

## CHAPTER 3

Uncle and niece spent the afternoon together, with Logan mostly trying to convince Rhey why it was a bad idea to keep lying to Tommy. Though he did his best, the stubborn Alpha couldn't be swayed.

Imagine Rhey's shock when three days later Tommy came back with his 'mate' in hand.

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Rhey had just finished hosting the monthly meeting, with different heads in regards to the full moon festivities, when the retired Alpha showed up in her ope looking all excited.

"Papa," Rhey greeted walking towards his open arms. She quickly hugged him kissing his cheek before commenting on his cheerful mood.

"Tommy is back," Ryan offered with a smile, "he nally found his mate." Rhey's breath held as her eyes widened in disbelief. For a moment it felt like she couldn't breath.

"What do you mean by his mate?" She croaked incredulously and Ryan mistook the tone for horror making him chuckle lightly. "Not everyone is anti-mate, baby." Rhey shook her head wanting to point out the reason behind her skepticism but remembered only her uncle knew she was indeed Tommy's mate. She quickly schooled her features, "I'm happy for him." She forced out the words.

"I know you are," Ryan whispered staring at the ne Alpha he had raised in the absence of his mate.

"I just wish you would consider looking for your mate too." Rhey attempted to interject but Ryan continued quickly, "it's a lonely life, trust me, I know." He nished softly making Rhey regret ghting with him over Lily's issue. He deserved to be happy after the many years he has pent alone. She studied him wanting nothing more than to comfort him but she needed to see the woman who was posing as Tommy's mate rst.

"I will think about it, Papa." She promised just to get him moving.

Ryan nodded stepping out of the way, for he had a feeling Rhey was eager to meet her best friend's mate "I will welcome my beta home." She said lamely stepping past her father and rushed outside.

Most of Tommy's friends had gathered around him and his 'mate' offering their congratulations. He scented Rhey before he saw her and turned. His eyes sparkled as a wide smile spread on his lips. The others who had also scented their Alpha stepped aside and let Tommy through. He draped his arm loosely on his 'mate's' shoulders and steered her towards Rhey. He cleared his throat awkwardly at Rhey's piercing gaze.

"Hey," he greeted warmly and after getting a rather cold 'hey' back, went ahead to do the introductions. "Amelia, meet my Alpha, Rhey."

And to Rhey he said, "meet my mate, can you believe I nally found her?"

'No I can't,' Rhey thought furiously but she still accepted

Amelia's stretched hand. She shook it rmly... too rmly narrowing her eyes on the imposter. Her wolf was going crazy as she threatened to tear the lying b\*\*\*h's throat out, for stealing their mate. Rhey's expression on the other hand was blank.

Amelia smiled uneasily pulling her hand out of Rhey's grasp. She had a feeling the Alpha didn't like her and for a brief moment, she feared that her plan might not work.

"Welcome to the pack," Rhey said with feigned warmth making Amelia relax. She leaned onto Tommy thinking that she had probably imagined the strange inkling she had got from the Alpha.

"Once you are done getting your mate settled look for me, Thomas." Rhey rasped turning on her heels and left. Tommy was left staring at her wondering if she was perhaps irritated that he found his mate before her. He shook his head dismissing those thoughts for he knew his friend was anti-mate.

He decided to give Amelia a tour of the pack while introducing her to the members.

He started with the pack arena where major meetings and festivities took place. The place was already decorated for the full moon party. "This place is huge," Amelia gushed,

"We have a bigger one which is used when we are hosting the mating games," Tommy informed with pride. Their pack was indeed among the most nancially developed, which made their infrastructure top-notch. All thanks to Ryan, the retired Alpha. He had invested pack's money in lucrative businesses which will benet generations to come. And Rhey had kept the good work going.

On his tour, Tommy took Amelia

to the main packhouse and introduced her mostly to women since many men were out on hunting duties.

Amelia seemed to love everything and everyone in the Rwirwe pack which made Tommy a little pissed. He does hate it when someone agrees with his every word like she was doing at the moment, trying to get everyone they met like her. It made him think of Rhey and how he loves her bluntness. Thinking about Rhey made him rush the rest of the tour, and once he had Amelia settled in his room, he excused himself so he could go see her.

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Rhey was pacing impatiently in her ope still stunned at the turn of events. She contemplated telling Tommy the truth but decided against the idea, wanting to nd out more about the Amelia woman.

Rhey believed that whatever Amelia wanted from Tommy was much more than just a mate, services. She did go to an extent of faking mating pheromones.

'Let me kill her,' her wolf begged.

'I will kill her myself once I nd out what she wants from him.' Rhey shot back with a growl just as Tommy pushed open the ope door.

"You wanted to see me,"

"You found your mate," Rhey started directly trying to act nonchalant but she couldn't keep the bitterness off her tone even if she tried. Tommy smiled warily not missing the unusual hint of jealousy from her. It didn't bother him though, for he didn't feel relieved either. Not like he hoped he would, once he found his mate.

"I found my mate," he agreed with a deep exhale pocketing his hands.

"Are you happy?" She cursed herself letting her jealousy do the talking. Tommy zeroed his gaze on her watchfully wondering if it was a trick question. "Never mind," she added almost immediately with a shrug but her eyes betrayed how she truly felt.

Tommy found himself disliking the fact that she was sad, and wondered if it was a good thing that he found his mate. "I missed you," he said honestly and for the rst time since he came back, she gave him a genuine small smile.

What happened next none of them could have predicted. One moment they were having an awkward talk and the next he had her pinned against her desk as he devoured her soft but rnk lips. They were both lost in the passion and lust none realized when they had began stripping each other. The last person on Tommy's mind was Amelia. All he wanted and craved was his Alpha.

In no time he bent her over the desk and buried himself deep inside her warm hole grunting and groaning as he pounded fast. She moaned pushing back against him wantonly, as he took her with precise mastery never missing to hit her pleasure spot. He sent her over the edge very fast and before she could ride out her orgasm, her wolf took over and without a warning, bit Tommy where his neck and shoulder meet marking him as theirs.

Tommy growled in panic pushing Rhey off him hastily, but the deed had already been done and no one regretted it more than the Alpha.

"What the hell have you done?" Tommy bellowed angrily, his thoughts going to Amelia. He traced his ngers over the tender scar and cursed. His mate will reject him, he feared. But what surprised him more than Rhey, marking him was the fact that he could feel his wolf howling excitedly in his head instead of cussing him out for cheating on their mate which is what he expected.

"I am sorry," Rhey whispered shakily as she fought to steady her breathing. She called her wolf every bad name she could think of. 'He is ours,' it's all the wolf shot back gloating for having marked their mate.

Tommy turned angrily ready to exit the Alpha's ope but halted abruptly in his steps and whirled slowly. His wolf had just screamed that Rhey was their mate in his head, which upset him since they already had a mate, Amelia. His confusion increased when his wolf bonded with Rhey's and she claimed the same.

"What's happening?" He asked no one in particular as his eyes clouded with anger. Rhey inched wondering what to do to get herself out of the mess. Before she could speak, he bellowed a 'what?' And she instantly knew he was talking to his wolf. She stared at his furrowed brows and the scowl jutted on his handsome face and her heart clenched for him. She had hurt him again and it wasn't a nice feeling to accept that she was the constant source of pain for Tommy.

And then it dawned on her that their wolves had bonded due to the bite. Just like she knew she was already damned.

The enraged look on Tommy as he lifted his eyes to hold her gaze would have made a weaker werewolf squirm. "Is it true?" He asked simply staring at her like she was a disgusting lth. She breathed out heavily rubbing her palms undecidedly. "Is it?" He insisted raising his voice for he found her silence infuriating. He took a step closer and hovered over her 5.6" with his 6.2" and she automatically took a step back.

"Are you my mate or not?" He roared once again closing the distance between them, leaving her no other choice but to respond with a slight nod.

"The hell!" He cursed punching the wall behind her. He was furious and the veins quick popped on his forehead was an indication. "Why?" he whispered in disbelief but what he really wanted to ask was how. How had he not scented her all these years if she and their wolves are saying is true. He still couldn't scent her. His breathing laboured the more he thought about it as different sensations rushed through his body. He didn't know how to feel but he knew he needed explanation before he killed someone.

"How is this possible? What about Amelia?" His apparent confusion couldn't be masked. Rhey swallowed nervously, averting her gaze to the ground. "I don't know who that woman is," she accused choosing to answer the easy question. "But I am sure she is an imposter."

Tommy watched the woman he had prayed for so long to be his and wanted so badly to strangle her perfect throat. He closed his eyes brieiy pinching his nose and tried to reign his anger in. "When did you know I was your mate?" He asked more calmly this time.

"When I turned eighteen," Rhey responded taking a spontaneous step back when Tommy raised his st in anger. He ended up opening his palm and ran the ngers roughly through his black curls.

"That's three years ago," he mumbled with a bitter laugh, "you've been lying to me for three years."

"I never wanted a mate," Rhey whined as if that justified the lying but all it did was enrage Tommy further.

"It's obvious," he spat turning for the door but stopped, "how did I not recognize you? I should have scented you on my eighteenth birthday. You were there,"

"I had a witch dampen my pheromones," her eyes darted over the room avoiding his scorching gaze. Tommy shook his head in incredulity as crazy thoughts assailed his mind. He didn't trust himself to be in the same room with her any longer for his anger was rising dangerously and he wouldn't want to hurt her even though she deserves it. His hands reached for the door handle,

"Where are you going?" She asked desperately. Tommy exhaled, turned, and glared at her she visibly winced. "I will deal with the other liar rst," he growled, "but we are not done here."

"Wait," she called before he could step out, "I need to know who she is and why she chose you." As an Alpha it was Rhey's duty to protect her pack from any type of threat. And Amelia was a threat already. She could feel it deep in her gut, and if there was something Rhey was good at it was being a leader for her people. Tommy narrowed his eyes at her knowing the direction her talk was taking. "I don't want her to know you've gured out she is an imposter." They nished softly.

"What right do you have to ask that of me," Tommy retorted with a frown, her nerve appalling him for a minute.

"It's an order, Thomas," Rhey stated calmly but the command in her tone couldn't be concealed. Tommy's eyes widened but said nothing. It was the rst time she had ever used the Alpha card on him. "That woman got into our pack through the Beta, aren't you even a little curious to know why?" His gaze softened, he too wanted to know the motive behind Amelia's actions.

"As you wish Alpha," he grumbled and walked out without hesitation leaving Rhey desperately wishing he would have stayed.

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