening to the pup. I glance over at Carter, and then I look around to make sure nobody else is around.

*We need to figure this out because something just isn't right here. We both know that Declan isn't careless; that *did something, or at least she is up to something."

Carter agrees. "I'm thinking the same thing. I don't understand how this happened though, because I've watched her go to the doctor each month for her birth control, it was my job to make sure she went, and she never missed a visit."

"I feel like I may be to blame for her acting out like this. Not that I had anything to do with the pregnancy part, but she's been jealous of me lately, and I don't understand why. I think it pushed her ever the edge."

*It's probably the pregnancy hormones, but that doesn't matter. What we need to find out is how she got pregnant in the first place," Carter states, "Declan said that she demanded to have her rightful place as his Luna since she's carrying his pup. She knew the laws, and she set him up somehow. We just need to figure out how."

"Has anyone talked to her doctor? You know, to make sure that she was actually getting the medication?" I ask.

Carter nods, "I just got back from talking with the pack doctor about it. He even showed me her records, and everything checks out."

"*it!" punch the side of the house without thinking about it, and then cuss and shake my hand.

"What the *Quinn?" The Beta takes hold of my hand to examine it, "It doesn't look broken, but we better get some ice on it. Let's see if we can sneak into the kitchen for some."

When we get to the back door, we can see through the screen door that Lila is sitting her *in the kitchen with a big *grin on her face. I can't help the growl

that comes from Tala as we watch the *enjoy mother and son go at it. Before I know what she's doing, Tala is flying through the door, and our clawed hand is around the she-*neck.

"*, what game do you think you are playing with the Alpha?" Tala tightens her grip.

Lila grabs my wrist, trying to pry it away, but Tala is strong and isn't budging at all. I can sense Beta Carter in the room but I we pay no attention to him. All we care about is getting answers from the *in our grasp.

"I-1 c-can't b-breathe..." She gasps.

Tala gives her a *grin, "Then I guess you had better start talking."

Carter is trying to use his Beta aura on me, but I don't feel a thing. I, on the other hand, push my own aura out towards Lila, surprising myself in the process. We lose our grip on her and she takes off out the door. I turn and stare at Carter, stunned.

"What the hell was that?" I ask him.

He smiles broadly, "Looks like, someone has gotten her Alpha aura," he sticks his fist out, and I absent-mindedly bump him back, "Although, your aura is hella strong!

I don't have time to think about it any longer because the loud voices are getting louder. I had thought they were arguing about Lila and the pup, but the words we are hearing has the Beta and I looking at each other, confused as hell.

"I will not sign that contract, Mother! She will not marry him!"

* You have to! You no longer have the luxury of choosing her as a mate, all because you couldn't keep your *in your pants!" Amelia hollers back in response.

"I don't see how that has anything to do with having her marry Gavin! I won't marry her to a little weasel!" Declan yells back.

"Well, if you truly have feelings for Quinn, then you must send her away! You cannot have her around when you move that *into the packhouse!" Amelia's

voice is even louder now, and just when Carter stares at me because of what Amelia said, both mother and son come storming through the door.

I don't think I've ever been as horrified as I am right now. The room goes completely silent when Carter and I are spotted. I can't stay here right now, it's too much. I run towards the door, and I see Declan grab for me, but I'm faster. I throw myself out the door, transforming into Tala, and I take off into the woods.