

## Chapter 3

Maddox POV

"Is everything ready for our trip to the academy? Our accommodations prepared?" I ask Kurt.

"Yes, Madd, I have it all taken care of. The omegas are packing the car as we speak. We both have a room at the elite ranked members frat house. The best they could come up with on short notice so I was told." Kurt said. He didn't sound so thrilled about that.

After thinking some more about what King had said I thought that this might be a great opportunity, so I said, " It will be a good opportunity for us to see how the students really are at the school. Most wolves don't know what I look like. We could blend right in with the students. The school is still new, but we need to make sure that it is being used for its purpose. If I see segregation amongst the students then we will have to change that up a bit. This might also be a good opportunity for us to nd our mates. You never know."

Kurt looks at me for a minute and sighs before he says, "We are going to be staying there for a while aren't we?"

I laughed and just nodded my head and said, "We will have to see when we get there. I will let you know when I know." I slapped him on the shoulder and walked out the door. The car should be prepared by now. AS we approach the car I see Monica sitting in the back seat and an omega is placing her luggage in the trunk along with mine. King is angry that she disobeyed us. He has been getting more irritated with her lately than he ever has and she is pulling the same stunts he used to think were cute.

"What do you think you are doing Monica? I said you were not going. What makes you think that you can override what I have ordered?" I say coldly. I used to nd this kind of stunt amusing too, but now it is just a headache. I turned to the omega loading the bags in the trunk and said, "Please take Ms. Moore's things back out of the trunk. She can carry her bags back to her room." I then turned to Monica and said in my alpha tone, "Monica you will remove yourself from this vehicle at once. You are not going on this trip. Besides, I have a job for you. I want all the girls moved out from the east wing of the castle. Their services are no longer needed. I want a team brought in to strip everything from the wing. When I return I will get in touch with a decorator."

Monica perked up when I said that the girls were no longer needed. I hope she realizes that she is a part of that. I want them all gone. If King is right and the more I think about it it feels right, then having any remnants of my past ings in the residence I plan to bring my mate would be a horrible rst impression of her home and me. Just thinking about possibly meeting my mate soon has me in a good mood. Before I could say anything else Monica was zipping past me into the castle ordering some omegas to grab some boxes.

Jed and Ralf join us at the car. Neither are coming with us because I need them here to run the kingdom. "Hey guys. Jed, I just sent Monica on a task and I want you to oversee that it is accomplished. All the girls in the east wing are to be vacated from the castle. I want that whole wing gutted. I will be consulting an interior decorator on my return so please get a list of suitable prospects. This is a big project so they need to have the ability to complete the job in a timely manner. With whatl will pay they can afford to hire a team to help."

Jed nodded his head along while I was talking and he said, "Alright. It will be done. Does that include Monica too or are you nally making her your chosen mate?" He raised his eyebrow at the last bit and his smirk told me he was only teasing, but I felt I needed to be straight with everyone.

"Jed, bud, I think you might need to get your head examined. Did we nally hit you in the head one too many times and you've gone braindead? I will NEVER accept a chosen mate when I have a fated mate out there somewhere. You four should know this. We were there when Selene made sure all of her children would receive a mate, and we all saw the importance of the right mate, especially for us. We are the only four lycans alive still who were alive when it happened. If we of all people don't wait and appreciate what she has gifted us then we are unworthy to walk on this earth." I said.

"I was only teasing ya Madd. I know you are serious about your fated mate. We all are. You are right. We all remember what it was like when we didn't have mates. Hell we were there when all supernaturals were given mates because the other gods liked the idea and the results of it." Jed replied.

"I know you were, but you were the second one already this morning who has mentioned me taking Monica as a chosen mate. That is not happening. She is also vacating the castle as well, however, I don't think she put two and two together yet." I said with a chuckle.

"Good thing we won't be here when she nds out too. Hey look at the time Madd. We really need to get going if we want to make it there in time for the meeting." Kurt said as he quickly jumped into the backseat of the car as two of our elite warriors and my bodyguards get in the front seats. I laugh at Jed and Ralf's faces once they realized they were the ones who were going to have to deal with Monica. I jumped in the backseat and shut my door. The moment it was closed Kurt yelled out, "Drive! Drive! Drive! Hurry before their brains restart. Let's go!"

The driver slammed his foot on the accelerator and the tires kicked up some dust and gravel and then took off down the driveway. Jed and Ralf chasing the car yelling for us to stop and take them with us. The whole car bursted into laughter especially after Jed tripped over his own feet and fell face rst into a mud puddle.

"Will he ever get used to those long limbs of his?" Kurt barked out while laughing.

"I doubt it. He has had centuries and still hasn't. How can he not control his own body?" I say back in return, still chuckling over it. Jed may not be the most graceful in an everyday sort of way, but he is ercely loyal, he has a big heart, and he is deadly in battle. Don't let his long and lanky arms and legs fool you. He may not have the grace in everyday life, but on the battleeld he is like a dancer in a choreographed routine. Never missing a bit and so nimble you wouldn't believe they were the same person.

The laughter died off and we spent a while in blissful silence. I took this opportunity to catch up on some work. I brought out my phone and then my laptop. I turned the computer on and while it was booting up I checked some emails on my phone.

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We are just arriving at the academy in time for the meeting. I step out of the backseat of the car and straighten myself out. I stretch my arms over my head to remove some of the kinks of having my large seven foot frame folded into a small space. The dean of the academy Veronica Romeroz, a vampire wolf hybrid, greets us at the bottom of the stairs.

"Your majesty, it is a pleasure to see you again. Maybe since you are staying for a little longer we could go for drinks after we have our meeting?" Veronica purrs at me. I assume she thinks that is sexy, but her sexy purr sounded more like a dying cat with emphysema than resembling anything sexy.

"I am sorry to disappoint you Ms. Romeroz, but I am here on a professional business matter. I am not here for playtime." I said trying as hard as I could to keep my annoyance out of my voice and expressions.

"That's too bad. All work and no play make for a very boring time." She says, again with that purr. It is really starting to grate on my ears.

"Ms. Moore, do you treat all the leaders the same? Or do you just save the rude behavior for myself?" I asked, more irritated now. King is going crazy in my head which is not helping. He isn't making any sense, the crazy old wolf.

That comment got her attention and she straightened herself up and cleared her throat and said, "My apologies, your majesty. Right this way and we can get straight to business." Miraculously her voice is normal now. Well I say normal but I mean it is still raspy but not as annoying as before.

She leads us into a conference room and we sit at the table and a few other members of the administration arrive along with Vlad the Vampire King and his mate Anessa who also is a representative of the witches coven. We all do a quick greeting and then I get straight to the point of the matter, "Now that we are here sitting down I want to know how many rogue sightings there have been since this school has opened? Not attacks mind you. I want to know how many rogues have been seen or suspected."

"Your majesty, I don't think that I can answer that question. I will say though that this school is well protected and..." Ms. Moore was saying before I cut her off.

"I did not ask for reassurances. I asked how many have been spotted. You will answer me now!" I say in my alpha command. It won't work on other creatures, but since she is a hybrid and half wolf she has no choice but to answer truthfully. My patience with this woman is wearing thin. King is still going stir crazy in my mind, but he has calmed down some since we have come inside.

I can tell she is trying to ght my command, but Vlad steps in using his compulsion and says, "You will answer King Maddox now. I too would like to know the answer to this question. I am sensing that we have not been given accurate information all this time."

She is visibly nervous right now as she dgets in her seat and types on her computer. I nod to Kurt to walk behind her and see what she is doing. Kurt is an oddity. He is a big burly man, but he is as silent as an assassin. As he stands behind her just a bit so as not to grab her attention he looks at the screen and then his eyes bulge out. He sends me a mental link and says, "Uh boss? We have a huge problem. When the school opened they had maybe one or two sightings a month. They progressively started to increase when the students arrived. In the last six months the numbers have multiplied to hundreds or more a month. This month has had the most sightings yet and it is just starting! I don't like this. There is obviously something or someone here that the rogues want."

I nod my head at him to let him know I got the message because I couldn't reply as Ms. Moore has decided to start speaking again, "Your majesties, I assure you this school is safe and well protected. We care for our students and if we thought there was anything to be concerned about we would have reached out to you for help."

King has now focused on this conversation and he says, "This woman is hiding something Maddox. I don't like her. She smells funny too."

"I know buddy. I don't like her either and I agree she is hiding something. Did you notice how she isn't even sweating now even after ghting off my command AND Vlad's compulsion? Something really isn't right." I said back to him.

"May I ask why you have failed to notify any of the kingdoms that there have been rogue sightings?" I am going to keep the information I have about the alpha command and compulsion to myself for now. At least I won't voice it around this woman.

"That is a very good question. Why haven't you notied us? Isn't that part of the agreements and the treaties? All kingdoms are to be notied of any and all possible threats to the school. Rogues being sighted would be a possible threat. Yet we have not received one notice from this administration. Furthermore why are the dragons not being represented today or the elves for that matter. Ms. Moore, I am starting to think you are incapable of your station as headmistress of this school. You have neglected to tell any of the leaders of the threats their students and pack members are facing. You did not notify the dragons or elves of this meeting. Finally you still have failed to answer the rst question. By your omission I will assume that there have been more sightings than there should be in an area that has not had more than a handful of rogue sightings in decades." Anessa said.

Anessa was on re asking questions and calling her out on her bullsh.it. Vlad is a lucky man to have such a ery mate who isn't afraid to say what was on her mind. If my mate is half the woman Anessa is, she would be amazing in my eyes. I decided since Anessa has this part handled I would make a call and hopefully get the other leaders on board. We may have to postpone this meeting until the others arrive and that could be days.

He called Darren the Dragon King rst. He picked up on the fourth ring and said, "This had better be important, King. Like people had better be dying important. My mate just came home from being gone for a week." He growled into the phone line.

I chuckled and said, "Darren, Sarah was gone for a full three days. Not a week. Glad to know the little hellion made it back home safely. I will be sure to let Vlad know that his sister is safe. Speaking of safety. I called because we have discovered a major issue at the academy and we need all the leaders to attend a meeting that was supposed to happen today at, well now to be exact. However the Dean of the school failed to notify two of the kingdoms. You and the elves were not notied."

"What meeting? Why didn't Vlad say anything to me this morning when we had talked about my mate's travel arrangements. If I had known about this meeting I would have met up with them there and been able to see my mate sooner. Freaking vamp. Not you baby. You are the best vampire I have ever met. No baby, I wasn't talking bad about your brother. Yes, baby I will apologize to him when I talk to him again." I couldn't help but laugh at how quickly the mighty dragon king is cowed by a tiny vampire woman.

"Here let me put you on speaker so you can make that apology now and get it over with buddy." I said as I placed the call on speaker and said, "Say hello to Darren, Vlad. He apparently has something he needs to say to you. Go ahead Darren. Vlad is all ears." I said chuckling.

"You asshole King. I will get you back for this. No, baby. I wasn't plotting revenge on my friend. Yes baby. Sorry, you d\*\*\*s. Babyyyyy whyyyyyy. I am sorry I was not friendly towards my dearest friends." Darren said ending his apology like a well chastised child.

Vlad and I looked at each other and started to laugh. Vlad recovers rst and says, "Thanks sis. We needed that after this half ass meeting. If I had known you didn't know, Darren, I would have said something to you. I just thought you were enjoying your free time from my sister who apparently has your balls back in her vice already. How long did it take this time? Five minutes? That is a new record for you sis."

We could hear some shuing on the other end of the phone and heard Sarah's voice coming through as she said, "Vlad don't you start now too. Anessa don't make me come back there and deal with him for you. What is this meeting about? Why haven't we heard anything about it?"

"The meeting Sarah is about the safety of our future and the apparent lack of the administration doing their damn jobs." Anessa said, sounding irritated. I wasn't sure if it was because of what Sarah had said, the fact her husband was being as bad as Darren, or the fact that the administration that was chosen to care for, as she said, our future is crap.

"We will be there rst thing tomorrow morning. Has anyone contacted Astrid yet? Well of course not. You guys have always made me do it. I'll make sure we are all there by morning. See you then." She hung up without any of us getting to say a word.

"Sounds like we will reschedule this meeting for tomorrow morning. I expect a printed copy of all the sightings that have been registered by morning and a digital copy by the end of the hour. Same for all the other leaders. Till then." Vlad said to Ms. Moore who looked paler than her already pale complexion.