

Chapter 10 - Isla POV

Audrie and I continue to meet downtown at a quaint little coffee shop before our patrol shifts. Luckily she is an even bigger caffeine addict than I am. It's during these times when she has been spilling all the pack tea - it's nice, even if it is gossip it makes me feel so much more connected here. 1

I tried not to be so obvious about my interest in Beta Grayson or Alpha Zac, but Audrie saw right through me.

Busted.

Alpha Zac and Fiona are not mates, nor are they even dating. I guess he is a "nice" guy but tends to be a playboy.

Shit, with the way he looks and the energy he oozes, I'm not surprised, hell he has been the starring role in my recent shower releases. Grayson is close to the same but much more discrete. However, Audrie has experience with Grayson. She tells me about a hot and steamy hook-up they had outside of this Club on the outskirts of Clear Creek. 1

Audrie also tells me all about her and her family. They have been part of this pack for a few generations, her parents are both from this pack, and her dad's parents are as well. Her parents met when her mom was assigned to shadow her dad on patrol. It's a similar love story as my parents were, but one with a happier ending.

I feel a pang of jealousy, what she has is what I've always wanted. A loving family, support, friends, and stability. Audrie doesn't have to question if she belongs here or try to prove her worth.

The week goes by fast. I'm feeling the most "at home" I have felt since



Grandma June was alive. Audrie and I have become fast friends. She has introduced me to her friends on the patrol group, Tate, who usually mans the gate, Connor, Paul, Liz, and Anna. They turned up the intensity at training, said there was the possibility of rogue threats in other packs and we should all stay vigilant on our shifts.

Me, Audrie, her friends, I guess they are my friends now too, all have the next two days off from patrol. I let it slip that tomorrow is my birthday and they've decided we are all going out to Club Onyx to celebrate. I'm in Audrie's room to get ready, she insisted I borrow a different dress than the one from the ceremony.

Audrie is bent over digging through a heap of clothes in her closet, she is a bit messy for sure. I've spaced off staring at a wall filled with pictures of her and her friends when it hits me, literally. I pull the metallic mesh long sleeve crop top from my face as a black leather mini skirt comes hurtling towards me.

"You will look like a freaking knockout in that... now shoes..." Audrie says before returning to the closet. Pfffft, she blows her hair from her face, now digging under the bed.

"Maybe you should try putting stuff away every now and then.." I tease.

"Nah, not my style...AH HA!" she says, hoisting up a pair of shiny knee-high black boots.

I start to put on the outfit courtesy of the Neverlands that is her closet. Being shifters and patrol partners, nudity doesn't phase us much. I walk around like a baby giraffe as I get used to these damn boots, making my way to a mirror. Looking at myself, I look hot!

Audrie comes over, slaying it in a red strapless dress that hugs her tightly



and strappy black heels that tie mid-calf. "GIRL, we are total smoke shows all these damn boys are gonna be BEGGING to buy us drinks," she says as she flips her hair over her shoulder. I laugh, suddenly feeling nervous. I hadn't been thinking about guys being there or the fact that tomorrow I turn 19 and can find my mate.

I haven't ever been with a guy, hell the closest it came was creepy Kyson or Kyle- they always were making advances. I've wanted to save myself for my mate. I never expected that my mate would do the same if I ever found him that is. 1

Now I'm wondering if I need to gain some experience?? I push the thoughts back and follow Audrie out the door.

We meet the others in front of the pack house, the club is near the tree line on the edge of town. Making our way on a small trail work in the grass, I stumble over a rock and smash right into Tate's back. "Easy killer, at least buy me a drink before you feel me up," He says holding back his laugh. I blush as Tate helps me rebalance.

I've been drooling over the Alpha and the Beta lately, I hadn't noticed how hot Tate is. He is a good bit taller than me, but most were. He had dirty blonde hair that was curly on top but his sides were shaved short and his bulky muscles were all but hidden in his black t-shirt.

Our eyes meet for a minute but then I come to my senses. I give him a playful push, but my eyelashes and stick out my bottom lip when I say "but it's my birthday, aren't you going to buy me a drink?" He laughs, "First ones on me but you'll be buying the next round if you wanna put your hands on the merchandise again." I return his smile and we hustle to catch back up to the group. Audrie eyes me, waggles her eyebrows, and tosses me a wink.



I shake my head at her. I mean...maybe Tate could help me out with that 'gaining some experience' thing...

As we approach a black stone building I can hear the hum of the music already. Connor pulls open the door letting us all shuffle in. The place is packed! I look around and take it all in. It smells like sweat, lust, and alcohol. The music is loud and colored lights are moving all over. A large glass chandelier hangs in the middle reflecting and magnifying the colorful lights even more.

Tonight was going to be magical, I could just feel it.



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