

## Wanted by the Council

### Chapter 18

#### Isabels' POV

I like Maksim's family. I feel safer here than I have in a long time. When I was with my mentor, she made sure I was safe. After I lost her, things were up in the air again. I only had myself to depend on, and I tried to stay safe. I felt secure in my last home. It wasn't perfect, but I had been safe there for over a year. I was surprised that he was my mate, but maybe that was the Goddess at work for me.

I reached my hand out to shake hers. "My name is Isabel Ellis. I lived in the woods and tried to help Melina."

"You did help me. You saved me from being sexually assaulted. You did more than most in the same situation would have done. We are targeted just the same as the others as being mindless killers. I heard that almost every day from my pack. Nice to know what they thought of me, despite it being my money that was making improvements to the pack." Melina said.

"Thank you, Isabel. I am Cheryl, the twins' mother. I will never be able to thank you enough. I could have lost my daughter today if it weren't for you. The Goddess sent you, and I am so glad that my son found such a wonderful mate. Welcome to our family. I hope you'll take Cara up on her offer. I would love to get to know you better. I'm so happy to meet you," Cheryl told me before getting up and coming over to hug me.

"I would love to be your neighbor. I'm excited to meet the whole family, but I don't want to put anyone out," I replied.

"It's not a problem, I assure you. I'm happy to do it,' Cara told me. She seemed excited about it. I could tell that she wasn't a werewolf, but she wasn't a vampire either. She appeared to be the same age as me, but I could tell that she was actually older. I had been shocked to hear Alexei's age when he was healing me while we were waiting for Maksim to return to the plane. They had all gotten a good chuckle out of it.

"I'm happy to be here, and even happier to nd my mate. I do want to mention something before you go out of your way. I'm glad the Alpha and Luna are here, because this affects the pack," I advised. I didn't want to wait any longer to tell them.

The tensing up from the men around me was almost imperceptible. They didn't want to upset me or make me fearful. They were waiting to hear what I had to say. I'm hoping they'll allow me to stay here after they listen to what I have to say. I didn't want to cause my pack or my mate's family any issues, so I will leave if I need to. I wouldn't put them in harm's way. I'm scared to tell them, but I won't stay here unless they know.

"I grew up in the Darkness pack, in Barrow, Alaska. I was told that I had been found in the woods, abandoned. I had no one to take me under their wing except the other omegas. They tried to protect me. They gave me the easiest jobs. I started working at the age of six. I learned how to clean, cook, and everything in between. The issues started when I turned fteen. Our Alpha, Allen York, had chosen a mate at thirty, ten years previous. Candice let it slip they were chosen mates after years of them trying, and failing, to have pups," I told them.

I paused for a second as this next part was tougher. Maksim held my hand, and Luna Brenna, sitting beside me, held my other hand. The sympathy in her eyes was clear, but I looked back down at the oor because I didn't want to see their faces when I said the next part. This was the reason that I hadn't pushed Maksim to mark me yet. I wanted him to know everything before he fully accepted me.

"Alpha Allen was angry that Luna Candice had not given him the heirs he wanted. He had been watching me for the last year and a half, and it was creepy. He announced that for the pack to have an heir, he would assign a breeder to carry his pup. He made this announcement a month before I turned sixteen. He never named anyone in the meeting, but the Lead Omega knew he was talking about me. The whole pack did. He knew as well as anyone that as soon as Candice found out it was me, she would come after me. Even without his mentioning my name, the whole pack knew. I started getting called horrible names. The Alpha requested that I start cleaning his room, and then showed up to watch me. He would say disgusting things to me about what he was going to do to me. He told me that I would be safe, and he would protect me. But Candice had been following him, to try to gure out who it was. She was furious as she felt like her position was being challenged. That if I could produce an heir, that he would reject her, and mark me," I quietly spoke.

"Isabel, you don't have to nish your story. You haven't done anything wrong, and we can protect you. If nishing the story is going to cause you stress, you can stop. I know who you are. You don't have to say anything more, if you don't want to," Melina's soft voice carried over to me.

"I want to nish it. I want Maksim to know to whole story," I replied. I took a couple of breaths to calm down. I needed to rip the band-aid off.

"Luna Cadice cornered me one day, with her best friend Jill. Jill was our Beta's younger sister. Candice was jealous of me. She said she wanted to scare me away from Allen. But I believe that she wanted to kill me that night. They both attacked me, but a female warrior intervened and saved me. She took me away that night, a week before my sixteenth birthday. We've been on the run for years. She had injured Candice and Jill in the ght. They both sustained injuries, but I was glad that someone had stepped forward to save me. I know in my heart that I would have died that night if not for her. Madaline, or Maddie, as I called her, taught me how to survive. How to ght, how to shoot, how to use a knife, and everything I needed to know to survive on my own. I know how to hunt, how to sh, and how to cover my tracks. She was the one who taught me not to judge a book by its cover. To always be on guard and told me how to read people. Alpha Allen was going to make me his breeder the night I turned sixteen. Maddie saved me," I said, before a sob came out.

Maksim lifted me onto his lap and wrapped his arms around me. It was a comfort, but I needed to nish. "I need to get this out. Maddie and I were wanted for questioning by the Council. We'd been reported as having attacked the Luna and Beta female for no reason. An unprovoked attack was how it was noted. They never asked for our side of it; they just hunted us for years. Last year, they found her as she was coming home. I had to leave everything behind and was forced to watch as they killed her right in front of me. Allen kept asking her where I was while she was tortured to death. A council member was present, but he didn't stop them or care about her at all. It's me he's still after. He's forty now. Almost twice my age, but he refuses to let me go. If they nd out that I'm here, they will come. I'm putting you at risk just by being here. I thought I could stay here, but I just can't put any of you at risk, and you will be if I stay. If you'll take me to the nearest city, I can grab some supplies, and I won't cause you any further issues." I told them. The room was utterly silent.

"I've never even heard of that pack, but it seemed aptly named. What is he thinking? Do packs even allow breeders anymore? I thought they stopped that practice years ago," Jaxon asked in confusion. "You're safe here. I won't allow the Council to take you. I believe you, and I hate that they managed to nd your friend. It's a clear abuse of power, and I think someone has to be helping them try to track you. Cara, if they do show up, can you or Saoirse please make her impossible to nd?"

"We can, and it would be our pleasure to do so. I'm more than happy to help. I will make her a necklace so she can summon us when she needs help," Cara replied.

"But I don't want to cause you any trouble," I breathed out.

"May I?" Anton asked. He had walked over to me and was holding his hand.

I put my hand in his, and he closed his eyes. Everyone was silent for about ve minutes until he let my hand go. "I've veried her memories. She didn't attack either one of them, and Maggie just pushed them away. If they had any injuries, they either did it to themselves or lied about being attacked. Alpha Allen is looking for her. He is agitated that she managed to evade him for so long. I'm sure he thinks you'll be easier to nd now that you're alone. He's wrong about that, as you've still managed to evade him. You've done nothing wrong. We'll clear your name. You're safe now," Anton announced.

"I don't want to involve you in my ght," I argued.

"You didn't. Your ght is our ght now. The moment you became my mate, your problems became mine. There's no issue here. You didn't do anything wrong. My father has testied I front of the High Council several times. They're aware of his reputation. Dad can also share his visions to show proof. We will get those charged dropped by the Council—no need to worry, Isabel. I will keep you safe," Maksim told me.

"One of the High Council members might have seen me. What if he recognized me? If they know who you are, then they'll know where I am. I don't want to put innocent people in danger," I replied.

"You're not putting anyone in danger. Most would think twice before coming to attack us. This wouldn't be the rst time people have come here and wanted to ght. We ght for the innocent, or those who can't ght for themselves. We will protect you. Once Alpha Allen realizes that you're not alone anymore, he'll let this go. He has to, as he's the one in the wrong. We will not turn you over to them. I won't allow it," Alpha Jaxon told me.

"Hey, let's go create your home. It's been a long, hard day. I'm sure you'd like to take a shower and change. Just visualize a home, and I can make it happen," Cara said with a wink.

Now this was something I would have to see, in order to believe.