

## Chapter 40 - Denying the Alpha

Breakfast was excellent, the food was good, and I enjoyed the company tremendously, but the stares were a little uncomfortable. I was relieved when Kyle offered to walk me back home. It wasn't easy to be the new wolf but ill adjust.

"What are you doing for the day," Kyle asked as we walked across the grounds towards my aunts and uncle's place.

"I was thinking of calling my parents, actually," I admit.

"Want to tell them about our date, hey" he joked.

"Most definitely" I smile up at him. I was going to analyze the entire date with my mom on the phone, I'm sure. Probably again with Amy, too, but that's not actually why I was calling. Declan had sworn he hadn't seen my parents. One of them was lying to me, and I intended to discover who it was and why. I was inclined to brush Declan off as the liar, it wouldn't be a stretch after all, but I don't understand why he would admit to everything else and lie about just that one thing. It wasn't even the worst thing he had done, and that's if he had even done it all. Besides, if what he says is true, he wasn't awake until Saturday morning, and my dad had said he had seen him during the week. Something wasn't adding up.

"I hope you have only good things to say."

I felt guilty. Because here Kyle was thinking about our date last night, yet I was thinking about Declan. Not in a romantic way, but still. I hate that he had to show up and ruin my first date. And now I was letting him in on this moment too.

"Can I ask you something?" Kyle tugs my hand gently, and we stop.

"Sure," I say, but I am a little nervous about it. I hope he isn't upset with me. I would have been hurt if I were in his position last night. I would not have taken it near as well as what Kyle had. He was so kind and understanding.

"Last night, Declan didn't believe that we could be mates. Why? What did he mean, you don't get a third chance? Was he already your second?" I had forgotten all about that until Kyle said something just now. I was too busy dwelling on the fact my parents lied and what that could mean to even think about that.

"I have no clue what that was all about. He was my first mate. He must be losing his mind after all." I was going to be nothing but honest. "I don't want to rush into marking just because of his threats, but do you think he will keep coming back? Or do you think it was just an empty promise because he was upset?" I personally hope he gets a second chance. That he learns from his mistakes with me, that he never lays a single finger on her and that they can be genuinely happy with each other.

Kyle shrugs. But his eyes say he's worried.

"I can't answer that because I don't know. But what I do know is that if I were to lose you. Yeah, I'd keep coming back. I would do whatever I could to fix it" he kisses my knuckles. "But I would never do anything intentionally to sabotage it either. He's an idiot."

Ahhh, swoon. Sapphire is such a cheese ball.

I blushed a little and fought off the sh1t eating grin as much as I could, but I failed and ended up flashing him a happy toothy smile.

"That's. . . I hope you don't", I threatened jokingly as I very lightly poked his chest. He caught my hand again before I could pull away. His arm wrapped around my waist, and he twirled me playfully in the air before setting me down.

"Just wanted to show you that I can sweep you off your feet." he teases. He knew exactly how to lighten the mood. I appreciated that he was willing to be silly like this with me.

"Come on", I swat him off. We walked the rest of the way to my aunt's house, lost in our thoughts. It was nice to be able to walk with him and not feel like I had to fill the silence with nonsense.

"I'll be by after dinner to take you for that run," Kyle promises.

"I can't wait." I really couldn't. I was so excited. The only wolf I have ever run with was Amelio. And that was not a happy experience. I was in pain and worried for not only my life but also my fathers.

"Okay, well, I'll meet you here then" he drops a quick kiss on my temple and leaves me standing alone on my aunt's doorstep. I watch his butt as he walks off. What a view, I thought.

I almost jumped out of my skin. The moment Kyle was out of hearing range, Amy ripped the door open so hard I was surprised to see she hadn't pulled it right off its hinges.

“Tell me everything.” She demands dramatically. She tugs me into the living room and slams the door shut behind us.

“Can I call my parents first, I ask?” Her face falls a little,

“What did that asshole do” I giggle. She’s so quick to defend me that it’s heartwarming.

“Nothing Aunty. It’s what’s Samantha did, and my parents.” I say. Amy looked at me bewildered, it was no surprise that she was confused, but I would explain it all to her once I had the chance to speak to my family. I might as well wait to give her the whole story once I have it.

“Yeah, sure, darling. You know where the phone is.”

She pulled me in for a quick hug and left the room so that I could have some privacy.

“Heather here”, my mother answers on the first ring.

“Mom, it’s me, Faith.”

“Faith, what..”

“What am I doing calling?” I cut her off. I shouldn’t be so short with her, but it hurt my feelings when she sounded so disappointed in me. Was it so wrong to call?

“Mom, why did you tell me that I can’t call anymore?” I give her a chance to come clean.

“We told you, honey, we just worry that Declan will find you.” She repeats the lie. But I could hear the moment of hesitation. It was such a giveaway.

“Well, it’s too late. He already found me.” I can hear something drop and smash through the receiver.

“Oh my gosh, honey, please tell me that you’re okay”, she begged. I felt terrible for frightening her that way.

“Calm down, momma. He actually just came to talk,” I say. I wasn’t trying to worry her or punish her.

“Oh,” she sounds as surprised as I was last night.

“But he did say something that I wanted to ask you about.” I hope she tells me the truth this time.

“What is it, honey” the sounds of a kitchen chair scraping across the floor rings through the line.

“Mom, why did you say Declan confronted you and dad when he didn't?” I would feel really shitty if I was wrong about this.

“I am so sorry, honey. It's not what you think.” she pleads with me. I bit the insides of my cheeks, I wasn't sure how to respond right away, so it was better if I didn't. Sometimes a quick tongue was a harsh one.

“Explain it to me, please?” I finally reply rather monotonously.

“You found your new mate. We were so happy for you, baby. We were worried that once Declan found out about Kyle, that he would suddenly want you back. We hoped that if you had time to fall in love with this Kyle fellow that you would forget all about Declan. It was all my idea. Your father just went along with it. I told him to lie. I said if we create a little distance before Declan comes for you, laying his crap on thick that you know, you wouldn't be so quick to come back because you missed us. It sounds silly now, but I promise we were only trying to help. We just want what's best for you. As much as it hurts our hearts, it isn't Crescent moon.”

She certainly went about it the wrong way, but I could see how she got here. I wasn't mad. She was just trying to protect me, after all.

“I understand, mom. But please don't lie to me ever again. I am a grown woman now, and I need to make these decisions on my own. The bond between Declan and I is well and truly severed. And I am working on the one I have with Kyle. Don't worry about me. I can handle myself.”

I tell her firmly.

“No more lies, baby, I promise.”

“Then I forgive you.” Not that I needed to, she hadn't done me any harm in the end.

“How did he you find you? Did he say?” I don't even think about it before I respond. If she can sell me out to that crap bag, I'm not going to defend her.

“Samantha”, I blurt without any remorse.

“Are you sure” my poor mother sounded so disappointed.

“Yes, mom. I'm sure.”

I wish I knew why Samantha was so quick to stab me in the back. She said she didn't realize Declan was my mate, but I had doubts. He may not have told her directly, but she

wasn't stupid, and now this? She wasn't as innocent as she would have me believe. I know it. I just can't prove it.

"Do you still think they are together?" Mom asked. I did think that, but I didn't have any evidence, and I didn't want to point a finger until, I was sure.

"I don't know, mom. Can we stop talking about them? I want to tell you all about Kyle?"

"Yes, please," she sounded like a thrilled teenager.

I called Amy into the room, and we fiddled with the phone till we figured out the speakerphone, and we talked all about my night. They oohed and ahed in all the right places. It made me feel so giddy. This was how it was supposed to be.