

## Chapter 9

### Ari's POV

My eyes utter open and I see that I am in my room at my parent's house. Dad must have put me into bed last night after we came back from my shift. I stretched my muscles feeling a slight ache in them. Hopefully it won't be like that every time I shift. 'It won't be. The rst shift is always the hardest and takes the most toll on the human body. Now that we have shifted once our endurance and stamina will be much higher. I may have pushed us a little too much in our run last night too. I am sorry. I was just excited to be able to stretch my legs after so long. The wind in my fur felt amazing. Just as good as I remembered it.' Regina said.

'It's ok. I would have been excited too. So I won't pass out after shifting the next time? That is good to know because that would be embarrassing if I passed out after every time.' I chuckled out.

I looked over towards the alarm clock and saw that it was almost ten in the morning. Man, mom and dad don't usually let me sleep this late. Oh well. It isn't like we have anywhere to be this morning. Then it hit me. CRAP! I jumped out of bed and rushed through my shower and once I was done put my hair up in a messy bun. I ran into my closet and grabbed the rst decent outt I could nd and got dressed. I was running out of my room as I was putting my shoes on, surprised that I actually didn't fall this time.

"Mom. Dad! We need to go to the Alpha's oce. He mindlinked me before the pack run for us to be there rst thing this morning. I completely forgot to tell you!" I shouted out.

"We know Ari. The Alpha just mindlinked us asking where we were. He wasn't too happy but your dad told him that you were still asleep from shifting. It calmed the Alpha some, but he wants us there the moment you are awake." Mom said.

We all head out of the house, but not before I grab a couple of granola bars from the kitchen. I was starving and I didn't have enough time to actually grab a full breakfast. This snack will have to do until I get back. We piled into dad's car and we were off. On the short trip I made quick work of my makeshift breakfast. While mom and dad talked about what the alpha could possibly want with us.

"He didn't say anything until after my shift was done. So it is probably because of my dire wolf." I said once my mouth was empty.

"About that honey. I know you didn't want to be a lycan because of what happened to me, but being the only dire wolf let alone a female at that, will put an even bigger target on your back than I had. Your dad and I were talking last night. Well we have been talking about this for a while now with your impending shift." Mom said. She seems like she was going to say more, but a sob got caught in her throat so dad continued for her.

"What your mom is trying to say honey is that we want to know what you think about going to the lycan kingdom for protection until you can nd your mate. Your mom and I deduced that she had as much trouble as she did because she hadn't found her mate when she turned 18. She and I didn't meet until she was 21. In that time it allowed the power hungry to come up with plans to manipulate your mother. We don't want that for you, and we feel that in the lycan kingdom under the protection of the Lycan King himself you might be safer until you meet your mate." Dad said.

I was shocked. They wanted to send me away? I could understand their reasoning, but my mate was at the academy. I didn't want to tell them that though so I said instead, "I don't want to be hidden away like some dirty secret. I am safe at the academy and my best bet in nding a mate would be at the academy with all the different students from different packs and such."

"Ok honey. If you are sure." Dad said, sounding a little disappointed. I understand he wants me to be safe, and I do want that. If I hadn't already met my mate at the academy I would have jumped at the chance to go to the lycan kingdom. That was the oldest pack in history and the amount of knowledge and history within its walls made me giddy with excitement.

We pulled up to the packhouse ending the conversation. We all took a deep breath and let it out before we exited the car, and made our way to the alpha's oce. Dad knocked on the door and the alpha told us to enter. I have been into his oce a few times before, but not usually with my parents. The alpha's oce was opulent and the decor looked more expensive than what the pack can actually afford. I was always curious about that. I was pulled out of my thoughts by the alpha.

"Good for you to nally show up. When I said rst thing in the morning Arianna I meant it." He growled out.

"I apologize alpha." I said, knowing that I needed to show some type of respect to him or he would end up punishing us.

He waved off my apology and said, "Now that you are here we can discuss your wolf. When were you going to tell me that you had a dire wolf? I am not happy that I was blindsided at the shifting ceremony last night. If I had known you wouldn't have been a participant. We are already risking our pack's safety by having a female lycan here." He said lycan like it was a disease. "Now a female dire wolf. There is only one way we can make it safe for our pack members and that is for you to be mated to my son. With you as his mate no one would dare to attack us." The alpha's eyes were showing nothing but his greed. He didn't care about the pack or its members aside from what it could do for him and his family. Having the only dire wolf in existence as part of his family would allow for his bloodline to become stronger.

"My apologies alpha, but Arianna deserves to have her fated mate just as much as the future alpha deserves his future mate. We all know we are stronger with our fated mates." My mother said.

I could tell the alpha was not happy with my mother's words. His response however shocked us all, "He already found his mate and rejected the omega. She was not worthy of being a luna. Arianna at least has a strong wolf that will be a benet to this pack unlike an omega who has a weak wolf." The alpha sneered.

To reject one's goddess given mate was said to be very painful. It is unlikely the omega survived the rejection from an alpha. I pray the omega survived the rejection. My heart hurts for her. "We will take this into consideration Alpha. May we please have some time to discuss this as a family and have an answer for you by mid week? Arianna needs to decide if she is willing to give up her fated mate." My father said as respectfully as he could. I could feel his anger from here.

"Very well. I don't see why she needs to decide on anything. My son Patrick would make a wonderful mate." The alpha said.

I wanted to puke in my mouth. Patrick was the worst of the bunch in this pack. He sleeps with anything that has a v\*\*\*\*a and throws itself at him. Aaron started to hang out with him and his friends shortly before we broke up. I wholeheartedly believe that they inuenced his actions. We took what the alpha said as a dismissal and left his oce. None of us said anything until we were in the car heading back to the house.

"I changed my mind. I would like to go to the lycan kingdom. I don't want to be here and I sure as hell don't want to be mated off to a complete manwhore like Patrick. Please!" I begged.

"I was hoping you would not agree with the alpha sweetheart. As much as we will miss you, we want you to be safe. I will get in contact with the right people and make the plans. I hope we can get this done before midweek. I will even see if Jen can come with you." Mom said. Being a lycan herself she has some family still in the lycan kingdom. An uncle I think. I have never met them though.

"Thanks mom. I would feel better if I wasn't alone and had someone there that I know." I said with sincerity.