

## CH5

Lucinda POV

Arriving back into pack territory was a good feeling. The retrieval team had been away nearly a week, tracking and retrieving a wayward runaway, an Alpha's daughter no less. Rebellious at just 13, already as deant as a fully grown Alpha female would be, and she didn't even have her wolf yet.

She had been a handful, to say the least. A sneaky little thing that was clearly used to slipping past her father's warriors. Had managed to slip her team twice, once in custody. Runaway over a boy of all things, the typical teenager, who'd thought she would be safe in the human world, masking her scent. But had run out of scent masking spray, and they'd been on her quite quickly after that. She was now safely returned to her family, and her father had agreed she could date the boy, to placate her and keep her home.

It was almost 5pm; the evening setting in. She already knew there was a mating ball tomorrow night, thankfully she would be on border patrol like always. Lucinda was still kitted out in her retrieval gear, even her bow was still on her back; its case's lock busted. That Alpha brat had broken it. Thomas had taken it to his friend Manny, who was the pack's weapons specialist. He'd x it and drop it off for her tomorrow.

Lucinda could see that just past her house, her twin sisters were playing in the playground, which was between her house and the packhouse. Those two girls knew better than to be out without Gabby, when there were other packs visiting. She frowned and walked right past her house to the playground, hopped over the fence; one hand on it for leverage.

"What are you two doing?" she growled at them playfully.

They both turned and looked at her, squealed in delight and ran right over to her. They were small for eight, maybe looked six if they were lucky. Luna Lindy said it was because they had been born prematurely. Lucinda snagged an arm around each one's waist and tipped them upside down, then spun them around till they were laughing so hard, they were crying out they were going to pee themselves. She put them down.

"Come on you two, you know better than to be out here on your own...yes?"

"Yes," they both pouted up at her with their big blue eyes. Batted their very long lashes at her, like they would for Gabby or James, to get away with naughty things.

"Oh, that doesn't work on me." Lucinda smiled "Let's go home." and then she chased them out of the playground and down the side of the packhouse. In through the omegas door and up the stairs to the rst oor, right to the Luna's oce. She followed them with Ky'ra, making little playful growls and snorts at them, making them laugh and scream all the way there.

Lucinda followed them right into Luna Lindy's oce and saw Gabby and Lindy both in there. "Did you loose a couple of things?" she asked, referring to the twins now climbing into Gabby's lap for protection from their big sister.

"They were with the nanny." Gabby frowned at them.

Both girls giggled and battered their lashes up at their mummy; she melted. Lucinda could not have asked for a better mother for them. Gabby loved them as if she had birthed them herself. They owned the woman's heart; That was for sure.

"They were out in the playground unattended." she frowned at them "not something they should do with other packs here, hmm."

"No Luci." they pouted, all sad like, but were faking it completely; she could see the tiny smile behind those pouts.

Lucinda smiled behind her mask and shook her head. Only they would call her that. No one else did, it had started when they were little and unable to say her full name, and it had stuck. She didn't mind at all, her mum and dad had used to call her Luci all the time.

"I'll s\*\*\*k you next time," she told them rmlly.

That made their little mouths open in big O's. She sounded like she meant it, but really didn't mean it.

She nodded to the Luna. "I should go nap. I have patrol duty tonight."

"Thank you for returning them." Gabby nodded to her.

"No problem, girls, I'll see you at training tomorrow." and then she was gone.

Lucinda woke half an hour earlier than she needed to, and her wolfen hearing could already hear wolves mating, with so many wolves on pack territory it was bound to happen. They wouldn't nd their mates until the full moon rose tomorrow, but that never stopped the horny beasts from nding someone to have s\*x with tonight.

It might be their last night for a ing. She knew some wolves liked to wait to nd their Goddess-Gifted Mates, but others didn't care at all. It was the latter of those that were the ones she could hear now.

Night patrol started at midnight. For Ky'ra, it was only a 30-min trot or 13 min fully-edged at-out run to get there. She only ever patrolled the eastern border. It was harder over here, because they saw more action on a regular basis, due to the massive amount of rogue territory, between this pack and the next one.

Ky'ra loved a good ght, and anything that came into sight was fair game, even if it was just strolling on by too close to the border. She would be off to hunt it down.

With all the mating going on, there would likely be extra rogue activity tonight and tomorrow night. The rogues would be able to smell the arousal of all the wolves, and be driven to try and get some for themselves. Likely, patrols all the way round the pack would see rogues tonight.

She and Ky'ra were on alert to assist all other borders tonight, and they'd be patrolling with another wolf, in-case she was called away to a different zone to help out.

Food in her belly and a large coffee drank. She opened her front door and stepped out, closed it behind her and shifted into Ky'ra, headed for her border to protect it; as always in wolfen form, ready for action. They passed several couples having s\*x right out in the open; up against trees, on the ground, bent over a boulder, uncaring who saw them. Ky'ra snorted her disgust at them 'not mates.'

It was clear right from the beginning Ky'ra would not be interested in any wolf other than her Mate. And she certainly wasn't going to allow Lucinda to run around and do as she pleased in that department either, not that Lucinda would. She had only ever been with Matthew, her Mate, and he was gone now.

Second Chance Mates didn't come along all that often, and she was also not looking for another Mate. She stayed away from the full moon mating balls. Though that was not a guarantee she wouldn't be scented out if someone was her Second Chance Mate, but it did limit it quite a bit she was far enough from the packhouse on that eastern border to be unscented by most.

Wolves could only scent six to ten miles on average, and the eastern border was 12 miles from the packhouse.

Ky'ra also never really took interest in mating balls either. Too much noise, to many unmated males that would take one look at her and want to have s\*x with her, she was a beautiful wolf. Lucinda had been propositioned herself many times, which led her to believe she must be somewhat attractive.

She had waist-length black hair, milky white skin; and no matter how much time she spent in the sun she just didn't tan. Her body, though small and was athletic; she had curves, quite ample breasts and a round bottom from all her lunges and squats.

She had large golden brown-honey coloured eyes which did seem to attract males, probably due to the thick long black lashes that went with them. She had a heart-shaped face and full lips that she had once been told 'were wasted' because she wouldn't let anyone kiss them. That guy had been punched in the gut for trying to, even after she'd told him to back the hell off.

Though her personality was generally happy in demeanour, she was easily annoyed, and if Ky'ra was in a fowl mood; it could lter into Lucinda, and put her in a bad mood too. Her wolf's emotions could inuence her own, though cheering Ky'ra up was relatively easy. As easy as spending time with the little ones, it seemed her wolf loved babies and toddlers. Happy to sit and watch them all day.

Babies! Lucinda had left that one alone.

The only other things she liked were running, hunting and training. Ky'ra didn't much like sitting around doing nothing, and a board Ky'ra could be a destructive Ky'ra. Therefore, they trained six days a week and worked six nights on border patrol, when here inside the pack. Only taking one day off, as this was all her wolf could handle, without becoming agitated and growly.

The night was eventful out there on border patrol. Ky'ra got three rogue kills on the eastern border, along with her wolf partner. And had raced across the pack to help out on the western border. Just before sunrise, there was a group of 15 rogues setting up for an attack.

Ky'ra had launched herself into the middle of the ghting to lend help to her fellow wolves. Not much caring about anything, she had ripped rogues off her other patrolling wolves, slammed them down on the ground and ripped their throats out. She slashed with her claws. Ripped with her jaw, showing no mercy at all.

She had given no quarter. There had been an Alpha wolf amongst the battle going on. She had seen it, stood a good head and shoulders above her own wolf; it was massive. Surprised her more than a little to be honest, he wasn't her Alpha, and was out assisting patrol; it was a little odd.

Not to mention they'd never seen a wolf so large before, the biggest damned thing they'd ever seen. Ky'ra was a large wolf that stood taller than all the wolves in the pack, bar the Alpha and Beta wolves.

Ky'ra had turned and looked right at the giant black wolf. When the battle had been over, 'not one of ours, denitely an Alpha' Lucinda had commented, 'Just by the sheer size of him,' that wolf had stood right up and watched her. Ky'ra had bared her teeth to him, showing her displeasure at his attention, then had simply turned and walked away from him in wolfen form.

This was just going to be the beginning. Tonight would be even worse, she thought, as the sun rose, and she headed home. Ky'ra strolled along the edge of the forest past the back of the packhouse still in wolfen form, and heard several un-mated wolves call to her. She simply growled at them menacingly, and moved on without stopping. They did not interest her in the slightest.

They made their way around the packhouse, past the playground, and to her front door, where she shifted. Lucinda stopped and turned to look around her. She could feel eyes on her; she knew she was completely naked, but that was nothing to be ashamed of. Everybody saw everyone naked at some point, after shifts, for pack runs, after ghting

rogues attacks, after the rst shift, there were many reasons why wolves ripped out of their human counterparts.

Her eyes landed on two men over by some of the visiting pack's cars. She wasn't facing them directly only side on, but they were clearly watching her. She rolled her eyes, that big bastard of an Alpha and his Beta. Ky'ra had likely caught their attention, even from way over here, on the other side of the pack house, they were a good one hundred and fty meters away, but Ky'ra's size and beauty drew everyone's attention.

Lucinda turned away from them the moment she realized that it was the Alpha who liked to call her a mutt. Just yesterday when she had come home she'd heard it with her wolfen hearing.

"Hey Nick, look over there."

"The mutt" he muttered once he'd looked to where she was, easily recognizable to him, as she'd been kitted out still.

She and Ky'ra had completely ignored him and his insult to them at the time. Their only thought had been the twins, and to get them inside away from non-pack members, so they had left them alone. If the twins hadn't been there she'd likely have shot and arrow at him for his disrespectful comment, or let Ky'ra have a go at him herself. Ky'ra was completely offended by the term mutt.

'That's the Alpha wolf, ghting rogues with us,' Ky'ra huffed 'smells the same.' the wind was blowing in their direction, and she could scent him easily from there.

Right now the man was staring at her, not knowing she was the so-called mutt. 'What a d\*\*k,' she thought.

She showered and ate breakfast, and hit the hay. They had training with the twins this afternoo, and then had patrol again tonight.