

Denied 361

Chapter 361

- Josie -

"Mate, he is our mate." My wolf repeats in my mind, as if there was never any doubt. As if I should have known this all along.

But I didn't even know I had a wolf, let alone possible for me to also have a mate.

"Mate?" My lips form the words just as Knox moves towards me, his hands gripping at my waist.

"Mine." The words that form on his lips seem to leave an echo in my ears.

Now everything makes sense... Why I was drawn to him, why his lips were the only ones I ever wanted to kiss me, why having already met him at 16, no other male could compare. Even though I didn't know who he was, where he was...that bond had already been found. Already had snapped into place, we just didn't know it. I had been waiting for him all along.

His hands climb up from my waist, his fingers feeling the contours of my body before they grip at the fabric of my dressing gown at my chest. With his hands tightly gathering around the soft fabric, he pulls me into him, his lips crashing into mine. Everything and everybody around us fades away.

He was my mate. He was mine...destined for me and me alone.

It's like an eruption of the senses, an euphoric episode that just keeps rippling and rippling through my body. Something I would imagine only possible between the stars.

As his lips pull away from mine, I am left with a need for more...for the kiss not to end.

"It's a bit crowded, shall we go for a bike ride?" His lips whisper into my ear, his scent overwhelming my senses. I could feel her purring underneath the surface, I didn't even need to force her back behind the veil. She did it willingly.

"Yes." I croak out, my voice seemingly having left me at this moment in time. Something, that seems to form a satisfied smile on Knox's face.

"I'll meet you out the front." He states before his eyes glance to the side of me, a warning stare given to my eldest of brothers before he heads back towards the alpha house.

I turn to my family, expecting dumbfounded faces...surprised looks, but they are all looking at me as if I am the only one now having caught up with the news.

"You already knew didn't you?"

"Yes!" Mum says as she reaches for my hands and places them into hers, pulling me in for an embrace.

"How long?"

"When you were in the hospital. When we turned off the life support, Knox said he could still sense you. That's when he realised he could feel the mate bond." Mum's hand cups the side of my face.

"We were all shocked...except for Dad." Jace announces, my eyes scanning all my family members.

"Really?" I hold Dad's gaze, this was news to me.

"I had an inkling."

"That's why you weren't mad at him when he left?"

"Oh I was mad, believe me...I made it very clear when he returned. If this is what you want..."

"It's what I want..." I search inside myself, yes he is what I want. I'm surprised he isn't freaking out himself but if Mum is right and Knox has known for sometime...then it would make sense how calm he is. He's had time to digest it, let it sink in. Whereas, for once, I'm the one playing catch up and trying not to freak out.

"Then we are happy for you and will support you, won't we boys." Dad takes a step towards me, his hand resting on my shoulder.

"Yes!" I hear both grunt out from behind, Jace more enthusiastic than Jaxon, but even he isn't overly joyed.

"I should have told you both, but I didn't know what to tell you."

"I mean he's 10 years older than you...but I can't think of anyone better suited than to be with our sister." "You mean that?"

"Yes." Jace responds, nudging Jaxon in the ribs for a response.

"I guess so." Jaxon begrudgingly responds as he pushes Jace away from him.

Everybody starts to move collective back towards the alpha house, myself included. As we walk back, Jace and Jaxon move ahead of us, leaving Mum and Dad on either side of me.

It's odd to think how natural it feels to be able to use the mind-link now, when a few days ago I couldn't communicate through the pack link or mind-link a member of my family. But now, as I push on the link to my alpha, to my Dad, I ask him a question. "Now that I have my wolf, Jaxon said about not using my gun."

"Is that what the stand off was about?" His voice enters into my mind immediately. My eyes, I can feel have glazed over, but I can still see and sense things around me. They are just blurred.

It will take me a while to get used to the feeling more than the action.

"Yes, I don't want to give up what I've worked hard for Dad. If anything with my improved eyesight, my firing range will be even better."

"You don't have to do anything you don't want to do Josephina."

"I can keep my gun?"

"Yes, you can keep your gun."

Chapter 362

- Josie -

As soon as I enter my bedroom I reach for my phone, it was on my bedside table where I had left it. I can see that I have a missed call from Knox...he must have thought I had taken my phone with me... the last thing he would have expected was to see me shifted. The last thing I expected to do today was to shift.

I dial her contact saved on my phone...dying to tell her what has just happened.

I haven't spoken to her since Uncle Orpheus and Auntie Rosa dropped her home when they visited us last. Apparently news of my fatal injuries had reached to trusted packs but not my miraculous recovery.

I guess Mum and Dad are cautious for the attackers not to get wind of the news. I mean I was shot with silver bullets, not many can survive that. I guess the alpha blood in my system has helped to heal me.

"This better not be some kind of sick joke?" Her voice shouts down the phone, her guard up. She's probably been waiting by the phone 24/7 for an update and would expect my Mum to call her, or Auntie Alora if the news was that terrible. My name appearing on her caller ID must be the last thing she would expect.

"Maya?" I gently ask out, trying to prepare her gently for my voice. I hope she is sitting down.

"Josie?" She gasps after a short pause.

"Is that really you?" I can already hear the tears in her eyes as her voice cracks, she was a hard cookie but not to me. She was a true softy in front of those that she considered her people. "Yes..."

"But...you were in a coma."

"I was dead actually." I respond matter of factly.

"Dead?"

"My life support was switched off."

"It what?" She growls down the phone to me, okay maybe I shouldn't have admitted that part.

"So to cut a long story short, I'm back and...have a mate." I try to gently prepare her again for even more shocking news.

"You have a mate...an actual fated mate?"

"Remember Knox, well it's been him all along." I can't help but chuckle at her response. She's heard me talk time and time again how I knew I would never have a mate, because I didn't have a wolf. How time and time again we would curse up at the moon when hammered after a night out.

"The Alpha trainer? He's your mate? Hang on...rewind...how do you know you have a mate?"

"Oh, yes I have a wolf now. I've just come back inside from having shifted for the first time...ever..in my life Maya. I feel amazing." I squeal out as I throw my body back on to my bed, letting my free hand run through the top of my hair.

She's silent, most likely trying to catch up with everything I've just told her.

"I need to see you, when can I see you?"

"Come over tomorrow. I'm going out for a ride tonight with Knox so we can talk...but tomorrow I'll be in all day."

"Make sure you wear something hot."

"It's a bike ride..."

"There's not such thing as just a bike ride...he's probably dying to get you alone."

"So I'll see you tomorrow?" I chuckle down the phone to her, missing her. She always saw the spicy side to life.

"Try and stop me..."

I did take Maya's advice on board. I went for a black all in one trouser suit that had a waistcoat type style at the front. I've pair it with my leather jacket and a pair of high heeled boots...snake skin style just to add some sexiness to my already sexy look. I keep my hair free flowing and my makeup to a minimal knowing I would only ruin it as soon as I put the helmet on. For tonight the clothes were doing all the talking.

As I leave the front door I find Dad and Knox standing next to each other, two pack SUVs parked out the front.

Chapter 363

"What's going on?" I asks as I walk past Knox's motorbike towards them.

"Change of plan." Knox's eyes scan the length of me before he bites down on his bottom lip, my heart racing from his reaction at seeing me.

Will it always be like this, will it always be this lustful, I think it will be. He himself looked drop dead fuckable.

He wasn't wearing his leathers for his bike, but he was wearing black jeans, a white shirt and a herringbone grey jacket. He looked good in anything, and my lower core throbs just from the sight of him.

Judging by his clothing and the different vehicle keys in his hands...something had changed between him leaving to get ready and me meeting him out the front.

"I thought we were going for a ride?"

"It's too risky, I need eyes on you." Dad states, my eyes casting to the second SUV... before I realise it isn't empty.

My stomach sinks as the realisation dawns on me of why the vehicle choice has changed.

"You can't be serious?" He wants a detail of security to follow us, actual protection level.

"I've booked you in to one of Jude's restaurants in the city."

The whole point of the ride was to get away and have a private conversation...just the two of us. Not only will others be listening, they will also be watching. It's not even as if they can't listen...they will have been commanded to. This is the opposite of low key and private. "With eyes on?" I give Dad a pointed look.

"It's this or takeaway here?" He returns my pointed look with his own, his always winning.

"But do we need the extra attendees?" I gesture my head to the SUV full of warriors. Surely turning up with them will turn more heads than if we just slip into the restaurant.

"We are on lock down. Technically you shouldn't be going out, but I trust Knox to keep you safe. The warriors will blend in, as will Jude's."

He didn't just say that.

"Dad!" I groan out. I don't want to sound ungrateful because he was right, after the attack we were on lockdown and I was left for dead. We still didn't know who attacked us and why humans breached the borders.

Me going off pack grounds must be difficult for him...but to know that Uncle Jude's warriors will be at the restaurant too...it makes me want to just order a pizza in and talk upstairs.

"Maybe we should just give it a miss...just talk another time." I turn to Knox, my excitement disappearing fast.

"They will remain discreet, go have fun, but don't stay out too late." Dad moves past me, placing a kiss on my cheek before he heads in the direction of the other SUV.

"Shall we?" Knox opens the passenger side door for me.

"It's okay, you don't have to do this."

"Do what?"

"This...I thought we were going on a bike ride. I don't expect you to take me out for dinner."

"Why would I not want to take you out for dinner?" He looks at me perplexed, as if he's never had commitment issues in the past few weeks.

"Knox?" I give him a look as I cross my arms in front of my chest and kick my hip out slightly.

"Look at you, you're stunning...why would I not want to take you out to dinner. Why would I not want the world to see who you belong to...because you do...you belong to me. You're mine Red."
"Knox!" I roll my eyes, shaking my head at his playfulness.

But he does something, something I'm not ready for. He turns to me, complete seriousness in his demeanour as he takes my hand and settles me down slowly into the passenger seat.

"By the way, Knox is my work name. You should call me Kit, I want you to call me Kit from now on. Family always called me Kit."

Chapter 364

- Knox ~

I should have known a quiet drive in the country lanes would be off the cards now. Hector was already waiting by my cycle when I came back downstairs, his warriors already assembled and waiting.

At least he agreed to me driving Josie just the two of us. I didn't fancy a back full of warriors cramping our style and I just knew taking the motorbike would create more anxiety to a father that was looking out for his daughter.

So I didn't make a big deal of him changing my plans either, at least I could talk to her over a romantic dinner. Or so I had hoped.

She's one of the most confident people I have ever met, so why was she acting so nervous.

The restaurant was cute, if a little overcrowded. It was clearly a popular place and I can see why. The bar area alone had a vibrant display of hanging flowers that a lot of human women were huddled under, taking selfies with cocktails in their hands. Josie's eyes kept moving either side of her and I just knew it had to be the extra security. They did stick out...especially as most of the clientele here were humans. It made us look as if we were famous.

Eyes were watching, words were whispered...this is a first for both of us. A first date together, and I'll be damned if I let Hector's warriors ruin it.

"Where are you going?"

"I'm going to get rid of the extra detail." I lean into her before I kick my chair out. Even leaving her now took a lot of strength.

I haven't been alone with her since she has shifted for the first time...well except for the car journey but it's not like I could pull over and claim her...not when the bloody warriors in the SUV behind were almost touching the bumper.

"Okay, good." She looks up at me, her shoulders already relaxing at the mention of less security. She was right, this was ridiculous.

They took over most of the restaurant. Them being here made more of a thing, than if they weren't here.

"If the waiter comes over, I'll have a beer." I call back to her as I move towards the warrior heading up tonight's operation. I mean they were trying to blend in, but failing miserably...Hector had sent too many, one or two would have been enough at most.

I get it, his daughter had been shot with silver bullets, she had her life support turned off, she shifted for the first time today....a lot was happening with Josie right now and just the idea of her being hurt again makes my chest tighten. Makes the air catch in the back of my throat.

If I hadn't experienced overwhelming loss for myself then I would say he was insulting my skills in protecting her...but I, like Hector, would stop at nothing to protect Josie.

But I, thankfully unlike Hector, knew the life after loss...and I wouldn't wish that upon anyone.

The warriors watch me approach them, they were all dressed the same... black on black. "You've got to fall back...or half the number." I state to the warrior leader tonight.

"I've got my orders." His eyes continue to roam the crowd behind me.

"I know you do, I get it...but to have another pack's warriors here as well. It's too heavy, it's making more of our presence. Without you here we would have just slipped in and all eyes would be on the bar." I turn pointing my finger to the group of young human women boisterously laughing at the bar area as they try their hands at making cocktails themselves.

I turn to check on Josie, her head down as she types away on her phone before she looks up at the waiter that has come over to take our order.

"I can ask the other pack to watch the front." He offers, reluctantly with a sigh.

"But anything else and I'll have to call it in." He crosses his arms, his eyes glaring at me. I was asking a lot here, and if he probably hadn't already been told what I am to Josie, he wouldn't have even heard me out.

"It's something, and I'd appreciate it." He was willing to meet me half way and if the tables were turned, I wouldn't even offer that so I'll take it gladly.

Chapter 475

Hello my Wood pack lovelies.

I thought I would hop on as I've gained a lot of new readers recently (which is amazing) but I've noticed some questions. So I thought I would answer them in one go.

This book is being updated daily, except for Sundays (that's my family day). Every now and again I will need a day off extra just to pause and rest my eyes and brain...there's a lot going on in my mind to bring you the best stories possible. I do have completed books so feel free to read those on my GN profile when waiting for an update.

Make sure to add Denied by Destiny to your library and allow notifications, that should inform you when I do update. A happy notification for you <3

Come say hello on my social media as well, love to interact with my readers further and hear your theories.

As always, thank you

ongoing Support. Content enikistories.com

for

your

Senet

Current books in process;

Denied by Destiny - Fighting Fate

enkistories.com

Traded to the Wolf King

Swnoveleet

The Legacy of the Alpha King - Sins of the

eather. (This book will resume

updates soon, sorry...I'll explain

6er in the book ID)

Lots of love to you all.

Chapter 366

- Josie -

"Just slow down...he might have been lying." Knox's hand moves from the car's gear stick and on to my upper thigh.

No doubt he could sense my wolf, she was pushing against me. It was like she was biting down on a bone and wanted more. She wasn't willing to give up until she knew everything. Until she knew enough to satisfy her curiosity about this claim of family being out there that we had no clue even existed.

I was already sitting too forward, my face almost pressed against the dashboard. I had been constantly moving, Knox using the terms "ants in my pants" as I kept shifting in my chair. I just couldn't get comfortable, I couldn't relax.

"Can you calm her because my wolf is close to shifting and if I crash this car, with us in it...your parents really will kill me. Besides, he was probably lying." Knox's hand gently squeezes my upper thigh. His tone close to a command. In all that has happened over the past few days I've still not asked Knox about his past, about how he healed from the wounds Jaxon inflicted onto him. I'm still certain he has alpha blood within his veins, that there is a power behind his commands.

"No, why would he? Who would lie about such a thing?" I turn to him, his eyes looking in the rear view mirror, watching the car that had followed us all the way from the restaurant.

With the pack link now in place, I was able to warn the guards on the gate ahead of our return meaning we wouldn't need to stop. I also gave them the heads up that the car behind was friendly, and didn't need to be treated as suspicious.

As we enter through the gates, the warriors behind spin the car around and head, I presume, back to the restaurant.

Knox barely pulls the car to a halt before I'm already out of the door, him growling my name behind me. Blasting through the front door I find them sitting together in the living room, watching the TV.

"Do we have an uncle?" I blurt out, desperate to get the question out. I meant, another unknown uncle....because of course we have uncles.

"Where's Romeo?" Jaxon glances his eyes over his shoulder before turning back to the screen.

"Right here! Did your warriors report it to you?" Knox's hand rub at my shoulders, his touch trying to calm me down.

"Report what?" Dad pauses the film they were watching and turns to us, his tired gaze falling upon us.

"Where are the warriors?" He looks behind us, towards the front door.

"They are still at the restaurant. A male..."

"A male came up to me and claimed to be my uncle, claimed to be our uncle." My finger points to the three of us, the triplets.

Silence fills around us, as Mum and Dad enter a private mind-link. It was unlike the two of them to argue, but as Dad cuts the link and stands...Mum grips him by the arm and pulls him back. "No Hector."

"He dared to go near our daughter?" Dad's eyes turn a shade of red, anger firing up within him.

"Alora is still here." She seethes out, under her breath but I hear it with this new super enhanced hearing of mine. Before, I would have struggled to hear that.

"Will someone please tell me what is going on?" I take a further step towards my parents, their coded conversation was doing nothing to ease my rising frustration. "Was he telling the truth?"

"Hector..." Mum's eyes hold panic within them, something I've never seen in them before.

"We knew this day might come my love. I can't protect Alora anymore, not at the cost of our children." Dad's hand cups the side of Mum's face before it trails down and lands on his mate mark upon her neck.

Mum sighs out, her body leaning into his touch. Their mate bond still to this day beating strongly, an undeniable force between them that I always longed for myself as a child, until I gave up on ever having that. Until now.

Chapter 367

"What has Auntie Alora got to do with this?" Jace was the one to ask the question swirling around my head.

"I have a younger half brother, his name is Than Sable and he is the Alpha of the Amber Desert pack." Dad turns to us but keeps his reassuring hands on Mum. "An Alpha?" My voice repeats.

"I created the Dark Phantom pack when my position as Alpha of the Amber Desert pack was denied to me. The Alpha position going to Than."

"Why?" Jaxon's eyebrows knit together.

"My father and step mother made the decision..."

"Step mother? Why are we only hearing about this now?" Dad never really talked about his childhood, and to think of it, neither did Mum. They never spoke of our grandparents, I just assumed they died when both our parents were young adults. "Because we felt it best to let the past stay buried, as it were." Dad sighs out, a hand moving to pinch at the bridge of his nose.

"But you would have been the first born of the alpha?" This didn't make sense, the first born was always alpha. Even in the case of Jaxon and Jace. If there wasn't the Clear Waters pack for Jace to lead, he would be Jaxon's beta.

"My mother was a human..." Dad's words leave a silence hanging within the air around us. His aura was withdrawn, low. He was opening his soul to us, his wolf also willing to do so and not fighting him.

"What?" Knox mutters the word that I seem too shocked to say for myself.

"Your mother was a human?" Knox's asks, as my brothers and I stare dumbfounded at Dad. A human? Dad is half human, half werewolf....

"Yes, and it was felt as a hybrid I wouldn't have been fit to rule."

"But you're the most powerful alpha alive today." Knox states astonished by the news just as I am. Knox was right, if there was a King of Alphas, then Dad would possess that title.

"Only because I have my mate by my side, she brings out the best of me."

"As much as I'd like to take credit for your hard work darling, this pack was already succeeding long before I arrived." Mum smiles proudly at Dad.

"So why don't we know him, your brother?" Jace presses.

"This stays within the family vault...I mean it. No talking to anyone, no mentioning things to even Alora or Ezra. You have questions, you come to us." Mum wasn't a strict parent, that's not to say we got away with things, but when she put her mind to it...like now...so could be formidable. A force I particularly wouldn't want to go up against. Then you remember that she was an Alpha in her own right, that she wasn't just a Luna...but a leader too. A leader that could easily beckon warriors to fight her cause.

"I can go..." Knox moves to leave but I reach for him, pulling him closer to me. We haven't had a moment to ourselves yet since I shifted, and I could sense the need buzzing through the mate bond for him to be alone with me.

"You are our daughter's mate Knox, you are family." Dad declares, his eyes falling upon Knox before landing on me. Yes, Knox was my mate, and is a member of this family now....if that is what he truly wants.

"Before I met your Father I was married..." Mum sighs out, her voice indicating that this wasn't a happy memory for her. That it pained her to share this with us.

"Married?" I gasp, my voice cracking in the back of my throat. Mum was married? Yet she wouldn't marry Dad...even though he asks her a number of times a year....for as long as I can remember.

"You were married?" Jaxon stands up, the news seemingly rattling him just like myself.

"Yes, to Than."

- Josie -

with Dad, before having us...seemed impossible before.

"You married someone before meeting your mate?" I can't stop the words that blurt out of my mouth. In some twisted romanticised way I always thought Mum and Dad had always existed as one. To think of Mum with someone else...married to someone else before being But everyone has a past, even I have a past after and before Knox.

"That is a question for another day." Mum's eyes hold mine and for the first time, I think in my life, I can see pain within them.

She wants to tell me things, but I know that they are things I'll be hard to hear. Things that she wants save for another time.

"My childhood wasn't what I thought it was, I grew up without a mother. My father, who was my everything, had lied to me my entire life...and betrayed Alora before she even took her first breath. I didn't grow up with Alora, we didn't find each other until we were young adults. That's when I met your Dad, and to say our story started off easy would be somewhat of a lie."

"The things worth having in life do not come to us easy, remember that my sweet." Dad's eyes also hold regret but such a deep love that it tugs on my heart.

"So you don't talk to him, this Than...he isn't in your lives at all?" Jaxon asks, as I can tell that he is digesting this just as Jace and I also are.

"No, we haven't heard from him since we found out we were expecting the three of you."

"So why now, why tonight. What did he say to you?" Jaxon's eyes dart to me.

"He knew who I was...instantly."

"More than that Red, he waited until she was alone at the table to make a beeline for her, even in front of all the warriors. He also commented on your wolf.." "What of your wolf?" Dad growls, anger reflecting in his eyes.

"He..." I turned to Knox, wanting to jab him in the ribs for his blabber mouth. There was no need to worry my family unnecessarily, I was never in any real danger. "Josie?" Dad almost rounds on me, his aura picking up strength as he puts his command behind his tone of voice.

"He knew I didn't have a wolf, and he seemed to know that the boys had been trained...by Knox."

"How would he know about Josie?" Mum gasps as she looks to Dad with panic in her eyes. I didn't like this side to Mum, she has always been strong...such a force, and she still is...but I can't shake the feeling that this Than hasn't been a happy character from her past. Or Dad's for that matter. How can he have been denied the position of alpha, when he was the alpha's first born.

My not having a wolf in my teenage years in reflection had been nothing compared to what both my parent's might have had to face at a similar age.

Mum, I knew hadn't grown up with her Mother, that's why I couldn't be angry that I didn't have a wolf...I wouldn't want to shift if it meant I would have grown up without Mum.

But she just mentioned her father had lied to her....that he had betrayed Auntie Alora. And how were they twins but hadn't met for all their young lives. My head was spinning with the information already shared...and I wanted desperately to learn more but not if it was too much for Mum tonight.

"Are you certain it was kept a secret?" Knox asks next to me, his hand suddenly gripping at my waist as he pulls me closer to him. I can't help but lean into his touch, my body humming from his closeness.

"Yes, it was kept within the pack and at Jude's and the Red Thorn pack. Packs that we trust completely."

"Red Thorn pack?" Knox looks at us all questioningly.

"Uncle Orpheus' pack."

"Is he not related to this Than as well then?"

"Yes, he is related by blood to Than, not to me. But he made his loyalty clear when..." Dad stops as Mum grips at his arm, her head shaking as she moves into a private mind-link again.

"Is this Than a threat to us?" Jaxon asks determinedly.

"No, it sounds like it was chance that he was already at the restaurant and knowing him, couldn't help himself by causing trouble. Even after all these years..."

"He did smell heavily of alcohol." Knox states next to me, his fingers applying more pressure to my skin. He really needed me next to him right now and I'm going to embrace it for as long as it lasts. "Same old Than then." Dad scoffs.

"The warriors were swift in their execution of removing him from the restaurant." Knox continues and I nod my head in agreement. They had moved quickly to remove him as a risk to me.

"Speaking of which..." We all turn as we hear a car pulling up outside and the car's doors opening... the warriors were back. A tap on the front door informs us that they were eager to give a report to their alpha. Dad moves, both Jaxon and Jace moving with him...even Knox following behind. I go to move but Knox turns to me, his hand cups at my face before his lips crash into mine. "Stay here..."

"But..." I start to protest but his thumb tilts my chin up to look him deeply in the eyes, stops me in my tracks.

"Stay here..."

Chapter 369

- Josie -

I follow Mum as she moves back towards the sofa, curling her feet up as she flicks the television back on. Her eyes stare at the screen but I can tell she isn't watching it, just making herself look like she is. She is lost in thought, lost in memory. "Mum?" I softly try to regain her attention as I sit down next to her, my hand gently stroking at her upper arm.

"Hmm?" She doesn't take her eyes away from the TV, seemingly too lost in the car advert. I've never seen her like this and it's starting to terrify me. She's never had this lost look before, she's never been in a trance. She's always been fully alert, her mind fully present. "Do you want to talk about things?"

"Things?"

"About this Than person?"

"No...I don't want to waste the air of my lungs evening mentioning his name." There's a bite in her words, disdain upon her tongue.

"But..." I start, however, she cuts me off, her eyes wild as she turns to me. I can see she is about to say something but she stops when the front door opens and Auntie Alora walks in. It doesn't take a genius to know that this also involves Auntie Alora in some way. "Not a word!" Mum's voice filters into my head and I give her a simple nod in response just as the space next to me dips and Auntie Alora sits down next to me.

"I thought you were out tonight?" She turns to me, her eyebrows furrowing slightly as she takes in Mum's unusual wild eyes. They have that same connection I'm sure, they must have.

They are twins and often finish each other's sentences.

"Whats wrong?" She looks at me for the answer, her eyes turning just as wild as Mum's.

She can read Mum just like me, she knows when something is bothering her, which is almost never.

"Oh nothing, I was just thinking about going back to work...and everyone says it's too early." I hate lying, especially to Auntie Alora. But that worry on her face drops and her shoulders relax, as she takes a deep breath of air.

"Ezra and I were talking, why don't you come back to Crystal Waters with us for a few days."

"Really?"

"You can swim in the waters, finish your healing there and return feeling refreshed from the sea air before returning to work."

This sounds incredible...and just what I need. I love the Crystal Water's pack...it's completely different to here and I always feel like I've had a holiday when I return. But...things are different now...George was there and the thought of being near him again makes my blood run cold. I can't believe I ever thought of being with him. "I don't know...the timing might not be right." I respond with uncertainty.

"What are you talking about? The timing is perfect. You can get to know your wolf more, shift without the eyes of the pack on you." Her enthusiasm makes her glow.

"Knox and I are still figuring things out..." And I know he wouldn't be keen for me to be around an ex of mine. Not that anything would happen, but I would feel just as uncomfortable with the thought of an ex of Knox's being able to be near him every day.

"Take Knox with you, it might do you both some good." Mum seems to snap herself out of her mind thoughts, her suggestion not actually a bad idea. It would give us the time alone together away from my brothers.

I let her words sink in as the three of us settle into a comfortable silence whilst being together. The seat next to me dips again as Auntie Alora moves, my eyes too heavy to open as I feel a blanket placed on top of me.

I hear soft murmurs between her and Mum saying not to wake me, that I need my rest. Then I am left with the soft noise of the television, the gentle sound drifting me back off into a deep sleep.

I feel a hand grip behind my back and under my legs before I am lifted up into the air. My head leaning into the scent of leather and sandalwood.

Chapter 370

- Knox ~

We greet the warriors outside, the leader nodding to me as I stand next to Jaxon.

"Is Miss Josie okay?" His eyes firmly locked on mine.

"She's fine, I don't think he was a real threat."

"Yes, I think it was just a case of wrong timing. The bouncers on the door said he entered with a group of females when we questioned why he was allowed to enter in the first place. Whether they covered his scent or the bouncer's eyes were elsewhere." I think the eyes would have been the issue, but perhaps this Than is more of a threat if he entered the premises in an underhanded way.

"I'll have a word with Alpha Jude. Where is he now?" Hector was standing to his full height as he gathers the information from his warriors. For the alpha family, things had gone from zero to a hundred miles per hour in the space of only a few seconds. Whereas it was Josie that was the one in the firing line..yet again. Sure, she was never in any real threat, this male just wanted to stick his nose where it wasn't wanted...but it could have been so much worse.

"We drove him back to the Amber Desert pack, his warriors intercepted us. They were quite surprised to find their alpha within our car." The warrior reports, earning a chuckle from Hector.

We all turn to find the sound of people talking across the path that leads to the alpha home. When Beta Alora and Ezra enter a clearing, Hector's voice reduces to an almost mute command. "Not a word to anyone, especially not to your Luna's sister, understood?"

"Yes Alpha." The warriors tilt their necks in submission before they scatter away towards the pack house, passing both Alora and Ezra on the way.

"A warrior's report, everything okay?" Ezra's eyes narrow as the two of them come to a halt in front of us. Beta Riley was on border patrol and will give his end of day report shortly, however, Ezra being a past beta himself picks up on the unusual situation of a warrior's direct report to the Alpha. Usually the warriors report to the beta.

"Yes of course, Alora perhaps I can borrow Ezra for a short while."

"I'll be inside." She softly smiles after nodding but eyeing both Hector and the rest of us suspiciously.

One Alora was in the alpha house, we start walking in silence. It isn't until we reach the meadows that I realise Hector wants to make use of Josie's cabin, where we certainly won't be overheard.

The five of us entering into his office, past Josie and Kaia will look far too suspicious now to Alora.

I have to swallow down the lump in my throat as I close the door behind me. The entire cabin smells of Josie, her scent more than just lingering...it was seeping out of the wooden walls.

It went against my instinct to be in here without her, to be able to smell her so clearly but not be able to touch her.

"What's the reason for taking us all the way out here?" Ezra makes light of the change in location, a carefree smile upon his face...until it drops and is replaced with panic.

"Somethings wrong?"

"Yes!" Hector turns to him, before he closes the gap between them and to my surprise, places a hand upon his shoulder.

"Than approached Josie at Jude's restaurant this evening..." Hector starts but is cut off by Ezra.

"What?" Ezra gasps as he eyes fall upon me.

"You need to leave, and take Alora with you."

"Yes, yes...we will leave first thing tomorrow morning. What did he say, what did he want?"

Without knowing the facts I would say they were acting irrationally, I mean what chance did a washed out drunken alpha have against the powerful Dark Phantom and Clear Waters pack. Why were Hector and Kaia so keen on getting Alora away from here, and why keep it from her yet openly discuss it with Ezra.